

- **2003-04 Budget: Replies to Questions
from Finance Committee Members**

**Replies to questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)001

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0007

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Compared with 2002, the number of seedlings produced and planted in 2003 will both drop over 10%. What are the reasons and the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Number of seedlings produced

Since 2000, AFCD has concentrated on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market, and has ceased supplying seedlings to other government departments that are available in commercial nurseries. As a result, seedling production has been gradually scaled down from 827 000 in 2001 to 736 000 in 2002 and to 650 000 in 2003. An annual saving of \$1.4 million is achieved as a result.

Number of seedlings planted

The number of tree seedlings planted in 2002 was 1 015 000. This consists of 899 000 seedlings planted in country parks and 116 000 planted outside country parks. In 2003, AFCD will concentrate on planting trees in country parks. This will result in an annual saving of \$3.05 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)002

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0008

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated in the Policy Agenda of the Policy Address 2003 that the nature conservation policy will be promulgated this year. Has the Administration earmarked manpower and provision for the implementation of this policy and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

We are preparing a Nature Conservation Policy for Hong Kong with a view to rationalize the priority for conservation using objective guidelines. The proposed policy will target at getting a consensus on the decision to designate priority sites for conservation for the value of their peculiar habitat and/or biodiversity. The policy will also promulgate the value of the existing country parks and marine parks such that they are part of the priority for resource allocation. A database on Hong Kong biodiversity is to be published after consultation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)003

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0021

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- (a) the manpower and expenditures involved in the handling of ecological impact assessment applications and studies;
- (b) the costs for handling such applications and whether they will be fully recovered from the fees charged?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for providing the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) with advice on ecological matters arising from applications submitted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). About 19 professional staff in the nature conservation and marine conservation divisions of AFCD take part in this work in addition to their other duties. The notional staff cost involved is about \$2.6 million per annum.
- (b) According to a review completed in 2000, the fees for applications under the EIAO can recover over 90% of the average costs for processing the applications. Such costs include the cost of the service that AFCD provides to EPD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)004

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0022

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Government inform this Council whether efforts have been made to record the extremely old trees and trees of rare species and conservation significance on the land managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? If yes, what is the current progress? What are the expenditures and manpower involved in recording and protecting these trees?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

AFCD is currently maintaining the "Register of Unusual Trees in Rural Area" that covers country parks and special areas. The register currently contains some 130 trees that are considered worthy of particular attention. These trees are either of exceptionally large size or old in age within the species concerned, displaying special form or growing habit, having cultural or historical significance, and/or are of rare species. The department regularly monitors and maintains those trees in country parks and special areas as part of the daily management of these areas. No additional resources are involved.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)005

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0023

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The expenditure under this programme will increase by \$12.9 million, mainly due to increase in capital expenditure and full-year provision for posts created in 2002-03. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the details of the capital expenditure? What are the details of the posts created in 2002-03? Why were these posts created and what are the salary expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The capital expenditure mainly involves purchasing one patrol launch (\$8.0 million) and one speed boat (\$3.0 million) for enhancing the protection and management of marine parks.

A total of six posts were created in 2002-03. These include 1 Field Officer I post for planting trees, 1 Forestry Officer and 1 Field Officer I posts for conducting ecological surveys with a view to establishing an ecological database, and 1 Forestry Officer, 1 Senior Field Officer and 1 Field Officer I posts for planning and developing the International Wetland Park and Visitor Centre in Tin Shui Wai. The total annual salary expenses for these posts are \$2.503 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)006

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0026

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the programme of Nature Conservation and Country Parks,

- (a) the expenditure in 2003-04 will increase by 3.1%, mainly due to increase in capital expenditure. Please give details on the expenditure.
- (b) In 2003, the number of seedlings produced by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will decrease by 88 000 as compared with 2002. How much savings will be made in this regard? What is the corresponding reduction in manpower? Are the savings already reflected in the estimates?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

- (a) The capital expenditure mainly involves purchasing one patrol launch (\$8.0 million) and one speed boat (\$3.0 million) for enhancing the protection and management of marine parks.
- (b) Since 2000, the AFCD has been concentrating on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market and has ceased supplying seedlings to other government departments that are available in commercial nurseries. Seedling production had been gradually scaled down from 736 000 in 2002 to 650 000 in 2003, enabling savings to be made through the deletion of 10 posts (1 Field Assistant, 3 Artisans, 4 Workmen I and 2 Workmen II) in 2000. This resulted in an annual saving of \$1.4 million. The saving has been reflected in the estimate since 2000-01.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)007

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0145

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) How much resources have been earmarked for the inspection of marine parks and marine reserves? What measures will be taken to prevent non-local vessels from entering these parks and reserves so as to protect local marine resources?
 - (b) Under Subhead 603, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department applies for \$8 million and \$3 million for the purchase of a patrol launch and a speed boat respectively for the protection and management of the proposed marine parks. When will the Department make the purchase and when will the marine parks be established?
 - (c) Please provide information on the expenditure involved and the current progress of the "feasibility studies of potential marine parks". When will the studies be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) A total recurrent amount of \$14 million has been reserved for the protection and management of marine parks and marine reserve in 2003-04. This involves the continued deployment of 35 permanent staff and 15 contract staff. Besides, another sum of \$11 million has been provided to purchase two additional patrol vessels.

To protect marine resources from illegal fishing activities, park wardens patrol marine parks and marine reserves on a daily basis in irregular hours, including night patrols. Enforcement actions are taken against vessels fishing in the marine reserve, or fishing in marine parks without a valid permit. For Mainland fishermen, they would be intercepted and handed over to marine police for repatriation. We also exchange incursion information with the Mainland authorities concerned with a view to deterring the offenders.

- (b) Purchasing procedure of the two vessels has been initiated and it is expected that one of them will be delivered in autumn this year and the other one will be delivered in mid-2004. The timing of designating the proposed marine parks will be reviewed later this year.
- (c) The study on potential marine parks involves a sum of \$0.8 million in 2003-04. The study has started and will be completed by September 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)008

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0443

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the performance targets set for the programme, most of the targets can be achieved in 2003 except the hectares of marine parks and marine reserves managed which is 1947 hectares below the target 4377 hectares. What accounts for this estimate?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

We have a plan to designate two more marine parks with a total area of about 1 947 hectares. We are undertaking the necessary preparatory work, but would not be able to make the designation within 2003. After the designation of the two new marine parks, we would be able to meet our target of 4 377 hectares.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)009

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0531

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please answer the following questions in respect of Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks:

- a) Why has the number of seedlings produced dropped every year since 2001? Why does the Government estimate that the number will continue to drop in 2003-04?
- b) Why is it estimated that the number of seedlings planted will drop in 2003-04? Will the Government carry out any tree planting plans this year? If yes, please set out the details and timetable. If no, what are the reasons?
- c) What is the progress of the project to set up an ecological database? What are the expenditures and manpower involved this year and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

(a) Number of seedlings produced

Since 2000, AFCD has concentrated on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market and has ceased supplying seedlings that are available in commercial nurseries to other government departments. As the process of producing tree seedlings takes on average two to three years, seedlings production has been gradually scaled down from 827 000 in 2001, to 736 000 in 2002 and to 650 000 in 2003. This resulted in an annual saving of \$1.4 million. The annual production of seedlings will be maintained at around 650 000 from 2003 onwards.

(b) Number of seedlings planted

The number of tree seedlings planted in 2002 was 1 015 000. This consists of 899 000 seedlings planted in country parks and 116 000 planted outside country parks. In 2003, we will concentrate on planting trees in country parks. This will result in annual saving of \$3.05 million. The planned planting programmes of AFCD in 2003 are listed below:

	Time	Programme	No. of seedlings planted
1	April to June	Afforestation in country parks	700 000
2	April to June	Planting at the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park	125 000
3	April to June	Planting by the general public under various community planting programmes	75 000
Total			900 000

(c) To build up the ecological database, we have drawn up a comprehensive survey programme covering all major habitats of high conservation value in Hong Kong. We are now in the process of surveying and collecting data on the location, status and composition of different plant communities; and the distribution and abundance of different animal groups including butterflies, dragonflies, freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. So far we have made a number of new findings, including recording two new butterfly species in Hong Kong.

A provision of \$3.846 million has been earmarked in 2003-04 for the purpose. The provision includes one professional officer and one field officer posts responsible for planning and monitoring the out-sourced surveys. We plan to set up the territory-wide ecological database by phases by around 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)010

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 600 Works

1121

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Item: 345; 346

In regard to the construction of toilet at Sham Tseng Tai Lam Country Park and Pak Tam Au Sai Kung West Country Park, the initial allocations are both around \$2.36 million. In the end, the revised estimated expenditures for 2002-03 are just \$0.236 million and \$0.678 million with balance of \$2.124 million and \$1.632 million respectively. Please inform this Council of the work projects. What are the reasons for the large amounts in balance? Are the projects behind schedule?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

Due to the difficult ground conditions and geotechnical problems encountered, substantial changes have to be made to the final design of the two toilets and, hence the construction works have to be postponed. The issues have now been resolved, and the construction will start in 2003-04 for completion within the same year as scheduled.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)011

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1450

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the key performance measures, the “number of seedlings produced” indicator drops significantly in 2003 as compared with 2002 and 2001. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Since 2000, AFCD has concentrated on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market, and has ceased supplying seedlings that are available in commercial nurseries to other government departments. The process of reducing production takes a lead time of about two to three years. Seedling production has been gradually scaled down from 827 000 in 2001 to 736 000 in 2002 and to 650 000 in 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)012

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0024

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government please tell the Council :

The Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works has indicated an intention to make Ngong Ping as the pilot point for effluent reuse. As such, has the authority reserved any provision for expenditure or land for this pilot scheme under the construction of the Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Works, which will commence in the year 2003-04? If yes, what are the details of the expenditure and land reserved? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : An area of about 700 m² has been set aside within the proposed Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Works site to accommodate the pilot effluent reuse system. The capital cost of the effluent reuse system of about \$4.1 million will be funded under PWP item 9323 WF "Provision of water supply to Ngong Ping" which was approved by Finance Committee on 21 February 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)013

Question Serial No.

0055

Head :39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Since the full commissioning of the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment works (STW) and Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, what is the percentage of the volume of sewage treated by the STW as against its total treatment capacity? What is the percentage of the expenditure of the STW as against the total recurrent expenditure for the sewage services?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works is a major component of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage I. It treats 1.38 million cubic metres of sewage per day, which is equivalent to about 80% of the design treatment capacity of 1.72 million cubic metres per day. The total recurrent expenditure of the HATS Stage I is \$290.6 million, representing 24% of the financial provision for the sewage services programme in 2003/04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)014

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0056

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the percentage of the estimated cost for managing Sewage Charge and Trade Effluent Surcharge as against the overall recurrent expenditure for the sewage services in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The management of Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) is under the responsibility of Drainage Services Department (DSD). Regular billing and collection of Sewage Charge (SC) together with general management are entrusted to the Water Supplies Department (WSD) .

The estimated expenditure for management of TES and SC (except the part of management entrusted to WSD) by DSD in 2003-04 is around \$28.4 million, representing 2.3% of the financial provision for sewage services programme in 2003-04. Separately, the estimated expenditure for management of SC entrusted to WSD by DSD in 2003-04 is around \$11.5 million under the financial provision for WSD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)015

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial

No.

0082

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works.

Question : The provision for 2003-04 is \$28.1 million (2.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03, mainly due to increased requirements for operating new plants, and for maintenance to cope with the ageing of sewage facilities. I would like to ask :

- (1) What are the details of expenditure on the new plants?
- (2) How much is expected to be spent on the maintenance of ageing sewage facilities? What kind of facilities will it mainly be spent on?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The estimated increase of \$28.1 million is due to the followings :-

(1) The increase of \$13 million is to cope with the commissioning of new plants, to handle increase in sewage flows and to cope with growing length of sewers. The expenditure for operating new plants includes the full commissioning of new sewage treatment facilities at Telegraph Bay for Cyberport development and at Chi Ma Wan. The main items of expenditure are electricity, chemical, spare parts and routine maintenance services.

(2) The increase of \$15.1 million is to cope with building and civil maintenance requirement of additional sewage pumping stations and sewage treatment plants commissioned in the past few years and to maintain ageing electrical and mechanical equipment such as pumps, conveyors and electrical panels.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)016

Question Serial No.

0477

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage &
(2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the General other non-recurrent expenditure, why was the Revised Estimate 2002-03 reduced by \$3.7 million as compared with the Approved Estimate of the same year? But there is an increase of over \$3 million in the Estimate for the financial year 2003-04. Would the Government inform the Council of the reasons for such a difference in the figures and provide breakdown of the above expenditure for this and last financial years.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The breakdown of the expenditure figures is provided below:-

Ite m	Description	Original Estimate 2002-03	Revised Estimate 2002-03	Estimate 2003-04
		\$M	\$M	\$M
332	Study on the methodology of preventive maintenance of DSD structures	3.549	0.141	-
333	Ex-gratia payment of sewage charges	0.081	-	-
336	Announcement of public interest on flood prevention	0.100	0.030	-
340	Pilot plant trial for enhanced primary sewage treatment	0.450	-	0.290
341	Pilot plant trial for centrate treatment by membrane bioreactor	1.500	1.300	1.000
342	Plant trial for three biological reagents at Tung Chung Sewage Pumping Station	-	0.500	0.800
343	Full scale stress test for Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Plant	-	-	2.900
	Total :	5.680	1.971	4.990

The reduction of \$3.7 million in the 2002-03 Revised Estimate as compared with the 2002-03 Approved Estimate is mainly due to the following two items:-

- (a) Item 332 – The scope of the consultancy was reduced and confined primarily to the preparation of the preventive maintenance methodology and the framework of a computer based Structure Inventory System (SIS). In-house staff was deployed instead for the development and commissioning of the SIS.
- (b) Item 333 – The practice of refunding sewage charges by way of ex-gratia payment was stopped with effect from 17 January 2002 after obtaining legal advice on interpretation of the Sewage Services Ordinance. Refund if required shall be effected out of the revenue generated from sewage charge.

The increase of \$3 million in 2003-04 Estimate as compared with the 2002-03 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the addition of a new item 343 – Full-scale stress tests for Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Plant. Some modifications are being proposed to increase the treatment capacity of the Plant. The proposed tests are to generate sufficient reliable data for determining the maximum treatment capacity after the proposed modifications have been carried out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)017

Head : 39- Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0527

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of sewerage projects under detailed design for this financial year? Please provide details of these projects, their completion dates and financial resources required.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : In financial year 2003-04, DSD will continue with the detailed design work of 22 sewerage projects at an estimated total capital cost of about \$7.4 billion. The details of these projects are listed below :-

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4052DS	Ting Kau sewerage, stage 2	early 2007	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage in Ting Kau area
4125DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas	mid 2013	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in Tai Po and Sha Tin
4126DS	Sham Tseng sewerage, stage 3	early 2007	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau areas
4143DS	Central, Western and Wan Chai West sewerage, stage 2 phase 2B works	early 2009	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Central, Western and Wan Chai West
4157DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage 2	mid 2008	To provide sewerage to unsewered areas in Yuen Long
4160DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage I	early 2009	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4171DS	North and South Kowloon sewerage, stage II	early 2010	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in To Kwa Wan, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin districts
4181DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage 2	early 2009	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4203DS	North District sewerage	mid 2011	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in North District
4204DS	Wan Chai East and North Point sewerage, remaining works	mid 2007	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in North Point

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4205DS	Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam sewerage, stage 2	early 2008	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam districts
4211DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 2	mid 2009	To provide sewerage facilities for Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan
4214DS	Tseung Kwan O sewerage for villages	mid 2011	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tseung Kwan O areas
4215DS	Yuen Long & Kam Tin sewerage & sewage disposal	end 2009	To provide trunk sewerage to Yuen Long and Kam Tin
4222DS	Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works – stage V	mid 2012	To expand the capacity of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works
4223DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage treatment upgrade – (upgrade of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works)	early 2010	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works
4226DS	Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works phase II upgrading	mid 2009	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works
4230DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 1, part 2	end 2008	To provide a sewage treatment works in Yung Shue Wan (Lamma Island)
4272DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2	mid 2010	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Tai Chung Hau, Pak Sha Wan, Tai Po Tsai, Wong Chuk Wan, Mang Kung Uk in Sai Kung
4273DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3	mid 2011	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Ho Chung, Tseng Lan Shue and Area 4 in Sai Kung
4274DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage 3	mid 2009	To provide sewerage to unsewered areas in Yuen Long
4329DS	Upgrading of Pillar Point sewage treatment works	mid 2011	To upgrade the existing Pillar Point STW

Signature _____

Name in block letters R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)018

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0781

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As far as the administration of the sewage charging scheme is concerned as mentioned in the Budget, please list out the amount of outstanding debts of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge for the past three years. How many accounts are still having an outstanding debt? How much resources are needed for processing these cases of outstanding debts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The overdue position of Sewage Charge (SC) and Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Position as at	31.3.2001	31.3.2002	28.2.2003
Amount overdue –	\$M	\$M	\$M
SC	3.1	2.9	2.1
TES	20.7	22.5	18.2

As at 28.2.2003, there were about 9,870 and 2,230 overdue SC accounts and TES accounts respectively. The annual cost to process these overdue cases is about \$1.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)019

Head : 39 –Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1031

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out the resources and manpower expected to be allocated to the various services under this programme in 2003-04 (except the expenses under public works items).

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The resources and manpower expected to be allocated to the various services (except the expenses under public works items) under Sewage Services programme in 2003-04 are listed below :-

Service	Total expenditure \$M	Number of staff employed
Investigation, design and construction of sewerage system and sewage treatment and disposal facilities	138.3	241
Regular inspection of the sewerage systems, sewerage clearance and maintenance works	169.3	255
Checking of sewerage submissions and connections	19.6	26
Effective operation of sewage treatment plants and works	877.7	917
Administration of the sewage charging scheme	30.9	81

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)020

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1032

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please give a brief account of the specific contents for the administration of the Sewage Charging Scheme. Will the Drainage Services Department arrange for outsourcing the work in 2003-04 so as to reduce expenditure? What is the savings on resources expected?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The Sewage Charging Scheme was introduced on 1 April 1995 in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle. Sewage charges contain two components, the Sewage Charge (SC) and the Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES).

The SC aims at recovering the cost of collecting and treating wastewater with strength at or below domestic sewage. The unit rate of the SC is \$1.2/m³ of water supplied, but flushing water is not charged. For domestic accounts, the first 12m³ water supplied in each four-month billing period is not charged.

The TES aims at recovering the additional cost of treating trade effluent with pollution strength higher than domestic sewage. Thirty designated trades are required to pay TES in addition to SC. The TES rate for a particular trade is set based on the additional cost for treating the typical Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) content in their effluent in excess of domestic sewage. Different trades have different pollution strength and their corresponding TES rates range from \$0.11/m³ to \$5.98/m³.

TES account holders can apply for reassessment of the TES rate or discharge factor if they consider that the strength or discharge factor of their effluent is lower than the corresponding values specified for their trades in the Sewage Services Ordinance.

Drainage Services Department (DSD) as the Drainage Authority under the Sewage Services Ordinance will continue to be responsible for the administration of the Sewage Charging Scheme. DSD has already entrusted the billing and general management of the SC to the Water Supplies Department so as to save cost and avoid duplication of effort. As regards the billing and general management of the TES, DSD has no plan to outsource the work due to the complexity of the TES charging and appeal mechanism.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)021

Head : 39 –Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

1033

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources and manpower have been allocated by the Drainage Services Department to process reassessment of trade effluent surcharge rate? What is the average cost for each case processed in 2002? Has the Drainage Services Department any plan to outsource the work in 2003-04 so as to reduce expenditure? If yes, what is the expected savings on resources?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The total number of staff employed on the handling of Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) reassessments is 22 consisting of professional, technical and supporting staff under the overall management of a Senior Chemist. The total expenditure in 2002 on TES reassessment was about \$6.8 million. With a total of 607 cases processed, the expenditure per case is about \$11,000 but the Government does not charge any fee for processing reassessment cases.

Drainage Services Department (DSD) as the Drainage Authority under the Sewage Services Ordinance is responsible for the administration of the Sewage Charging Scheme. DSD has no plan to outsource the administration of the TES charging and reassessment work due to the complexity involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)022

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1444

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the Estimates, the provision for the programme "Sewage Services" is \$28.1 million higher than that of last year, mainly due to the expenditure for operating new plants. As such, will the Government please list out the breakdown of the operating cost for each of the new plants and the proportion to the \$28.1 million?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The increase in provision of \$28.1 million for 2003-04 is mainly due to increased requirements for operating new plants, and for maintenance to cope with the growing length of sewers and ageing of sewage facilities. Out of the \$28.1 million, only \$3.8 million is related to the full commissioning of new sewage treatment facilities. The details of operating costs are listed below :-

Description	Electricity \$M	Spare parts \$M	Operation & maintenance services \$M	Total \$M	% to \$28.1M
Chi Ma Wan Sewage Treatment Plant	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.1%
Cape Collinson Correctional Institution Sewage Treatment Plant	0.0*	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7%
Telegraph Bay Sewage Treatment Works	0.4	0.2	1.9	2.5	8.9%
Installation of a Sequencing Batch Reactor and Ultraviolet Disinfection Equipment at Ma Po Ping Rotary Biological Contactor Sewage Treatment Plant	0.0*	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.1%
Kam Tin Sewage Treatment Plant	0.0*	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7%
Total additional requirements	0.5	0.5	2.8	3.8	13.5%

* Rounding effect.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E) 023

Question Serial No.

0012

Head:

42 EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

700 General other non- recurrent

Programme:

3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The studies in items 702, 703 and 705 are all studies on water-cooled air-conditioning systems. What are the details and conclusions of item 702 "Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air-conditioning systems in Hong Kong"? Is there any conclusion that it is suitable to develop water-cooled air-conditioning systems in South East Kowloon, Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts? How are items 703 and 705 related to item 702?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The Item 702 on "Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning systems in Hong Kong" started in October 2000 to formulate plans, programmes and control requirements for the phased implementation of water-cooled air conditioning (WAC) systems in the whole territory. The study includes examination of the general environmental, health, regulatory, institutional, financial, technical and land administration issues associated with WAC systems. The study is close to completion and its findings will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs shortly. The study has identified several potential areas such as the South East Kowloon and Wanchai and Causeway Bay districts for developing the WAC system.

Items 703 and 705 are exemplary district implementation studies which examine the technological details and recommend appropriate implementation strategies and preliminary system design for implementing WAC systems in these districts. Item 703 is for a new development district, i.e. the South East Kowloon Development and the Executive Summary of the findings and recommendations has been uploaded onto the website of Electrical & Mechanical Services Department for public comment. Item 705 is for a study on an existing district, i.e. Wanchai and Causeway Bay and will be completed in the second half of 2003.

Signature

Name in block letter

Post Title

Date

Roger S. H. LAI

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E) 024

Question Serial No.

0532

Head:

42 EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

700 General other non- recurrent

Programme:

3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Please reply to the following questions concerning Programme (3): Energy efficiency and air quality:

- 1) New Energy Efficiency Labelling Schemes for a household appliance, an office equipment and a type of vehicles are being developed. What are the purposes and details of these three schemes? What are the expected financial and staffing implications for them?
- 2) What follow-up action will be taken on the recommendations of the consultancy study on the territory-wide implementation of water-cooled air conditioning systems in Hong Kong and what is the schedule?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (1) EMSD is developing new Energy Efficiency Labelling Schemes (EELS) for television, LCD monitor and light goods vehicle for launching around end 2003. Similar to existing EELS, all the three new schemes are voluntary. The objectives are to promote greater public awareness on energy conservation and environmental protection; provide information on energy consumption and efficiency data to facilitate consumers to select more energy efficient products; stimulate the manufacturers/market to phase out less energy efficient models; and achieve energy savings and environmental improvement. These schemes will be administered by the existing EMSD's staff and around \$30,000 will be spent on publicity and promotion of these schemes during the initial launching stage.
- (2) The consultancy study on the territory-wide implementation of Water-cooled Air Conditioning Systems in Hong Kong is close to completion. The administration will provide the findings and recommendations of the Study to the Environmental Affairs Panel and stakeholders shortly.

Signature

Name in block letter

Post Title

Date

Roger S. H. LAI

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)025

Question Serial No.

0821

Head: 42-EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

- (a) In respect of those petrol filling stations cum LPG filling facilities and dedicated LPG filling stations that have been put into service, what is the geographical distribution?
- (b) In respect of other approved LPG filling stations, what is the expected completion date?

Asked by: Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

- (a) As at 18 March 2003, 41 LPG filling stations have been put into service. These include 29 petrol filling stations cum LPG filling facilities and 12 dedicated LPG filling stations. Their locations are set out below:

Address	Dedicated LPG Filling Station
1. Pokfulam Road, Pokfulam	
2. Fung Mat Road, Sheung Wan	√
3. J/O of Fung Yip Street & On Yip Street, Chai Wan	√
4. Repulse Bay	
5. Java Road, North Point	
6. Stanley Village Road, Stanley	
7. Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen	
8. Fung Yip Street, Chai Wan	
9. Marsh Road, Wan Chai	√
10. 7 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (East Bound)	
11. 4 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (West Bound)	
12. 5 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (East Bound)	
13. 8 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (West Bound)	
14. Wai Lok Street, Kwun Tong	√
15. Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	√
16. Ngo Cheung Road, West Kowloon	√
17. Sham Mong Road, Mei Foo	√
18. Fung Shing Street, Po Kong Village	
19. Tai Po Road, Shatin Height	
20. Clear Water Bay	

Address	Dedicated LPG Filling Station
21. Sha Tau Kok Road, Fanling (near Lung Yeuk Tau)	
22. Yuen On Street, Siu Lek Yuen, Shatin	
23. Shek Kong, Kam Tin Road, Yuen Long	
24. J/O Pak Wo Road & Yat Ming Road, Fanling	
25. Tak Yip Street, Yuen Long	√
26. Ma On Shan (near Ma On Shan Road)	√
27. 99 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung	
28. Tong Yan Shan Road, Ping Shan, Yuen Long	
29. Hiram's Highway, Sai Kung Tuk	
30. On Ping Street, Shek Mun, Shatin	
31. Po Lam Road, Tseung Kwan O	
32. Po Hong Road, Tseung Kwan O	
33. 739 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan	
34. Kam Tin Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long	
35. Airport Passenger Terminal, Chek Lap Kok	
36. On Shan Lane, Ma On Shan	
37. Tsing Yi Road West, Tsing Yi	
38. 682-688 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung	
39. Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po	√
40. J/O Kwai Chung Road & Kwai On Road	√
41. Yip Wong Road, Tuen Mun	√

(b) There are three other petrol filling stations that have been approved by EMSD for retrofitting of LPG filling facilities. Their locations and expected completion dates are given below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Expected Completion Date</u>
332 Tai Po Road, Shamshuipo	2 nd quarter 2003
698 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung	2 nd quarter 2003
53-57 Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi	2 nd quarter 2003

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Roger S. H. LAI
Post Title	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date	20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)026

Question Serial No.

0001

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Provision for 2003-04 is \$58.3 m (88.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for the operation of fill bank at Tseung Kwan O. What are the particulars of the above provision?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply: The provision in 2003-04 is made up of a number of items and they resulted in an increase of \$58.3 m over the 2002-03 revised estimate. The major portion is due to the operation of the Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank with a full year provision of \$80.3 m as compared with \$31.1 m for about 5 months in 2002-03. The works involve the intake, stockpiling and removal of inert construction & demolition materials.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)027

Question Serial No.

0057

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question:
- (a) In 2003-04, what is the estimated cost of operating the inert hard construction and demolition materials recycling facility in Tuen Mun Area 38? What is the estimated average cost of processing one tonne of inert hard construction and demolition materials? How will the recycled materials be handled?
 - (b) In view of the operation of Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank an additional provision of \$58.3 m is required. What are the estimated cost and its breakdown for operating the fill bank? What is the estimated quantity of stockpile in 2003-04? What is the estimated average cost for stockpiling each tonne of materials?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

- Reply:
- (a) In 2003-04, the estimated cost of operating the recycling facility for inert hard construction and demolition (C&D) materials in Tuen Mun Area 38 is \$12 m funded under Capital Works project vote. The average cost of processing the materials is estimated to be \$50-\$60 per tonne. The recycled aggregates are supplied to government projects for use as materials for road sub-base, drainage layer, filter layer, concrete works and paving block production.
 - (b) The cost of operating the Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank in 2003-04 is estimated to be \$80.3 m and the breakdown is as follows:

Operating Cost of Fill Bank	\$72.0 m
Staff Cost of CED	\$8.3 m

The Fill Bank is expected to stockpile 4.7 m tonnes of C&D materials in 2003-04 and the average cost of stockpiling is estimated to be \$17 per tonne.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)028

Question Serial No.

0325

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: (a) How much resource has been reserved by the Administration for the recycling of inert construction and demolition materials?
(b) How much resource has been reserved by the Administration for the management of construction and demolition materials?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: (a) In 2003-04, the Administration has reserved \$12 m under Capital Works project vote for the recycling of inert construction and demolition materials.
(b) In 2003-04, the Administration has reserved \$123.9 m under the General Revenue Account for the management of construction and demolition materials.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Please reply to the following questions related to Programme (7) "Management of Construction and Demolition Materials":

- (a) What is the unit cost of handling public fill by the Administration? In the coming 3 years, does the Administration have any plan and measure to handle and reduce the ever increasing amount of public fill? If affirmative, what are the details of the plan and the estimated expenditure?
- (b) What is the expenditure in the recycling of inert construction and demolition materials by the government? Why is the actual quantity of recycled construction and demolition materials produced less than that of the original forecast (0.15 m tonnes)? In 2003-04, why does the forecast production increase?
- (c) Please give an account of the long-term strategy being formulated by the Administration for handling inert construction and demolition materials and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply: (a) The unit cost of handling public fill is about \$26 per tonne. In 2003-04, the Administration will mainly rely on reclamation projects and temporary fill banks to handle public fill. We will continue our best efforts to reduce the amount of public fill and to recycle hard inert materials generated. The Public Fill Committee and Works Departments' Vetting Committee will scrutinize Construction and Demolition Materials Management Plan of public works projects. In 2003-04, the Administration has reserved \$123.9 m for the management of construction and demolition materials. We are still exploring possible measures to tackle the public fill problem after 2003-04, including the possibility for exporting public fill for reuse in projects outside Hong Kong.

- (b) In 2002, the government has spent \$26 m for the setting up and \$6 m for the operation of the inert construction and demolition material recycling facility in Tuen Mun. The 2002 actual production of 50,000 tonnes of recycled aggregates was less than the original forecast of 150,000 tonnes because most of the projects that generated inert material during the year produced soft material that is not suitable for recycling.

In 2003-04, the production of recycled aggregates is forecasted to increase as several demolition projects (eg. Yuen Long Estate and North Point Estate) would generate more hard inert materials suitable

for recycling.

- (c) Civil Engineering Department is conducting a consultancy study on the “Long-term Arrangements to Accommodate Inert Construction and Demolition Materials and Dredged Mud”. The study will be completed within 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)030

Question Serial No.

1443

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: According to the documents, the provision for the programme "Management of Construction and Demolition Materials" is \$58.3 m (88.9%) higher than last year, and it is mainly due to the expenditure for the Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137. Regarding this, I would like the Government to provide us with details of the project covered by the increase of \$58.3 m; and the detailed operation of the Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 such as its funding and the mode of operation.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: The increase of \$58.3 m in the provision for 2003 – 04 over the 2002-03 revised estimate is mainly due to the operation of the Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank covering a full year period in 2003 – 04 at \$80.3 m, as compared with \$31.1 m for about a period of 5 months only in 2002-03.

The Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank is operated by a contractor under the supervision of CED. The works involve the intake, stockpiling and removal of inert construction & demolition materials. The breakdown of the funding for the Fill Bank is as follows:

Operating Cost for Fill Bank Contractor	: \$72.0 m
Staff Cost of CED	: \$8.3 m

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)031

Question Serial No.

1476

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Provision for 2003-04 is \$123.9 million, representing a 88.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. Could the Administration provide a breakdown of financial provision on this programme?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: A breakdown of the financial provision for 2003-04 of \$123.9 m is as follows:

Item	2003-04 Estimates (\$ m)
Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O	80.3
Public Filling Barging Points at Kai Tak, Quarry Bay and Sai Ying Pun	25.0
Public Filling Planning and Co-ordination	18.6
Total	123.9

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)032

Question Serial No.

0002

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is forecast that the volume of special wastes to be treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2003 will increase as compared to last year. Please advise on the types and sources of the special wastes involved. Also, please advise if the Government needs additional provisions (including contractor fees) for the treatment of these wastes.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The overall quantity of chemical waste to be treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2003 is forecast to be slightly higher than that in 2002. This slight increase is mainly due to the expected higher intake of MARPOL oily waste from ocean-going vessels which is in line with the waste arising trend towards the end of 2002. On the other hand, the land based chemical waste intake is expected to be more or less the same. We have included sufficient provision to meet the expenses of the estimated amount of waste intake.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)033

Question Serial No.

0003

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Why does the estimated expenditure of the above programme still increase in 2003-04 given no increase in any particular performance indicators and the deletion of one post?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The slight increase in the estimated expenditure is mainly due to increases in operating expenditure on the enhancement of the EIA Ordinance (EIAO) web-based electronic public register to provide the public with an easy access to information relating to applications and submissions under the EIAO and to facilitate public involvement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)034

Question Serial No.

0004

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Administration intends to reduce the provision under the Community Relations Programme. What are the impacts on various existing environmental programmes? How can the Administration ensure that public environmental awareness is promoted?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The provision made from year to year for the Community Relations Programme can vary considerably having regard to the education and publicity programmes required to be delivered at the time. Whilst the provision for next year is 8.1% less than that for 2002-03, the provision for 2002-03 was unusually large, and was 60% more than that for the previous year. The allocation for next year is still 47% greater than for 2001-02. The programme will, therefore, still be providing an extensive range of educational programmes aimed at raising community awareness on environmental issues. In particular, there will be a focus in the coming year on raising community awareness on the need for waste separation and recovery.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)035

Question Serial No.

0005

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is expected that 14 permanent posts will be deleted in 2003-04. However, there is still a slight increase in the estimated expenditure for 2003-04 under the item of 'Personal Emoluments - Salaries' as compared to 2002-03 Revised Estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The slight increase in the provision sought for the Personal Emoluments - Salaries in the 2003-04 Estimate as compared to the 2002-03 Revised Estimate is due to the allowance for salary increments for existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)036

Question Serial No.

0006

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that the number of asbestos abatement plans processed will significantly increase to 400 in 2003-04. Please provide the reasons, its details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The number of asbestos abatement plans to be processed is estimated to increase from 287 to about 400 in 2003-04. The increase is mainly due to a programme under the Education and Manpower Bureau to remove low risk asbestos containing materials from schools. No additional expenditure will be involved as the workload will be handled by existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)037

Question Serial No.

0013

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The Government has introduced a number of grant schemes for motor vehicles to improve the air quality. Please provide the amount of subsidies granted and the commitments approved by the Finance Committee for each of these schemes up to the current financial year. How many different types of vehicles are included and what is the number of vehicles involved in these schemes? What is the percentage of such vehicles in respective types? What are the major air pollutants in quantity and in percentage before and after the implementation of these grant schemes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The grant schemes that the Administration has been implementing since 2000 for reducing motor vehicle emissions are summarized in the following table:

Grant Schemes	Approved Commitment (\$ Million)	Total grant paid up to 10.3.2003 (\$ Million)	The number of eligible vehicles	The proportion of eligible vehicles in the related vehicle group (%)
To assist pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes to be installed with particulate removal devices (Item 553)	50.880	31.177	About 30,000	about 45
To encourage the early replacement of diesel taxis by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis (Item 554)	725.520	676.280	18,138	100
To encourage the early replacement of diesel public light buses by LPG or electric light buses (Item 570)	261.000	20.460	4,350	100
To install particulate removal devices in large pre-Euro diesel vehicles not undertaking long idling duties (Item 568)	600.000	0.695	About 41,000	54

The above measures are part of the comprehensive motor vehicle emission control programme aimed at reducing the respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides emissions by 80% and 30% respectively by end 2005. In absolute terms, the programme can reduce up to 1,700 tonnes respirable suspended particulates and 3,000 tonnes nitrogen oxides from the annual motor vehicle emissions in the urban areas.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Director of Environmental Protection

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)038

Question Serial No.

0014

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

Does the Government have any other grant schemes in future? If yes, what are the details,
the total expenditure involved and the expected achievements?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : We have no plans for new grant schemes under the Air Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)039

Question Serial No.

0015

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the government inform this Council:

- (a) the names and functions of the consultative committees and statutory committees set up under this Programme, the number of meetings held in the past three years, and the honoraria for the chairmen and members of these committees? What were the agenda items discussed in 2002-03?
- (b) What are the expenditure and establishment involved for the EPD in support of the operation of the said committees in the past and the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : There is no consultative/statutory committee set up under Programme (4) - Waste.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)040

Question Serial No.

0016

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the government inform this Council:

The government is going to launch the legislative work for the control of clinical waste in the coming year. What is the estimated expenditure involved and the establishment required for the control work? Is there a need to provide additional staff? If so, what is the additional number of staff required and additional expenditure involved? How will they be offset under the estimates for this Programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Government estimates that 10 posts in the Environment Protection Department will be made available for the control work of clinical waste, at a cost of \$3.7 million a year. The resource and staff requirement for clinical waste control will be met by internal redeployment and re-prioritising of existing programmed activities within the Environmental Protection Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)041

Question Serial No.

0017

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The work or programmes that will involve indoor air quality in 2003-04. What are the expenditures involved in the respective work or programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2003-04, our indoor air quality management programme is to:

- a. continue to operate the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Information Centre, which can help disseminate IAQ information to the public and professionals.
- b. launch a voluntary IAQ Certification Scheme for offices and public places. Under the Scheme, building owners are required to employ suitably qualified personnel to assess the IAQ of their premises. Those buildings in compliance with the IAQ objectives will be granted compliance certificates.
- c. introduce a set of practice notes to provide guidelines to the operators of public transport facilities on the management of the air quality inside these facilities.

The operation of the IAQ Information Centre will cost \$0.725M in 2003-04. The rest of the workload of this programme will be absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)042

Question Serial No.

0018

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The work to be carried out in the coming financial year in following up the results of both the study on air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region and the consensus reached with the Guangdong Provincial Government to improve air quality in the Region. What are the expenditure involved? Has the expenditure been included in the estimates under Programme 2?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2003-04, the following work will be carried out as a result of both the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Study and the consensus reached with the Guangdong Provincial Government:

- (a) drawing up a plan for improving regional air quality;
- (b) evaluating the feasibility of a pilot emission trading scheme for some power stations in the region;
- (c) establishing and operating a network of regional air quality monitoring stations;
- (d) developing a handbook for compiling regional emission inventory;
- (e) compiling the regional emission inventory for year 2001; and
- (f) conducting technical exchange programmes.

Our part of the work will cost about \$6.40 million, which has already been included in the estimates for 2003-04 under Programme 2.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)043

Question Serial No.

0019

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The breakdown by types of chemical waste treated and to be treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi in the past two years and in the coming year respectively? How much do they account for the annual total handling capacity of the whole Centre? What is the amount of subsidies provided by the Government for each type of wastes treated (please give the breakdown)? In which part of the Estimates is the expenditure on these subsidies shown?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The breakdown of waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in the past two years and the projection for the coming year is as follows:

Waste Type	2001 (tonnes)	2002 (tonnes)	2003 (estimate) (tonnes)
Spent etchants (Ammoniacal)	1 750	1 650	1 560
Spent etchants (Non-Ammoniacal)	7 450	7 700	7 650
Acids	2 900	2 650	2 900
Alkalis	1 700	1 500	1 350
Toxic metal solutions	1 500	1 250	1 300
Solvents	3 300	2 700	2 900
Land based waste oil	6 700	7 150	6 800
MARPOL waste	37 300	27 500	30 140
Others	400	350	400
Total	63 000	52 450	55 000

As the design capacity of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre is 100,000 tonnes per year, the chemical waste intake for the past 2 years accounted for 63% and 52.5% of the design capacity respectively, while the intake for 2003 is expected to be 55%.

It is not possible to give a breakdown of the subsidies for treating different types of chemical waste because the costs and subsidies vary depending on the chemical composition and treatment system used and these variables can change with each consignment of waste. In 2002-03, the overall subsidy to chemical waste producers for treating chemical waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre was about \$132 million, which is not shown in the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)044

Question Serial No.

0020

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General
other non-recurrent

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

Despite the approved commitment for the Study Item 564 under the Capital Account Subhead 700 in 2002-03, there is still no expenditure spent in this financial year. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in conjunction with the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau have carefully reviewed the scope and approach of the study and decided to adopt a step-by-step approach in view of its complexity. The study will now be divided into phases, with the first phase to appraise the noise environment of Hong Kong. The EPD plans to invite tender for the phase one study in mid 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)045

Question Serial No.

0051

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The average cost for handling each Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in carrying out the statutory work under the EIA Ordinance. What are the expenditure items involved? What is the percentage of such items on the current fees collected?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : At present, the fees for processing applications for an EIA study brief and for approval of an EIA report under the EIA Ordinance are \$16,325 and \$42,190 respectively. According to a review completed in 2000, such fees can recover over 90% of the average costs of processing such statutory EIA applications. Such costs involve essentially staff costs of the EPD and other departments involved in processing the statutory applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)046

Question Serial No.

0052

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

Please list out the usage and the locations of the landfills that have been restored and developed for beneficial uses. What is the annual expenditure and staffing for the monitoring and management of respective landfills? Please provide the breakdown by post.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The details for the old landfills where the main restoration works have been completed are provided below. Please note that even when the main restoration works have been completed, the landfills will continue to generate landfill gas and leachate for a very long time as degradation of waste proceeds for many years. It should be noted that restoration is an on-going process and resources are required to operate and maintain the restoration works to ensure that the sites would not pose any hazard to the adjacent environment.

The main restoration works for the Shuen Wan Landfill in Tai Po were completed in December 1997. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for the operation and maintenance of these works is \$4.8 million and 0.5 Environmental Protection Officer (EPO), 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector (SEPI) and 2 Environmental Protection Inspectors (EPI) are provided for the monitoring and management of this landfill. While the restoration process will be ongoing for many years, the site has been developed for a beneficial interim after use and has been used as a golf driving range since April 1999.

The main restoration works for the Sai Tso Wan Landfill in Kwun Tong were completed in May 1998. The construction of a multi-purpose grass pitch for football and baseball at the landfill has just commenced. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for the operation and maintenance of the restoration works is \$2.1 million. This will be increased to \$6.1 million per annum when the grass pitch is open to the public in March 2004 but the staffing for the monitoring and management of this landfill will remain as 0.2 EPO, 0.2 SEPI and 0.6 EPI.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Director of Environmental Protection

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)047

Question Serial No.

0053

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:
What are the respective estimated construction and operating costs for the development of a multi-purpose grass pitch on the Sai Tso Wan landfill? What is the estimated usage rate?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The construction cost for the development of a multi-purpose grass pitch at the Sai Tso Wan landfill is \$45.64 million. The subsequent annual operating cost of this grass pitch would be about \$4 million. The estimated usage rate would be close to 100%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)048

Question Serial No.

0054

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title): 297
Fees for operation of waste
facilities

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The list of expenditure items for respective types of waste facilities under Subhead 297. Please also list out the unit handling cost of various waste facilities (including the content and breakdown). Are these costs recovered from the fees collected?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 and unit operating cost of various waste facilities are as follows:

Waste Facilities	Estimated Expenditure 2003-04 \$M	Estimated Unit Operating Cost per tonne \$
Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	388	7 056 (Note 1)
Refuse Transfer Stations	391	184
Landfills	439	64
Livestock Waste Collection and Composting Service	11	200
Total	1 229	

Note 1: The unit operating costs vary with different types of treatment at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre. The unit operating cost quoted here is the average obtained by dividing the total operating cost by the total amount of chemical wastes treated during the same period.

At present, only privately collected waste at refuse transfer stations and chemical waste treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre are charged. However, the above operating costs are not fully recovered from the fees collected for refuse transfer or chemical waste treatment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)049

Question Serial No.

0080

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Controlling Officer indicated in his report that the number of enquiries handled in 2002 under the waste reduction and recycling hotline service was 36,403, which was more than triple of 11,815 in 2001. And it was indicated that 10,950 enquiries would be handled in 2003. Why was there a big jump of enquiries in 2002? What were they mainly about? Despite the increasing number of enquiries in 2002, the Controlling Officer indicated the number of enquiries to be handled in 2003 would drop drastically. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. Bernard CHAN

Reply : The overall high call volume in 2002 was due to surges of calls received after a public announcement of new waste reduction initiatives in September 2001, together with strengthened publicity of the hotline in early 2002 as well as launching of the mobile phone battery recycling programme in April 2002. These special publicity events generated more than 20,000 calls. Of the total number of calls handled by the hotline in 2002, about 50% were requests for information on waste collectors/recyclers; about 10% were related to waste recovery programmes; 5% were about waste separation bins and around 3% were requests for technical advice on recycling.

After the above publicity drives, the number of enquiries has gradually stabilized at around 30 calls per day at the end of 2002. Therefore, the projected call volume for 2003 is 10,950.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)050

Question Serial No.

0191

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Environmental Protection Department will assist owners of pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles to install particulate removal devices in 2003-04. What are the details, the provision required and the estimated number of vehicles involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The Finance Committee approved in May 2002 a commitment of \$600 million for us to assist vehicle owners to install particulate removal devices in pre-Euro diesel vehicles of weight over four tonnes that are not required to undertake long idling duties.

Eligible vehicles include about 31,000 non-cross-boundary vehicles and 10,000 cross-boundary vehicles.

Cross-boundary vehicles require devices of higher fuel sulphur tolerance because of the need to be refilled in the Mainland, where diesel has a higher sulphur content. The installations for non-cross-boundary vehicles and cross-boundary vehicles are thus being done under separate programmes.

The installation programme for non-cross-boundary vehicles was started in December 2002. Our target is to complete the installation by end June 2004. Up to 13 March 2003, 1,352 installations have been completed.

We are now assessing the tenders for the installation programme for cross-boundary vehicles. If suitable contractors are found, our targets are to start the installation around this July and to complete the installation within 18 months.

Our estimate is that about 24,000 non-cross-boundary and 6,000 cross-boundary vehicle will get their installations in 2003-04. For these installations, a provision of \$276.152 million has been made.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)051

Question Serial
No.

0374

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Provision for 2003-04 is HK\$233.4 million (63.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03 which is mainly due to increased requirement for one-off grants to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles to retrofit their vehicles with particulate removal devices and to encourage diesel public light bus owners to replace their vehicles early with ones that run on LPG or electricity. But, there is still a large amount of balance for these 2 items under the subhead 700-568 and 700-570 of the capital account. What is the reason for the dramatic increase of resource?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply : Both subhead 700-568 (i.e. the particulate removal device installation programme) and 700-570 (i.e. the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric light bus programme) are new programmes started in 2002-03. They are still at their early implementation stages with a very small number of the eligible vehicles having received the one-off grants. The expenditures of the two programmes in 2002-03 are thus small and a large balance remains at the end of the fiscal year.

The increase of the provision of \$233.4 million in 2003-04 over the revised estimate for 2002-03 is mainly due to an additional expenditure of \$314.5 million expected for the above two capital account items in 2003-04 (as analysed in the following paragraphs), partly offset by the reduced requirement of \$84.2 million for the one-off grant for the LPG taxi programme under subhead 700-554. The requirement for the LPG taxi grant in 2003-04 is expected to be smaller because most of the diesel taxis have already been replaced by LPG taxis. There are thus fewer recipients for the grant in 2003-04.

For subhead 700-568, we expect that about 29,000 additional eligible vehicles will receive the grant for the installation in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03. Thus, the provision for the one-off grant payment will have to be increased by \$261.2 million over the revised estimated expenditure for 2002-03.

For subhead 700-570, about 900 additional diesel light buses are expected to be replaced under the programme in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03. The provision for the payment of the grant has thus to be increased by \$53.3 million over the one for 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)052

Question Serial No.

0429

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated that the joint study with the Guangdong provincial authorities on the air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region was completed. But for item 548 under subhead 700, there is still a balance of HK\$2,314,000. What is the intended use of the remaining balance?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply : The joint study was completed in April 2002 and had been fully paid for. The balance will be used on necessary tasks for enhancing and updating the study results. In this respect, in year 2003-04, the Administration has agreed with the Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau to develop a handbook for compiling the regional emission inventory and compile a regional emission inventory of year 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)053

Question Serial No.

0533

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council: What are the purpose, scope and method of the study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong? When will the study be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : The study will look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on people. In view of its complexity, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will adopt a step-by-step approach and divide the study into phases, with the first phase to appraise the noise environment of Hong Kong.

The EPD plans to invite tender for the phase one study in mid 2003 and the whole study is expected to be completed in two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)054

Question Serial No.

0727

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the Environment Protection Department's community relations work to promote environmental education in 2003-04, would the Government inform this Council why the estimated number under the indicators of the two types of services, namely the schools and groups involved in environmental education programmes and the talks given to schools and groups is reduced. Will the number of people benefited from the above two types of services be reduced as a result? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : There was a surge in these indicators in 2002-03. The estimates for 2003-04 represent a return to more normal levels of activity, although these are still well above those for 2001-02. We intend to refocus our activities to achieve more impact, through "train the trainer" programmes, facilitating educational activities by green groups and other community groups and providing more educational materials to reach different target groups. We do not expect the number of people to benefit from these activities will be reduced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)055

Question Serial No.

0728

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council: What measures will EPD take in 2003-04 to promote environmental considerations at the earliest possible stage when formulating major policies and strategies?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : To promote the incorporation of environmental considerations into major policies or strategies, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to participate in major policy and strategy formulation works. EPD will continue to review the findings of environmental studies associated with policy and strategy formulation and to assist the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau in vetting the environmental implications of Executive Council and Policy Committee papers. EPD will also continue to disseminate information and examples of good practices on strategic environmental assessment with a view to promoting environmental considerations at the earliest possible stage when formulating major policies and strategies. In particular, EPD will continue to provide environmental inputs to the Study on Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy and oversee the associated strategic environmental assessment study to facilitate early consideration of major environmental issues during the long-term strategic planning process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)056

Question Serial No.

1493

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the work between Hong Kong and the Guangdong provincial authorities to reduce the air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region, would the Government inform this Council the expenditure involved and the specific plans in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : In 2003-04, the following work will be carried out as a result of the consensus reached with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region:

- (a) drawing up a plan for improving regional air quality,
- (b) evaluating the feasibility of a pilot emission trading scheme for the energy sector in the region,
- (c) establishing and operating a network of regional air quality monitoring stations,
- (d) developing a handbook for compiling regional emission inventory,
- (e) compiling the regional emission inventory for year 2001, and
- (f) conducting technical exchange programmes.

Our part of the work will cost about \$6.40 million, which has already been included in the estimates for 2003-04 under Programme 2.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)057

Question Serial No.

0818

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total number of light buses that have been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas or electric light buses at present?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : As at 28 February 2003, 365 diesel light buses had been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas light buses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)058

Question Serial No.

0819

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : (a) The number of smoky vehicle reports processed this year has reduced by more than 10,000 as compared to last year. What are the reasons?
(b) How much resources will be put in and what specific measures will be taken to reduce emissions from motor vehicles in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : (a) As compared to 2001, the number of smoky vehicle reports processed in 2002 had been reduced due to a decrease in the number of smoky vehicles on our roads. The reduction in the number of smoky vehicles has been achieved as a result of a number of programmes, including:

- (i) 2,598 more diesel taxis having been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis in 2002,
- (ii) the extension of the dynamometer smoke test to smoky diesel heavy vehicles in 2002, and
- (iii) the completion of the programme to retrofit pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes with particulate removal devices in October 2001.

The commencement of the incentive scheme for replacing diesel light buses by LPG and electric light buses in August 2002 had also helped reduce the number of smoky vehicle reports processed in 2002.

- (b) For 2003-04, the Administration has put in direct resources of \$406.5 million (including recurrent operating expenses and capital account expenditure) for reducing motor vehicle emissions.

Apart from our on-going activities including operating the smoky vehicle control programme, tightening whenever practicable and enforcing the requirements for the emissions of first-registered vehicles and motor vehicle fuels, the resources will also be used for the following specific measures:

- (i) to continue the subsidy programme to install particulate removal devices in pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles,
- (ii) to continue the incentive programme to encourage the early replacement of diesel taxis by LPG taxis,
- (iii) to continue the incentive programme to encourage the early replacement of diesel light buses by LPG or electric light buses, and
- (iv) to require pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes to be installed with approved particulate removal devices, subject to LegCo's approval of the legislative proposal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)059

Question Serial No.

0820

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total expenditure for the Environmental Protection Department to employ consultants in 2003-04? What are the items involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : In 2003-04, the total expenditure to employ consultants for the Air Programme is \$4.33 million for the following three items:

- (a) Studies on fine particulate matter and toxic air pollutants (for \$2.4 million),
- (b) Studies for the Pearl River Delta Region on the compilation of emission inventory and the feasibility of introducing an emission trading scheme (for \$1.4 million), and
- (c) Providing expert advice related to the tendering exercise to find suitable particulate removal devices for pre-Euro diesel vehicles (for \$0.53 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)060

Question Serial No.

0841

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources have been provided for in 2003-04 for the implementation of various existing or planned pilot programmes on municipal waste reduction? What are the details and the progress of such programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : About \$5 million have been provided for in 2003-04 for the implementation of various existing and planned pilot programmes on municipal waste reduction. These pilot programmes include plastic bottles and plastic bags recovery; wet and dry waste separation; reuse and recycling of waste electronic and electrical appliances; as well as recycling of mobile phone batteries, scrap vehicle tyres and expanded polystyrene (plastic foam) containers and packaging material.

On plastic bottles recovery, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to provide a central collection service to 350 housing estates in 2003-04. In addition, a new plastic bottles compactor mounted on a vehicle will be tested out as well as co-collection of plastic bottles and plastic bags in some 20 housing estates.

On wet and dry waste separation, we will continue to provide technical assistance to a pilot scheme funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund. This scheme started on 3 March 2003 and will last for 12 months. Under the pilot scheme, dry waste is separately collected from four housing estates in the Eastern District and delivered to a temporary sorting facility at the Island East Transfer Station where recyclables are recovered for recycling.

For other recyclable materials, apart from the on-going mobile phone batteries recovery programme and the pilot electrical appliances recycling plant at the North West New Territories Transfer Station, new pilot programmes to test out various collection and recycling arrangements for waste electronic and electrical appliances, scrap vehicle tyres and plastic foam containers have been developed for implementation in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)061

Question Serial No.

0842

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources are expected to be employed in 2003-04 for the development of large-scale waste treatment facilities in Hong Kong? What is the work progress? What is the timetable to announce the specific plan involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2003-04, about \$1.7 million would be used to continue the assessment of waste treatment technologies and formulation of large scale waste management options.

In April 2002, the Government initiated an Expression of Interest exercise inviting local and international organisations to submit waste treatment technology proposals for Hong Kong. A total of 59 proposals were received by close of submission in July 2002. An Advisory Group comprising mainly non-officials has been set up in September 2002 to assist the Government in assessing the proposals. The assessment is now in progress. We plan to complete the assessment and consult the public on the preferred technologies and options by late 2003. We hope to finalise the plan including the preferred site(s) for the facilities in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)062

Question Serial No.

1004

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities, (2) Air, (3) Noise, (4) Waste, (5) Water,
(6) Environmental Assessment and Planning, and (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide :

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:
 - I : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
 - II : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below(Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

- (a) Please see the breakdown of establishment and strength by programme in Tables 1 and 2 in the attached Annex.
- (b) In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department has deleted 21 posts after enhancing productivity and optimizing the use of existing resources. These posts comprise 3 Environmental Protection Officers/Assistant Environmental Protection Officers*, 10 Environmental Protection Inspectors, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 1 Clerical Assistant, 1 Supplies Attendant, 2 Laboratory Attendants, 1 Cook and 1 Workman II.
- (c) The Environmental Protection Department is examining ways to complement government's 3R1M initiative, i.e. re-engineering, re-prioritizing, re-organizing and outsourcing some of its existing services. In this connection, in 2003-04, 14 posts will be deleted. This will comprise 3 Environmental Protection Officers / Assistant Environmental Protection Officers*, 9 Environmental Protection Inspectors, 1 Foreman and 1 Office Assistant.

*The Assistant Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Officer ranks form a combined establishment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 21 March 2003

(a)(i) Table 1: Establishment as at 31 March 2003 (Estimate)

	Programme							Total
Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)	21	33	15	18	31	21	2	141
II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	91	166	76	111	186	58	20	708
IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below	122	161	79	140	212	33	24	771
Total	234	361	170	270	430	112	47	1,624

(a)(ii) Table 2: Strength as at 31 March 2003 (Estimate)

	Programme							Total
Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)	21	32	15	18	31	21	2	140
II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	90	165	76	110	184	58	20	703
IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below	120	159	78	138	209	33	24	761
Total	231	357	169	267	425	112	47	1,608

Note: The above numbers exclude Model Scale 1 staff and they are rounded to integer.

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)063

Question Serial No.

1045

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the above Programme, there has been an annual decrease in the "percentage of time with all monitoring stations complying with short term Air Quality Objectives" since 2001. What are the reasons? Does it indicate that the situation on exceedance of air pollution is becoming more serious in Hong Kong? What measures have been taken by the Government in 2002-03 to alleviate the situation and what is the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure for the related work in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The decrease in the compliance rate for the short-term Air Quality Objectives (AQO) in 2002 was caused by an exceptionally long spell of calm weather between 1 January 2002 and 12 January 2002.

Despite that high air pollution episode, the compliance rate for the long-term AQOs (i.e. annual averaged pollution level) in 2002 had increased from 64 to 67%. So, over the whole year, the air pollution in 2002 had improved. Moreover, the air pollution levels at the roadside in 2002 dropped by 6% to 12% as compared with 2001.

Motor vehicles are the major cause of our local air pollution. To tackle the problem, the Administration has continued to implement the comprehensive motor vehicle emission control strategy in 2002-03. Specifically, the following are the key programmes:

- (a) an incentive scheme to encourage the early replacement of diesel taxis by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis,
- (b) an incentive scheme to encourage the early replacement of diesel light buses by LPG or electric light buses, and
- (c) a subsidy scheme to install particulate removal devices in large pre-Euro diesel vehicles.

The expenditure for the above programmes in 2002-03 is estimated to be \$150.1 million. In 2003-04, the above programmes will be continued. We have made a provision of \$380.4 million for them.

Actions should also be taken to control the regional air pollution. Otherwise, the air quality in Hong Kong will deteriorate in the years ahead as the result of the worsening regional air quality. The Administration has reached a consensus with the Guangdong Provincial Government to aim to reduce, on a best endeavour basis, air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region to a satisfactory level by 2010. In 2003-04, the following work will be carried out jointly:

- (a) drawing up a plan for improving regional air quality,
- (b) evaluating the feasibility of a pilot emission trading scheme for some power stations in the region,
- (c) establishing and operating a network of regional air quality monitoring stations,
- (d) developing a handbook for compiling regional emission inventory,
- (e) compiling the regional emission inventory for year 2001, and
- (f) conducting technical exchange programmes.

Our part of the work is estimated to cost about \$6.40 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)064

Question Serial No.

1282

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff employed and the expenditure involved in 2002-03? Is there any plan to increase or reduce the employment of NCSC staff in 2003-04? If yes, what are the reasons for the increase or decrease in such employment, and what is the number of NCSC staff and amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department has employed an average number of 230 NCSC staff, and the total expenditure is around \$25 Million. In 2003-04, we plan to employ a similar number of NCSC staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)065

Question Serial No.

1365

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out in detail the estimated expenditure and staff required for promoting the development of waste recovery/ recycling facilities in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : In 2002-03, about \$3.5 million were used in providing waste recovery and recycling facilities. These include a pilot plant to recycle electrical appliances at the North West New Territories Transfer Station; short term tenancy sites for use by the recycling trade; and preparatory work for developing a Recovery Park at Tuen Mun Area 38. In addition, a temporary dry waste sorting facility at the Island East Transfer Station has commenced operation in the fourth quarter of 2002-03. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has deployed about 3.5 staff to carry out the above work.

In 2003-04, we will also collaborate with non-government organizations to set up pilot workshops to repair and recycle used electronic and electrical appliances. More short term tenancy sites will be made available to the recycling trade and further work to develop the Recovery Park at Tuen Mun Area 38 will be carried out. In addition, the temporary sorting facility at the Island East Transfer Station will be used to sort dry waste collected from four housing estates in the Eastern District of Hong Kong Island under the pilot scheme on wet and dry waste sorting. The total estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for the above work is about \$7 million and 5 staff will be deployed to work in this area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)066

Question Serial No.

1514

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the item 'complete the development of a multi-purpose grass pitch on the restored Sai Tso Wan landfill' under 'Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04', please outline:

- (a) the content of the development;
- (b) the present progress; and
- (c) the expected date of completion.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The development of a multi-purpose grass pitch on the restored Sai Tso Wan landfill includes the design and construction of a multi-purpose grass pitch for football and baseball, a children's play area, a track for jogging or walking as well as associated facilities. Construction has commenced on 12 March 2003 and the expected date of completion is March 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)067

Head : 100– Marine Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0326

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a) How much resources will be allocated for marine refuse scavenging?
(b) What measures will be taken to achieve floating refuse reduction?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) \$50 million will be allocated for marine refuse cleansing services in 2003-04.
(b) We will continue to adopt a three-pronged approach to address the problem of floating refuse –

Clean-up : In addition to providing intensive daily marine refuse cleansing services, we carry out joint operations with other departments to clear coastal refuse that may be washed into the sea and to stop the refuse at source from land.

Education and Publicity : We conduct publicity programmes with various District Offices and Non-Government Organizations to raise the public awareness including the focussed campaigns in typhoon shelters during the Lunar New Year and Close Fishing Period every year. We have also provided a video disc “A New Era of Harbour Cleanliness” to 823 primary schools to educate students. When carrying out school visits to promote the Marine Department’s activities, we disseminate messages promoting a clean harbour. We also participate in various forums to appeal to the public to support our work in maintaining a cleaner marine environment.

Enforcement : To provide a deterrent effect, our officers take enforcement actions against marine littering, either as part of routine duties or as special operations after normal office hours, and on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	S.Y. TSUI
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)068

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0090

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In coordinating the cooperation and exchange activities of cross-boundary cooperation on environmental protection with the Guangdong Authority, how many activities will be held in 2003-04, and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply : To enhance co-operation between HKSARG and the Mainland authority in the area of environmental protection, regular visits and meetings are conducted by relevant officials. The expenditure incurred is mainly on travelling and accommodation. For 2003-04, we expect to continue such exchanges and the expenditure to be incurred will be in the order of \$40,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)069

Question Serial No.

0108

Head: 158-Government Secretariat: Environment, Transport and Works

Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch)

22-Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

39-Drainage Services Department

42-Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

43- Civil Engineering Department

44- Environmental Protection Department

48- Government Laboratory

100- Marine Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by the above bureau and departments, please provide details in the following format:

- (1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (3) It has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)

Asked by : Hon. Ho Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (1) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) commissioned consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2001-02 and 2002-03. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hong Kong	To collect baseline information on marine benthic communities in Hong Kong (AFCD)	\$3.850M	Completed	Findings will be used in assessing potential impacts of development projects on marine benthic ecology and marine conservation.	N.A.
TNO Institute of Environmental Sciences, Energy Research and Process Innovation	Study on Quantitative Risk Assessment of LPG Vehicles through Tunnels in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$0.660M	Completed	The existing maximum fuel tank carrying capacity of LPG vehicles should be maintained and no further action is required.	N.A.
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Residential Household Energy Consumption Study in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$1.030M	Completed	Findings already incorporated into the Hong Kong Energy End-Use Database.	N.A.
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc.	Study on the Development of Energy Consumption Indicators & Benchmarks (EMSD)	\$4.600M	Completed	Benchmarks developed for selected groups are available for public use.	N.A.

Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Territory-wide Implementation Study for Water-cooled Air Conditioning Systems in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$11.126M	Near completion	The Study is near completion. The administration will consult the public in due course.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited	Implementation Study for a District Cooling Scheme at South East Kowloon Development (EMSD)	\$6.213M	Completed	The Government is consulting the major stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of the study report. The executive summary was also posted onto EMSD website.	N.A.
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc	Study on the Potential Applications of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$4.900M	In progress	Stage 1 of the Study has been completed. The Government is consulting the major stakeholders on the findings and the recommendations. Stage 2 of the Study is in progress. Technical data will be collected until early 2004.	N.A.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation Study for Water-cooled Air Cooling Systems in Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts (EMSD)	\$3.800M	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Study for Developing a Performance-Based Building Energy code Using Total-Energy-Budget Approach (EMSD)	\$2.200M	Completed	The new code will be implemented through Hong Kong Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings in March 2003.	N.A.
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Transport Energy Consumption Survey (EMSD)	\$1.200M	In progress	Field survey to be completed by end March 2003.	N.A.

DET NORSKE VERITAS	Study on the feasibility of introducing LPG light vans and light goods vehicles in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$1.235M	Completed	The key findings of the Study, which were reported to the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Transport at their joint meeting on 6.2.2003 was that it would not be feasible to introduce LPG light vans and light goods vehicles into Hong Kong.	N.A.
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For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

- (2) Details of the consultancy study for policy making and assessment commissioned by EMSD in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for which financial provision has not been allocated are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Hong Kong Energy End-use Database Factorisation and Development of Energy Models (EMSD)	\$0.750M (funded from Save and Invest Account)	In progress	The final report is near completion. The database will be updated thereafter.	N.A.

For other departments, they have not conducted such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

- (3) Proposed provisions have been included in the Estimates for continuing three and one new study by EMSD in 2003-04. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)
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Hong Kong Productivity Council	Study on the Development of Energy Consumption Indicators & Benchmarks for Hospitals, Clinics, Universities, Schools, Hotels, Medium and Heavy Goods Vehicles (EMSD)	\$1.200M	In progress
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc	Study on the Potential Applications of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$4.900M	In progress The installation works for the stage 2 demonstration project to verify the performance of various building integrated photovoltaic panels have just been completed.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation Study for Water-cooled Air Cooling Systems in Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts (EMSD)	\$3.800M	In progress
To be appointed	Consultancy study on Life Cycle Energy Analysis of Building Construction (EMSD)	\$7.000M	To commence in April 2003.

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)070

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0251

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As described in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 under the above Programme, the Government undertakes to co-ordinate inter-bureau/departmental efforts to improve the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for government works projects. Please provide details of the relevant co-ordination work and the benchmarks that will be adopted by the Government to assess the effectiveness of the co-ordination work.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : A number of measures have been adopted to enhance co-ordination among the bureaux/departments concerned with a view to improving the EIA process for public works projects. They include -

- (a) Environmental Protection Department (EPD) strengthening its advisory role during the EIA process;
- (b) EPD organizing training sessions, seminars and liaison meetings to familiarize works departments/agencies with the EIA procedures and requirements, and to provide opportunities for experience sharing;
- (c) works departments/agencies assuming a more proactive role in identifying and addressing environmental concerns arising from their projects;
- (d) enhancing the Environmental Study Management Group system that provides a forum for EPD, other major authorities under the EIA Ordinance and project proponents to examine environmental issues and mitigation measures of designated projects at an early stage; and
- (e) EPD, other major authorities under the EIA Ordinance and works departments/agencies escalating issues that could not be satisfactorily resolved at the working level to their senior management and, if necessary, the respective bureau at the earliest possible opportunity.

The effectiveness of the co-ordination work will be reviewed from time to time on the basis of the feedbacks from the parties concerned on whether the measures have facilitated the EIA process and works projects are carried out in an environmentally friendly and efficient manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)071

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0563

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2003-04, the Environment and Transport Branch will strengthen control on the collection and disposal of clinical waste. In respect of the control work, what will be the number of staff involved, the scope of work and the estimated expenditure? How does the situation compare with that of the last financial year in these three aspects?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : We will implement a clinical waste control scheme through legislation in 2004 to govern the handling, collection, and disposal of clinical waste so as to safeguard public health and safety. The Environmental Protection Department will be responsible for the control work. The Bureau is coordinating the formulation of the implementing plan and preparation of the legislative proposals for the scheme, and has absorbed the workload within its existing resources in 2002-03. The scope of work and resources required for planning this scheme will remain the same in 2003-04 for the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)072

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0564

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In respect of the transfer of ten posts to the Works Branch in 2003-04, what is the estimated amount of savings in expenses? With regard to the holders of these posts, what areas of work were they responsible for in the original Branch and what were their ranks?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Holders of the ten posts to be transferred are Executive, Chinese Language and Clerical Officers. They are presently engaged in office administration, finance and information technology duties. After the transfer, they will continue to perform their present duties and provide central support for the entire Environment, Transport and Works Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)073

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0734

Programme : (1)Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In respect of the public consultation on nature conservation policy, will the Government inform this Council of the details of the consultation exercise, including the reasons for conducting the exercise, its objectives, the consultation timetable and the Government's way forward?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : We are preparing a Nature Conservation Policy for Hong Kong with a view to rationalize the priority for conservation using objective guidelines. The proposed policy will target at getting a consensus on the decision to designate priority sites for conservation for the value of their peculiar habitat and/or biodiversity. The policy will also promulgate the value of the existing country parks and marine parks such that they are part of the priority for resource allocation. A database on Hong Kong biodiversity is to be published after consultation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)074

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0790

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As shown under Programme (1), the financial provision for Environmental Protection and Conservation for 2003-04 will decrease by 22.6%. Which items of expenses will be cut down and what areas of work of the bureau will be affected by the decrease in allocation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The decrease of 22.6% in the financial provision for 2003-04 is mainly due to the transfer of provision in Personal Emoluments to the Works Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the Bureau) to enable it to take up the central support functions of office administration, finance and information technology for the entire Bureau. No public service will be affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)075

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0213

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Can the Administration inform the Committee the latest position of replacement of taxi and light bus using cleaner fuels? What is the amount of subsidy under the incentive schemes approved by the Administration to the transport trade?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

As at 28.2.2003, the position of replacement of taxi and light bus using cleaner fuels and the amount of financial assistance granted to the vehicle owners is as below:

	Total no. of vehicles	No. of vehicles using cleaner fuels (No. of vehicle replacing diesel vehicles)		Amount granted \$'000
		LPG vehicle	Electric vehicle	
Taxi	18,138	16,929 (16,929)	-	674,560
Light Bus				
(a) Public Light Bus	4,350	353 (353)	-	19,740
(b) Private Light Bus*	2,038	39 (12)	1 (0)	71

*Note : For private light bus, apart from vehicles replacing existing diesel vehicles, approval can be given to new additional vehicles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)076

Head : CWRP Head 704 - Drainage Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1249

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out in details the projects in Kwun Tong District and Wong Tai Sin District under the block allocation of 4100DX "Drainage works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme".

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The projects under block allocation Subhead 4100DX that involve works in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts are listed below :-

1. Aesthetic improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah;
2. Aesthetic improvement works along Tsui Ping Nullah;
3. Aesthetic improvement works to Jordan Valley Nullah;
4. Rehabilitation works for the stormwater drain and sewer at Hiu Kwong Street;
5. Replacement of the open dry weather flow channel in the Kai Tak Nullah by a closed conduit; and
6. Improvement of the odour control system at Kwun Tong Preliminary Treatment Works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)077

Question Serial No.

1248(b)

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead(No. & title): 5101DX
Environmental works, studies and
investigations for items in Category
D of the Public Works Programme

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the project 5101DX "Environmental works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme" under block allocations, please list out in detail the projects in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The projects under 5101DX "Environmental works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme" in 2003-04 are mainly studies related to environmental works. The items in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts are as follows:

- (i) Feasibility study for contract arrangement for the provision of recreational facilities at former Tseung Kwan O landfill (stage 1) and Jordan Valley landfill;
- (ii) Environmental review of urban landfills and Tseung Kwan O landfills - feasibility study;
- (iii) Pilot study for inflow and infiltration reduction strategy (in North and South Kowloon and East Kowloon sewerage master plan study areas) ; and
- (iv) Review of Central and East Kowloon sewerage master plans.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(E)001

Head : 44 – Environmental Subhead (No. & title) :
Protection Department

Question Serial No.

Oral

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government advise this Council the details of the vacant post under Programme 2, category I of the Environmental Protection Department, as well as whether and when the post would be deleted to achieve savings (Re: Reply Serial No. ETWB(E)062).

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The vacancy arises from a temporary secondment of an Assistant Director from the Environmental Protection Department to the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau for six months from 15 October, 2002 and the incumbent will return to the Department in April 2003 when the secondment ends.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 27 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(E)002

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 700
General other non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

Oral

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government advise this Council details, such as the scope, methodology, timing and cost, of the Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong. (Re: Reply Serial No. ETWB(E) 053)

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau has reviewed the approach to the study in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). It has been decided that a step-by-step approach should be adopted with Phase One focusing on an appraisal of the noise environment of Hong Kong. For this part of the study, we will measure noise at specified locations in both urban and rural areas. Measurements will be taken at the recipient's point and largely divided into day and night. It will include people who live next to noise barriers of different designs and those without the protection of noise barriers. The measurements will also cover common social activities of our population such as taking tea at restaurants, listening to Discman, watching TV and pop concerts, playing mahjong as well as outings at beaches and barbecue spots. For comparison purpose, samples will be taken at tranquil environments such as on outlying islands for use as baselines. After obtaining the basic data, we will then plan for the next phase on people's perception.

We expect that \$ 3.5 million will be sufficient for the whole study. The EPD plans to invite tender for the Phase One study in mid 2003. The Phase One study is expected to start around August 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title

Director of Environmental Protection

Date

28 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)001

Head :
60 – Highways Department
Programme :

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

1451

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, Programmes (1) – (4) mentioned the salary increments for staff. Please explain the nature of the increments and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : Before an officer reaches the maximum pay point of the salary scale of his/her substantive rank, he/she may be granted an increment if and only if his/her performance at work (including conduct, diligence and efficiency) has been satisfactory. The expenditure on salary increment in the department is about \$6M in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **20 March 2003**

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)002

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

1007

Programme : 6001 – 6004

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide:

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:
 - I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
 - II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
(Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply : (a) The establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the programme areas by the following categories-

	<u>Programme</u> <u>60-01</u>		<u>Programme</u> <u>60-02</u>		<u>Programme</u> <u>60-03</u>		<u>Programme</u> <u>60-04</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Starting Pay at</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
MPS 45 & above	47	42	43	42	29	26	42	36	161	146
MPS 34 to 44	14	14	22	22	0	0	8	7	44	43
MPS 12 to 33	225	225	311	311	53	53	134	134	723	723
MPS 11 & below	378	378	442	425	25	25	156	156	1001	984
	<u>664</u>	<u>659</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1896</u>

E: Establishment

S: Strength

- (b) The number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources are as follows:-

Rank	No.
Senior Engineer	1
Senior Survey Officer (Engineering)	1
Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Engineering)	1
Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Quantity)	2
Senior Inspector of Works	1
Inspector of Works	2
Assistant Inspector of Works	2
Works Supervisor I	4
Works Supervisor II	4
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Chainman	1
Workman II	5
Property Attendant	3
Artisan	10
Clerical Assistant	1
Traffic Assistant	1
Total	40

- (c) The Department is considering the deletion or redeployment of posts in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title **Director of Highways**

Date **21 March 2003**

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)003

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
272 Electricity for public lighting

0360

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The increase in financial provision under Subhead 272 (Electricity for public lighting) for 2003-04 over the revised estimate for 2002-03 is due to the additional requirements for street lighting, traffic signals and ventilation equipment at bus termini installed during 2002-03 and those to be installed in 2003-04. In 2003-04,

- (a) where will these additional facilities be installed?
- (b) what is the financial provision for the ventilation equipment at bus termini?
- (c) will there be any increase in lighting equipment at highways? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : (a) The additional facilities include public lighting and traffic signals in our new road projects such as Improvement to Island Eastern Corridor-section between North Point Interchange and Sai Wan Ho and other minor roads and in the eight new Public Transport Interchanges (PTIs) at West Rail stations; improvements to/upgrading of ventilation systems for the bus termini at Admiralty (East), South Horizon, Tuen Mun Town Centre, Bayview Garden, and Yen Chow Street; and provision of new ventilation systems at PTIs at West Rail Stations in Tsuen Wan West and Yuen Long North.

- (b) The financial provision for the ventilation equipment at bus termini is about \$60M.
- (c) In addition to those in (a) above, we shall, in 2003-04, provide 1,200 nos. of new village lighting for villages as requested by Director of Home Affairs and 700 nos. of new lighting to the directional signs and gantry signs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **20 March 2003**

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)004

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

1095

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding “Matters Requiring Special Attention”, the Highways Department will “enhance the standard of streetscape through installation of more high quality pavers in footpaths”. Please inform the Committee of:

- (a) the cost of material per square metre, installation cost and estimated service life of the materials currently adopted by the government in the pavers of footpaths. Please provide the details in a table.
- (b) the kinds of pavers commonly used by the Highways Department. What kinds of pavers in the table set out in (a) above will be used by the department more frequently in the coming year?
- (c) the area of footpaths (square metres) the Highways Department has to pave each year. Please provide figures of the past three years.
- (d) the estimated additional expenditure for installing more high quality pavers.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) The costs (including material and installation costs) of various types of paving materials are given in the Table below –

<i>Type of paving materials</i>	<i>Material and installation cost (\$/m²)</i>
In-situ concrete/bituminous paving	\$50 - \$75
Conventional concrete paver	\$100 - \$150
High quality concrete paver	\$200 - \$280
Clay paver	\$370 - \$500
Artificial granite paver	\$390 - \$700
Natural granite paver	\$580 - \$800

The service life of the pavers ranges from 10 years to 15 years.

- (b) Of the types of paving materials set out in the table in (a) above that have been used in our footpaths, the first three types i.e. in-situ concrete/bituminous paving; conventional concrete paver; and high quality concrete paver are the most commonly used. HyD will take into account the pedestrian flow and usage, location of the pavement in relation to its surroundings, specific characteristics of the district, its strength, aesthetic and durability requirements, etc in deciding on the appropriate paving

materials to be used. The high quality concrete paver as set out in (a) above will be used more frequently in the coming year.

- (c) HyD paves about 150 000m² of footpath each year. The areas of footpath laid with pavers in 2000/01 and 2001/02 were both 150 000m² while the area paved in 2002/03 was 220 000m².
- (d) We have yet to determine the appropriate types of paving materials to be used in paving the footpaths in 2003/04 for reasons given in reply to (b) above. As such we are not able to estimate the amount of additional expenditure for installing more high quality pavers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)005

Head :

60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

000 Operational expenses

1096

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The expenses of the four programmes are affected by the “salary increments for staff”. In this connection, please inform the Committee of:

- (a) the number and ranks of the staff involved in the “salary increments for staff” and the amount of expenses involved in 2003-04;
- (b) how the department could take up the additional expenses arising from the salary increments on one hand, and provide equivalent or better services with less resources on the other;
- (c) the actual amount of savings in the implementation of salary reduction of civil servants in 2002-03. Whether the savings offset part of the expenses in (a) above.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : To implement civil servants' salary reduction with effect from 1.10.2002, an amount of about \$26 million has been deducted from the department's operating expenditure envelope in 2003-04.

An officer may be granted an increment only if his/her performance at work (including conduct, diligence and efficiency) has been satisfactory and he/she has not yet reached the maximum pay point of the salary scale of his/her substantive rank. There are about 630 officers of various ranks in the department who may be granted salary increments subject to satisfactory performance. The expenditure required for this purpose amounts to about \$6 million which will be absorbed within the provision in the envelope.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Head :

60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

700 General other non-recurrent

1187

526 Feasibility study for

contracting out road maintenance to private
sector in the form of Public Private Partnership
and drafting standard Public Private Partnership
contract

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The government has allocated \$1 m for the “Feasibility study for contracting out road maintenance to private sector in the form of Public Private Partnership and drafting standard Public Private Partnership contract”. However, the allocation has not been used. Please inform the Council of the reason and the schedule of progress.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The allocation was granted on 2 December 2002. The government is selecting the appropriate consultant for the feasibility study. The study is anticipated to commence in April 2003 and to be completed in November 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)007

<u>Head</u> :	<u>Subhead</u> (No. & title	Question Serial No.
60 – Highways Department	000 Operational Expenses	1289

1289

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The number of non-civil service contract staff employed by the department in 2002-03 is 199 with an expenditure level of \$43.3 M. Having reviewed the service/operational need in 2003/04, we plan to reduce the number of non-civil service contract staff by about 50. The amount of expenditure involved is about \$6.15 M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

Gototop

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)008

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

0706

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the matters requiring special attention in 2003-04, the Highways Department will commence a joint study with the Mainland authorities on a possible land transport link between Hong Kong and Pearl River West. Please provide the details. When will the study commence? When will be the completion date? What are the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The State Development Planning Commission (SDPC) and the HKSAR Government have jointly commissioned the Mainland's Institute of Comprehensive Transportation to conduct a study on the "Transport linkage between Hong Kong and Pearl River West". The study will look into the need and role of a transport link between Hong Kong and Pearl River West, taking into account factors including the future development of Hong Kong and the west bank of the Pearl River, their economic relationship, and traffic forecast. The study commenced in January 2003 and is anticipated to complete some time in mid 2003. The cost involved is about \$1.6 million. SDPC and the HKSAR Government will each contribute 50% of the cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **20 March 2003**

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)009

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

0707

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2003-04, the Highways Department will assist in implementing pedestrian schemes. What is the estimated expenditure? What improvement works will be carried out under the schemes?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The 2003-04 estimated expenditure on pedestrian facilities for Causeway Bay, Central, Wan Chai, Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan, Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po is about \$14M. Improvement works such as footpath widening, reconstruction of road pavers and improved street lighting will be carried out to enhance the overall walking environment for pedestrians. In addition, street furniture such as crash barriers/gates, railings, tree guards/grilles, seats and signage made of durable materials will be installed in the pedestrianised areas.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)010

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

0708

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2003-04, the Highways Department will continue to carry out landscaping works. What is the estimated expenditure? Where will these landscaping works be carried out? Please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The 2003-04 estimated expenditure on landscaping works is about \$20M. These landscaping works will be carried out to enhance our environment with trees and shrubs in conjunction with the following major road projects: (i) Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange; (ii) Widening of Fo Tan Road and Related Improvements in Fo Tan; (iii) Castle Peak Road Improvement between Area 2 and Ting Kau, Tsuen Wan; (iv) Completion Contract for Improvement to Castle Peak Road from Siu Lam to So Kwun Tan; and (v) Kam Tin Bypass.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **20 March 2003**

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)011

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0805

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Among the matters requiring special attention in 2003-04, the Marine Department will improve the general environment of the China Ferry Terminal (CFT) and Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT). What are the details? What resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

We will undertake the following measures in 2003-04 to improve the general environment of the two ferry terminals –

- renew all the seats in the passenger waiting areas;
- revamp all the signage for guiding passengers and complete the replacement of the public address and closed-circuit television systems for improvement of crowd control;
- renovate the interior walls and wall mountings at MFT;
- renew escalators at CFT; and
- refurbish passenger boarding facilities at the berths.

About \$28 million will be involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title _____

Director of Marine

Date _____

20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)012

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1393

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Bureau will carry out a study on fare regulation and a feasibility study on the merging of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation/MTR Corporation Limited in 2003-04, will the Government inform this Council of the amount of expenditure and the number of staff (by ranks) involved, and the work objectives and programmes expected to be achieved within this year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The studies on the regulation of public transport fares and the merging of KCRC/MTRCL are conducted through the deployment of internal resources and existing staff. The objective of the study on public transport fare is to develop a more rational and transparent process for fare adjustments which would allow for increase as well as reduction in fares, taking into account all relevant factors, and that for the study on the merging of KCRC/MTRCL is to consider the potential costs and benefits of merging KCRC and MTRCL. We aim to complete the two studies in the coming few months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)013

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment)

Question Serial No.

1394

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Bureau will carry out the preparation for the opening of the West Rail before end 2003, will the Government inform this Committee of the number of staff (by ranks) and the amount of expenditure involved, and the specific arrangements for that?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : To prepare for the opening of West Rail before end 2003, monitoring and co-ordination arrangements have been put in place for Government to monitor the implementation of the project. The work for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the Bureau) is undertaken by existing resources. The Bureau is also supported by Government departments including Transport Department and Highways Department in this work.

The major tasks include :

- (a) monitoring the overall West Rail project progress including construction and operational readiness;
- (b) monitoring the progress of essential public infrastructure works for West Rail;
- (c) ensuring the safety and security of West Rail;
- (d) working out risk assessments and contingency plans for the West Rail project with KCRC;
- (e) overseeing the public transport plan for the opening of West Rail; and
- (f) overseeing KCRC's Light Rail reorganization plan upon West Rail opening.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)014

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1395

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link and the Kowloon Southern Link, what is the number of staff (by ranks) and the amount of expenditure involved? Is it necessary to contract out the planning and design work?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The detailed planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link and Kowloon Southern Link is being undertaken by the KCRC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)015

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0786

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As shown under Programme (2), the financial provision for Transport for 2003-04 will decrease by 8.6%. Which items of expenses will be cut down and what areas of work of the bureau will be affected by the decrease in allocation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The decrease of 8.6% in the financial provision for 2003-04 is mainly due to the transfer of provision in Personal Emoluments to the Works Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the Bureau) to enable it to take up the central support functions of office administration, finance and information technology for the entire Bureau. No public service will be affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)016

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead:
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0998

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide:

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories:
 - I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above
(including Directorate)
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimise resource, and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply :

- (a) The establishment and strength of the Transport Sub-branch under Head 153 – Government Secretariat: Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Transport and Works), which will be included under Head 158 from 2003-04 onwards, as at 31 March 2003 are as follows:

Ranks with starting salary at	Establishment	Strength
MPS 45 & above	29	22
MPS 34 to 44	6	3
MPS 12 to 33	39	47
MPS 11 & below	40	41
Total	114	113

- (b) In 2002-03, one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, one Personal Secretary I and one Chauffeur have been redeployed to serve in the Director of Bureau's Office. In addition, one Personal Assistant has also been redeployed to serve in another Bureau.
- (c) The Administrative Officer Staff Grade C and a total of 26 general grade posts consisting of Executive Officer, Chinese Language Officer and Clerical Officer grades will be transferred from the Transport Sub-branch to the Works Branch for central support functions such as administration, finance and information technology of the bureau. The centralization of the administrative and support functions is the first phase of reorganization of the bureau. Restructuring of the bureau in other aspects is being critically examined. The exact number of posts to be deleted or redeployed has yet to be finalized.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment) _____

Date _____ 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)017

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1141

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Financial Secretary has indicated that the Government will introduce infrastructure projects for private sector participation as far as possible. He has also indicated in the past that the expenditure on public works will be about \$29 b per year for the next few years. Please inform this Council of the infrastructure projects that will be introduced for private sector participation in 2003-04, the details of them, and the amount of expenditure expected to be saved as a result of the private sector participation.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply : The Financial Secretary announced in his Budget Speech 2003 that the Government will introduce a list of infrastructure projects for private sector participation on a trial basis. The private sector will be invited to submit expressions of interest on 10 or so recreational and cultural facilities projects worth about \$2.5 billion. The Home Affairs Bureau is working on the details. The Government will consider extending the scheme, if successful, to cover projects under the purview of other bureaux. Pending the result of the trial scheme, there are no plans at this stage to extend the scheme to transport infrastructure projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)018

Question Serial No.

0109

Head: 158 – Government Secretariat:
Environment, Transport and Works
Bureau (Environment and Transport
Branch)

Subhead(No. & title):

60 – Highways Department
91 – Lands Department
100 – Marine Department
118 – Planning Department
186 – Transport Department

Programme: (2) Transport

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by the above bureau and departments, please provide details in the following format:

- (1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (3) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (1) The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch) (ETWB (E&T)) and the Highways Department (HyD) commissioned consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2001-02 and 2002-03. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Wilbur Smith Association Limited	The study serves to collect data and conduct researches on mainland and overseas experience in operating and managing tunnel and tolled roads with a view to exploring ways to optimise the utilisation of road harbour crossings. (ETWB (E&T))	\$3,400,000	In progress	The preliminary findings of the study will be available in April 2003 and the Administration will present the findings to LegCo Panel on Transport in April 2003.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners	Consultancy study for reviewing schedule of rates for highway term maintenance contracts (HyD)	\$450,000	Completed	The consultant's recommendations on schedule of rates have been incorporated as base rates for the highway term maintenance contracts	N/A

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(2) Details of the consultancy study for policy making and assessment commissioned by HyD in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for which financial provision has not been allocated are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
MVA Hong Kong Ltd	Provision of technical assistance and advice on transport policy issues in relation to the Feasibility Study on MTRCL/ KCRC Merger (HyD)	\$800,000	In progress	N/A	N/A

For other departments, they have not conducted such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

- (3) Proposed provisions have been included in the Estimates for continuing one study by HyD in 2003-04.
Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)
N/A	Feasibility study for contracting out road maintenance to private sector in the form of Public Private Partnership and drafting standard Public Private Partnership contract (HyD)	N/A	Tender stage

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)019

Head :158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead:
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Environment
and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1506

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total expenditure of the Bureau for commissioning of consultants in
2003-04? What are the items covered?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : The total provision for commissioning of consultants in 2003-04 amounts to \$1.78
million. There is only one project, which is a traffic consultancy on optimising the
utilisation of road harbour crossings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)020

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0208

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the opening of the West Rail before end 2003, what are the progress and details of the preparations? How much resources of the Bureau are involved in the preparations?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Kong-wah

Reply : By end February 2003, the overall progress of West Rail has reached 94% completion with station structures almost 100% complete. Inspections by Government departments on the engineering works and station facilities are being carried out. Provision of associated essential public infrastructure works including essential connecting roads and public transport interchanges is underway for completion in tandem with the commissioning of West Rail before end 2003. Local consultation on Light Rail reorganisation and public transport reorganisation plans are being conducted by Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation and Government respectively, and the reorganisation plans will be finalised having regard to views of the public and relevant District Councils.

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau oversees and monitors the implementation of the project with support from relevant government departments including Transport Department and Highways Department. No additional resources have been provided and the work is being undertaken by existing staff in addition to their normal duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)021

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0209

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) For the implementation of the recommendations proposed in the “Railway Development Strategy 2000”, please provide details of the design and planning of each railway line, as well as the development of the surrounding areas.
 - (b) Will the content of the “Railway Development Strategy 2000” be revised in accordance with the actual situation?
 - (c) How much resources are put in for this item?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

- Reply :
- (a) The Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2000) recommended the implementation of six rail projects i.e. the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL), Shatin to Central Link (SCL), Island Line Extensions (ILE), Northern Link (NOL), Regional Express Line (REL) and Port Rail Line (PRL).

The KSL is being developed by Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC). It is now at a detailed planning and design stage. KSL will start at Nam Cheong Station of West Rail, run along Canton Road, turn eastwards underneath the former Marine Police Headquarters into Salisbury Road and finally merge with the KCR Extension to Tsim Sha Tsui. Construction is expected to start by the end of 2004 for completion in 2008-2009.

The SCL is also being developed by KCRC. This will run from Tai Wai in Sha Tin to the Central Business District on Hong Kong side through East Kowloon. The alignment and the number and location of stations are being reviewed by KCRC. The current plan is to finalize these by mid-2003 for detailed design to commence afterwards. Construction is expected to start in 2004-2005 for completion in 2008-2009.

The ILE comprises the North Hong Kong Island Line (NIL) and the West Hong Kong Island Line (WIL). The function of the NIL is to relieve congestion at Mass Transit Railway Tsuen Wan Line and Island Line. Due to the reduction in forecast employment in the Western District and along the north shore of Hong Kong Island, we have decided to defer the implementation of NIL beyond 2016. We have asked MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with further planning of the WIL Phase 1 from Sheung Wan to Belcher. Planning of the WIL Phase 2 from Belcher to Kennedy Town will be reviewed in the context of the review of the proposed reclamation at Western District Development.

The implementation of the NOL depends both on the development programme of the Strategic Growth Areas (SGA) along this rail line, which is under review and the growth in cross-boundary rail traffic. We will continue to monitor its implementation in the light of these two factors.

The implementation of PRL depends on the growth of the cross-boundary rail-borne freight traffic to the Kwai Chung Container Ports. KCRC will soon complete its study on the viability of the PRL.

The REL is designed as a direct and separate rail link running from Hung Hom to the boundary. It will form part of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and we are now conducting a feasibility study jointly with the Mainland's Ministry of Railways on this link.

- (b) As illustrated above, the implementation programme of the rail projects recommended in RDS-2000 will be regularly reviewed to take into account the latest planning parameters and transport demand.
- (c) The work is undertaken by existing staff with no additional resources provided.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)022

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0210

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much does it cost for conducting the study on fare regulation mechanism and feasibility study on the merging of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation /MTR Corporation Limited? When will the results of the studies be announced?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The studies on the regulation of public transport fares and the merger of KCRC/MTRCL are still on-going. We will present our findings and consult the Transport Panel of this Council as soon as we are ready. The former study is conducted by deployment of existing resources and in respect of the latter, a consultancy study costing \$800,000 is being undertaken.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)023

Head :158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead: 000 Operational
Environment, Transport and Expenses
Works Bureau (Environment
and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1175

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of persons employed as non-civil service contract staff in 2002-03 and the expenditure involved? Is there any plan to increase or decrease the number of non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If there is, please give the reasons for the increase or decrease, and the number of persons and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Five non-civil service contract staff have been employed in 2002-03 and the provision involved is \$0.6 million. Upon completion of an ad hoc assignment in 2003-04, one non-civil service contract staff with an annual expenditure of \$0.12 million will complete his contract, which will then not be renewed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)024

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead : 700 General
Environment, Transport and other non-
Works Bureau recurrent
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0659

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide a breakdown, by item, of the estimate under subhead 700 for the year 2003-04 (i.e. item 007 Traffic consultancy on optimizing the utilization of road harbour crossings/ 008 Publicity campaign on railway development).

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : Traffic consultancy on optimizing the utilization of road harbour crossings - the provision of \$1,780,000 is for collecting data and conducting researches on Mainland and overseas experience in operating and managing tunnels and tolled roads.
Publicity campaign on railway development - the provision of \$300,000 for this item comprises \$200,000 for wall banners and \$100,000 for posters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)025

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1396

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding your plan to implement pedestrian schemes in the streets of Central, Wan Chai, Jordan, Sham Shui Po and Causeway Bay, please provide details of schemes, establishment concerned, and costs involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The following pedestrian schemes are planned in 2003:

		Nature of works
1.	<u>Causeway Bay</u> Lee Garden Road (Between Lan Fong Road and Hysan Avenue)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
2.	Pak Sha Road	Upgrade to daily part-time closure.
3.	<u>Central</u> Duddell Street	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
4.	On Lan Street	
5.	Queen's Road Central (Between Pedder Street and Pottinger Street)	

6. 7. 8.	<u>Wan Chai</u> Johnston Road (Between Tai Wo Street and Stone Nullah Lane) Johnston Road (Between Swatow Street and Ship Street) Johnston Road (Between Wan Chai Road and Triangle Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
	<u>Mong Kok</u> Soy Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street) Sai Yeung Choi Street South (Between Nelson Street and Dundas Street) Nelson Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street) Shan Tung Street (Between Nathan Road and Fa Yuen Street)	Extend to daily part-time closure Ditto Ditto Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
	<u>Jordan</u> Nanking Street (Between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
14. 15.	<u>Sham Shui Po</u> Fuk Wa Street (Between Yen Chow Street and Kweilin Street) Kweilin Street (Between Fuk Wa Street and Fuk Wing Street)	Trial on part-time closure

In addition to the above planned schemes, Transport Department will continue to develop further pedestrian schemes in the above districts as well as other districts including Tsim Sha Tsui.

Transport Department has a dedicated team led by a Chief Engineer for the planning, development and monitoring of pedestrian facilities in the territory including pedestrian schemes, walkway systems and signages. Implementation of the above schemes forms

part of their portfolio.

The estimated cost of the associated road works at the above areas is around \$1.5 million and will be funded from Highways Department's block vote under CWRP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)026

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

1397

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the plan to upgrade the ventilation plants at six covered public transport interchanges to improve the air quality, would the Government provide details of the upgrading works, and the implications on manpower resources (in terms of staff establishment) and expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : We plan to upgrade the ventilation plants of 5 covered public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Bayview Garden, Yen Chow Street, South Horizon, Tuen Mun Town Centre and Admiralty East. Having reviewed the air quality of the PTI at the Peak and the financial implication of upgrading its ventilation plant, we intend to improve the ventilation condition of this PTI through other improvements to the operation of the existing ventilation facilities in the short term.

The upgrading project is entrusted to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department through the trading fund arrangement. The administration of the entrustment works is absorbed by Transport Department's existing resources.

The total capital cost for upgrading the ventilation plants at the five covered PTIs is about \$23M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)027

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1398

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the manpower resources and expenditure required for the issue of Group 1 (private car and light goods vehicle) Private Driving Instructor's licences? What is the detailed arrangement of the test?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Existing human and financial resources within Transport Department (TD) are deployed as far as practicable for the current exercise of issuing new Private Driving Instructor's licences. The additional resources incurred solely by this exercise include \$190,000 for modifying the computer programme, \$288,000 for employing contract staff and \$28,000 for other preparations such as printing of application forms, making a total of \$506,000. They are absorbed within TD's existing provisions.

The test is made up of two parts, the written test and the road test. Each candidate will be allowed only one attempt for each part of the test. In the current exercise, the number of applicants far exceeds the target number of licences to be issued. In accordance with the law, the order of the applications in which they are dealt with will be determined by drawing lots. Each applicant will be so allocated with a priority number which determines the order of his being invited to the written test. Only those applicants who have passed the written test will be invited to take the road test. The vacancies left by those who fail in the written test or the road test will be filled by the successors in the queue. Applicants who have passed both parts will be qualified for issuance of Group 1 Private Driving Instructor's Licences, provided that they have not been convicted of "causing death by dangerous driving" or "driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drink or drugs" in the past five years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)028

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1399

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the expenditure (e.g. facilities for computerization) required for the project on Computerization of Written Test?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The capital cost for the project on computerisation of written test and a directly related project on computerisation of driving test forms is \$6M, comprising expenses on procurement of hardware and software, site preparation, application development, hiring of contract staff and implementation services. The annual recurrent cost is \$400,000, covering the expenses on software and hardware maintenance, and is to be absorbed by Transport Department within its own existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)029

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0243

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : One of the key performance measures in respect of Programme 1 - Planning and Development is to process 7 public transport forward planning programmes in 2003. Would Government please advise the names of these programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The seven public transport forward planning programmes are:

1. Citybus Limited (Franchised Division I) Five Year Forward Planning Programme (2003-2007)
2. Citybus Limited (Franchised Division II) Five Year Forward Planning Programme (2003-2007)
3. The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited Five Year Plan (2003-2007)
4. New World First Bus Services Limited Five Year Forward Planning Programme (2003-2007)
5. Long Win Bus Company Limited Five Year Plan (2003-2007)
6. New Lantau Bus (1973) Company Limited Five Year Forward Plan (April 2002 to March 2008)
7. The “Star” Ferry Company Limited Five Year Forward Plan (Franchised Services) (2003-2007)

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)030

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0244

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please explain the decrease of 8 in the number of licences granted or extended for licensed ferry services in 2003 compared with that in 2002 and list out the eight licensed ferry services?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The licence period of licensed ferry services may vary taking into account, inter alia, pier availability and service demand. Furthermore, the licence period may vary from one to three years. Therefore, the number of licences to be granted or extended in each year may vary.

98 ferry service licences were granted or extended in 2002. For 2003, it is expected that 89 ferry service licences which are due to expire would be considered for licence extension and one new ferry service licence would be granted for the operation of a Harbour Tour Service, thus making a total of 90.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)031

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0246

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the study on the impact of Ngong Ping cable car on bus services in Lantau, will it be carried out by the Transport Department in-house or by the consultant? If the former, what is the required financial resource? If the latter, what is the estimated cost?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The study will be carried out by a consultant to be commissioned by the Transport Department at an estimated cost of about \$1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)032

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0247

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the concrete plans and expenditure involved for introducing a harbour tour service?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The Harbour Tour Service (HTS) will be plying within the Victoria Harbour with calling points at Central, Wan Chai, Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The operator of the HTS was selected through open tender last December. It is expected that the HTS will commence operation in the 3rd quarter of 2003.

To tie in with the commencement of the HTS, minor modification/enhancement works including signage improvement, pier facilities upgrading e.g. lighting and painting will be carried out. Additional expenditure for minor improvement works is expected to be absorbed by the relevant departments within their own existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)033

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0248

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding implementation of new bus-bus interchange schemes at suitable locations in conjunction with franchised bus companies, please indicate what are the suitable locations.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : For 2003, we plan to implement 43 bus-bus interchange schemes at 34 locations, subject to District Council consultation. The locations are set out in Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Locations of bus-bus interchange schemes planned for 2003

Hong Kong Island

1. Pok Fu Lam Road
2. Queensway
3. Shau Kei Wan Road

Kowloon

4. Ma Tau Wai Road
5. Lung Cheung Road
6. Kwun Tong Road
7. Prince Edward Road East
8. Ma Tau Chung Road
9. Nathan Road
10. Hung Hom Station
11. Waterloo Road
12. Cornwall Street

New Territories

13. Tai Wo Bus Terminus
14. Luen Wo Hui
15. Sheung Shui Landmark North Bus Terminus
16. Pak Wo Road
17. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus
18. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus
19. Castle Peak Road
20. Tai Ho Road
21. Cheong Wing Road
22. Tin Shui Wai Town Centre Bus Terminus
23. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus
24. Hung Mui Kuk Road
25. Yuen Wo Road
26. Tai Chung Kiu Road
27. Lui Ming Road
28. Tai Po Road (Tai Po)
29. Che Kung Miu Road
30. Tat Tung Road
31. Shun Tung Road
32. Scenic Road

Toll Plaza area

33. Tsing Ma Control Area
34. Tate's Cairn Tunnel

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)034

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0249

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) Why the target average waiting time for driving test candidates increased to 85 days in 2003 as compared to 63 days in 2001 & 2002?
 - (b) Why the target average waiting time for vehicle inspection at government centers in 2003 is 5 working days, much longer than the actual 2 working days average waiting time for vehicle inspection at government centres in 2001 and 2002?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) In the past several years we have set a target of confining the average waiting time for driving test candidates to not more than 85 days. Since 2001, we have achieved shorter average waiting time of 63 days with the resources available. However, in 2003, there will be additional demand on our resources from recently introduced initiatives such as the issuing of new private driving instructor's licences and providing lectures for Driver Improvement Courses and Quality Driving Instructor Courses. We have hence been more conservative in our estimate of the average waiting time. We will aim to shorten the actual waiting time for driving test as far as possible in practice.
- (b) The target average waiting time for vehicle inspection at the Transport Department's vehicle examination centres is 5 working days. In the past two years, we have shortened the actual average waiting time to 2 working days. Since the inspection lane equipment at one of the vehicle examination centres is scheduled for replacement in 2003 and the inspection capacity may be affected during the replacement period, we have adopted a conservative estimate of 5 working days as the planned average waiting time for vehicle inspection in 2003. We will aim to shorten the actual waiting time for vehicle inspection as far as possible in practice.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)035

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0250

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As mentioned in Programme (4), the Transport Department will improve the physical environment of five public transport interchanges. What are the locations of these transport interchanges? What are the improvement works? What is the estimated cost in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The Transport Department plans to improve the passenger waiting environment of five public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Admiralty (East), Tsuen Wan MTR, Cheung Sha Wan Plaza, Lok Fu and Yen Chow Street.

The plan is to upgrade the ceilings, walls, passenger waiting platforms, and lighting at the PTIs with a view to bringing them up to present day standards. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 is about \$23M which will be funded by the relevant works department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)036

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) to (4)

0995

0680

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
 Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question : (a) The establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories:

- I : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above(including Directorate)
- II : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
- III : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
- IV : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below

(b) The number of posts(by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimise resources; and

(c) The number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply :

(a) The required information is listed below-

	<u>Programme</u>		<u>Programme</u>		<u>Programme</u>		<u>Programme</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>186-01</u>		<u>186-02</u>		<u>186-03</u>		<u>186-04</u>			
<u>Starting Pay at</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
MPS 45 & above	52	40	8	6	34	32	9	8	103	86
MPS 34 to 44	16	15	15	15	19	14	9	8	59	52
MPS 12 to 33	114	116	134	115	129	126	17	15	394	372
MPS 11 & below	<u>141</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>702</u>
	<u>323</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>524</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>1294</u>	<u>1212</u>

E: Establishment

S: Strength

- (b) In 2002-03, we have deleted or redeployed 20 posts [2 Senior Clerical Officers, 2 Clerical Officers, 3 Assistant Clerical Officers, 3 Clerical Assistants, 1 Supervisor of Typing Services, 1 Senior Typist, 1 Typist, 1 Confidential Assistant, 2 Motor Drivers, 1 Tracer, 1 Supplies Supervisor II, 1 Workman I and 1 Traffic Assistant] to enhance productivity and optimise use of resources.
- (c) The Department is considering deletion or redeployment of posts in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's efficiency objectives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)037

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1009

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Transport Department will implement additional traffic management schemes to alleviate traffic congestion in the Central Business District within the financial year 2003-04. Are there any current proposals of traffic management schemes to be implemented? If yes, what are the details and required budget?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The following traffic management and improvement measures are in the pipeline to alleviate congestion in Central District:

- (a) provision of an additional traffic lane for right-turning from Pedder Street to Connaught Road Central eastbound to increase the junction capacity. Works are in progress and the target completion date is mid 2003;
- (b) provision of an additional traffic lane on Connaught Road Central westbound near junction with Gilman Street to remove the traffic bottleneck thereat. Works are in progress and scheduled for completion in early 2004; and
- (c) traffic management schemes to cope with vehicular traffic generated by the occupation of Two International Finance Centre (Two IFC) in late 2003. These include the provision of a direct linkage from Jubilee Street Underpass onto Rumsey Street Flyover, and the signalization of the junction of Man Kat Street and Connaught Road Central. Works are scheduled for completion in late 2003 to tie in with the occupation of Two IFC.

All these traffic management schemes are minor in nature and the required expenditure will be funded from Highways Department's block vote under CWRP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)038

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0809

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : (a) Transport Department will develop and implement a Transport Information System. How much funding has been allocated for its implementation? What is the scope of its application? Would the System provide traffic information services to the public and tourists?
- (b) What are the concrete plans for introducing a harbour tour service?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

- (a) \$63.6 million has been allocated for the development and implementation of the Transport Information System (TIS).

The system is a centralised data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive traffic and transport information. It will have two main outputs, namely, a Public Transport Information Service (PTIS) and an Intelligent Road Network (IRN).

The PTIS will be available on the Internet, and will assist public transport users and tourists to make pre-trip planning. The public will initially be able to access transport information on buses and railways, such as service schedules, locations of stops and routing details by clicking their set off points and destinations on a digitised map. The public will subsequently be able to search for their optimum public transport routes based on least distance, least cost or least interchange. Through PTIS, motorists will also be able to search for their optimum driving routes based on options such as least distance or minimum tunnel or bridge toll.

The IRN will contain up-to-date information on traffic directions, turning movements at road junctions and stopping restrictions, etc. It will enable value-added service providers in the private sector to develop specific ITS applications such as car navigation, fleet management, etc.

- (b) The Harbour Tour Service (HTS) will ply within the Victoria Harbour with calling points at Central, Wan Chai, Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The operator of the HTS was selected through open tender last December. It is expected that the HTS will commence operation in the 3rd quarter of 2003.

To tie in with the commencement of the HTS, minor modification/enhancement works including signage improvement, pier facilities upgrading e.g. lighting and painting will be carried out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)039

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0810

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) The target average waiting time for driving test candidates in 2003 is 85 days, but the actual ones in 2001 and 2002 were 63 days. Will Transport Department change the target to 63 days or less?
 - (b) Transport Department will introduce “one-stop-shop” vehicle type approval service. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- (a) In the past several years we have set a target of confining the average waiting time for driving test candidates to not more than 85 days. Since 2001, we have achieved shorter average waiting time of 63 days with the resources available. However, in 2003, there will be additional demand on our resources from recently introduced initiatives such as the issuing of new private driving instructor's licences and providing lectures for Driver Improvement Courses and Quality Driving Instructor Courses. We have hence been more conservative in our estimate of the average waiting time.
- (b) At present, vehicle manufacturers and suppliers are required to complete and submit separate vehicle type approval application documents to Transport Department (TD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD) as well as Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in case of gas vehicle for processing and approval.

Under the proposed “one-stop-shop” mechanism to be launched on trial in April 2003, TD would take the lead to coordinate type approval applications. An integrated type approval application document, which unifies the separate application documents now adopted by the three departments, has been developed. Upon receipt of the application, TD would coordinate with EPD and EMSD for processing. We have consulted the transport trade which indicated support for the proposed arrangement as a service enhancement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0811

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that the number of pedestrian streets to be implemented in 2003 is 15. Please provide details and the costs.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : The following pedestrian schemes are planned in 2003:

		Nature of works
	<u>Causeway Bay</u>	
1.	Lee Garden Road (Between Lan Fong Road and Hysan Avenue)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
2.	Pak Sha Road	Upgrade to daily part-time closure
	<u>Central</u>	
3.	Duddell Street	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
4.	On Lan Street	
5.	Queen's Road Central (Between Pedder Street and Pottinger Street)	
	<u>Wan Chai</u>	
6.	Johnston Road (Between Tai Wo Street and Stone Nullah Lane)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
7.	Johnston Road (Between Swatow Street and Ship Street)	
8.	Johnston Road (Between Wan Chai Road and Triangle Street)	

	<u>Mong Kok</u>	
9.	Soy Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street)	Extend to daily part-time closure
10.	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (Between Nelson Street and Dundas Street)	ditto
11.	Nelson Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street)	ditto
12.	Shan Tung Street (Between Nathan Road and Fa Yuen Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
	<u>Jordan</u>	
13.	Nanking Street (Between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
	<u>Sham Shui Po</u>	
14.	Fuk Wa Street (Between Yen Chow Street and Kweilin Street)	Trial on part-time closure
15.	Kweilin Street (Between Fuk Wa Street and Fuk Wing Street)	

In addition to the above planned schemes, Transport Department will continue to develop further pedestrian schemes in the above districts as well as other districts including Tsim Sha Tsui.

The total estimated cost of the associated road works at the above areas is around \$1.5 million which will be funded from Highways Department's block vote under CWRP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)041

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0812

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : When will the ferry service monitoring survey be conducted under Subhead 700 Item 563?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : The survey is planned to be carried out in early 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)042

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

700 General other
non-recurrent

0813

843 Minor consultancies for traffic and
transport studies (block vote)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total expenditure on employment of consultants in 2003-04?
Please advise the ambit of the relevant items.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : The total expenditure for employment of consultants in 2003-04 is estimated to be \$13.780M. The detailed breakdown is as follows :-

Subhead	Item No.	Description	2003-04 Estimate \$M
700	529	Consultancy services for additional monitoring surveys on public bus services	0.250
700	532	Hong Kong Island North and Kowloon West district traffic study	0.838
700	533	Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic study	1.205
700	544	Studies on co-ordination of other public transport services with new railways	0.060
700	548	Consultancy for Base District Traffic Models	2.500
700	555	Consultancy to update the Parking Demand Study	0.321
700	556	Consultancy for digitisation of traffic aids drawings	1.398
700	557	Consultancy studies for pedestrianisation schemes	1.800

Subhead	Item No.	Description	2003-04 Estimate \$M
700	558	Feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong	1.578
700	562	Consultancy to review the operation of all non-area traffic control junctions in the Southern and Peak Districts and to test the applicability of video-based vehicle detection technology	0.130
843	-	Minor consultancies for traffic and transport studies (block vote)	<u>3.700</u>
		Total	<u>13.780</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)043

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0207

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Administration inform the Committee details of the upgrading of ventilation plants at public transport interchanges in 2002-03? What is the expected improvement to air quality brought by the upgrading works? What is the planned upgrading works for other public transport interchanges? What is the cost implication?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong Wah

Reply : In 2002-03, we have upgraded the ventilation plants of 4 covered public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Kwai Hing MTR, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Sam Shing and Sai Lau Kok in order to meet Environmental Protection Department's (EPD) air quality guidelines.

We plan to upgrade the ventilation plants of another 5 covered PTIs at Bayview Garden, Yen Chow Street, South Horizon, Tuen Mun Town Centre and Admiralty East. Having reviewed the air quality of the PTI at the Peak and the financial implication of upgrading its ventilation plant, we intend to improve the ventilation condition of this PTI through other improvements to the operation of the existing ventilation facilities in the short term, which would enable it to meet EPD's guidelines.

The total capital cost for upgrading the ventilation plants at these 9 PTIs is \$39M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)044

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0211

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes, would the Administration advise:

- (a) why the number of BBI schemes implemented in 2002 has increased significantly in comparison with 2001 but the number to be introduced in 2003 would be less than that in 2002; how many BBI schemes have been approved so far; how many are being processed and what are the details; and
- (b) details of applications for interchange schemes other than bus-bus interchange schemes being processed by the Administration.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) In planning BBI schemes, the bus companies would take into account factors such as the scope to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implication of the schemes, suggestions from public, etc. and the implementation of these schemes are subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. Therefore, the number of BBI schemes implemented in each year may vary. So far, Transport Department has approved a total of 139 applications for introduction of BBI schemes, 100 of which have been implemented and the remaining 39 schemes are planned for implementation before the end of the year subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. About 340 bus routes are involved in the 139 approved schemes.
- (b) The Administration does not have on hand any applications for interchange schemes other than BBI schemes, but we understand that individual railway and franchised bus operators are exploring the possibility of introducing new rail-bus interchange scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)045

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0215

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the consultancies for Base District Traffic Models (BDTMs) provided under Item 548, what are the details of the models? What is the current progress?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong Wah

Reply :

Details of the BDTMs are as follows:

The traditional approach in Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) studies involved developing separate local traffic models for individual studies. Those new local traffic models (notably road network and trip matrices) had to be prepared, calibrated and validated from scratch each time before they could be applied for traffic forecasting purposes. The setting up of BDTMs, covering the whole territory, provides a consistent and efficient base framework for conducting TIA studies. This stems from the fact that the basic network and matrices data built up in their development/updates can be re-used in other TIA studies. As such, there will be savings (about 20%) in both time and costs for conducting future TIAs. In addition, BDTMs will also be used to facilitate the planning of traffic management schemes on a district level.

As regards the progress, the base models have been substantially set up and validated to 2000-based planning data issued by the Planning Department. As Planning Department issued an updated 2001-based planning dataset last year and to ensure that local traffic forecasts by BDTMs are compatible with updated planning data and the corresponding network assumptions, works are required to re-validate and update the BDTMs. Opportunities will also be made to enhance the performance and functionalities of the models.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)046

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0216

Programme : (4) Management of Transport services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the progress of the trial scheme to accept Octopus on electronic parking devices? Why is there a substantial difference between the approved commitment for the item and the revised estimated expenditure in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The trial of reloadable card-operated parking meters was undertaken from November 2000 to September 2001 at 200 parking spaces in busy areas. The trial proved that these parking meters performed satisfactorily in an outdoor, off-line and unattended environment. It also revealed public acceptance of Octopus as a payment card for parking meters. In view of the success of the trial scheme, a contractor was selected by open tender to replace in phases the existing electronic parking meters with Octopus-operated meters. The contract was awarded in December 2002. The first 1,000 new parking meters will be installed commencing in May 2003.

Given that no similar trials have been conducted overseas/locally and due to limited sources of information, Transport Department (TD)'s cost estimate of \$9.1M for the trial scheme was based on relevant information supplied by the existing provider of the electronic parking meters. Having further ascertained that other companies in the market could offer similar technology, TD invited interested parties to participate in the trial scheme. Amongst those companies which expressed interest, we have chosen five who indicated that they would bear the hardware and software development costs and would participate in the trial at nominal costs to TD. As a result, only \$3M was spent, which explained the difference between the approved commitment and the revised estimated expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)047

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0217

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding Item 558, please provide details and progress of the feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The study concluded that there are important technical and operational issues concerning trolley bus operation in busy urban areas and in tunnels which taken together, present important risks for introducing trolley bus operation in these areas. These issues include vertical clearance of overbridges and trolley bus speed, potential traffic delays, removal and relocation of hanging signs, maintenance of fire fighting access in the narrow streets of Hong Kong, and problems with the siting of depots, traction poles, underground feeder cables, etc.

In addition, the study noted that the trolley buses can bring improvements to air quality and are relatively quiet, but the visual impact of the overhead wiring system of a trolley bus system to the city landscape could be an issue. Financial viability and higher fares are also a key problem.

Unless the financial viability problem, higher fares and the important technical and operational risks involved can be resolved, the Administration does not consider that there is a case to introduce trolley buses in existing built-up areas. On the other hand, for new development areas, better planning at the design stage would help address some of the problems associated with trolley bus operation. The Administration will study the merits of introducing trolley buses amongst other environmentally friendly transport modes in South East Kowloon Development to determine the best choice of transport mode for this new development area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)048

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

843 - Minor consultancies for
traffic and transport studies
(block vote)

Question Serial No.

0218

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the details and current progress of the on-going traffic and transport studies? Please list the planned expenditure items with breakdowns.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Details and current progress of the on-going Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) studies are as follows:

- (a) CE32/2000 – TIA for 6 Residential Sites in Kowloon; 100% completed.
- (b) TD84/2001 – TIA for 1 Residential Site in Hong Kong and 1 Residential Site in the New Territories; 95% completed.
- (c) TD54/2002 – TIA for 2 Residential Site in the New Territories; 75% completed.

Details of planned expenditure with breakdowns:

	2003-04 (\$'000)
(a) Consultancy fees for TIAs carried over from 2002-03	250
(b) Consultancy fees for carrying out TIAs for 3 sites ^(#)	750
(c) Study on the impact of Ngong Ping cable car on bus services in Lantau	1,000
(d) Comprehensive Review of Pedestrian Facilities and Traffic and Transport Arrangement in the Centre of Aberdeen	400
(e) Study of Traffic pattern at road junctions	<u>1,300</u>
Total:	<u>3,700</u>

- exact locations to be identified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)049

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0219

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding Item 560 - Travel Characteristics Survey 2002, please inform the progress of the concerned work and when will the final survey report be announced? Will the concerned balance be allocated to conduct traffic surveys for other areas?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : All field works of the Survey have been completed and we are analyzing the survey results. We plan to complete the final study report in end 2003. The balance of \$3.062M in the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04 for this item is for the payment of remaining expenditure of this item after the financial year 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)050

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1320

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : During 2002-03, Transport Department has about 180 non-civil service contract staff. The estimated expenditure for 2002-03 on employment of non-civil service contract staff is about \$25 million.

In 2003-04, the contracts of 6 non-civil service contract staff employed for specific projects will end upon completion of these projects. We also review the operational need to retain contract staff before deciding whether to renew their contracts. Depending on operational needs, there may also be a need to recruit some non-civil service contract staff on ad hoc basis to meet our short-term demands. Taking into account the increase/decrease of non-civil service contract staff, there should not be any significant changes in the expenditure for non-civil service contract staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)051

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0566

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : (a) As shown in Programme (4), the estimate for 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03 revised estimate will require an additional expenditure of \$11.7M mainly due to the award of more management contracts for public transport interchanges (PTIs) in the territory. How many contracts are involved? What are the financial provisions for these contracts?
- (b) At present, how many PTIs are contracted out for management? What is their proportion to the total no. of existing PTIs in the territory?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) We planned to award two contracts for about 16 government-owned covered PTIs in 2003-04 at an estimated management cost of about \$10M per annum. We are reviewing the plan, taking into account the current financial situation.
- (b) So far, three management contracts involving 16 PTIs have been awarded. The 16 PTIs contracted out represents about 28% of government-owned covered PTIs in the territory.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)052

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0685

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : On implementation of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes, what is the reason for the reduction of 26 BBI schemes planned for implementation in 2003 as compared with the figure in the previous year ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In planning BBI schemes, the bus companies would take into account factors such as the scope to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implication of the schemes, suggestions from public, etc., and the implementation of these schemes are subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. Therefore, the number of BBI schemes implemented in each year may vary.

We will continue to encourage the bus companies to introduce more BBI schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)053

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0680

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the reasons for the three times increase in the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes implemented in 2002 as compared with the previous estimate? What are the routes included in the 40 BBI schemes in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : In planning BBI schemes, the bus companies would take into account factors such as the scope to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implications of the schemes, suggestions from the public, etc. and the implementation of these schemes is subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. Therefore, the number of BBI schemes implemented may vary depending on changes in circumstances.

Four BBI schemes have been implemented since January 2003. The latest development is that another 39 schemes are planned for implementation before the end of the year subject to consultation with relevant District Councils. The 43 BBI schemes cover a total of about 130 bus routes operating throughout the territory.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)054

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0876

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the routes involved in the rationalization schemes to be implemented in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : To improve operating efficiency and reduce congestion and air pollution problems in the busy urban corridors, Transport Department is developing rationalization schemes which include proposals for truncation, cancellation or frequency reduction of routes with low patronage. A total of about 70 bus routes operating in different areas in Hong Kong are being considered. In pursuing these proposals, Transport Department will ensure that affected passengers are provided with reasonable alternatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)055

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0877

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Among the road safety remedial measures planned for 2003-04, how many of which are traffic accident blacksites and have already been investigated? Is there any plan to review and obviate the identified traffic accident blacksites?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : We have an on-going programme to investigate sites with a higher number of accidents or where serious accidents had occurred. We call these sites "accident blacksites" which would be investigated for road safety remedial measures.

When an accident blacksite is identified, the Transport Department will conduct detailed investigation to examine if there are any distinct accident patterns and identify common factors contributing to these accidents. Remedial measures will be proposed to address the common factors identified. We estimate that we can develop effective measures at about 120 blacksites in 2003-04. Such measures usually include installation of warning signs, modification of road markings, erection of hand railings and modification of traffic signals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)056

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0430

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the item 560, the balance for the “Travel Characteristics Survey 2002” is \$3,062,000. As the survey has already been completed, will the Administration inform the Committee how the remaining balance will be used?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : We have completed the field works of the survey. The results are being analysed. Most of the remaining balance as at the end of the financial year of 2002-03 will be used for the detailed analysis of survey results, report writing and submission of the deliverables, including the database, computer software and reports, to the Government.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)057

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0435

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the concrete plans and expenditure involved for introducing a harbour tour service?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : The Harbour Tour Service (HTS) will be plying within the Victoria Harbour with calling points at Central, Wan Chai, Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The operator of the HTS was selected through open tender last December. It is expected that the HTS will commence operation in the 3rd quarter of 2003.

To tie in with the commencement of the HTS, minor modification/enhancement works including signage improvement, pier facilities upgrading e.g. lighting and painting will be carried out. Additional expenditure for minor improvement works is expected to be absorbed by the relevant departments within their own existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)058

Head :

Capital Works Reserve Fund

Head 706 – Highways

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1251

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the block allocation Subhead 6100TX—Highway works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme, please set out the works items in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The proposed works items to be carried out in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts under Subhead 6100TX include:-

1. Road reconstruction at Tung Yuen Street and Yan Yue Wai
2. Improvement to Lam Tin Public Transport Interchange
3. Pavement resurfacing works at Kwun Tong Road (section between On Ting Street and Hong Ning Road)
4. Pavement resurfacing works at Lei Yue Mun Road (section between Tsui Ping Road and Kai Tin Road)
5. Resurfacing works at Ko Chiu Road
6. Resurfacing works at Kai Tin Road (near Tak Tin Street)
7. Resurfacing works at Sau Mau Ping Road (section between Hip Wo Street and Sau Ming Road)
8. Laying of low noise surfacing material at Pik Wan Road (section between Tak Shui House and Tak Shing House)
9. Resurfacing works at Prince Edward Road East (section between Rhythm Garden and Ping Shek Estate eastbound route)
10. Resurfacing works at Lung Cheung Road (section between Fung Mo Street and

Lung Yin Road)

11. Resurfacing works at Kwun Tong Bypass (Route 3—Laguna City section)
12. Anti-skid road resurfacing at Clear Water Bay Road (section between Jat's Incline and Fung Shing Street downhill route)
13. Anti-skid road surfacing at Diamond Hill Public Transport Interchange
14. Anti-skid road surfacing at Sheung Fung Street (near Shung Wah Street)
15. Installation of cushion barriers at Prince Edward Road East (near King Tai Street westbound route)
16. Pavement resurfacing works at Junction Road (section between Lok Fu Shopping Centre and Practical Education Centre)
17. Pavement resurfacing works at Kwun Tong Road (section between Kai Yip Estate and Kowloon Bay MTR Station westbound route)
18. Resurfacing works at Hing Yip Street
19. Resurfacing works at Shing Yip Street
20. Pavement resurfacing works at Hoi Yuen Road
21. Resurfacing works at Lam Hing Street (section between Wang Hoi Road and Wang Kwun Road)
22. Resurfacing of low noise surfacing material at Kwun Tong Road (section between Kai Yip Estate and Prince Edward Road East westbound route)
23. Resurfacing works at Tai Yip Street

The priority and implementation programme of the above proposed works items will be subject to actual site and traffic conditions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(T)001

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Oral

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Transport Department to provide information on the establishment changes of Driving Examiners over the past three years. (Re: Reply Serial No. ETWB(T)039)

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Changes in the establishment and strength of Driving Examiners from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are shown as follows -

Year (position as at 31 March)	Establishment	Strength
2000	79	78
2001	73	73
2002	73	72
2003 (estimate)	73	71

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 28 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(T)002

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Oral

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Transport Department to provide detailed information about the 70 routes to be included in the rationalization schemes for implementation in 2003-2004. (Re: Reply Serial No. ETWB(T)054)

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong and Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : Transport Department is consulting the various District Councils on the proposed rationalisation schemes for 2003-2004 to improve operating efficiency and reduce congestion and air pollution problems in the busy urban corridors. Details of routes involved are attached at Annex.

The proposals will be subject to modification taking account of outcome of consultation with relevant parties including the District Councils.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 28 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Details of the 68 routes involved in rationalization schemes for implementation in 2003-2004

Bus Route No.	Origin - Destination	Plan
23A	Lai Tak Tsuen - Robinson Road (Circular)	To merge with route no. 23B due to low passenger demand and divert from Yee Wo Street to reduce trips in this busy corridor.
M47	Wah Fu (North) - Admiralty MTR Station (West)	To be truncated from Admiralty to Hong Kong MTR Station to reduce trips to Central and Admiralty.
84	Chai Wan (Heng Fa Chuen) - Yiu Tung Estate (Circular)	To replace 3 double deck buses by 3 single deck buses taking into account passenger demand.
95B	South Horizons - Wong Chuk Hang	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by other existing bus and GMB services.
37X	Chi Fu Fa Yuen - Admiralty MTR Station (East)	To merge routes no. 37X and 37B during morning peak period due to low passenger demand of route no. 37B and to change the merged route to a circular route with Chi Fu Fa Yuen as the terminal point so as to reduce trips to Central and Admiralty. BBI scheme for routes no. 7 / 71 / 90B / 37B / 37X is available for affected passengers.
37B	Chi Fu Fa Yuen - Central Piers (Circular)	
7	Central Piers - Shek Pai Wan	To replace 6 double deck buses by 6 single deck buses taking into account passenger demand.
3B	Central (Man Kat Street) - Pokfield Road	To merge routes no. 3B and 12 with low passenger demand to reduce trips to Central.
12	Central Piers - Robinson Road (Circular)	
6	Mei Foo - Star Ferry	To merge with route no. 6A to reduce trips to Tsim Sha Tsui.
8	Kowloon MTR Station - Star Ferry	To change the terminal point from Star Ferry pier to Laguna Verde to reduce trips to Tsim Sha Tsui.
9	Ping Shek - Star Ferry	To change the terminal point from Star Ferry pier to Kowloon MTR Station to reduce trips to Tsim Sha Tsui.
208	Broadcast Drive - Tsim Sha Tsui East	To truncate from Tsim Sha Tsui to Jordan and to become a circular route so as to reduce trips to Tsim Sha Tsui.
K15	Mong Kok KCR Station - China Ferry Terminal	To merge routes no. K15 and K16 and change the terminal point to Nam Cheong

Bus Route No.	Origin - Destination	Plan
K16	Hung Hom KCR Station - Tsim Sha Tsui (Middle Road)	
32B	Tsuen Wan Ferry Pier - Cheung Shan Estate (Circular)	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by extending an existing GMB service.
34	Kwai Shing (Central) - Bayview Garden	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by a new GMB service.
73	Choi Yuen - Tai Po Industrial Estate	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by a new GMB service.
73K	Sheung Shui - Man Kam To (San Uk Ling)	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by a new GMB service.
74K	Tai Po KCR Station - Sam Mun Tsai	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing GMB service.
78K	Sheung Shui - Sha Tau Kok	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by new and existing GMB services.
79K	Sheung Shui - Ta Ku Ling	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing GMB service.
278K	Luen Wo Hui - Fanling KCR Station	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing GMB service.
285	Bayshore Towers - Heng On (Circular)	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing bus services.
68M	Yuen Long (West) - Tsuen Wan MTR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
264M	Tin Yan - Tsing Yi AR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
269D	Tin Fu - Lek Yuen Estate	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
276/276P	Tin Tsz Estate - Sheung Shui	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
276A	Tin Heng Estate - Tai Ping	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
63M	Yuen Long (East) - Tsing Yi AR Station	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing bus and rail services.
63P	Hung Shui Kiu - Tsuen Wan MTR Station	To be cancelled as its routeing overlaps with that of route no. 68A. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing bus services.
64M	Tin Yiu Estate - Tsuen Wan (Nina Tower)	To be cancelled after West Rail opening due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing bus services.

Bus Route No.	Origin - Destination	Plan
69M	Tin Shui Estate - Kwai Fong MTR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
251M	Kam Tin Pat Heung - Tsing Yi AR Station (Circular)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To extend the service and change the terminal point to Kam Sheung Road Station to enhance connectivity with West Rail.
269M	Tin Shui Wai Town Centre - Cho Yiu	To merge with route no. 265M due to overlapping of these routes. Frequency of the merged route will be improved.
52M	Tseng Choi Street - Kwai Fong MTR Station	To be cancelled upon the introduction of a new bus route no. 61M (Yau Oi (South) - Lai King (North)).
261M	Sam Shing Estate - Tsuen Wan MTR Station	
262P	Sam Shing Estate - Tsuen Wan MTR Station	
66M	Tai Hing - Tsuen Wan MTR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To change the terminal point to Shan King Estate to tie in with the extension of route no. 57M to Tai Hing.
67M	Siu Hong Court - Kwai Fong MTR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To change the terminal point to Siu Hong Station to enhance connectivity with West Rail.
261	Sam Shing - Tin Ping Estate	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
263	Tuen Mun Town Centre - Sha Tin KCR Station	To change the terminal point to Tuen Mun Station to enhance connectivity with West Rail
70	Sheung Shui - Jordan Road Ferry Pier	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand will be catered for by frequency improvement and route modification of route no. 270A and the provision of a BBI scheme involving 2 routes to facilitate travel between Tai Po Road and Jordan.
70X	Sheung Shui - Kwun Tong (Tsui Ping Road)	To modify routeing and reduce frequency due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by a new route no. 277X (Luen Wo Hui - Ping Tin).
68X	Yuen Long (East) - Jordan Road Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips from Jordan to Mong Kok as the destination of most of the passengers of this route is Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po area.
265B	Tin Heng Estate - Mong Kok (Park Avenue)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
63X	Tin Tsz Estate - Jordan Road Ferry Pier	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand to be catered for by existing bus services.
69X	Tin Shui Estate - Jordan Road Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.

Bus Route No.	Origin - Destination	Plan
269B	Tin Shui Wai Town Centre - Hung Hom Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To divert from Yuen Long during peak periods with provision of shortworking trips.
269C	Tin Shui Wai Town Centre - Kwun Tong Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To divert from Yuen Long during peak periods with provision of shortworking trips.
59A	Tuen Mun Pierhead - Sham Shui Po (Yen Chow Street)	To modify routeing to reduce detour. Passenger demand will be catered for by a new route no. 61M (Yau Oi (South) - Lai King (North)) and other existing bus services.
60	Yau Oi (South) - Cheung Sha Wan	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand. Passenger demand will be catered for by a new bus route no. 61M (Yau Oi (South) - Lai King (North)).
60X	Tuen Mun Town Centre - Jordan Road Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips from Jordan to Mong Kok as the destination of most of the passengers of this route is Mong Kok.
66	Tai Hing Estate - Olympic MTR Station	To be cancelled due to low passenger demand after passing Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung. Passenger demand to be catered for by extending route no. 57M to Tai Hing and other existing bus services.
67X	Siu Hong Court - Mong Kok KCR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand. To change the terminal point to Siu Hong Station to enhance connectivity with West Rail.
260X	Bo Tin - Kowloon MTR Station	To change the terminal point to Hung Hom KCR Station to reduce congestion in busy urban areas.
267S	Siu Hong Court - Tsim Sha Tsui	To change the terminal point from the on-street terminus to Siu Hong Station.
52X	Tuen Mun Town Centre - Sham Shui Po (Yen Chow Street)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
58X	Leung King Estate - Mong Kok KCR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
61X	Tuen Mun Town Centre - Kowloon City Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
66X	Tai Hing Estate - Olympic MTR Station	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening having regard to passenger demand.
3	Mui Wo - Tung Chung Old Pier	To merge with route no. 3M due to overlapping routeing and low passenger demand.
34	Tung Chung MTR Station - Shek Mun Kap	To reduce frequency as a result of deployment of one vehicle from this route to operate shortworking trips between Tung Chung MTR Station and Tung Chung Old Pier to serve the majority of passengers of this route.

Bus Route No.	Origin - Destination	Plan
968	Yuen Long (West) - Causeway Bay (Tin Hau)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening havnig regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips between Causeway Bay and Admiralty as the destinations of most of the passengers of this route are Central and Admiralty.
969	Tin Shui Wai Town Centre - Causeway Bay (Moreton Terrace)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening havnig regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips between Causeway Bay and Admiralty as the destinations of most of the passengers of this route are Central and Admiralty.
960	Tuen Mun Kin Sang Estate - Wan Chai Ferry Pier	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening havnig regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips between Wan Chai and Admiralty as the destinations of most of the passengers of this route are Central and Admiralty.
961	Tuen Mun San King Estaet - Wan Chai (Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening havnig regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips between Wan Chai and Admiralty as the destinations of most of the passengers of this route are Central and Admiralty.
962	Tuen Mun Lung Mun Oasis - Causeway Bay (Moreton Terrace)	To adjust frequency after West Rail opening havnig regard to passenger demand. To truncate some trips between Causeway Bay and Admiralty as the destinations of most of the passengers of this route are Central and Admiralty.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)001

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0102

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services
(2) – Facilities Upkeep
(3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (1) - Monitoring and Advisory Services
Programme (3) - Facilities Development)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (for Programme (2) – Facilities Upkeep)

Question : Under Subhead 000 Operational expenses : the actual expenditure on light and power for 2001-02 was \$3,086,000 and the original estimate for 2002-03 was \$3,000,000, but the revised estimate is \$3,600,000. Will the Government inform this Council of the causes leading to such huge increase in the expenditure on light and power ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The scope of the light and power item mainly covers the electricity expenses of our Property Services Branch and District Maintenance Offices (DMOs), which are accommodated in purpose-built specialist buildings. The increase in expenditure on light and power from \$3 million to \$3.6 million, when comparing the 2002-03 original estimate to the revised estimate, is mainly attributable to -

- (a) the reprovisioning of the DMO from the Kai Tak Government Building to the Water Supplies Department Kowloon West Regional Building at Cheung

Sha Wan. The electricity expenses for the DMO when accommodated at the Kai Tak Government Office was borne by the Government Property Agency, and in the present premises by the Architectural Services Department; and

- (b) the newly established DMO at the Maintenance Depot for Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Architectural Services Department and Highways Department at Siu Ho Wan, Lantau. The DMO at Siu Ho Wan is a maintenance depot for which users are required to share the electricity expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	C. H. YUE
Post Title	Director of Architectural Services
Date	20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure

2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0289

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (3) – Facilities Development)

Question : The estimated expenditure on building projects for 2003-04 under the said programme is \$7,566M, which is less than that for 2002-03. However, there is a substantial increase in the value of projects under design and construction. Why is it so ?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply : The reduction in expenditure on building projects in 2003 is mainly attributable to the completion or near completion of a number of large projects in 2002 under Head 703 - Buildings such as the following -

- (a) 3269EP - Three primary schools at Po Kong Village Road, Kowloon;
- (b) 3005GA - Science Park at Pak Shek Kok – phases 1a and 1b;
- (c) 3006GB - Expansion of kiosks and other facilities at Lok Ma Chau boundary crossing – remaining works;
- (d) 3047JA - Departmental quarters at Hong Ning Road, Kwun Tong; and
- (e) 3049JA - Departmental quarters in West Kowloon Reclamation.

The majority of the payments for these projects were made in 2002.

The increase in the value of works projects in 2003 when compared to 2002 is mainly due to the anticipated advancement to the design and construction stage of more Category B projects under the Capital Works Programme. An example is 3063KA - Central Government Complex, Legislative Council Complex, Exhibition Gallery and Civic Place at Tamar. Construction for a number of these Category B projects would not start until the later part of the year and therefore they do not contribute much to expenditure in 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural
Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0290

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme
(3) – Facilities
Development)

Question : The estimate expenses for the new Mandatory Provident Fund contribution in 2003-04 under the said Subhead amount to \$843,000. What is the number of staff involved in such expenses and what are their ranks ? What is their establishment or terms of employment ?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply : The provision of \$843,000 in the 2003-04 Estimates is for 73 officers. Breakdowns of these officers by rank and terms of employment are attached.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

(A) Breakdown by rank

Rank	No. of Officers
Chief Professional*	1
Senior Professional*	4
Professional*	31
Assistant Professional*	8
Chief Technical Officer	2
Principal Technical Officer	1
Technical Officer	5
Principal Survey Officer	1
Senior Survey Officer	3
Works Supervisor I	5
Works Supervisor II	8
Supplies Officer	1
Machine Operator	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	1
Total :	73

* Including staff from the Architect, Structural Engineer, Maintenance Surveyor, Landscape Architect, Building Services Engineer and Electrical and Mechanical Engineer grades etc.

(B) Breakdown by terms of employment

Terms of Employment	No. of Officers
Common Agreement Terms	37
Local Agreement Terms	17
Locally Modelled Agreement Terms	7
New Probationary Terms	12
Total :	73

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0628

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) – Facilities Upkeep
(3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Programme (3) - Facilities Development)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (for Programme (2) – Facilities Upkeep)

Question : In 2002, the Architectural Services Department, after reviewing its organization, management and mode of operation, announced a plan to gradually outsource its maintenance and architectural projects to the private sector in the following seven years. According to your analysis, the lower estimates for Programmes (2) and (3) in 2003-04 are mainly due to the effect of civil service pay cut. The progress of the outsourcing scheme, and its effect on your budget, is not mentioned. Can you provide the relevant expenditure items related to the scheme and the amount of savings achieved through outsourcing, if any ?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) has increased the outsourcing of professional and technical services of building projects from 35% in 2001-02 to 54% in 2002-03 to consultants. The outsourcing will continue to increase in 2003-04. For maintenance works, Arch SD has outsourced 20% to 50% of a range of activities, including the employment of consultants for design and supervision of some minor works, co-ordination and reporting of minor maintenance, and account checking of maintenance works.

We will continue to outsource further the professional and technical services for new building projects, devolve a range of maintenance activities, and strengthen the advisory roles. The Department will also re-deploy posts flexibly to meet the increase in expenditure on minor works and strengthen advisory services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0705

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (3) –
Facilities Development)

Question : The Architectural Services Department will incorporate environmentally friendly features in new projects in 2003-04. What are the details of these environmentally friendly features and the expenditure required ?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The environmentally friendly features to be incorporated in new building projects include -

- Building services installations that are more energy efficient
- Devices such as photovoltaic panels which adopt the use of renewable energy
- Building materials and technologies, such as recycled aggregates, low volatile organic compounds and unitized curtain wall systems, that are environmentally preferable
- Installations which improve indoor and outdoor air quality
- Green landscaping which provides relief to the dense urban environment

On average, the cost for the environmentally friendly features is around 5% of the total project expenditure, which would be in the region of \$380M for 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0871

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (3) –
Facilities Development)

Question : The estimated financial provision for facilities development is \$29.9 million (4.9 %) lower than the revised estimated for 2002-03. Is there any expected savings in 2003-04 through outsourcing arrangements ? If yes, what is the estimated amount of savings ?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : We will continue to outsource further the professional and technical services for new building projects, devolve a range of maintenance activities, and strengthen the advisory roles. The Department will also re-deploy posts flexibly to meet the increase in expenditure on minor works and strengthen advisory services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 21 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services
(3) – Facilities DevelopmentControlling Officer : Director of Architectural ServicesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (1) -
Monitoring and Advisory
Services
Programme (3) - Facilities
Development)Question : Please provide :

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories :
- I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including the Directorate ranks);
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44;
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33; and
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below (excluding MOD Scale 1).
- (Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, SelinaReply : (a) The establishment (E) and strength (S) as at 31 March 2003, broken down by programme area and category, are as follows :

Category	Programme 1		Programme 3		Total	
	E	S	E	S	E	S
I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including the Directorate ranks)	21	17	117	103	138	120
II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	6	4	47	46	53	50
III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	49	50	461	422	510	472
IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below	76	73	474	466	550	539
Total:	152	144	1 099	1 037	1 251	1 181

- (b) 61 posts have been deleted in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize the use of resources. Breakdown of the 61 posts is as follows:

Ranks	No. of Posts	
	Programme 1	Programme 3
Architect	0	3
Quantity Surveyor	0	3
Structural Engineer	0	1
Technical Officer (Architectural)	1	12
Technical Officer (Building Services)	0	1
Technical Officer (Structural)	0	13
Survey Officer (Quantity)	2	14
Assistant Clerk of Works	0	6
Works Supervisor II (Building)	0	5
Sub-total:	3	58
	Total:	61

- (c) To accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objectives, Architectural Services Department has carried out a re-engineering exercise in 2001. We will continue to outsource further the professional and technical services for new building projects, devolve a range of maintenance activities, and strengthen the advisory roles. The Department will also re-deploy posts flexibly to meet the increase in expenditure on minor works and strengthen advisory services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

_____ Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1000

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (1) –
Monitoring and Advisory
Services)

Question : The target vetting time set by the Architectural Services Department is very long, which is 21 days for vetting tender documents, 30 days for vetting budget and design, and as long as 90 days for vetting final accounts. Can both the target and actual time for vetting be shortened ?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply : The purpose of the vetting exercise is to ensure that government subvented and joint-venture projects conform to government requirements and value-for-money principles. The vetting process involves professionals from a number of disciplines who would have to go through complex and voluminous contract documents, design submissions or measurement records. In view of the level of details involved, the performance targets are considered reasonable. Notwithstanding these targets, in practice we adopt a flexible approach to facilitate the subvented and joint-venture projects. We accept staged submissions and where necessary we may give priority to the vetting of specific submissions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1267

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services
(2) – Facilities Upkeep
(3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (for Programme (2) –
Facilities Upkeep)
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (for Programme (1) -
Monitoring and Advisory
Services
Programme (3) - Facilities
Development)

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04 ? If so, what are the reasons ? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved ?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : As at 17 March 2003, the Architectural Services Department has incurred a total amount of \$10.38M for employment of 36 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in 2002-03. It is estimated that the number of NCSC staff employed in the Department and the related expenditure will be reduced by 6 and \$0.99M respectively in 2003-04 as a result of cessation of employment of NCSC staff upon completion of several time-limited projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)010

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0601

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage &
(2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Drainage Services Department implement new outsourcing plans for its services in 2003-04? If yes, what will be the savings in resource and manpower?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : We are already outsourcing a substantial portion of operation and maintenance work which amounts to about 50% of the total Departmental Expenses of Drainage Services Department.

We are now investigating and planning the outsourcing of operation and maintenance of some of the sewage treatment facilities in Outlying Islands. This outsourcing initiative is likely to result in a saving of up to 10% of the current operation and maintenance expenditure on these treatment facilities, including the redeployment of six civil service posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)011

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0991

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage
(2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide -

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories :
 - I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including the Directorate ranks);
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44;
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33; and
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below (excluding MOD Scale 1).
(Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. Mrs. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply : (a) The establishment and strength as at 31 March 2003 for implementing the 2 programme

areas under DSD are provided below -

	Categories	Stormwater Drainage		Sewage Services	
		Establishment	Strength	Establishment	Strength
Group I	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate ranks)	30	29	57	52
Group II	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	9	9	42	38
Group III	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	181	175	340	342
Group IV	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below (excluding MOD Scale 1)	276	274	843	802
	Total	496	487	1282	1234

- (b) One Workman II post was deleted in 2002-03 due to re-engineering of receipt and dispatch service. Eighteen staff (1 Assistant Electrical Inspector, 2 Works Supervisors II, 2 Senior Artisans, 4 Artisans, 1 Motor Driver and 8 Workmen I/II) were redeployed arising from the outsourcing of sewage treatment facilities in Tsuen Wan.
- (c) The number of posts to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective is being assessed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)012

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

1280

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage &
(2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The Department employed a total of 201 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff as at 1 March 2003. The revised estimated expenditure for these NCSC staff for 2002-03 is \$34 million.

We have no plan to employ more NCSC staff in 2003-04 but the estimated expenditure will be \$38 million due to payment of contract gratuities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W) 013

Question Serial No.

0341

Head:

42 EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

000 Operational expenses

Programme:

1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

2 – Mechanical engineering installations safety

3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Regarding the total amount of the recurrent account under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the estimate for 2003-04 is \$1,648,000 higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. What are the reasons for the increase? Does the amount take account of factors such as civil service pay cut, streamlined structure and voluntary retirement? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung -ying

Reply:

The increase is mainly due to additional provision for implementing two new computer systems and organizing public education campaigns on electrical and gas safety and energy efficiency as well as the transfer of resources from Information Technology Services Department to support the establishment of the Information Technology Management Unit in my department, partly offset by implementation of the 1.8% efficiency savings initiatives through streamlining working procedures and tightening up on operating expenditure.

The estimate for 2003-04 has already taken into account the full-year effect of the civil service pay reduction in 2002 and savings arising from the streamlined structure but not the Voluntary Retirement Scheme II, the impact of which is still not known.

Signature

**Name in block
letters**

Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W) 014

Question Serial No.

0480

Head:

42 EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

000 Operational expenses

Programme:

- 1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety
- 2 – Mechanical engineering installations safety
- 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality
- 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Can the Government tell us why the amount of salaries of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in the estimate for 2003-04 is smaller than last year's revised estimate while the allowances to be paid in this financial year increase?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The salary provision for 2003-04 is \$2.8million (1.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the net deletion of 4 posts and the full-year effect of the civil service pay reduction in 2002.

The allowances for 2003-04 is \$0.6 million (17.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to additional provision for overtime requirement due to data input work for the implementation of the new accrual accounting system and increased acting allowances to cater for increasing number of officers on pre-retirement leave.

Signature
Name in block
letters

Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W) 015

Question Serial No.

Head:

Subhead(No. & title):

0992

42 EMSD

000 Operational expenses

Programme:

1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

(a) The establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories :

I Rank with starting pay at MPS 45 & above

II Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44

III Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33

IV Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below

(b) The number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and

(c) The number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by: Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply:

- (a) The establishment and strength of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) as at 31 March 2003 for implementing programmes 1, 3 and 4 are as follows -

Programme 1

	Establishment Strength
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 and above	21
	16
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	20
	19
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	102
	103
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 and below	54
	53
	Total
	197
	191

Programme 3

	Establishment Strength
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 and above	14
	14
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	1
	1
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	22
	19
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 and below	

- (c) In 2003-04, we plan to delete a net total of 4 posts to accomplish the “3R1M” objective as shown in the table below and will continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of EMSD.

Rank	Number of Posts
<u>Deletion</u>	
Electrical& Mechanical Engineer	2
Electrical Inspector	3
Workman II	1
Total	6
<u>Creation</u>	
Assistant Electrical Inspector	2
Total	2
Grand Total	4

Signature
Name in block
letters

Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W) 016

Question Serial No.

1123

Head:

42 EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

000 Operational expenses

Programme:

- 1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety
- 2 – Mechanical engineering installations safety
- 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality
- 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

In the 2003-04 Estimates, the provision for Allowances under Personal Emoluments is \$3,820,000, while the revised estimate for 2002-03 is \$3,245,000. The increase in the amount of allowances is about 18%. Please list the various allowances and the expenditure for each allowance in the past year.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

Allowances under Personal Emoluments include the overtime and acting allowances. The expenditures for the two allowances in 2002-03 are estimated to be \$0.56 million and \$2.685 million respectively. The provision for allowances for 2003-04 is \$0.6 million (17.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to additional requirement of overtime allowances for data input work arising from implementation of the new accrual accounting system and acting allowances for acting appointments due to increasing number of officers on pre-retirement leave.

Signature
Name in block
letters

Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W) 017

Question Serial No.

1281

Head:

42 EMSD

Subhead(No. & title):

000 Operational expenses

Programme:

- 1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety
- 2 – Mechanical engineering installations safety
- 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality
- 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

What is the number of non-civil service contract staff employed in 2002-03? How much expenditure is incurred? Does the Department plan to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons and the number of staff and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

We are currently employing 32 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff with an expenditure of about \$4.4 million in 2002-03. We plan to employ four additional NCSC staff in 2003-04 to carry out assignments of temporary nature, i.e. to process the application/renewal of licence of electrical workers and to develop an application software for data collection of air-conditioning water cooling tower and energy efficiency labeling scheme. The additional recurrent expenditure to be incurred is about \$0.7 million.

Signature
Name in block
letters

Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question:
- (a) How much resources will be allocated for the enhancement of public education campaigns on slope safety and landscaping slopes?
 - (b) How much resources will be allocated for the enhancement of advisory services to private slope owners on slope maintenance, upgrading and aesthetic improvement works?
 - (c) How much resources will be allocated for the work on upgrading of dangerous slopes? How many upgrading works are expected to be carried out next year?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

- Reply:
- (a) & (b) We have a Public Education Unit to promote slope safety and its aesthetic improvement through educational and publicity programme. The Unit comprises two geotechnical engineers and two technical staff. We also have a Community Advisory Unit to provide advisory services and assistance to private slope owners to proceed with their slope maintenance and upgrading works. This Unit comprises two geotechnical engineers and two technical staff. Both Units are under the supervision of a Chief Geotechnical Engineer in the Slope Safety Division of the Geotechnical Engineering Office of this Department. It is estimated that non -staff expenditure in 2003-04, including production and distribution of publicity and educational materials, organisation of talks, seminars, exhibitions and associated education activities, and public opinion survey, is about \$ 0.4 million.
 - (c) The Government has pledged to upgrade 2500 substandard government slopes and carry out safety-screening studies on 3000 private slopes under the 10-year Extended Landslip Preventive Measures Programme between 2000 and 2010. We will spend \$869 million in 2003-04 to upgrade 250 substandard government slopes and carry out safety-screening studies on 300 private slopes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)019

Question Serial No.

0323

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Please give details of the site selection and environmental impact assessment study for a new confined mud disposal facility. When will the study be completed? Will the fishermen associations and the fishermen affected be consulted during the study? For this study, how much resources will be needed?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: We are undertaking a site selection and environmental impact assessment study to identify the best site and disposal option for a new contaminated mud disposal facility within the Airport East/East Sha Chau area. This study will be conducted to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. We plan to complete the study in late 2003. We will consult fishermen representatives, the relevant District Councils and Green Groups during the course of the study. The cost for this study is \$2.4 million and the estimated cashflow is \$1.2 million in each of 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)020

Question Serial No.

0324

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: How many environmental and ecological studies will CED carry out in the coming year to understand the effect of mud dredging and mud disposal on the marine ecology? For these studies, how much resources will be needed?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: CED is undertaking five environmental and ecological assessments and studies related to marine mud disposal in 2003-04. This is to ensure that the effect of mud disposal on the marine environment is acceptable in accordance with internationally recognized standards. The cost for undertaking the assessments and studies is about \$20 million in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(W)021

Question Serial No.

0476

Head: 43 – Civil Engineering Department **Subhead:** 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards
 (5) Geotechnical Services
 (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the general other non-recurrent expenditure, there is an increase of about \$4.9M. Please give details of the items, and the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam**Reply:** Details of the items are -

Item	Revised Estimate 2002-03 \$M	Estimate 2003-04 \$M	Increase/ (Decrease) \$M
Quantitative risk assessment of landslide hazard	0.910	1.000	0.090
Study on the use of prescriptive measures in slope improvement works	0.950	1.020	0.070
Provision of warning signs in squatter areas	0.200	0.800	0.600
Monitoring of uncontaminated mud disposal area at South Cheung Chau and East Ninepins	1.450	0.820	(0.630)
Monitoring of uncontaminated mud disposal area at north of Lantau and south of Tsing Yi	2.650	3.213	0.563
Publication of a Geoguide on Engineering Geology	-	1.000	1.000
Upgrading of Lotus Notes System for Civil Engineering Department	0.500	1.250	0.750
Data collection on slopes within squatter villages	0.500	2.100	1.600
Setting up of wave monitoring stations	-	0.905	0.905
Total	7.160	12.108	4.948

The increase is due to the cashflow requirements in different phases of projects, which span over several financial years and inclusion of new projects in 2003-04.

Signature

Name in block letters	T K TSAO
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)022

Question Serial No.

0562

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: (a) In respect of “detailed stability studies completed on government slopes and slopes upgraded”, the target number for year 2003 is 250. What proportion of the number of studies and upgrading required is this? How does this proportion compare with those for 2001 and 2002?

(b) In respect of “safety screening studies completed on man-made private slopes”, the target number for 2003 is less than the actual number studied in 2001 and 2002. What is the reason for this reduction? What proportion of the number of safety screening studies required is this? How does this proportion compare with those for 2001 and 2002?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply: (a) The Government has pledged to upgrade 2500 substandard government slopes and carry out safety-screening studies on 3000 private slopes under the 10-year Extended Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme between 2000 and 2010. The target number of detailed stability studies on government slopes and slopes to be upgraded is 250 for 2003. This is 10% of the overall target for the 10-year Extended LPM Programme. The targets in both 2001 and 2002 were also 250 and they were successfully met.

(b) Each year, we set the target of completing “safety-screening” studies on 300 private slopes to enable us to complete 3000 such studies under the 10-year Extended LPM Programme. In 2001 and 2002, we completed 316 and 320 studies respectively, exceeding the annual target of completing such studies on 300 slopes. For 2003, we have the same target of completing “safety-screening” studies on 300 private slopes (i.e. 10% of the overall target). The actual number of such studies completed in 2003 will be available in the report of next year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)023

Question Serial No.

0993

Head: 43 – Civil Engineering Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Site Formation and Reclamation
 (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards
 (5) Geotechnical Services
 (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives
 (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide -

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:
 - I Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including the Directorate ranks);
 - II Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44;
 - III Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33; and
 - IV Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below (excluding MOD Scale 1).
(Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by: Hon. Mrs CHOW LIANG Suk-yee, Selina

- Reply:
- (a) The establishment and strength of the Civil Engineering Department as at 31 March 2003 attributable to the five programme areas are 907 posts and 885 staff respectively. The distribution of posts and staff in the five programme areas is shown at the Annex.
 - (b) 10 posts in 5 programme areas, comprising 3 Geotechnical Engineer, 5 Typist, 1 Senior Artisan and 1 Motor Driver posts have been deleted in 2002-03.
 - (c) The department is considering the posts that can be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

T K TSAO

Director of Civil Engineering

20 March 2003

Establishment & Strength (as at 31.3.2003)

Programme Ranks	3		4		5		6		7		Total	
	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str
I			57	57	14	14	6	6	6	6	83	83
II			4	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	8	8
III	2	2	202	196	76	76	21	21	15	15	316	310
IV	1	1	227	227	145	141	120	108	7	7	500	484
Total	3	3	490	484	236	232	149	137	29	29	907	885

Legend

- I Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including the Directorate ranks)
- II Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
- III Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
- IV Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below (excluding those in MOD Scale 1)

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: It is stated in the Brief Description that safety screening studies of 320 private slopes were completed in 2002:

- (a) How many of these slopes are located in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts? Please list the study results. Which slopes require repair or upgrading works? Has the Government issued the repair notice or order to the concerned owners?
- (b) Please list the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin slopes that will be studied in 2003. What is the average duration for each study? Will the owners' corporations be informed of the study details before the study? Will they be informed of the results of the study?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

- (a) Of the 320 safety screening studies on private slopes completed in 2002, 3 are located in Kwun Tong District and 3 in the Wong Tai Sin District. The findings of these studies are -

District	Slope No.	Slope Location	Findings of Safety Screening Study
Kwun Tong	11NE-D/R46	Sau Nga Road	No follow-up action required
	11NE-D/R47	Sau Nga Road	No follow-up action required
	11NE-D/F401	Sau Nga Road	No Dangerous Hillside Order is required as owners are undertaking investigation and necessary upgrading works
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/C253	Fung Shing Street	Advisory letter issued to responsible Incorporated Owners on necessary maintenance works
	11NE-A/C254	Hammer Hill Road	No follow-up action required
	11NE-A/C489	Hammer Hill Road	No follow-up action required

Information on the slopes can be obtained from the Hong Kong Slope Safety

website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>)

- (b) We plan to complete safety screening studies on 300 private slopes in 2003. 11 of these are located in Kwun Tong District and 1 in the Wong Tai Sin District. The locations of these slopes are -

District	Slope No.	Slope Location
Kwun Tong	11NE-C/C32	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/C67	Hong Lee Road
	11NE-C/C68	Hong Lee Road
	11NE-C/C144	Shun On Road
	11NE-C/C217	Hong Ning Road
	11NE-C/CR39	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/CR248	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-D/C358	Yuet Wah Street
	11NE-D/C359	Yuet Wah Street
	11NE-D/C543	Hip Wo Street and Hong Ning Road
	11NE-D/R49	Yuet Wah Street
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/FR324	North of Upper Wong Tai Sin Estate

Information on the slopes can be obtained from the Hong Kong Slope Safety website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>)

Each safety screening study normally takes about 6 months. We will inform the owners of the study when we seek permission to enter their premises. Where the safety screening studies conclude that follow-up actions are needed, the responsible owners will be informed through Dangerous Hillside Orders or Advisory Letters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)025

Question Serial No.

1274

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):000 Operational

Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply: Non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff are employed on a strictly temporary basis to meet short-term service needs. Their employment is periodically reviewed in the light of prevailing operational requirement.

The Civil Engineering Department currently employs 157 NCSC staff, incurring an annual expenditure of \$32.7m. Of these, further employment of 36 will be subject to review during 2003-04. Consideration of these cases will hinge essentially on the department's operational requirement at that time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)026

Question Serial No.

0110

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title):

Head 25 – Architectural Services Department
Head 39 – Drainage Services Department
Head 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Head 43 – Civil Engineering Department
Head 194 – Water Supplies Department

Programme: (2) Water Supply
(3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by the above bureau and departments, please provide details in the following format:

- (1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

(3) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)
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Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: A number of consultancy studies have been or will be commissioned by the Works Branch (WB) of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and the departments under its purview for the purpose of policy making or policy assessment in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04. Details of the studies for which financial provision has been or has not been originally allocated in the 2001-02 and/or 2002-03 Estimates or will be allocated in the 2003-04 Estimates are -

(1) Studies with provision in the 2001-02 and/or 2002-03 Estimates

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Azeus Systems Ltd.	Consultancy study on electronic transactions in the works departments* (WB)	\$2,428,000	Completed in 2002-03	Implementation of the consultant's recommendations is being considered.	-
ERM Hong Kong Ltd.	Strategic assessment and site selection study for contaminated mud disposal (CED)	\$135,000	Completed in 2001-02	Environmental impact assessment study for a new contaminated mud disposal facility within the Airport East/East Sha Chau area is in progress	-
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.	Feasibility study on development of desalination facilities in Hong Kong* (WSD)	\$2,800,000	Completed in 2002-03	The strategy for fresh water resources has been formulated. A pilot desalination plant study using reverse osmosis technology will be carried out in 2003-04 to help implementing the Total Water Management programme	-
Binnie Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd.	Feasibility study on maximization of collection and storage of surface water in Hong Kong* (WSD)	\$1,270,000	Completed in 2002-03	No follow-up action on this study in respect of policy formulation is required.	The report concludes that it is not cost-effective to extend water gathering grounds or increase the storage capacity of

					impounding reservoirs.
MWH Hong Kong Ltd.	Feasibility study on recycling effluent for potable and non-potable uses in Hong Kong (WSD)	\$490,000	Completed in 2001-02	The strategy for fresh water resources has been formulated. The latest technology on reuse of effluent from sewage treatment works will be closely monitored to determine its applicability in Hong Kong. As a pilot scheme, effluent reuse will be adopted in connection with the Ngong Ping cable car project scheduled for commissioning in 2005.	-

* Studies which started in 2001-02. The consultancy fees for these studies are the total provision in the 2001-02 and 2002-03 Estimates.

(2) Studies with no provision in the 2002-03 Estimates

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Davis Langdon & Seah Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy study on benchmark comparison on construction cost and establishment of performance indicators^ (WB)	\$800,000	In progress	-	-
ERM Hong Kong Ltd.	Review of the contaminated mud disposal strategy and the need for an intermediate contaminated mud disposal facility+ (CED)	\$300,000	Completed	The review study has confirmed the need for an intermediate contaminated mud disposal facility. It has also identified the programme and capacity requirements for an intermediate and a long-term facility under different scenarios of growth of future demand	-

				for disposal capacity. We will take into account these requirements in our on-going site selection and environmental impact assessment study for the intermediate facility and the future study for the long-term facility.	
--	--	--	--	---	--

^ The funding application for the study was only initiated in mid-2002.

+ The need for review of the future demand on disposal capacity arose in late 2002.

(3) Studies with provision in the 2003-04 Estimates

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Davis Langdon & Seah Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy study on benchmark comparison on construction cost and establishment of performance indicators# (WB)	\$500,000	In progress	-	-
AON Hong Kong Ltd	Consultancy study on construction insurance (WB)	\$98,000	In progress	-	-
-	Pilot plant study on development of desalination facilities in Hong Kong – investigation (WSD)	\$4,190,000	Planning	-	-

Studies which started in 2002-03

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C Lo

	<hr/>
	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Post Title	<hr/> (Transport and Works) <hr/>
Date	<hr/> March 2003 <hr/>

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)027

Head : 159 Government Secretariat:
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Works)

Question Serial No.

0565

Programme : (3) Intra-governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : (1) Concerning the 36 posts to be increased in 2003-04, what are their scopes of duties?
- (2) Will the Works Branch extend its scope of services in 2003-04? If yes, please give details and the amount to be allocated for such purpose.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (1) The 36 posts to be transferred from the Environment and Transport Branch and Environmental Protection Department to our Works Branch are for such central support duties as general administration, finance and information technology for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB).

- (2) Since January 2003, our Works Branch has taken on the Government's greening policy which was under the then Environment and Food Bureau. The increased scope of duties will continue to be absorbed by the existing staff resources in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Transport and Works)

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)028

Head : 159 Government Secretariat: Subhead:
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

0999

Programme : (2) Water Supply
(3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide:

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories:
 - I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above
(including Directorate)
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimise resource, and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply :

- (a) The establishment and strength of the Works Branch under Head 56 – Government Secretariat: Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands) and Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Transport and Works), which will be included under Head 159 from 2003-04 onwards, as at 31 March 2003 are as follows:

Ranks with starting salary at	Establishment	Strength
MPS 45 & above	63 + 3*	64
MPS 34 to 44	8	9
MPS 12 to 33	43	38
MPS 11 & below	73	77
Total	187+ 3*	188

(*) = Supernumerary posts

- (b) Officers in the Works Branch have taken up additional duties since the implementation of the Accountability System. In addition, one Personal Secretary II and one Clerical Assistant have been redeployed to serve in the Director of Bureau's Office and three other posts have been deleted in the Works Branch and the resources for those posts have been transferred to the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) within Head 56 for optimisation of resources.
- (c) Environment and Transport Branch will transfer 36 general grades posts of the Executive Officer, Chinese Language Officer and Clerical Officer grades to Works Branch for central support functions such as administration, finance and information technology of the bureau. The centralization of administrative and support functions is the first phase of reorganization of the bureau. Restructuring of the bureau in other aspects is being critically examined. The exact number of posts to be deleted or redeployed has yet to be finalized.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Transport and Works)

Date March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)029

Head: 159 Government Secretariat: Subhead:
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

1154

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: In 2003-04, a provision of \$6.2 million is allocated for the expenses of the Office of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works. Please provide a breakdown of such expenses, the detailed arrangement and the amounts concerned.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: The provision of \$6.2 million is to meet the salaries (\$6.13 million) and allowances (\$0.07 million) of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and staff in her office. The Office is responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary in carrying out her duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Transport and Works)

Date _____ March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)030

Head : 159 Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 Operational
Environment, Transport and Expenses
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

1176

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of persons employed as non-civil service contract staff in 2002-03 and the expenditure involved? Is there any plan to increase or decrease the number of non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If there is, please give the reasons for the increase or decrease, and the number of persons and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Works Branch employs a total of nine non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the year 2002-03 and the provision involved is \$1.3 million. The Branch is planning to maintain the same number of NCSC staff in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Transport and Works) _____

Date _____ March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)031

Head: 159 Government Secretariat:
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

1447

Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Provision for 2003-04 will only increase by 1.7% to \$210.8 million, despite that there is a substantial increase in salary expenses due to the transfer of 36 posts from the Environment and Transport Branch and the Environmental Protection Department. According to your analysis, the additional salary expenses are partly offset by the deletion of one time-limited post and reduced expenditure of non-recurrent projects.

- (a) Please provide the expenses incurred by the transfer.
- (b) What is the title and conditions of the deleted post?
- (c) What are the non-recurrent projects that will be affected by the funding reduction? And why did you decide to reduce the expenditure for the above projects?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- (a) The provision relating to the transfer of 36 posts amounts to \$11.2 million.
- (b) The post to be deleted is a Senior Engineer post. It is a time-limited post created to administer and monitor the residual duties of the Airport Core Programme projects.
- (c) No provision has been provided for the following non-recurrent projects in 2003-04 as they are expected to complete in 2002-03:
 - Consultancy study to improve construction safety
 - Consultancy study on electronic transactions in Works Departments
 - Consultancy study on computer-aided drafting standards for Works Departments
 - Initial study for the implementation of a Construction Personnel Registration System
 - Research study on alternative procurement approaches for public works projects

Signature

Name in block letters

Y C L O

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Transport and Works)

Date

March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)032

Head: 159 Government Secretariat:
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

1537

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Following the implementation of the Accountability System, a new Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office with relevant estimated expenses is introduced for all policy bureaux in their budgets for the year 2003-04, with a view to ensuring the smooth operation of the offices of the Bureau Directors.

- (1) With regard to the estimated expenses of the offices of the Policy Bureau Directors, please provide a detailed breakdown by (a) purpose (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions); (b) items (salaries and establishment, allowances, job-related allowances and departmental expenses);
- (2) Please provide a comparison between the expenditure breakdown listed in (1) and the actual expenditure required for the smooth operation of the offices of the Bureau Directors before the implementation of the Accountability System. If the amount of expenses for specific items shows an increase, please give the reasons.
- (3) Has the Administration assessed whether the estimated expenditure of the offices of the Bureau Directors is appropriate? What principles have been adopted in assessing its appropriateness?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (1) The financial provisions of the Director of Bureau's Office include the salaries and allowances of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (SETW) and staff in her office. The staff in SETW's office provides her with support to discharge the full range of duties under her policy portfolio. It will not be possible to analyze the provisions by nature of jobs. The breakdown of the financial provisions in 2003-04 by expenditure items and establishment is as follows -

	\$ million
Salary for Director of Bureau	3.2
Salaries and allowances for staff in Director of Bureau's Office (comprising Administrative Assistant Personal Assistant Chauffeur Personal Secretary I Personal Secretary II Clerical Assistant)	3.0
Total	6.2

- (2) Prior to the implementation of the Accountability System, there was no Director of Bureau's Office. The duties of SETW are also different from those of the former Secretary for Works, Secretary for Transport and Secretary for Environment and Food. It is therefore difficult to provide a comparison of the expenditure among the respective posts.
- (3) Based on the principle of implementing the business of the Director of Bureau's Office with the minimum resources, the estimated provision for the Office of SETW for 2003-04 is considered appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Transport and Works)

Date _____ March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)033

Question Serial No.

0530

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 2 Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

How much resources will be reserved and what measures will be taken in 2003-04 to ensure that the quality of potable water in the territory conforms to international standards for drinking water?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We have allocated \$158.8 million for water quality control in 2003-04. This allocation is mainly for control of the quality of fresh water to ensure compliance with the World Health Organisation Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality (1993). A small portion of the allocation is for the control of the quality of sea water for flushing. As the facilities and staff are shared for the control of fresh water and sea water quality, they are not accounted for separately.

The treated fresh water in Hong Kong is subject to a stringent and comprehensive quality monitoring programme. Samples are regularly taken from fixed points and random locations throughout the entire treatment, supply and distribution system including catchment intakes, pumping station receiving Dongjiang water, storage reservoirs, water treatment works, service reservoirs, distribution systems and consumers' taps.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P W CHAN

Post Title _____ Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

ETWB(W)034

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0535

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 3 Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Government plans to allocate around \$372 million in the 2003-04 financial year for the provision of customer services. Please give details on the improvement measures that will be implemented for handling enquiries and complaints.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

In 2003-04, Water Supplies Department (WSD) will implement the following improvement measures for handling enquiries and complaints:-

- a. making prompt announcements of main burst incidents on the homepage of WSD (the web);
- b. enhancing the web to enable customers to make changes to their mailing addresses through Internet;
- c. accepting opening and closing of water accounts by telephone and fax;
- d. holding exhibitions and seminars to enhance the customers' understanding of their rights and responsibilities; and
- e. promoting the Fresh Water Plumbing Quality Maintenance Recognition Scheme to enhance the public's awareness of the need to maintain the plumbing systems of their buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters P W CHAN

Post Title Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0590

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

At present, how many remote villages in the New Territories are still not yet provided with metered water supply? What is the programme of provision of metered water supply to these villages? Will the government review the programme in light of the small population of these remote villages?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

There are 39 remote villages in the New Territories not yet provided with metered water supply. Of these, 20 will be provided with metered water supply progressively from 2003 to 2004 when mainlaying works are completed. For the remaining 19 remote villages, a recent review indicates that although it is technically feasible to provide treated water supply to these villages, it is not cost effective to do so due to high construction and recurrent costs. Therefore there is at present no programme for supplying treated water to these 19 remote villages. However, the monitoring on the quality of the existing source of water (stream water or ground water) will continue, and the situation will be reviewed periodically.

Signature _____

Name in block letters P W CHAN

Post Title Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date 19 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0591

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

How much resources will be reserved for inspection and maintenance of slopes and water mains which may affect slopes in this year? How much resources will be spent on improvement to sub-standard slopes in this year?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We will reserve \$40 million in 2003-04 for the inspection and maintenance of slopes maintained by Water Supplies Department (WSD) and the buried water mains which may affect slopes. In addition, we will spend \$75 million on improvement works to the substandard slopes maintained by WSD in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P W CHAN

Post Title _____ Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date _____ 19 March 2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

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Question Serial No.

0592

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

How much resources will be reserved for the study on desalination?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We will reserve \$13.9 million in the coming 3 years on the investigation study on desalination of sea water using the reverse osmosis technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P W CHAN

Post Title _____ Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

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Question Serial No.

0764

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

In 2001-03, the new leakage rate of water mains is 25-26%. Why does it remain at such a high level? Are there any measures to reduce the leakage?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Aging of water mains is the principal factor contributing to water leakage in the water distribution system. To combat the water leakage problem, we have implemented the following measures-

- (1) Continuous Monitoring
Continuous monitoring of the water distribution system using district meters, and electronic data logging and transmission equipment is carried out to pick up early signs of suspected leakage in the district under monitoring.
- (2) Proactive Leakage Control
Regular and systematic leak detection tests over the water distribution system are carried out so that repair to leaky water mains can start and be completed in the shortest possible time.
- (3) Pressure Management
Flow-modulated pressure reducing valves are installed at strategic locations to regulate water pressure in the water distribution system to reduce water leakage while maintaining an adequate water pressure.

(4) Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains

We have used the statistical data of water mains, e.g. age, material, main burst records, maintenance history, to work out the 20-year water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme covering about 3 000 kilometres of water mains. Implementation of the replacement and rehabilitation programme will prevent further deterioration of the water distribution system and reduce the leakage level to 15%.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: P W CHAN

Post Title: Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date: 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1001

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply : Planning and Distribution
2 Water Quality Control
3 Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Please provide :

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:
- I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 & 33
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
- (Please provide breakdown by programme areas)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply :

- (a) The establishment and strength of the Water Supplies Department as at 31 March 2003 for the 3 programme areas will be as follows-

Programme	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution		(2) Water Quality Control		(3) Customer Services	
	Establishment	Strength	Establishment	Strength	Establishment	Strength
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)	89	87	7	7	10	10
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	76	76	0	0	16	15
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	823	774	39	39	144	143
Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below (excluding MOD scale staff)	2 333	2 240	80	79	817	769
Total	3 321	3 177	126	125	987	937

- (b) To enhance productivity and optimize the use of resources, the following 138 posts in 22 ranks have been deleted or re-deployed in 2002-03-

Rank	Number of Posts Deleted or Re-deployed in 2002-03
Personal Secretary II	1
Engineer	1
Electrical Engineer	1
Technical Officer	2
Inspector	3
Assistant Inspector	3
Engineering Laboratory Technician II	1
Consumer Services Inspector	4
Works Supervisor I	7
Works Supervisor II	21
Water Sampler	1
Clerical Officer	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	17

Rank	Number of Posts Deleted or Re-deployed in 2002-03
Senior Supplies Supervisor	1
Supplies Supervisor	2
Chinese Language Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	4
Artisan	38
Motor Driver	4
Workman I	7
Workman II	12
Technical Apprentice	5
Total	138

- (c) The number of posts to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective is being assessed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters P W CHAN

Post Title Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

ETWB(W)040

Question Serial No.

1186

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

According to the document, the estimate for next year has to be increased by \$22.1m due to the increase in the provision for the purchase of water. In view of this, will the Government inform us :

- (a) the details of the increased provision for the purchase of water, such as the increase in the amount (in cubic metre) of Dongjiang water imported, or other purposes for which the funds will be used; and
- (b) whether the increase in provision will be submitted to the Legislative Council for consideration. If yes, when will it be submitted, and if no, what are the reasons ?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) We have included \$2,510 million in the Draft Estimates 2003-04, representing an increase of \$25.9 million over the revised Estimate of 2002-03, for the purchase of 810 million cubic metres (mcm) of Dongjiang water which is 10 mcm more than that of 2002 in accordance with the Agreement with the Guangdong Authorities.
- (b) The proposed increase in provision of \$22.1m is included in the 2003-04 Draft Estimates under Head 194 Water Supplies Department which is being considered by the Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P W CHAN

Post Title _____ Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)041

Question Serial No.

1323

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

What is the number of non-civil service contract staff employed in 2002-03 and the expenditure involved? Is there any plan to increase or decrease the number of non-civil service contract staff employed for 2003-04? If the answer is yes, then what are the reasons for such increase or decrease, and what is the number of persons and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

We are currently employing 361 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the Water Supplies Department with a total expenditure of about \$66 million in 2002-03. We have no plan to increase or decrease the number of NCSC staff in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P W CHAN

Post Title Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date 20 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)042

Question Serial No.

1448

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 1 Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The Water Supplies Department has indicated that it will develop water resources to cope with the demand for fresh water. In this connection, what is the estimated provision for such work for the next year? And what are the details of the work?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

With a view to developing new water resources to cope with the demand for fresh water, we have included a project with approved project estimate of \$13.9 million under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for on-site investigation of desalination of sea water using reverse osmosis technology. The estimated expenditure for 2003-04 is \$3.0 million. The investigation study includes setting up a pilot desalination plant using reverse osmosis technology, sampling and laboratory testing of sea water and desalinated water together with cost and environment assessments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P W CHAN

Post Title _____ Ag. Director of Water Supplies

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)043

Head : CWRF Head 704 – Drainage Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0526

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of stormwater drainage projects under detailed design for this financial year? How many of them are major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas of the New Territories? Please provide details of these projects, their completion dates and financial resources required.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Detailed design of 23 stormwater drainage projects will continue in 2003-04. Fourteen of them are major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas of the New Territories. The details of these projects, with a total estimated cost of about \$2.7 billion, are listed below

Item No.	<u>Project Title</u>	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4064CD	Rural drainage rehabilitation scheme – drainage rehabilitation works at Sha Po Tsuen Stream	mid 2006	Training of Sha Po Stream
4092CD	Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai drainage improvements, stage 1, phase 2 – Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei	early 2009	Construction of drainage channels in Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei
4102CD	Drainage improvement in Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng	end 2008	Upgrading of urban drainage and construction of drainage channels in Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng
4109CD	Drainage improvement in Sha Tin and Tai Po	mid 2009	Upgrading of urban drainage, and construction of drainage channels, flood walls and flood water pumping stations in Sha Tin and Tai Po
4110CD	Drainage improvement in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi - urban drainage improvement works	early 2006	Upgrading of urban drainage in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung

/.....

Item No.	<u>Project Title</u>	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4112CD	Drainage improvement in Northern New Territories - Package A	end 2009	Upgrading of urban drainage and construction of drainage channels in San Tin North, Ping Kong, Kau Lung Hang, Nam Wah Po and Ma Wat River
4118CD	Drainage Improvements in Northern New Territories - Package B	end 2009	Construction of drainage channels in San Tin South, Kwu Tung, Ma Tsao Lung and Fu Tei Au
4119CD	Drainage Improvements in Northern New Territories - Package C	end 2010	Construction of drainage channels in Lung Yeuk Tau, Man Uk Pin, Ta Kwu Ling, Ping Che and Lin Ma Hang
4120CD	Drainage Improvement in Sai Kung	end 2008	Construction and upgrading of drainage channels in Sai Kung
4125CD	Drainage improvement from Tong Kok Wai to San Wai, Fanling	early 2007	Construction of drainage channel from Tong Kok Wai to San Wai
4132CD	Construction of Box Culvert in Area 54, Tuen Mun	end 2007	Construction of a box culvert in Tuen Mun
7022CD	Main drainage channels for Yuen Long and Kam Tin – Tin Tsuen Channels	end 2005	Construction of drainage channels in Tin Tsuen
7074CD	Village flood protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei NWNT, stage 2	mid 2005	Construction of floodwater pumping stations in Tai Kiu and Shui Pin Tsuen
7227CL	Tin Shui Wai Development - Village Flood Protection Works for Sheung Cheung Wai, phase 2	end 2007	Construction of interceptor drains in Sheung Cheung Wai

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R. T. K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)044

Question Serial No.

0025

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund – Head 705 **Subhead:** 5001BX – Landslip preventive measure

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How many slopes were greened and landscaped in the past three years by the Civil Engineering Department? What was the related expenditure? Generally speaking, what percentage of cost does landscape works constitute amongst the total cost of slope upgrading works?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: In the past three years, 772 slopes and retaining walls were landscaped under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme managed by the Civil Engineering Department. Of these, 505 were greened. The others were treated with landscape measures to enhance their appearance. The total expenditure on landscaping and greening of slopes was \$153 million. The breakdown of the above figures in the past three years is as follows -

Year	No. of slopes and retaining walls landscaped (greened)		Expenditure \$ million
2000	256	(154)	33
2001	250	(149)	60
2002	266	(202)	60
	<u>772</u>	<u>(505)</u>	<u>153</u>

The cost of landscape works constitutes about 10% of the total cost of slope upgrading works.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

T K TSAO

Director of Civil Engineering

17 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)045

Question Serial No.

0780

Head: 705 – Capital Works Reserve Fund

Subhead (No. & title): 5001BX – Landslip
Preventive Measures

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: What is the estimated expenditure in improving slope appearance in 2003-04 by the Civil Engineering Department? Where are the slopes for which landscaping works will be carried out in 2003-04?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply: The estimated expenditure in improving slope appearance in 2003-04 is about \$60 million under the Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme of the Civil Engineering Department.

Under the LPM Programme in 2003-04, we have planned to upgrade and provide landscaping works to 250 substandard government man-made slopes in Kowloon, the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 19 March 2003

[Gototop](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)046*

Question Serial No.

1248(a)

Head: 705 - Civil Engineering Subhead (No. & title): 5001BX
5101CX

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Please provide details of works in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts under Subheads 5001BX 'Landslip Preventive Measures' and 5101CX 'Civil engineering works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme'.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: With regard to Subhead 5001BX, we plan to carry out investigation and necessary upgrading works on the following slopes in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts under the 2003/04 Landslip Preventive Measures Programme -

District	Slope No.	Slope Location
Kwun Tong	11NE-A/C54	Clear Water Bay Road
	11NE-C/CR174	Chun Wah Road
	11NE-C/F11	Kwun Tong S/R
	11NE-C/FR6	Shui Ning Street
	11NE-D/C362	Hiu Kwong Street
	11NE-D/C45	Hiu Ming Street
	11NE-D/F10	Hiu Kwong Street
	11NE-D/F31	Po Lam Road
	11NE-D/FR11	Hiu Kwong Street
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/C36	Shatin Pass Road
	11NE-A/C43	Fung Shing Street
	11NE-A/C44	Fung Shing Street
	11NE-A/F138	Shatin Pass Road
	11NE-A/F139	Shatin Pass Road

With regard to Subhead 5101CX, we plan to carry out investigation and minor slope improvement works for the following slopes in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts-

District	Slope No.	Slope Location
Kwun Tong	11NE-D/C403	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-D/C409	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-D/C579	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-D/F309	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-A/R5	Ping Shek Estate
	11NE-D/C20	Sau Mau Ping Estate
	11NE-B/C10	Shun Lee Estate
	11NE-A/C433	Shun Lee Estate
	11NE-A/C457	Shun Lee Estate
	11NE-D/F467	Tsui Ping Estate
	11NE-D/C77	Ping Tin Estate
	11NE-D/F43	Ping Tin Estate
Wong Tai Sin	11NW-B/CR349(4)	Mei Tung Estate
	11NE-A/C4	Shatin Pass Estate
	11NW-B/C168	Lok Fu Estate
	11NE-A/C5(2)	Tsz Ching Estate
	11NW-B/C446(2)	Wang Tau Hom Estate

Information on the slopes funded from Subheads 5001BX and 5101CX can be obtained from the Hong Kong Slope Safety Website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>).

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K TSAO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 20 March 2003

*Please refer to the following for a full reply to this question – ETWB(W)046 and ETWB(E)077.

[Gototop](#)