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Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Session No: 9

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examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

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Session No: 9**

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

DEVB(W)001

Question Serial No.

0080

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

How many private owners have been provided with financial assistance to maintain their graded historic buildings in the past three years? What are the gradings of these buildings and the amount of financial assistance involved? What is the estimated amount of financial assistance on this in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

In the past three years, we have provided financial assistance under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme for carrying out maintenance works to 18 privately-owned graded historic buildings. The details are listed below.

<u>Name of historic building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Approved amount</u>
1. Lo Pan Temple, Kennedy Town	1	\$711,000
2. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Shatin	2	\$820,000
3. Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	1	\$860,000
4. No. 3 Bungalow, St. Stephen's College, Stanley	2	\$606,000
5. Ancestral Hall of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	1	\$1,000,000
6. Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	3	\$985,000
7. Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	2	\$880,000
8. Main Building of Helena May, Central	2	\$600,000

<u>Name of historic building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Approved amount</u>
9. Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	2	\$1,000,000
10. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	2	\$1,000,000
11. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	2	\$999,000
12. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	3	\$1,000,000
13. Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	2	\$390,000
14. Tsang Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	3	\$950,000
15. Lim House, Yuen Long	2	\$1,000,000
16. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	1	\$1,000,000
17. Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	2	\$581,000
18. Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	3	\$1,000,000

The estimated expenditure for providing financial assistance under this scheme in 2012-13 is around \$4 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)002

Question Serial No.

0081

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Administration mentioned that it would “commence to enhance the master planning of Kowloon East” in the coming year. Will its work include a review of land use planning for Kowloon East in the “S/K13/27 Ngau Tau Kok and Kowloon Bay Outline Zoning Plan” and “S/K14S/16 Kwun Tong (South) Outline Zoning Plan”?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The planning intention to transform the former industrial areas of Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay into a business district has already been laid down on the relevant Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs). Strategies for the transformation are provided under the conceptual master plan (CMP) for Kowloon East (KE) revealed following the Chief Executive's announcement of the Energising Kowloon East in his 2011-12 Policy Address. A new Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO) will be set up to continuously refine the CMP to reflect the KE development needs and public aspiration. Strategic refinement of the OZPs such as land use review of the existing undeveloped or under-utilized government sites would be explored in the process.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)003

Question Serial No.

0082

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development
 (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It was mentioned in Programme 5 that the Administration would continue to oversee the implementation of Kai Tak Development in 2012-13. But the work of the newly established Kowloon East Development Office as mentioned in Programme 4 is to “assume the central role in project management and coordination for the infrastructure development of Kowloon East”. As “Kowloon East” includes the Kai Tak Development Area, will this result in duplication of work? If not, what is the division of work between them?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

Kai Tak Development (KTD) is now in the engineering implementation phase under the KTD Outline Zoning Plan. The established Kai Tak Office under the Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to assume its role in delivering infrastructural projects under KTD.

The Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO) under the direct steer of the Works Branch of Development Bureau will focus on the following strategic areas to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East, which include highly-developed areas in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay, into a premier business district:

- (a) KEDO will advocate the conceptual master plan of Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay and continuously develop it to reflect the development needs of Kowloon East, and explore options for strategic refinement of the Outline Zoning Plan of KTD;

- (b) KEDO will engage major stakeholders and the public to promote Kowloon East and attract local and overseas developers and users;
- (c) KEDO will provide one-stop advisory and coordinating support to land development proposals from project proponents that are conducive to private sector development for transforming Kowloon East into a modern and premier business district;
- (d) KEDO will undertake planning and engineering studies and implement small-scale projects such as road/traffic improvement works, improvement to pedestrian connections, streetscape, greening and promenade, waterfront enhancement, local open space, etc. in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay that are directly related to the urban regeneration of Kowloon East; and specifically to coordinate government efforts in releasing the two Action Areas for development.

Each office has a clearly defined ambit of work and the two offices will closely collaborate in taking forward various important tasks in the development of Kowloon East.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)004

Question Serial No.

0084

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is learnt that there have been doubts about the safety and stability of some Sichuan reconstruction projects implemented by the HKSAR. Has the Administration put in resources to supervise the construction works? If yes, what are the specific supervisory work and expenditure involved? Has the Administration conducted quality checks and safety tests on such works? If yes, what are the standards adopted?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The SAR Government attaches great importance to the works quality and safety of the reconstruction projects and no major problems have been found in these projects so far. The Sichuan side has attached great importance to the HKSAR's reconstruction work and has given positive response to the views and suggestions of the Hong Kong side, with appropriate follow-up actions taken. There is good collaboration between the two sides under a well-established liaison and co-ordination mechanism. Both sides will continue to maintain close contact to ensure the completion of the reconstruction works without compromising their quality and safety.

Under the "Cooperation Arrangement on Support of Restoration and Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas" (Cooperation Arrangement) signed by the Hong Kong and Sichuan Governments, the Sichuan side should be responsible for the actual implementation, as well as day-to-day management and supervision of the 151 reconstruction projects funded by the HKSAR Government. The technical standards should comply with the relevant Mainland laws and regulations, with appropriate monitoring mechanism. The Sichuan and Hong Kong sides can organise regular or irregular project inspections including site inspections on a need basis.

As for works quality management, a monitoring mechanism has been established between the Sichuan and Hong Kong sides. The Sichuan Provincial Government has set up an inter-departmental coordination mechanism to carry out joint inspections on projects funded by the HKSAR. At the project level, the Sichuan side has established a three-tier supervisory structure: First, the construction agent should inspect the quality of its project during the construction process to ensure timely rectification of any inadequacy in works quality. Second, the Sichuan side should employ an independent supervision engineer on-site for each reconstruction project to supervise the construction works, so as to ensure the projects are in compliance with the relevant Mainland laws and regulations. Third, personnel from the quality inspection units of the local authorities are sent to conduct on-site random checks to ensure the projects have fully complied with the State's direction, policies, laws, regulations and relevant requirements on works quality and construction safety.

For the HKSAR Government, the Development Bureau (DEVB) is tasked to provide technical support to relevant bureaux on the monitoring of works quality of projects under their purview. The monitoring work can be divided into three levels. First, the Sichuan Reconstruction Team under the DEVB will arrange regular or irregular inspections in Sichuan on the implementation of the projects, having regard to the progress and needs of each project. This includes on-site checks and on-site working-level meetings with relevant departments/units. As at the end of January 2012, representatives of Hong Kong had taken part in 323 on-site inspections, involving a total of about 2 579 man-days. Second, "independent professional consultants" engaged by the SAR Government will carry out on-site technical audits, covering such areas as project progress, quality of works, works safety and the use of fund etc. As for works quality, "independent professional consultants" are tasked to audit documents, including test reports on construction materials and records of tests conducted during the construction process to confirm whether the quality of works is in compliance with the construction standards and the laws and regulations in the Mainland. As at the end of January 2012, the "independent professional consultants" had conducted a total of 662 technical inspections on these projects. Third, professional volunteers from the "Hong Kong Construction Sector 5.12 Reconstruction Joint Conference" (RJC) were organised by the DEVB to visit Sichuan as observers in the completion inspections of project works to ensure that the responsible parties can obtain independent professional advice. As at the end of January 2012, contribution by the RJC and other professional volunteers in the monitoring of reconstruction works in terms of man-days is 414.

In 2011-12, DEVB's expenditure on monitoring the works quality of the above projects is about \$18.2 million, out of which about \$17 million is funded under the Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas, while the remaining \$1.2 million is borne by DEVB. The sum above mainly covers the payment of salaries of posts created for the Sichuan reconstruction works, engagement of "independent professional consultants" to conduct technical inspections, and visits of personnel, "independent professional consultants" and professional volunteers to Sichuan for monitoring the quality of works and attending meetings, as well as organisation of workshops on works quality in Sichuan.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)005

Question Serial No.

0166

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

1. On how many occasions have economic incentives been provided by the Administration to encourage private owners to preserve their historic buildings since the announcement of the heritage conservation policy in October 2007? Please list out the contents of each project, including details of the economic incentives provided (if they are related to development parameters, please list out any changes in parameters) and the reasons for providing such economic incentives;
2. Since the implementation of the historic buildings grading system, how many applications have been processed on redevelopment or alteration of graded historic buildings? Please list out the contents of each application, the reasons for approval or rejection, and details of the parts of the historic buildings eventually preserved; and
3. Will the Government set aside resources for a comprehensive review and revision of the existing heritage conservation policy and the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance so as to enhance the protection of graded historical buildings and cultural heritage? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? Under what circumstances will the Government launch the above review?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

1. Under the heritage conservation policy announced by the Chief Executive (CE) in October 2007, the Administration recognises that on the premise of respecting private property rights, we need to offer appropriate economic incentives to encourage private owners to conserve historic buildings in their ownership. From October 2007 till now, we have applied the policy on economic incentives to facilitate the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings in the following cases –

- (a) King Yin Lei (a declared monument) is preserved through a non-in-situ land exchange of a site of the same development parameters as the original King Yin Lei site approved by the CE-in-Council on 2 December 2008;
 - (b) Jessville (a Grade three building) is preserved under a preservation-cum-development proposal which was facilitated by the partial uplifting of the Pokfulam Moratorium approved by the CE-in-Council on 22 September 2009;
 - (c) The front portion of the shophouse at 179 Prince Edward Road West (a Grade three building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of plot ratio from 9 to 10.23 approved by the Metro Planning Committee of the Town Planning Board (TPB) on 19 March 2010;
 - (d) Four historic buildings of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (HKSKH) at 1 Lower Albert Road (three Grade one buildings and one Grade 2 building) are preserved through a transfer of plot ratio to another site of HKSKH in Mt Butler approved by the CE-in-Council on 7 June 2011;
 - (e) Clock tower of the China Light and Power Administration Building (a proposed Grade one building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of building height from 80 mPD to 100 mPD and plot ratio from 5 to 5.5, as well as permission for using the clock tower as a place of recreation, sports or culture, approved by the Metro Planning Committee of TPB on 4 November 2011; and
 - (f) Part of the façade of 47 Barker Road (a Grade two building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of plot ratio from 0.5 to 0.545 approved by the Metro Planning Committee of TPB on 18 November 2011.
2. The grading system for historic buildings is administrative in nature and does not provide historic buildings with statutory protection. Government departments will approve applications for redevelopment or alteration of graded historic buildings if the applications comply with the requirements stipulated under the respective Ordinances or policy. Nevertheless, the Development Bureau (DEVB) will engage the owners concerned to explore preservation-cum-development options upon receipt of alerts of redevelopment / demolition proposals from other Government departments under the internal monitoring mechanism. Since the announcement of the grading result of 1 444 historic buildings / structures on 19 March 2009, the DEVB has received 24 applications referred by other Government departments. Of these, we have obtained agreement from the owners in 10 cases to conserve the historic buildings concerned in whole or in part or conserve selective building elements for incorporation into the new development, while the owners in three cases decided to demolish the historic buildings concerned notwithstanding that attempts had been made to discuss with the owners possible economic incentives. Details of these 13 cases are set out in the table below -

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
1.	Jessville, No.128 Pok Fu Lam Road	Grade 3	Planning application and building plan were approved by TPB and Buildings Department (BD) respectively.	Jessville will be preserved in-situ.
2.	No. 179 Prince Edward Road West	Grade 3	Planning application and building plan were approved by TPB and BD respectively.	The front portion of the building with significant architectural features will be preserved and incorporated into the new development.
3.	China Light and Power Administration Building, Nos.139-147 Argyle Street	Proposed Grade 1	Planning application and building plan were approved by TPB and BD respectively.	The clock tower which is the prominent feature of the Administration Building and carries the highest architectural value will be preserved and incorporated into the new development as museum.
4.	No. 47 Barker Road	Grade 2	Planning application and building plan were approved by TPB and BD respectively.	Part of the façade of the building will be preserved and incorporated into the new development.
5.	Nos. 6 and 8 Kennedy Road	Grade 2	Building plan and demolition plan were approved by BD.	Façade of the building will be conserved and incorporated into the new development.
6.	No. 186 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Grade 3	Building plan was approved by BD.	The building will be preserved and adapted as a plant room.
7.	No. 45 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Proposed Grade 3	Redevelopment application was approved by Lands Department (LandsD).	While the Ancillary Building was demolished, the Main Building at the same location, which is also one of the 1 444 historic buildings, will be retained.
8.	Enchi Lodge, Castle Peak Road	Grade 2	Planning application and demolition plan were approved by TPB and BD respectively.	The main building will be preserved as a clubhouse.
9.	Entrance Tower, Tai Kiu Tsuen	Proposed Grade 3	Planning application for the development of the whole Tai Kiu Village was approved by TPB.	The entrance tower will be retained.
10.	No. 19 Hing Hon Road	Proposed Grade 3	Demolition plan and building plan were approved by BD.	Significant architectural features of the building will be preserved and incorporated

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
				into the new development.
11.	No. 119 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment was approved by LandsD before the announcement of the list of 1 444 historic buildings.	The house was demolished with selective building elements incorporated into the new residential development.
12.	No. 11 Kak Tin Village Third Street	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment was approved by the LandsD.	Notwithstanding that attempts had been made to discuss with the owner possible economic incentives, the owner decided to demolish the building but photographic record was arranged.
13.	Nos. 31-33 First Lane	Grade 3	Applications for redevelopment were approved by LandsD.	Notwithstanding that attempts had been made to discuss with the owner possible economic incentives, the owner demolished the buildings.

We are still discussing with owners of the other 11 historic buildings and no agreement has been reached so far.

- We consider that the heritage conservation policy announced by the CE in October 2007 has already provided effective protection to historic buildings in Hong Kong, and struck a balance between respect for private property rights and heritage conservation. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the heritage conservation policy. We currently have no plans to conduct another comprehensive review of the policy.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)006

Question Serial No.

0167

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question:

Regarding the Government's intention to pursue the proposed declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument and explore appropriate economic incentives, what is the form of economic incentives the Government will provide to the owner and what are the reasons for providing these incentives? How much resource will be earmarked for implementation of the project to conserve Ho Tung Gardens?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Under the heritage conservation policy announced by the Chief Executive in October 2007, the Administration recognises that on the premise of respecting private property rights, we need to offer appropriate economic incentives to encourage private owners to conserve historic buildings in their ownership. In implementing this policy, we aim to strike a pragmatic balance between preservation of historic buildings and respect for private property rights. The requisite economic incentives to achieve the policy objective has to be considered on a case-by-case basis, given the unique circumstances of each historic building and site as well as the wish of the owner concerned. Since promulgation of the heritage conservation policy including the provision of economic incentives, we have successfully applied it to several privately-owned historic buildings, notably King Yin Lei through a land exchange. In all these cases, we basically deployed planning and land solutions without incurring any public funds.

Regarding the case of Ho Tung Gardens, having considered the significant heritage value of the site and the owner's plan to redevelop the site, we have earlier on offered a land exchange proposal which allows the owner to pursue development as an economic incentive. We are exploring other possible preservation-cum-development proposals with the owner. So far, we have not yet reached an agreement with the owner and therefore cannot ascertain the resource requirements for the conservation of Ho Tung Gardens.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)007

Question Serial No.

0168

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) Please provide information on the consultancy study for the setting up of a statutory heritage trust, including details of the consultant's fee, content of the study and time frame etc. When will the Government expect the trust to be formally set up?
- (b) How many privately-owned graded historic buildings have been funded under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme in the past 3 financial years? What is their respective amount of financial assistance? Please provide details of the maintenance projects by years.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) Development Bureau commissioned a consultancy study to investigate the feasibility, framework (covering the statutory, financial, organisational and operational aspects) and implementation of setting up a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong to take forward future heritage conservation efforts. The cost of the consultancy study is \$1,307,500. The consultancy study is expected to be completed before mid 2012. Upon completion of the study, the Government will consider the consultant's recommendations and the implementation plan for setting up a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong.
- (b) In the past 3 financial years, we have provided financial assistance under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme for carrying out maintenance works to 18 privately-owned graded historic buildings. The details are listed below.

<u>Name of historic building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved amount</u>
<u>2009/2010</u>			
1. Lo Pan Temple, Kennedy Town	1	Restoration of roof, columns and walls	\$711,000
2. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Shatin	2	Restoration of roofs and walls	\$820,000
3. Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	1	Repainting of building, restoration of finishes at columns	\$860,000
4. No. 3 Bungalow, St. Stephen's College, Stanley	2	Restoration of roof, external walls	\$606,000
5. Ancestral Hall of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	1	Restoration of ancestral altar and roof	\$1,000,000
6. Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	3	Restoration of roof, external walls	\$985,000
7. Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	2	Restoration of roof, walls, columns	\$880,000
8. Main Building of Helena May, Central	2	Restoration of walls	\$600,000
<u>2010/2011</u>			
9. Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof and structural support	\$1,000,000
10. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof, cocklofts, walls, waterproofing works	\$1,000,000
11. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	2	Restoration of roof, structural repair to walls	\$999,000
<u>2011/2012</u>			
12. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, ancestral altars, drainage system	\$1,000,000
13. Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	2	Restoration of walls and ground slab	\$390,000
14. Tsang Ancestral Hall, Tusen Wan	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors, plaques, murals	\$950,000
15. Lim House, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof, walls, doors, windows and balconies	\$1,000,000
16. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	1	Restoration of roof	\$1,000,000
17. Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	2	Restoration of roof	\$581,000
18. Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	3	Upgrading of the stormwater and sewerage system	\$1,000,000

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)008

Question Serial No.

0173

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

1. Please give a breakdown of the numbers of the horticulture contractors and term maintenance contractors directly engaged by the government's tree management departments in the outsourcing of tree maintenance and management and the expenditure involved in the past three years. How many contractors had received warning letters or had punitive actions taken against them for improper tree pruning or failure to meet the work requirements under the contract? Please provide details;
2. Please list out the names of all the tree management departments, the numbers of tree management staff (including the numbers of general management staff and tree management staff with professional qualifications) and the numbers of trees under the care of each department in the past three years; and
3. Please provide the names and numbers of equipment for tree inspection or maintenance (for example sonic tomograph, resistograph and stump grinder etc.) kept by each tree management department. Will the Bureau acquire new equipment for tree pruning and maintenance in 2012-13? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

1. The Government adopts an “integrated approach” for the management of trees on government land. In essence, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there. Tree management departments may engage contractors to assist in tree maintenance in the following manner -
 - (i) directly engage horticulture contractors for carrying out maintenance work on

the trees under their purview (including tree pruning); or

- (ii) engage term maintenance contractors for the management of the relevant facility, who may in turn engage specialist landscape contractors, as required, for tree maintenance (including tree pruning).

The number of tree management contracts engaged, contract amount and advisory letters issued by eight major tree management departments after the establishment of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section in March 2010 are as follows:-

Financial Year	Number of Contracts	Contract Amount (\$M)	Advisory Letters Issued
2010-11	48	174.91	1
2011-12 (up to 31 January 2012)	57	197.52	3

In 2010-11 and 2011-12 (up to 31 January 2012), there was no contract terminated or penalties imposed due to improper tree pruning or other sub-standard performances.

2. A breakdown of the number of trees under the purview of eight major tree management departments and the number of their management staff is set out below –

Department	Number of trees			Number of tree management staff (Note 1) (Note 2)		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)	N/A ^(Note 3)			83(41)	86(50)	86(54)
Architectural Services Department	200 000			8(0)	15(4)	18(5)
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) ^(Note 4)	1 250	7 650	25 650	8(3)	12(3)	12(5)
Drainage Services Department	24 000	25 500	34 254	16(0)	16(1)	16(2)

Highways Department	500 000			20(4)	22(1)	22(1)
Housing Department (Note 5)	78 000	100 000	100 000	31(5)	28(10)	31(10)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	760 000	700 000	521 000	122(71)	210(101)	210(105)
Water Supplies Department	49 400			12(0)	16(1)	16(1)

General Note:

There are differences in the way that trees planted on unallocated and unleased government land and trees planted within government facilities are managed. There is a very large amount of unallocated and unleased government land (with a total area of 33 000 hectares), spreading across the territory. The Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems and take follow-up action when discharging their day-to-day functions of land control and management and on receipt of referrals and complaints.

Note 1:

Figures in this column include only the number of government staff involved in day-to-day tree management (on a full-time or part-time basis), but exclude the manpower temporarily deployed on a need basis. Figures in the column also exclude senior staff of the departments involved in tree management (particularly at the strategic level). In addition to government staff, individual departments have engaged contractors or non-government personnel to assist in tree management.

Notes 2:

The figures within brackets indicate the number of tree management staff with professional qualifications in arboriculture.

Note 3:

All trees in country parks are under the jurisdiction of AFCD. Due to the very large number of trees involved, AFCD is unable to provide a figure.

Note 4:

From 2009-10 to 2013-14, CEDD is responsible for maintaining the trees planted under the urban Greening Master Plans.

Note 5:

Excludes the frontline management staff in 160 housing estates who also provide assistance.

- Broadly speaking, there are two categories of tools and equipment for use in tree inspections, namely advanced equipment (i.e. resistograph and sonic tomograph); and other simple handheld tools and equipment such as measuring tape, mallet, thin long metal pole, electric torch, binoculars, etc.

As at 1 January 2012, the main tree management departments, together with the Tree Management Office (TMO) in Development Bureau, had a total of 47 resistographs, 39 sonic tomographs and 4 stump grinders. TMO has no plan to buy additional new equipment nor replace them in 2012-13 as two sets of resistograph and two sets of sonic tomograph were newly bought in the last two years.

For other simple handheld tools and equipment kept by departments, they are very large in quantity and TMO does not keep statistics on them. User departments will make purchases, whether to increase the inventory or for replacement due to normal wear and tear, having regard to operational need. In 2012-13, TMO has earmarked \$100,000 for meeting the purchasing/maintenance needs for simple tools and equipment for the centralised tree support team.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)009

Question Serial No.

0301

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide the number of trees felled in 2009-10 and 2011-12 due to tree risk and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The number of trees felled by major tree management departments in recent years are as follows:

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (Up to 31 January 2012)
Tree removed due to health or structural problems that posed risks to public safety	4 586*	10 257	8 864

* *Excluding 6 372 trees removed by Lands Department in 2009-10 which include trees with health or structural problems that pose risks to public safety as well as severely damaged trees that were removed after inclement weather. LandsD does not separately maintain statistics on the number of trees with health or structural problems removed.*

The expenditure on tree removal incurred by the departments concerned is not available as it is usually subsumed under the overall expenditure on vegetation management.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)010

Question Serial No.

0302

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure and staff establishment of the centralised tree support team and the tree management qualifications required for each of the newly created posts.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

In addition to the creation of two Arborist posts on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms in April 2010 to reinforce arboricultural support in the Tree Management Office, four additional Arborist/Assistant Arborist posts on NCSC terms have been created since 1 April 2011. All recruits to these new posts are required to be certified arborists. Members of the team, apart from possessing Arborist qualifications awarded by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), have also obtained one or more additional arboricultural qualifications such as Board Certified Master Arborist and Municipal Specialist awarded by ISA, Certified Tree Risk Assessor awarded by the ISA Pacific Northwest Chapter, and Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection awarded by Lantra Awards. The team has on average 4.5 years' experience in arboricultural work. The annual staffing costs for the team amount to \$3.65M.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)011

Question Serial No.

0363

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It was proposed in paragraph 45 of the Budget Speech that the Administration would “ earmark another \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training. The aim is to bring fresh blood into the industry to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments.” Please explain the objectives of the training and indicate the expected number of workers brought to the industry as a result. Has the Government any new plan in 2012-13 to attract young people to join the construction industry on the one hand, and take proactive steps to enhance the skills and competitiveness of existing construction workers on the other? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The \$220 million earmarked in this Budget is to enhance the two key training initiatives, the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) and the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/ Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010 for enhancing construction manpower to meet the demands.

Specifically, we propose to increase the training quota under ECMTS to train up new entrants and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000, the monthly training allowance from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000, and the average training duration from about three months to five months.

For ECSTS, we propose to increase the quota to train up new construction supervisors/ technicians from 600 to 1 000, the course duration from about 9 months to about 15 months, and the training allowance from the \$150 daily rate to \$180 over the initial 9-month classroom

training period and about \$6,000 per month over the subsequent 6-month training period.

In 2012-13, we will continue to attract young people to take up training and join the industry by promotion and publicity efforts through various channels including TV, newspapers and online media to uplift the image of construction industry and workers and promote the training opportunities. We will also set out to enhance the skills and competitiveness of existing workers by providing subsidy in trade tests, specified training courses, skills enhancement courses and management courses for senior workers under the \$100 million commitment. In overall terms, the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 will be about \$40 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)012

Question Serial No.

0405

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Questions

It is stated in paragraph 45 of the Budget that the Financial Secretary (FS) will earmark another \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training with a view to bringing fresh blood into the industry to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments. In this connection, please provide the following information :

- (a) whether “the demand of future infrastructure development” mentioned by the FS include infrastructure development plans other than the 10 Major Infrastructure Projects announced in 2007-08 policy address; if there are, of the details;
- (b) the trades of the construction industry to be covered by this programme; and
- (c) the number of fresh blood that the Administration estimates to bring into the industry for each of the trades covered by this programme.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Apart from the Ten Major Infrastructure Projects, we are also taking forward other projects from large to small scale. For the coming years, we will seek funding support to a number of projects, including Liantang/ Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains, cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, etc. We anticipate that the capital works expenditure will increase to over \$70 billion per year in the next few years.

Under the \$220 million earmarked in this Budget, we propose to provide an additional training quota of 3 000 under the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) to train up new entrants and in-service workers, as an enhancement of the \$100

million commitment approved in May 2010. While the trades to be covered under \$220 million initiative will be determined upon consultation with the industry, as reference, the trades covered under the \$100 million commitment are Carpenter (Formwork), Bar-bender and Fixer, Drainlayer, Metal Formwork Erector and Concretor, Leveller, Metal Worker and Site Surveying Officer.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)013

Question Serial No.

0519

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section was set up in March 2010. Please provide the following information since its establishment:

- (a) What is the number of trees felled each year by the various government departments? How many of them are in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees? What are the reasons for felling them and the species involved? How many of these trees were replanted?
- (b) What are the names of the departments responsible for tree management in the past three years (from 2009-10 to 2011-12)? What are the number of trees under their care and their number of staff (staff with professional qualifications and their total number)? Are these departments required to reach a certain 'staff-to-tree' ratio?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) A breakdown of the trees removed by major tree management departments in 2010-11 and 2011-12 after the establishment of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section in March 2010 is set out below –

	2010-11	2011-12 (up to 31 January 2012)
(a) Number of trees removed under public works projects	8 842	5 091

(b) Number of trees removed due to health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety	10 257	8 864
(c) Number of trees removed due to damage under inclement weather	1 821	1 699
(d) Of (b), number of Old and Valuable Trees removed	5	6

For category (a), all departments are required to ensure that no trees are unnecessarily removed and that tree removal will only be considered as a last resort under special circumstances. The main species involved were *Acacia confusa*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, etc. There are currently internal guidelines and instructions on tree preservation (covering, among others, the handling of proposed tree removal and the requirement for compensatory planting of not less than 1 to 1 in terms of quality and quantity).

For categories (b) to (d), apart from emergency removal of trees due to damage sustained under inclement weather, all the other trees were removed after careful consideration of all relevant factors, of which protection of public safety is a priority concern. The main species involved were *Acacia confusa*, *Bauhinia blakeana*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, etc. While compensatory planting for removal of trees on government land due to poor health is not mandatory under the prevailing arrangement, we encourage tree management departments to consider the feasibility of replacement planting on a case-by-case basis, taking account of relevant factors such as availability of growing space, the amenity value of replacement planting in public parks, etc.

- (b) Under the “integrated approach” on tree management, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there. Departments adopt the appropriate modes to suit their departmental operational needs through deploying full-time or part-time departmental staff, directly engaging horticultural contractors, engaging specialist contractor through term maintenance contractors or a combination of the above. Therefore, there is no specified manning ratio on tree management.

The tree management departments and a breakdown of the number of trees under their purview and the number of their management staff is set out below –

Department	Number of trees			Number of tree management staff (Note 1) (Note 2)		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)	N/A (Note 3)			83(41)	86(50)	86(54)

Architectural Services Department	200 000			8(0)	15(4)	18(5)
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) ^(Note 4)	1 250	7 650	25 650	8(3)	12(3)	12(5)
Drainage Services Department	24 000	25 500	34 254	16(0)	16(1)	16(2)
Highways Department	500 000			20(4)	22(1)	22(1)
Housing Department (Note 5)	78 000	100 000	100 000	31(5)	28(10)	31(10)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	760 000	700 000	521 000	122(71)	210(101)	210(105)
Water Supplies Department	49 400			12(0)	16(1)	16(1)

General Note:

There are differences in the way that trees planted on unallocated and unleased government land and trees planted within government facilities are managed. There is a very large amount of unallocated and unleased government land (with a total area of 33 000 hectares), spreading across the territory. The Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems and take follow-up action when discharging their day-to-day functions of land control and management and on receipt of referrals and complaints.

Note 1:

Figures in this column include only the number of government staff involved in day-to-day tree management (on a full-time or part-time basis), but exclude the manpower temporarily deployed on a need basis. Figures in the column also exclude senior staff of the departments involved in tree management (particularly at the strategic level). In addition to government staff, individual departments have engaged contractors or non-government personnel to assist in tree management.

Notes 2:

The figures within brackets indicate the number of tree management staff with professional qualifications in arboriculture.

Note 3:

All trees in country parks are under the jurisdiction of AFCD. Due to the very large

number of trees involved, AFCD is unable to provide a figure.

Note 4:

From 2009-10 to 2013-14, CEDD is responsible for maintaining the trees planted under the urban Greening Master Plans.

Note 5:

Excludes the frontline management staff in 160 housing estates who also provide assistance.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)014

Question Serial No.

0520

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

For the promotion of greening, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Why the expenditure on greening works decreased from \$233 million in 2010 to \$213 million in 2011 and further to \$174 million (estimate) in 2012?
- (b) How many government buildings are planning to implement or have completed skyrise greening or vertical greening works? What is the percentage of such buildings among all the government buildings? What is their greening area on average? What is their annual expenditure for maintenance?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The decrease in expenditure in 2012, as compared with 2011 and 2010, was mainly attributed to the completion of the planting works under the Greening Master Plans of all urban districts and the planting works implemented in a number of open spaces in Tseung Kwan O, Western District, and the Tamar Development.
- (b) Up to January 2012, a total of 209 government buildings maintained by the works departments have green roofs. In addition, the works departments are currently undertaking roof greening works at 54 government buildings (including new buildings and buildings under refurbishment). Planning and design of roof greening works for another 45 government buildings are underway. Of the 5 000 buildings maintained by the works departments, about 4% have green roofs. In the past two years, 89 roof greening projects were undertaken giving a total of some 39 500 square metres of roof greenery, i.e. an average of some 400 square metres per project. Vertical greening is expressed in different forms, ranging from planting of self-clinging climbers or modular systems on building façades, forming an integral design of planting. No separate

statistics are maintained for vertical greening. The maintenance of roof greening and vertical greening is a component of overall maintenance of buildings. There is no separate breakdown for such maintenance costs.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)015

Question Serial No.

0521

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the tree management courses provided for staff of the contractors, please provide the following information:

- (a) How many training sessions have been organised? How many contractors' staff have taken part? What are the contents of the courses?
- (b) What are the number of contractors engaged, expenditure involved and number of trees pruned by them in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12)?
- (c) What is the number of contracts terminated in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12) due to improper pruning or other sub-standard performances.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) Since its establishment in March 2010 (up to 7 February 2012), the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section has organised 124 training classes and seminars covering various subjects on tree management and greening, such as tree risk assessment, tree pathology, identification of common tree species and tree problems, pruning, etc. About 9 800 training places have been made available to government staff and about 4 200 to staff of the contractors / consultants engaged in government projects.
- (b) The number and estimated expenditure of tree management contracts engaged by the major tree management departments after the establishment of the GLTM Section in March 2010 are as follows:

Year	Total number of tree management contracts	Estimated expenditure \$ (M)
2010-11	48	174.91
2011-12 (up to 31 January 2012)	57	197.52

Pruning forms part and parcel of daily tree maintenance works, and hence the number of trees pruned is not recorded.

- (c) In 2010-11 and 2011-12 (up to 31 January 2012), there was no contract terminated due to improper tree pruning or other sub-standard performances.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

DEVB(W)016

Question Serial No.

0522

<u>Head:</u> 159 – Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch)	<u>Subhead</u> (No. & title):
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Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please inform this Committee whether the Administration has earmarked funds for conducting the following reviews or studies and please provide relevant details:

- (a) the existing “integrated approach” to tree management.
- (b) the structure and staffing of the “Tree Management Office” and “Greening and Landscape Office”.
- (c) enactment of tree legislation.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

No funds have been earmarked specifically to conduct reviews in the areas of integrated approach to tree management, enactment of tree legislation and the structure of the Tree Management Office and Greening and Landscape Office. Review of the above issues will be taken up by existing staff.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)017

Question Serial No.

0589

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) What is the number of trees felled by the tree management departments during the rainy and typhoon season as well as in other months in the past two years due to their potential risk or immediate danger, and the respective expenditure involved?
- (b) What is the number of trees that have to be removed in the past two years due to improper pruning or maintenance by the tree management departments in their routine pruning and maintenance work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) The number of trees removed by major tree management departments due to either health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety or damages after inclement weather is set out below –

	2010-11	2011-12 (up to 31 January 2012)
(a) Number of trees removed due to health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety	10 257	8 864
(b) Number of trees removed due to damage under inclement weather	1 821	1 699

The expenditure on tree removal incurred by the department concerned is not available as it is subsumed under the overall expenditure on vegetation management.

- (b) There are no trees removed owing to improper pruning or substandard works in 2010-11 and 2011-12 (up-to-date). To enhance awareness of proper tree pruning practices, the Tree Management Office (TMO) under the Development Bureau has promulgated a set of general guidelines on tree pruning, based on best practices in arboriculture, for reference by departments with tree management responsibility. These guidelines were often included in the service specifications of contracts involving tree maintenance.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)018

Question Serial No.

0641

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Administration mentions that it would continue to pursue the proposed declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument and explore appropriate economic incentives with the owner to facilitate the conservation of Ho Tung Gardens. Please provide the latest progress of the said project and the compensation package offered. Will the Administration consider formulating a comprehensive heritage policy (particularly in the area of compensation) for future conservation projects so as to replace the existing case-based compensation approach?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Regarding the case of Ho Tung Gardens, the Secretary for Development, in her capacity as the Antiquities Authority, announced her intention to declare Ho Tung Gardens as a monument in October 2011 after obtaining the unanimous support of the Antiquities Advisory Board. The owner submitted a petition to the Chief Executive in November 2011 under section 4(3) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 53) to object to the intended declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument and request the Chief Executive to direct that the intended monument declaration shall not be made. The Chief Executive has subsequently directed under section 4(4) of the Ordinance that the objection be referred to the Chief Executive in Council for consideration.

Having considered the significant heritage value of the site and the owner's plan to redevelop the site, we have earlier on offered a land exchange proposal which allows the owner to pursue development as an economic incentive. We are devising further conservation-cum-development proposals and will continue to discuss with the owner in

earnest, taking account of the heritage conservation objective while respecting private property rights.

Under the heritage conservation policy announced by the Chief Executive in October 2007, the Administration recognises that on the premise of respecting private property rights, we need to offer appropriate economic incentives to encourage private owners to conserve historic buildings in their ownership. We consider that our heritage conservation policy has already provided effective protection to historic buildings in Hong Kong, and struck a pragmatic balance between respect for private property rights and heritage conservation. The type and extent of economic incentives are determined on a case-by-case basis, and seek to strike a balance between respect for private property rights and heritage conservation. Since each historic building is unique and the demand and wish of each private owner are not the same, adopting a standardised proposal will not be conducive to the formulation of the most appropriate economic incentive in exchange for the conservation of the historic building concerned.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)019

Question Serial No.

0666

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding tree management, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) Why the revised financial provision versus the original estimate for 2011-12 under this Programme has been reduced by 11.2%?
- (2) The total number of enquiries and complaints received on tree management by the Administration last year; and among them the number of enquiries and complaints handled; the number of cases followed up; the number of outstanding cases; the number of trees removed; and the main reasons for making the final decision of tree removal?
- (3) The staff establishment and expenditure of the Greening and Landscape Office and the Tree Management Office respectively in 2011-12 and the coming year; and the number of Certified Arborists (and staff with such qualification) they employ?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (1) The revised estimate for 2011-12 has been reduced by 11.2% (\$5.3 million) versus the original estimate. The reduction is mainly due to the postponement in launching research projects as a result of the processes required in identifying suitable consultants.
- (2) A breakdown of enquiries and complaints concerning tree management received by the “1823” Call Centre, the major tree management departments and the Tree Management Office in Development Bureau from 1 April 2011 to 31 January 2012 is as follows:

	Enquiries	Complaints
(a) Number of cases received	1 021	9 838
(b) Number of cases completed out of (a)	975	9 142
(c) Number of cases being processed out of (a)	46	696

For the completed cases, 1 102 trees were removed. These trees were removed owing to health or structural problems (including fungal infection, cavity, root failure, etc.) which posed risks to public safety. There are established mechanisms in the tree management departments governing the removal of trees under their care. Trees are removed only after careful consideration of all relevant factors, of which protection of public safety is a priority concern.

- (3) The staffing position of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section in Works Branch of the Development Bureau is as follows –

	Civil Service Posts	Non Civil Service Posts
Greening and Landscape Office	6	1
Tree Management Office	9	6
Common to Greening and Landscape Office and Tree Management Office	9	0

Out of the above 31 posts, 8 are general grade posts providing administrative and support services. The other positions are predominantly filled by professional officers, with 18 post-holders being International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists. Among these ISA Certified Arborists, 17 have more than one professional qualification in arboriculture, such as ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor, ISA Certified Municipal Specialist and Professional Tree Inspection (Lantra Awards).

The staffing provisions of the GLTM Section in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are \$24.58 million and \$25.23 million respectively.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)020

Question Serial No.

1041

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 45 of the Budget Speech, “....I propose to earmark another \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training. The aim is to bring fresh blood into the industry to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments.” Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Whether any actual or specific study has been conducted on manpower demand in the past three years. If yes, what are the expenditure involved and the findings?
- (b) Whether any conclusion of under supply or mismatch of manpower has been drawn from the study. If yes, what are the follow-up measures?
- (c) With economic development, what are the measures, from population planning to manpower and vocational training etc., to meet manpower demand?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The requested information is provided as follows:

The Development Bureau has conducted a manpower study on professional manpower at about \$1.3 million, which revealed that the anticipated minor shortage at the professional level should be generally manageable. On the other hand, the Construction Industry Council has conducted a manpower study to estimate the construction manpower demand at the technical/supervisory and worker level. Taking account of changing demographic of the construction industry and other developments in the industry, the study revealed that the local construction industry is facing an acute shortage/ageing problem with about 40% of the construction labour aged over 50 and only about 6% under aged 25 and possible skills

mismatch in individual trades with over 60% registered as general workers under the Construction Workers Registration Authority.

To address these problems, we have taken early action by obtaining approval from the Finance Committee of Legislative Council in May 2010 for a commitment of \$100 million to enhance the local construction manpower by inter-alia training up additional 3 000 new entrants and in-service workers and 600 supervisors/ technicians, and attracting more people to join the industry through enhancing promotion and publicity.

Looking ahead, with the public works expenditure rising from \$20.5 billion in 2007-08 to over \$70 billion per year in the next few years and unemployment rate of the construction sector decreasing from the post-tsunami peak of 12.8% in early 2009 to 4.7% in the last quarter, we recognize the tight manpower situation. Hence, we propose to further enhance Government's investment in construction manpower through \$220 million earmarked in this Budget by enhancing training package to increase the training quota for workers and supervisors/ technicians from 3 000 to 6 000 and 600 to 1 000 respectively as well as increasing the training allowance and duration.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)021

Question Serial No.

1096

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under this Programme, the Administration will conduct a survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong in 2012-13. Please provide details of the survey. What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved? What are the expected dates of commencement and completion of the survey?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply:

The survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong seeks to obtain basic information (such as location, species and size) of roadside trees on unallocated and unleased government land, and involves an initial assessment of the health and structural conditions of these trees for further follow-up action as necessary. We will give priority to areas with high pedestrian / vehicular flow in carrying out the survey.

The tree data collected from the survey will, in due course, be stored in the electronic tree management information system now under development. With the new tree inventory, the tree management departments would be able to handle tree-related complaints and referrals more efficiently and effectively in future.

Due to the extensive geographical spread of the unallocated and unleased government land, the Tree Management Office (TMO) is now working on estimating the total number of roadside trees involved, and hence the unit cost, through conducting a pilot survey to test out the methodology and scope of services, before rolling out a comprehensive programme by end 2013. The estimated expenditure of the survey in 2012-13 is about \$8 million subject to the finalized service scope and requirement. TMO and relevant departments will absorb the manpower requirements arising from the survey with their existing resources.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)022

Question Serial No.

1154

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under this Programme, the work of the Administration in 2012-13 includes, inter alia, “continue to monitor the progress of the various initiatives and enhance them where necessary for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry to enhance local construction manpower.”

- (a) What are the details of the work involved?
- (b) What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (c) With the commencement of various major infrastructure projects in recent years, manpower supply is tight in the construction industry. Is the Administration aware of the situation?
- (d) Will measures be taken to address the situation? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

The requested information is provided as follows:

In 2012-13, we will continue to implement the various measures under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010 to train up new entrants and in-service workers through the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) and provide course fee and trade-test subsidy to in-service workers as well as organise publicity and promotion activities to uplift the image of the industry. Such efforts entail, in addition to the existing set-up in the Development Bureau, manpower of two officers on non-civil service contract terms with estimated expenditure of \$0.7 million for implementing promotion and publicity activities as

well as manpower in the Construction Industry Council (CIC).

With the public works expenditure rising from \$20.5 billion in 2007-08 to over \$70 billion per year in the next few years and unemployment rate of the construction sector decreasing from the post-tsunami peak of 12.8% in early 2009 to 4.7% in the last quarter, we recognize the tight manpower situation. Hence, we propose to further enhance Government's investment in construction manpower with \$220 million earmarked in this Budget. This is to enhance the two key training initiatives, ECMTS and the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010.

Specifically, we propose to increase the training quota under ECMTS to train up new entrants and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000, the monthly training allowance from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000, and the average training duration from about three months to five months.

For ECSTS, we propose to increase the quota to train up new construction supervisors/technicians from 600 to 1,000, the course duration from about 9 months to about 15 months, and the training allowance from the \$150 daily rate to \$180 over the initial 9-month classroom training period and about \$6,000 per month over the subsequent 6-month training period.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)023

Question Serial No.

1155

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under this Programme, the work of the Administration in 2012-13 includes the effective implementation of pilot schemes for construction and related engineering professionals to register and practise in the Guangdong Province.

- (a) What are the details of the schemes?
- (b) What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

Details of the Guangdong pilot schemes under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) framework in respect of the construction sector are outlined below :-

(1) Under CEPA Supplement V :

- (i) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's registered Urban Planner qualification, are allowed to register in Guangdong Province regardless of whether they are registered in Hong Kong or not.
- (ii) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's Supervision Engineer qualification, are allowed to register and practise in Guangdong Province regardless of whether they are registered practitioners in Hong Kong or not.

(2) Under CEPA Supplement VII :

- (i) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's class 1 registered architect qualification by mutual recognition, are allowed to register and practise in Guangdong regardless of whether they are registered practitioners in Hong Kong.
 - (ii) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's class 1 registered structural engineer qualification by mutual recognition, are allowed to register and practise in Guangdong regardless of whether they are registered practitioners in Hong Kong.
- (3) Under CEPA Supplement VIII :
- (i) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's construction professional qualifications through mutual recognition, are allowed to register and practise in Guangdong and enjoy the same treatment as Mainland professionals having the same professional qualifications.
 - (ii) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's class 1 registered architect qualification through mutual recognition, are recognized as registered practitioners for the purpose of declaration of engineering design enterprise qualifications within Guangdong, in accordance with the relevant Mainland regulations.
 - (iii) Hong Kong professionals, who have obtained Mainland's class 1 registered structural engineer qualification through mutual recognition, are recognized as registered practitioners for the purpose of declaration of engineering design enterprise qualifications within Guangdong, in accordance with the relevant Mainland regulations.

The Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), supported by Deputy Secretary (Works)², Principal Assistant Secretary (Works)⁴ and the Mainland Affairs Team (with 3 full-time members) of the Works Branch is overseeing the implementation of the Guangdong pilot schemes which is part and parcel of the Bureau's work in respect of CEPA consultation (construction sector) and other cooperation initiatives with the Mainland authorities. No separate costing figures on implementation of the pilot schemes are available.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)024

Question Serial No.

1404

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 45 of his Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary proposed to “ earmark another \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training. The aim is to bring fresh blood into the industry to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments.” In this connection, will the Administration advise:

- (a) the labour demand for the various infrastructure projects in future;
- (b) the estimated number of workers attracted by the above funding to enrol in the courses for the industry?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

The requested information is provided as follows:

- (a) We have recently reviewed the labour demand due to the increase in construction workload from \$20.5 billion in 2007-08 to over \$70 billion each year in the coming few years. The review found that although construction workers would be adequate in head count, individual trades might face labour shortage, ageing and / or skills mismatch.
- (b) We propose to increase the training quota to train up new and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000 and new construction supervisors/technicians from 600 to 1 000, to be funded under the \$220 million earmarked in this Budget.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)025

Question Serial No.

1523

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the 2012-13 financial year, what are the tourism, sports and leisure facilities to be provided for the Kai Tak Development? What is the expenditure for each of these facilities? When will they be completed and put into operation?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The construction of two leisure facilities, namely the Kai Tak Runway Park Phase 1 and Kwun Tong Promenade Stage 2, will commence in the second half of 2012. HAB plans to consult the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on both projects in May 2012 and seek funding approval from the Public Works Sub-committee and Finance Committee in June and July 2012 respectively. The latest estimated project cost of the Kai Tak Runway Park Phase 1 and Kwun Tong Promenade Stage 2 is \$203.6 million and \$250.7 million respectively. While the Kai Tak Runway Park Phase 1 is scheduled for completion in 2013, the Kwun Tong Promenade Stage 2 will complete in 2014.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)026

Question Serial No.

1524

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO) to be set up in the new financial year of 2012-13, how will it consult the public and the tourism industry on the proposed injection of the tourism development element into the project of “Energizing Kowloon East”? Does the Administration have any estimate on the manpower and expenditure required for the above consultation? Which department will KEDO be under?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The proposed Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO) will be established in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau to steer, supervise, oversee and monitor the development of Kowloon East.

One of the major roles of KEDO is to engage major stakeholders and the public to promote Kowloon East. KEDO will conduct public engagement exercises, following the usual public participatory approach, to maintain dialogue and contact with the public and stakeholders from various industries. KEDO will consider the views collected in formulating the most appropriate measures and mode of development to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East.

KEDO, upon establishment, will develop the consultation strategy and arrange for the respective resources to best suit the requirement and expectation of the public and stakeholders.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)027

Question Serial No.

1525

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide details on how the increased provision of \$15.7 million in the estimate will be used for creating 14 posts in the Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO). What are the remuneration packages, titles and terms of reference of these posts?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

In the initial stage, there will be more significant demand for inputs to planning and land use review matters under the Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO). We propose that the KEDO will be headed by a Principal Government Town Planner, and complemented by a Government Architect as the deputy head. They will be supported by several teams of different professionals in providing dedicated input on planning, architectural and engineering fronts as well as facilitating land development proposals from the private sector.

For the 14 civil service posts for KEDO, a provision of \$11.4 million is earmarked under Head 159 for their personal emoluments. In the initial set-up of KEDO, we will first create 12 civil service posts, while the remaining 2 posts will be subject to further review having regard to the actual operational experience in the initial period. The creation of these 12 posts will require an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point at \$10.2 million, as follows:

Post	No. of post	Notional annual salary cost at mid-point (\$)
Principal Government Town Planner (D3) (1 no.)	1	1,870,200
Government Architect (D2) (1 no.)	1	1,611,600
Senior Town Planner, Senior Architect, Senior Engineer (1 no. each)	3	3,206,700
Town Planner (1 no.), Landscape Architect (1 no.), Engineer (2 nos.)	4	2,316,840
Executive Officer I (1 no.), Personal Secretary I (2 nos.)	3	1,214,340
Total	12	10,219,680

The work of KEDO is diversified and complex in nature. The 12 posts created will cover different areas of work. The Principal Government Town Planner (designated as Head of KEDO) will lead and manage the KEDO. The Government Architect (designated as Deputy Head of KEDO) will serve as the deputy. The Senior Town Planner and the Town Planner will provide planning input in the planning studies, community engagement, preparation of conceptual master plan, etc. The Senior Architect and the Landscape Architect will provide professional input on urban design, architectural compatibility, landscape planning, etc. The Senior Engineer and the Engineers will provide professional input on the coordination and monitoring of infrastructural development in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay as well as the implementation of small-scale projects in these two areas. They will be supported by the Executive Officer I and the Personal Secretaries I.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)028

Question Serial No.

1569

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated in the Budget: “The Kowloon East Development Office tasked with this project (i.e. to develop Kowloon East into a core business district) is expected to be established in the first half of this year.” How much resource has the Development Bureau earmarked in 2012-13 for the operational expenses of this office; and for how long will it operate?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

In 2012-13, a provision of \$16.4 million under Head 159 is allowed for the operation of the Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO).

The transformation of Kowloon East will involve long-term development. In the first year upon the establishment of KEDO, we will review the work of KEDO and its staff complement having regard to the actual operational experience in the initial period and consider its long-term need and the best institutional set-up in taking forward the Energising Kowloon East initiative. We will revert to the Legislative Council Panel on Development in good time before July 2013 to report on progress made and seek Members' support for the longer term staffing arrangements. This would also provide the Panel a good opportunity to review the progress we have made and provide their further advice.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)029

Question Serial No.

1885

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the provision for Hong Kong's support for the reconstruction work in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Area, how many visits were organised by the Chengdu Economic and Trade Office in 2011 for Hong Kong's independent professional consultants to inspect the reconstruction sites in Sichuan? How many reconstruction projects were involved in these site inspections? How many substandard cases in works quality were found by Hong Kong's independent professional consultants? How did the Administration follow up these cases?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

The "independent professional consultants" have conducted 213 on-site technical audits for 110 HKSAR Government's reconstruction projects from April 2011 to February 2012. Up to now, no major quality problems have been found. As for defects in workmanship identified during the construction period of individual projects, the Hong Kong side has reported the cases under the liaison and co-ordination mechanism between the Sichuan and Hong Kong sides and the Sichuan side has taken timely follow-up actions to rectify the problems properly.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)030

Question Serial No.

1979

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 45 of the Budget Speech that following the allocation of \$100 million in 2010 for implementation of the various initiatives to attract more people to join the construction industry, another \$220 million is proposed to be earmarked to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training. The aim is to bring fresh blood into the industry to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments. Will the Administration advise the specific uses of the funding? What is the estimated number of workers to be brought into the industry?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The \$220 million earmarked in this Budget is to enhance the two key training initiatives, Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) and the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/ Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010 for enhancing construction manpower to meet the demands.

Specifically, we propose to increase the training quota under ECMTS to train up new entrants and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000, the monthly training allowance from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000, and the average training duration from about three months to five months.

For ECSTS, we propose to increase the quota to train up new construction supervisors/ technicians from 600 to 1 000, the course duration from about 9 months to about 15 months, and the training allowance from the \$150 daily rate to \$180 over the initial 9-month

classroom training period and about \$6,000 per month over the subsequent 6-month training period.

In overall terms, the additional 3 000 workers and 400 supervisors/ technicians to be provided under the above two initiatives will represent a pool of potential candidates to join the industry or enhance its manpower.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)031

Question Serial No.

2070

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & 000 Operational
title): expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Works Branch of the Development Bureau has earmarked \$81,951,000 as the operational expenses for temporary staff in 2012-13. In this connection, will the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) The mode of employment of the temporary staff paid out of the above money;
- (b) Please list out the number of Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff employed in 2010-11 and 2011-12 by programme, rank, duty and contract period;
- (c) Please list out the expenditure in 2010-11 and 2011-12 and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 for the three types of contract services, namely the “NCSC”, “agency worker” and “outsourcing” contract services.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- (a) In 2012-13, the estimated expenditure of \$81,951,000 for temporary staff includes salaries and contract gratuities for non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (\$25,562,000), trainees under the Graduate Training Scheme and Undergraduate Training Scheme (\$55,380,000) as well as summer students (\$1,009,000).
- (b) The contract period of NCSC staff normally lasts for one to two years. Details of the NCSC staff employed in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are shown below:-

Programme	Rank / Job Nature	No. of NCSC staff	
		2010/11 (as at 31.12.10)	2011/12 (as at 31.12.11)
Water Supply	Executive	1	1
Heritage Conservation	Professional	8	10
	Executive	7	6
	Clerical	1	2
Greening, Landscape and Tree Management	Professional	2	6
	Executive	-	1
Intra-Governmental Services	Professional	4	4
	Executive	3	4
	Clerical	1	-
	Total:	27	34

- (c) The expenditure for employment of NCSC staff is \$14,652,175, \$17,925,000 and \$25,562,000 in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The expenditure on agency workers and outsourcing contract services included under General Departmental Expenses are shown below:-

	2010-11 \$	2011-12 \$	2012-13 \$
Agency workers	\$1,624,377	\$1,620,865	Note
Outsourcing contract services	\$5,502,654	\$7,908,289	\$7,655,000

Note: Figures for 2012-13 are not available as the number of agency workers varies over time in accordance with changing service needs.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)032

Question Serial No.

2088

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 45 of the Budget Speech that the Administration will earmark \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training. Since the construction industry has pointed out time and again that it is difficult to attract younger generation to the trade, would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) What is the expenditure in the past three years on the organisation of publicity activities or production of media programmes (such as “A dream comes true” of the Radio Television Hong Kong which is still on air) to uplift the image of the industry and attract more young people to join the trade? Please list out the uses under each of the expenditure items.
- (b) Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the above work? For example, how many new entrants have been brought into the industry?
- (c) What is the Administration's expenditure on this front in the coming three years?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

- (a) With \$20 million approved to be used for promotion and publicity under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010, we have launched the “Build Up” Publicity Campaign targeting at uplifting the image of the construction industry in May 2011. Under the Campaign, the estimated expenditure up to the end of 2011-12 is about \$12.6 million with breakdown as follows:-

Items	Estimated expenditure (\$ M)
Seed Money for the Construction Industry Resource Centre	6.0
Other promotion and publicity activities, including media production, road shows, career talks and expos, dedicated web-sites, etc.	5.8
Staff Cost of two officers on non-civil service contract terms	0.8
Total:	12.6

- (b) Various image surveys commissioned by the Development Bureau (DEVB) have been conducted to gauge the effectiveness of the Campaign before and after the launch of the publicity campaign. Notably, on the general perception of the construction industry, more respondents considered that the economic outlook of the construction industry was becoming more favourable and the image of the construction workers was more positive and healthy. In addition, since the implementation of the first course under the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) in September 2010 targeting at training workers for trades with acute ageing, labour shortage and recruitment difficulties, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) has attracted 935 trainees up to January 2012, and about 60% are aged below 35 and many are new entrants. Among them, 541 have graduated and 416 graduates are working in the construction industry.
- (c) DEVB will continue to collaborate with stakeholders, including CIC, to strengthen our promotion and publicity efforts, with a view to attracting more people to join the industry. In particular, we will leverage on the recently commissioned “Construction Industry Resource Centre” funded under the \$100 million commitment to organise activities for student groups and the general public. Our estimated expenditure in this area in the coming years is around \$7.4 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation
 (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management
 (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Development Bureau (Works Branch) and its departments for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2009-10 and 2011-12:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start Date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start Date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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- (c) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) Information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2009-10 and 2011-12 is given in the table below:

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)</i>	<i>If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation from selected consultants	Development strategy for professional resources of Hong Kong's construction and related engineering services sector.	1,300,000	August 2007	Completed	The study findings will be taken into consideration when formulating the development strategy.	Information has been shared within the Government and stakeholders of the construction industry.
Hong Kong Architecture Centre Ltd.	Invitation of single quotation	Benchmark study on building controls to facilitate adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Hong Kong. The consultancy studied the building control mechanisms applicable to historic buildings in selected overseas	390,000	November 2007	Completed	We have made reference to the recommendations in improving the building control measures applicable to the preservation and revitalisation of historic buildings.	We have not made public the consultancy report because of its technical nature. Its content is primarily for the consumption of professionals in the relevant field. Instead, we have shared the relevant

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)</i>	<i>If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
		countries. It also examined how building control measures could be improved to address the need for preserving the heritage value of historic buildings and meeting modern-day building requirements.					information in the consultancy report with the parties concerned, including relevant departments and non-governmental organisations in the field of heritage conservation, as appropriate via workshops, meetings, etc.
Powersoft Consultancy Ltd.	Invitation of single quotation	<p>Study on overseas experience of revitalisation of historic buildings and media strategies.</p> <p>The consultant studied the experience of seven overseas cities in revitalising historic buildings and made proposals on how such experience could be adopted in Hong Kong.</p>	248,000	November 2007	Completed	We have made reference to the recommendations in formulating our policy on the revitalisation of historic buildings and our publicity activities.	<p>We have not made public the consultancy report because the study is primarily for the Government's internal reference when formulating relevant policies.</p> <p>Where appropriate, we have shared the relevant information in the study report with relevant departments and non-governmental organisations in the field of heritage conservation, via workshops, seminars, forums, etc.</p>
Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd	Invitation of quotation from selected	Advice on the Use of Eurocodes in Hong Kong - Feasibility Study	1,216,900	May 2008	Completed	Works departments continue with the further investigation and	We have shared the study findings with the industry

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)</i>	<i>If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
	consultants					trial as recommended in the study	including local universities, professional institutions and the Construction Industry Council
Mott MacDonald (previously known as Mott Connell)	Invitation of quotation from selected consultants	Consultancy Study on Developing a Sustainable Construction Management Framework for Public Works (Civil Engineering) Projects.	1,150,000	December 2007	In progress	The study findings will be taken into consideration in the continuous improvement of the construction management framework for public works civil engineering projects	We will share the study findings within the Government and relevant stakeholders of the construction industry
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd	Invitation of quotation	Provision of Services of Baseline Carbon Assessment for the Construction Process of Public and Private Works Projects.	1,346,400	June 2011	In progress	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings within the Government and relevant stakeholders of the construction industry
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Increasing Land Supply by Reclamation and Rock Cavern Development cum Public Engagement – Feasibility Study	18,630,600 (\$8M under Head 159 for public engagement and the remaining under Civil Engineering and Development Department block allocations)	July 2011	In progress	Study is in progress and will be completed in mid 2013.	It is intended that the report will be made public. The channel to release will likely follow the usual practice, but it is not yet decided at this stage.
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of single quotation	Selection of Suitable Tree Species for Greening in Hong Kong & Choice of Suitable Planting Media for Greening in Hong Kong	800,000	December 2010	In progress	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the field via workshops,

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)</i>	<i>If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To evaluate tree species and analyse findings to group into landscape applications and matrix database - To evaluate urban soils and make recommendation on potential to improve for practical applications 					seminars, etc.
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Analysis of Fungi from Wood Samples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify the Possible wood decay fungi associated with a tree collapse incident 	49,412	August 2010	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in tree management including tree pest/disease control.	Research was primarily for internal use. Information has been shared with the relevant Government departments.
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Laboratory Testing and Diagnosis of <i>Phellinus noxious</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To test for disease <i>P.noxious</i> in field samples 	559,000	January 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in tree management including tree pest/disease control.	Research was primarily for internal use. Information has been shared with the relevant Government departments.

(b) Information of projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13.

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Provision of Services of Baseline Carbon Assessment for the Construction Process of Public and Private Works Projects.	1,346,400	June 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings within the Government and relevant stakeholders of the construction industry
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Increasing Land Supply by Reclamation and Rock Cavern Development cum Public Engagement – Feasibility Study	18,630,600 (\$8M under Head 159 for public engagement and the remaining under Civil Engineering and Development Department block allocations)	July 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in mid 2013.	It is intended that the report will be made public. The channel to release will likely follow the usual practice, but it is not yet decided at this stage.
GHK(Hong Kong) Limited	Invitation of quotation	Study on the feasibility, framework and implementation plan for the setting up of a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong	1,307,500	November 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	To be decided upon completion of the study.
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of single quotation	Selection of Suitable Tree Species for Greening in Hong Kong & Choice of Suitable Planting Media for Greening in Hong Kong - To evaluate tree species and analyse findings to group into landscape applications	800,000	December 2010	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the field via workshops, seminars, etc.

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
		and matrix database - To evaluate urban soils and make recommendations on potential to improve for practical applications				
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Wood Strength Assessment of Common Tree Species in Hong Kong - To evaluate wood strength in selected common trees and establish a resulting database for use in tree risk assessment	798,313	February 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed in mid 2013.	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the field via workshops, seminars, etc.
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Occurrence and Distribution of Common Wood Decay Fungi on Trees of Hong Kong - To collect baseline data on the occurrence and distribution of wood decay fungi and to produce guidance on diagnosis, control etc for practical use	1,098,235	December 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the field via workshops, seminars, etc.
Urbis Ltd	Invitation of quotation	Comprehensive Street Tree Management Plan for Hong Kong - To develop a street tree management plan to sustain this resource and minimise risk	1,055,000	November 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the field via workshops, seminars, etc.

<i>Name of consultant</i>	<i>Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify))</i>	<i>Title, content and objectives of project</i>	<i>Consultancy fee (\$)</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</i>	<i>For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?</i>
Chi Lin Nunnery	Invitation of single quotation	Field experiment in the control and prevention of needle casts on <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> at Nan Lian Garden - To study the control and prevention of needle cast and develop guidelines	1,400,000	November 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2012-13.	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the field via workshops, seminars, etc.
To be appointed	Invitation of quotation	Consultancy on Tree Stabilisation and Support Systems in Hong Kong - To develop practical guidance on stabilisation systems for trees to assist design of fit-for-purpose systems	Not yet known	Second Quarter, 2012	Under planning	Not applicable
To be appointed	Invitation of quotation	Survey of Roadside Trees - To carry out in the field survey of street trees for defined characteristics for inventory and management purposes	Not yet known	Second Quarter, 2012	Under planning	Not applicable
To be appointed	Invitation of quotation	Study on measures to reduce carbon emission in construction projects	Not yet known	Fourth Quarter, 2012	Under planning	Not applicable

- (c) Both the technical capability of the consultants and their fee proposals will be taken into account in considering the award of consultancies. The criteria adopted for the technical capability of consultants include (i) consultants' experience and knowledge; (ii) approach and methodology in conducting the study; and (iii) composition and quality of the team.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)034

Question Serial No.

2141

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

My motion on “Capitalizing on the opportunity presented by the building of a cruise terminal to develop Kowloon East into a business and tourism district” was passed at the Legislative Council meeting on 14 December 2011. The Secretary for Development also indicated that she would consider the proposal on tourism development for Kowloon East put forward by me and the legislators who amended the motion. Yet, there is no mention of any project or funding on the development of Kowloon East into a tourism district in the Financial Secretary’s Budget Speech or the Estimates of Expenditure. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The transformation of Kowloon East into an alternative Central Business District (CBD) is a forward-looking proposal, which should be taken forward with a visionary, coordinated and integrated approach. Following the broad strategies of Connectivity, Branding, Design and Diversity (CBD2) in our conceptual master plan, we will transform Kowloon East into an attractive and vibrant business district.

A key development strategy in the Energising Kowloon East initiative is diversity. Apart from provision of Grade A offices, business and retail centres, hotels, and serviced apartments, the district will also become a tourism, recreational and entertainment hub with highly efficient transport links, beautified streetscape as well as enhanced architectural and landscape design.

We will promote the enhancement of the harbourfront by development of the 11-km long promenade in phases from To Kwa Wan to Cha Kwo Ling. For better enjoyment by the

public and tourists, we prepare to further extend the cycle track networks in Kai Tak Development (KTD), and to link up the scenic spots there to promote cycle tours around KTD. Apart from the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge remnants which are of archaeological value, several buildings and structures in KTD including Fire Station B, ex-runway, Kowloon Rock and Sung Wong Toi Inscription Rock, are of historic interest. Selected links of the pedestrian networks connecting these sites will be packaged and enhanced as the heritage trail of Kai Tak for local and overseas visitors. We would seek funding support from the Legislative Council for these tourism-related projects that are in pipeline.

As the transformation of Kowloon East will involve long-term development, we will collect views from the public and stakeholders, and conduct various studies in the initial stage to formulate further development projects to promote tourism, cultural and entertainment development in the district. We will seek necessary funding and resources to cope with long term development of Kowloon East including the tourism development at a later stage.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)035

Question Serial No.

2222

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the support provided to HKSAR Government's involvement in the post-quake reconstruction work in Sichuan, including the Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Road as well as 23 reconstruction projects in the Wolong Natural Reserve, what is the progress? What is the number of staff the Administration sent to the sites last year to check on the progress? How much of the HKSAR Government's contribution has been used and how much is left? When will the works be expected to be completed?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

The Steering Committee on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's Support for Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas ("the Steering Committee"), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, oversees and coordinates the HKSARG's efforts in support of the reconstruction of the quake stricken areas which include 151 reconstruction projects comprising five categories : infrastructure, education, social welfare/rehabilitation, medical and health as well as reconstruction work at the Wolong Nature Reserve ("Wolong"). As a member of the Steering Committee, the Development Bureau (DEVB) is responsible for liaising with its Mainland counterparts to take forward 2 infrastructure projects (Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Road) and 23 projects in the Wolong. The remaining 126 projects, viz. 56 education, 35 social welfare/rehabilitation and 35 medical and health projects are led by other members of the Steering Committee, i.e. Education Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau and Food and Health Bureau respectively. The reply below covers those projects led by DEVB.

(a) Progress

Insofar as the 25 projects led by DEVB are concerned, as at end of January 2012, one has

been completed and the remaining 24 are under construction. The anticipated completion programme is appended below –

Types of Project	No. of Projects Completed before 2011/12	No. of Projects Anticipated to be Completed			Total
		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14 or after	
Infrastructure	-	-	-	2	2
Wolong	1	1	16	5	23

As indicated in the half-yearly progress report submitted to the Panel on Development of the Legislative Council in December last year, the frequent torrential rains in Sichuan in the last two summers which triggered geological disasters have not only caused severe damage to the Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Road works but also resulted in increased risk of flooding and geological hazards. To raise the safety standards, the designs of the roads have been reviewed. Currently, the work of major sections of the roads is suspended. The Sichuan side will resume full scale construction after completion of the necessary procedures.

As Provincial Road 303 is the only access road to Wolong, progress of the Wolong reconstruction projects has been suffering serious delay due to frequent blockage and unsatisfactory road conditions. Despite the difficult situation, all projects are under construction and, with the exception of a few projects, the remaining are anticipated to be completed by 2012/13.

(b) Site Inspections/Technical Audits

During the period 1 April 2011 to 31 January 2012, 22 attendances by DEVB staff and 11 attendances by technical auditors of the independent professional consultants conducted 17 site inspections, technical audits and meetings on reconstruction projects led by the Bureau.

(c) Financial Situation

The total funds allocated by the Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas (Trust Fund) to support these 25 projects amount to HK\$4.77 billion. Up to end of January 2012, the Trust Fund has transferred about HK\$2.68 billion to the Sichuan Dedicated Accounts for financing these projects. The balance is about

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) Has the Government assessed the economic benefits to Hong Kong to be brought by the Energizing Kowloon East project? How many job opportunities will be created?
- (b) Please provide information on all the studies on the Energizing Kowloon East project and details of any planned studies.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The proposition in transforming Kowloon East into a vibrant business district is Government's proactive response to the opportunities unfolded in the process of economic restructuring. Our effort would make Kowloon East a better place to attract and accommodate the businesses that would benefit people of Hong Kong and sustain Hong Kong's position as a global financial and commercial centre.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to accurately estimate the total number of job creation in the development of Kowloon East. Based on the ultimate target of 4 million square metres additional office floor areas, the Energising Kowloon East initiative will create about 6 800 development-related jobs (about 600 for professional/technical staff and 6 200 for labourers).

The Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO), upon its establishment, will take forward various studies for improvement in traffic, streetscape and greening. KEDO will conduct public engagement exercises, following the usual public participatory approach, to maintain dialogue and contact with the public and stakeholders. Based on the views collected, KEDO will formulate if any further studies will be required to address the concerns and expectation of the public and stakeholders in the transformation of Kowloon East.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)037

Question Serial No.

2424

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The problem of an ageing workforce and succession gap faced by the construction industry is getting more serious in recent years. With various projects under planning, the construction industry is in urgent need of more fresh blood to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please list out by age group, the gender, trade and average monthly salary of the construction industry workforce in 2011 to facilitate understanding of its ageing problem.
- (b) The Administration proposed to earmark another \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training so as to bring fresh blood into the industry. Please provide details of the use of the funding. How many training places will be provided and which trades are involved? What measures will be taken to encourage young people to enrol in these courses and join the construction industry?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

The requested information is provided as follows:

- (a) According to information provided by the Construction Workers Registration Authority (CWRA) in end December 2011, of the about 287 000 registered construction workers, about 40% are aged over 50 whereas only about 6% is below

the age of 25. More than 90% of the registered workers are male. In terms of skill level, about 60% have registered as general workers without any trade skills. However, as CWRA does not have statistical records of the workers' wages, we have made reference to the General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department. The median monthly earning of construction workers in September to November 2011 was about \$11,000.

- (b) The \$220 million earmarked in this Budget is to enhance the two key training initiatives, the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) and the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/ Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010 for enhancing construction manpower to meet the demands.

Specifically, we propose to increase the training quota under ECMTS to train up new entrants and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000, the monthly training allowance from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000, and the average training duration from about three months to five months.

For ECSTS, we propose to increase the quota to train up new construction supervisors/ technicians from 600 to 1 000, the course duration from about 9 months to about 15 months, and the training allowance from the \$150 daily rate to \$180 over the initial 9-month classroom training period and about \$6,000 per month over the subsequent 6-month training period.

Trades to be covered under the \$220 million commitment will be determined upon consultation with the industry. As reference, the trades covered under the initial \$100 million are Carpenter (Formwork), Bar-bender and Fixer, Drainlayer, Metal Formwork Erector and Concretor, Leveller, Metal Worker and Site Surveying Officer.

In 2012-13, we will continue to attract young people to take up training and join the industry by promotion and publicity efforts through various channels including TV, newspapers and online media to uplift the image of construction industry and workers and promote the training opportunities. Further, we will leverage on the recently commissioned Construction Industry Resource Centre funded under the \$100 million commitment as a base to arrange promotion and publicity for student groups and the general public.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)038

Question Serial No.

2568

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Kowloon East Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the provision of \$16.4 million in 2012-13 for the salaries and operational expenses of the Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO) and the responsibilities of the 14 staff within its establishment.
- (b) Please list out the number of professionals of various disciplines in KEDO, their duties and responsibilities and dates of reporting duty.
- (c) As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012–13, the Works Branch will enhance the connectivity of Kowloon East, formulate a coherent public relations and public engagement strategy, and provide one-stop advisory and co-ordinating support for the private sector. Please list out the details of the above work and the manpower and expenditure involved, especially the timetable and specific arrangements for the public engagement activities.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (a) & (b) In the initial stage, there will be more significant demand for inputs to planning and land use review matters under the Kowloon East Development Office (KEDO). We propose that the KEDO will be headed by a Principal Government Town Planner (PGTP), and complemented by a Government Architect (GA) as the deputy head. They will be supported by several teams of different professionals in providing dedicated input on planning, architectural and engineering fronts as well as facilitating land development proposals from the private sector.

For the 14 civil service posts for KEDO, a provision of \$11.4 million out of the \$16.4 million is earmarked under Head 159 for their personal emoluments. In the initial set-up of KEDO, we will first create 12 civil service posts, while the remaining 2 posts will be subject to further review having regard to the actual operational experience in the initial period. The creation of these 12 posts will require an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point at \$10.2 million, as follows:

Post	No. of post	Notional annual salary cost at mid-point (\$)
PGTP (D3) (1 no.)	1	1,870,200
GA (D2) (1 no.)	1	1,611,600
Senior Town Planner, Senior Architect, Senior Engineer (1 no. each)	3	3,206,700
Town Planner (1 no.), Landscape Architect (1 no.), Engineer (2 nos.)	4	2,316,840
Executive Officer I (1 no.), Personal Secretary I (2 nos.)	3	1,214,340
Total	12	10,219,680

The work of KEDO is diversified and complex in nature. The 12 posts created will cover different areas of work. The PGTP (designated as Head of KEDO) will lead and manage the KEDO. The GA (designated as Deputy Head of KEDO) will serve as the deputy. The Senior Town Planner and the Town Planner will provide planning input in the planning studies, community engagement, preparation of conceptual master plan, etc. The Senior Architect and the Landscape Architect will provide professional input on urban design, architectural compatibility, landscape planning, etc. The Senior Engineer and the Engineers will provide professional input on the coordination and monitoring of infrastructural development in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay as well as the implementation of small-scale projects in these two areas. They will be supported by the Executive Officer I and the Personal Secretaries I.

We have set up a preparatory team on 13 February 2012 to embark on the immediate tasks pertaining to the transformation of Kowloon East. The preparatory team comprises a supernumerary PGTP post and a supernumerary GA post with support from 3 senior professional officers including a Senior Town Planner, a Senior Architect and a Senior Engineer. The full KEDO team will be set up upon the establishment of the KEDO.

The KEDO will comprise a multi-disciplinary team of town planner, architect, landscape architect and engineer as well as technical and administrative support staff. The mix of knowledge and experience will better equip KEDO to consider issues in a comprehensive and coordinated manner and deliver the master planning of Kowloon East as another Central Business District of Hong Kong holistically, competently and efficiently.

- (c) A key development strategy in the Energising Kowloon East initiative is connectivity. Apart from taking forward the proposal on the provision of an Environmentally Friendly Linkage System linking Kai Tak Development, Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay, KEDO will play a major role in the planning and coordination with various government bureaux/departments and private developers for the implementation of improved pedestrian connections within Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay. It will also take up the strategic coordination work with a view to improving the current traffic congestion problem in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay with focus on enhancing the inter/intra connection of Kowloon East.

Another major role of KEDO is to engage the public and stakeholders to promote Kowloon East. KEDO will conduct public engagement exercises, following the usual public participatory approach, to maintain dialogue and contact with the public and stakeholders from various industries. KEDO will consider the views collected in formulating the most appropriate measures and mode of development to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East. A key function of KEDO, upon establishment, is to facilitate private sector developments in Kowloon East and coordinate efforts of government departments to expedite the development of Kowloon East.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)039

Question Serial No.

2592

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 45 of the Budget Speech that another \$220 million is proposed to be earmarked to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training. Will the Administration advise the contents, duration and expected outcomes of these training programmes, and provide a breakdown of expenditure? Are they enough to meet the demand of future infrastructure developments without the need of importing labour?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply:

The \$220 million earmarked in this Budget is to enhance the two key training initiatives, the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) and the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/ Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) under the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010 for enhancing construction manpower to meet the demands.

Specifically, we propose to increase the training quota under ECMTS to train up new entrants and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000, the monthly training allowance from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000, and the average training duration from about three months to five months, amounting to \$165M.

For ECSTS, we propose to increase the quota to train up new construction supervisors/ technicians from 600 to 1 000, the course duration from about 9 months to about 15 months, and the training allowance from the \$150 daily rate to \$180 over the initial 9-month classroom training period and about \$6,000 per month over the subsequent 6-month training period, amounting to the remaining \$55M.

We anticipate that the proposal will help provide adequate local construction manpower to meet the demand in a timely and effective manner.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)040

Question Serial No.

2756

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In 2012-13, the Works Branch will continue to pursue the proposed declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument and explore appropriate economic incentives with the owner to facilitate the conservation of Ho Tung Gardens. Will the Government state clearly the latest progress on the discussions with the owner, the appropriate economic incentives it plans to offer and the estimated expenditure? How can the Government ensure that the historic Ho Tung Gardens will not suffer damage during the temporary suspension of the monument declaration process?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

Under the heritage conservation policy announced by the Chief Executive in October 2007, the Administration recognises that on the premise of respecting private property rights, we need to offer appropriate economic incentives to encourage private owners to conserve historic buildings in their ownership. In implementing this policy, we aim to strike a pragmatic balance between preservation of historic buildings and respect for private property rights. The requisite economic incentives to achieve the policy objective has to be considered on a case-by-case basis, given the unique circumstances of each historic building and site as well as the wish of the owner concerned. Since promulgation of the heritage conservation policy including the provision of economic incentives, we have successfully applied it to several privately-owned historic buildings, notably King Yin Lei through a land exchange. In all these cases, we basically deployed planning and land solutions without incurring any public funds.

Regarding the case of Ho Tung Gardens, having considered the significant heritage value of the site and the owner's plan to redevelop the site, we have earlier on offered a land exchange proposal which allows the owner to pursue development as an economic incentive. We are exploring other possible preservation-cum-development proposals with the owner.

In our recent meeting with the owner of Ho Tung Gardens, we have requested the owner not to carry out any works which affect the integrity of Ho Tung Gardens before the decision of the Chief Executive in Council on her petition against the intended declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument is available. We will continue to closely monitor the development under the Government's internal monitoring mechanism, whereby relevant Government departments will alert the Commissioner for Heritage's Office and the Antiquities and Monuments Office regarding any identified possible threat which may affect privately-owned historic buildings that have been brought to departments' attention through applications and enquiries received and in the normal course of duty such as regular inspections.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)041

Question Serial No.

2963

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under this Programme, the Administration organised promotional activities in 2011 for different community groups to enhance their interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation. How many promotional activities were organised? What is the number of participants in each of these activities? What are the expenditure and number of staff for each of these activities? What is the estimated number of promotional activities for 2012-13? What are their details and the estimated number of participants?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office organised a variety of activities to promote public interest in heritage conservation and enhance public appreciation of the richness of our heritage treasures in Hong Kong. A list of the activities organised, with the number of participants and expenditure of each activity, is set out in the table below. The workload of organising these activities was mainly absorbed by the staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

Activities	Duration/Date	No. of participants	Budget
Heritage Tourism Expo	December 2010 to June 2011	120 000	\$1,252,822
King Yin Lei Open Days	April to May 2011	27 000	\$1,635,201

Activities	Duration/Date	No. of participants	Budget
Teaching Kit Extension Tours	September to December 2011	800	\$176,760
International Conference on Heritage Conservation and its side programmes (including Heritage Fiesta and Bamboo Theatre Exhibition)	December 2011 to February 2012	47 158	\$4,617,606

In 2012-13, we will continue to organise publicity and public education activities targeting at different sectors of the community, including guided tours, thematic websites, exhibitions, seminars and workshops. The estimated budget is \$4,500,000. The estimated number of participants will be worked out after the detailed plans of the activities have been worked out.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)042

Question Serial No.

3018

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In 2010-11, the Government implemented a number of measures to attract new blood to the construction industry. What are the outcomes of the measures? What are the average expenditure for each new entrant and their average number of working days since joining the industry? When will the remaining fund be exhausted and how many more new entrants can be attracted to the industry?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply:

The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) is the initiative implemented under the \$100 million commitment to attract new blood to be trained as workers. Since the implementation of the first course in September 2010, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) has attracted 935 trainees up to January 2012, and about 60% are aged below 35 and many are new entrants. Among them, 541 have graduated and 416 graduates are working in the construction industry.

Each trainee joining the ECMTS receives an allowance of about \$5,000 per month for a training duration of about 4 to 6 months, i.e., a total allowance of about \$25,000 for each trainee. Nevertheless, there is no record kept by CIC on their average number of working days after graduation. It is anticipated that the funding will be substantially expended by end 2013 to meet the original training quota of 3 000. To meet higher projected demand, we plan to seek additional funding of \$220 million to increase the training quota to 6 000 as well as increasing the training allowance and duration.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)043

Question Serial No.

3245

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In 2010, the Government earmarked \$100 million to implement various initiatives to attract more people to join the construction industry. These measures have started to deliver results. The Administration has also earmarked \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) in enhancing manpower training.

- (a) Please advise the number of people attending the training courses provided by CIC in 2010-11 and the percentage of people completing the courses.
- (b) Please advise the number of new entrants to the construction industry in 2010-11 through the training courses provided by CIC.
- (c) Please provide details of the plan in relation to the \$220 million earmarked by the Administration. How can more fresh blood be brought into the construction industry to ease the problem of an ageing workforce and succession gap?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The requested information is provided as follows:

- (a) & (b) Regarding the \$100 million commitment approved in May 2010, a total of 219 trainees (excluding 27 drop-out) had participated in the Construction Industry Council's Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) (since its launch in September 2010) and among them, 67 had graduated and 59 of them were working in the construction industry up to end March 2011.

- (c) The \$220 million earmarked in this Budget is to enhance the two key training initiatives, ECMTS and the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/ Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) under the aforementioned \$100 million commitment for enhancing construction manpower to meet the demands.

Specifically, we propose to increase the training quota under ECMTS to train up new and in-service workers from 3 000 to 6 000, the monthly training allowance from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000, and the average training duration from about three months to five months. For ECSTS, we propose to increase the quota to train up new construction supervisors/ technicians from 600 to 1 000, the course duration from about 9 months to about 15 months, and the training allowance from the \$150 daily rate to \$180 over the initial 9-month classroom training period and about \$6,000 per month over the subsequent 6-month training period.

In addition to the enhanced training package as detailed above, we will continue to arrange promotion and publicity through various channels including TV, newspapers and online media to uplift the image of construction industry and workers and promote the courses. We will also leverage on the recently commissioned Construction Industry Resource Centre funded under the \$100 million commitment to arrange promotion and publicity for student groups and the general public. All in all, these efforts will help attract people to join the industry and the training courses.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)044

Question Serial No.

0399

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, please provide a breakdown of the projects which will be completed later than scheduled completion date or will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount due to the judicial review case regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment reports of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Unlike projects under design and planning stages, for approved projects in the construction stage, their Environmental Impact Assessment reports should have been approved with environmental permits obtained before works commencement. As such, for those approved projects listed in the 2012-13 Draft Estimates under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, the implication due to the judicial review case of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is generally minimal. For approved projects with tenders awarded, the estimated project expenditures are within the Approved Project Estimates (APE). For approved projects where tenders are yet to be awarded, the estimated project expenditures are still being assessed. We will be in a better position to ascertain whether these projects will be within APE at a later stage. We also aim to complete the projects in accordance with the target completion dates stated in the Finance Committee papers.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)045

Question Serial No.

0634

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709
and 711

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, please inform this Committee about:

- (a) the projects in which the project commencement and completion dates were deferred due to (i) more time was required for tendering; (ii) more time was required for tendering assessment; (iii) extension of tendering periods as requested by tenderers; and (iv) re-tendering;
- (b) What are the latest estimated completion dates of these projects; and
- (c) What measures will be implemented to expedite these projects?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- (a) For those approved projects listed in the 2012-13 Draft Estimates under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, there are eight projects in which the project commencement and completion dates were deferred as compared with the scheduled commencement and completion dates stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers due to (i) more time was required for tendering; (ii) more time was required for tender assessment; (iii) extension of tendering periods as requested by tenderers; and (iv) re-tendering.

- (b) Amongst these projects, five are still on-going and their latest estimated completion dates are as follows :

Sub-head (Code)	Approved Projects	Latest estimated completion dates
3075KA	New Civil Aviation Department headquarters	3 rd quarter of 2012
4157CD	Improvement of Fuk Man Road nullah in Sai Kung	2 nd quarter of 2012
7743CL	Tseung Kwan O further development—infrastructure works for Tseung Kwan O stage I landfill site (phase I)	2 nd quarter of 2012
9013WS	Salt water supply system for Pok Fu Lam area	1 st quarter of 2013
9046WS	Uprating of Sha Tin salt water supply system	2 nd quarter of 2012

The other three projects have already been completed.

- (c) Relevant departments will continue to closely monitor the works progress including the contractors' and consultants' performances, review of design and construction method, and deployment of additional resources if appropriate, with a view to ensuring completion of the works as early as possible.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)046

Question Serial No.

0635

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709
and 711

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, please inform this Committee about:

- (a) the projects in which the project commencement and completion dates were deferred due to (i) weather and site difficulties; (ii) additional works required; and (iii) lengthened consultation and public engagement exercise;
- (b) What are the latest estimates and completion dates of these projects; and
- (c) What measures will be adopted to expedite these projects?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- (a) For those approved projects listed in the 2012-13 Draft Estimates under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, there are 11 projects in which the project commencement and completion dates were deferred as compared with the scheduled commencement and completion dates stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers due to (i) weather and site difficulties; (ii) additional works required; and (iii) lengthened consultation and public engagement exercises.

- (b) Amongst these projects, five are still on-going and their latest estimated completion dates are as follows :

Sub-head (Code)	Approved Projects	Latest estimated completion dates
7842TH	Tsuen Wan Bypass, widening of Tsuen Wan Road between Tsuen Tsing Interchange and Kwai Tsing Interchange and associated junction improvement works—detailed design	3 rd quarter of 2014
7797TH	Sha Tin New Town, stage 2—detailed design and site investigation for Trunk Road T4	3 rd quarter of 2014
7738CL	Kai Tak development—detailed design and site investigation for Kai Tak approach channel and Kwun Tong typhoon shelter improvement works	2 nd quarter of 2015
9046WS	Upgrading of Sha Tin salt water supply system	2 nd quarter of 2012
9049WS	Salt water supply for Northwest New Territories, stage 1	3 rd quarter of 2013

The other six projects have already been completed.

All of these projects are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE.

- (c) Relevant departments will continue to closely monitor the works progress including the contractors' and consultants' performances, review of design and construction method, and deployment of additional resources if appropriate, with a view to ensuring completion of the works as early as possible.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)047

Question Serial No.

1769

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708
(Capital Subventions), 709 and 711

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please list out in terms of “man-years” the number of job opportunities for professional/technical staff and labourers provided in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively under the Public Works Programme (Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711).

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2011-12, the projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711 of the Capital Works Programme are projected to provide a total of 63 600 man-years of job opportunities (comprising 6 700 for professional/technical staff and 56 900 for labourers). In 2012-13, the job opportunities provided by projects under these Heads of the Capital Works Programme will be increased to 66 700 man-years (comprising 6 900 for professional/technical staff and 59 800 for labourers).

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)048

Question Serial No.

2001

Head: 708 – Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment Subhead (No. & title): 8007QW Revitalisation Scheme – Revitalisation of Mei Ho House as City Hostel

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Administration stated that the approved project estimate of “Revitalisation Scheme – Revitalisation of Mei Ho House as City Hostel” is \$209.5 million whereas the actual expenditure is only \$1.412 million up to 31 March 2011 and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is only \$86 million. What is the timetable for using the remaining fund of around \$120 million? How can the progress of works be expedited?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The revitalisation of Mei Ho House as City Hostel commenced in December 2010 and is scheduled to complete in September 2012. The approved project estimate is \$209.5 million and the actual expenditure as at 31 March 2011 is \$1.412 million. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$54.007 million. The estimated expenditure of \$86 million for 2012-13 is mainly for conservation works of historic building and fitting out works of hostel rooms. The remaining estimated expenditure of \$68.081 million will be incurred in 2013-14 and beyond for the procurement of furniture and equipment and settlement of final account. We will closely monitor the project progress and ensure the works are completed on time.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : What are the expenditure and manpower earmarked by the Architectural Services Department for promoting roof greening and vertical greening next year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply : It is the established practice of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to promote roof greening and vertical greening.

As government's technical adviser, ArchSD will continue to promote best practices in roof greening and vertical greening to government departments and quasi-government organisations on subvented projects.

ArchSD will also continue to liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting roof greening and vertical greening in the industry and, where opportunities arise, to conduct seminars and workshops for experience sharing.

Existing staff are deployed to provide the technical advisory services on greening and landscaping including roof greening and vertical greening and there is no separate breakdown of manpower or expenditure involved.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : K K LEUNG

Post Title : Director of Architectural Services

Date : 23 February 2012

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

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information :

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff			
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of NCSC staff			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs of the department, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
Professional	16 (-27.3%)	22
Technical & inspectorate	2 (0%)	2
General administration	10 (-16.7%)	12
Total:	28 (-22.2%)	36

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11) (\$ M)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11) (\$ M)
\$13.70	\$25.50

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
\$30,001 or above	18 (-28.0%)	25
\$16,001 to \$30,000	9 (-10.0%)	10
\$8,001 to \$16,000	1 (0%)	1
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)	0
\$5,001 to \$6,500	0 (-)	0
\$5,000 or less	0 (-)	0
Total:	28 (-22.2%)	36
Less than \$5,824	0 (-)	0

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
\$5,824 to \$6,500	0 (-)	0
Total:	0 (-)	0

Length of services	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
5 years or above	0 (-)	0
3 years to less than 5 years	0 (-100.0%)	10
1 year to less than 3 years	14 (+100.0%)	7
Less than 1 year	14 (-26.3%)	19
Total:	28 (-22.2%)	36

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant ^(Note)

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
4	10

Note : Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) only.

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant ^(Note)

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
10	15

Note : Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within ArchSD only.

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
1.5%	2.0%

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
2.0%	2.9%

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

Meal break	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
Paid meal break	28 (-22.2%)	36
Unpaid meal break	0 (-)	0
Total:	28 (-22.2%)	36

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

Working days	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
5 working days per week	28 (-22.2%)	36
6 working days per week	0 (-)	0
Total:	28 (-22.2%)	36

Percentages in () denote comparison of the figures as at 31.12.11 and 31.3.11 in these two financial years. The figures in items (b), (d) and (e) are cumulative total for the respective year up to the point of time specified and hence, it is inappropriate to compare the year-on-year change.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ K K LEUNG

Post Title : _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date : _____ 27 February 2012

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

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information :

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()	()	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Duration of service for each employment agency	()	()	()
Number of agency workers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers			
Monthly salary range of agency workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between 5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of agency workers			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Architectural Services Department has not procured any agency service in 2010-11 and 2011-12. We have no plan to procure agency service in 2012-13.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ K K LEUNG

Post Title : _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date : _____ 27 February 2012

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

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information :

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of outsourced service contracts	()	()	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Duration of service for each outsourced service provider	()	()	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of outsourced workers			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, customer services, property management services and information technology. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
4 (0%)	4

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11) (\$ M)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11) (\$ M)
18.83	24.58

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

Duration of service	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	0 (-)	0
Over 6 months to 1 year	0 (-)	0
Over 1 year to 2 years	3 (0%)	3
Over 2 years	1 (0%)	1
Total:	4 (0%)	4

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
65 (0%)	65

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of workers	
Customer services	4 (0%)	4
Property management	1 (0%)	1
Security	10 (0%)	10
Cleansing	8 (0%)	8
Information technology	42 (0%)	42
Total:	65 (0%)	65

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

Prior to the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which were no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders were invited. For the period from April 2010 to April 2011, the minimum monthly salaries specified in these contracts ranged from \$5,269 to \$6,810.

After the implementation of SMW on 1 May 2011, ArchSD has not awarded any new contract. In this regard, the department has provided top-up payments to the contractors who are required to pay workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
3.6%	3.6%

(i) **Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department**

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
2.7%	2.8%

(j) **Meal break for outsourced workers**

The outsourced workers are employed by the contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) **Number of outsourced workers against working days** ^(Note 1)

Working days	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of workers	
5 working days per week	1 (0%)	1
6 working days per week	15 (0%)	15
Others ^(Note 2)	2 (0%)	2
Total:	18 (0%)	18

Note 1: For workers of service contracts on security and cleansing only.

Note 2: The workers are only required to provide services once a week / month.

Percentages in () denote comparison of the figures as at 31.12.11 and 31.3.11 in these two financial years. The figures in item (b) are cumulative total for the respective year up to the point of time specified and hence, it is inappropriate to compare the year-on-year change.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : K K LEUNG

Post Title : Director of Architectural Services

Date : 27 February 2012

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

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under Programme (1), Architectural Services Department's initiatives in 2012-13 include promoting roof greening and vertical greening, and enhancing practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works. What are the details of these initiatives? What is the expected number of government building works projects in which roof greening and vertical greening will be promoted in 2012-13? How many buildings will be involved and what is the area covered? What are the cost and manpower implications?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Promotion of roof greening and vertical greening, and enhancement of practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works in 2012-13

It is the Architectural Services Department's (ArchSD) established practice to promote roof greening and vertical greening and to enhance the practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in our projects, including entrusted projects.

As an on-going initiative, ArchSD will continue to enhance greening and landscaping through maximisation of greenery coverage, including roof greening and vertical greening. In 2012-13, ArchSD's new building projects will follow as far as practicable the guidelines on site coverage of greenery set out in Buildings Department's Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers APP-152 titled "Sustainable Building Design Guidelines". ArchSD will also continue to include roof greening where practicable in new government buildings which have usable roof area and to encourage the management departments of existing government buildings to consider installation of green roofs whenever there are major works involving the roofs of the buildings concerned. In addition, ArchSD will continue to explore opportunities for vertical greening in new government buildings and, with the accumulation of experience of

successful installations, will extend the recommendation of vertical greening to management departments of existing buildings whenever practicable.

On the enhancement of practices on tree management, ArchSD will pursue the various initiatives following the policy directives and guiding requirements from the Tree Management Office of Development Bureau in managing the trees under ArchSD's jurisdiction. ArchSD will continue to carry out tree risk assessment in 2012-13 for the trees under its maintenance jurisdiction and those within the construction sites of its new works projects.

As government's technical adviser, ArchSD will continue to promote best practices in greening, landscaping and tree management to government departments and quasi-government organisations on subvented projects.

ArchSD will continue to liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry and, where opportunities arise, will conduct seminars and workshops for experience sharing.

- (b) Number of government buildings with roof greening and vertical greening works to be completed in 2012-13, the associated greenery coverage and expenditure, and the manpower to be involved

In 2012-13, 33 government buildings will be completed with about 23 500 m² roof greening works at an estimated cost of \$40.8 million and 7 government buildings will be completed with vertical greening works. Vertical greening in the form of planting of self-clinging climbers or modular systems on building facades is an integral part of planting design. There is no separate breakdown of the coverage of vertical greening.

Existing staff are deployed to provide the technical advisory services on greening and landscaping including roof greening and vertical greening and there is no separate breakdown of manpower involved.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : K K LEUNG

Post Title : Director of Architectural Services

Date : 27 February 2012

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

Head : 703 – Buildings Subhead : 3400IO Transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) According to the Administration, the approved project estimate for the transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark is \$560.1 million. Yet the estimated expenditure as at 2012-13 is only \$102.1 million. What is the timetable for drawing down the remaining provision of \$456.7 million or so? How can the works be expedited?
- (b) Please set out in detail the distribution of resources allocated for the various facilities of the project.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) The transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark (the Project) commenced in January 2012 and is scheduled to complete in December 2013. The approved project estimate is \$560.1 million. The revised estimate for 2011-12 is \$1.3 million. The estimated expenditure of \$102.1 million for 2012-13 is mainly for the foundation and building works. The remaining estimated expenditure of \$456.7 million will be incurred in 2013-14 and beyond for the building, building services, drainage and external works, procurement of furniture and equipment. We will closely monitor the project progress and ensure the works are completed on time.

- (b) The Project includes conversion of two existing quarters blocks and the Junior Police Call House to meet new functional requirements of creative industries with studios, lodges, offices and a creative resource centre, etc.; construction of a new elevated i-Cube (i.e. an indoor multi-function hall), a new “underground interpretation area” as display galleries, a canopy and other ancillary facilities. Under the relevant contract, the overall expenditure is broken down by types of works (e.g. piling, building services, building works). As such, breakdown by facilities is not available. The costs of certain works types such as site investigation, sustainable design, greening, etc. cannot be readily subdivided and distributed among individual facilities.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ K K LEUNG

Post Title : _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date : _____ 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)055

Question Serial No.

0049

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding “commence a study on the long-term strategy for cavern development”, what is the estimated expenditure and progress in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply:

The study on long-term strategy for cavern development is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2012-13. The estimated cost of the study is about \$40 million and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is about \$5.3 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)056

Question Serial No.

0281

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the coming year, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will create nine posts to be responsible for the work of the programme. What are the details of the posts and the respective conditions of services?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

To provide new services under Programme (3): Provision of Land and Infrastructure, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will create a total of nine new posts during the coming financial year, consisting of two Senior Engineers, six Engineers and one Geotechnical Engineer. All the posts will be time-limited in nature for periods varying from 24 to 45 months. Staff concerned will be appointed on the prevailing civil service employment terms corresponding to the relevant grades/ranks.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 29 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)057

Question Serial No.

0463

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead: 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff			
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of NCSC staff			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 – 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 – 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()	()	()

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed under the recurrent expenditure of the department is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs of the department, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
Professional	18 (-5.3%)	19
Technical and inspectorate	14 (0%)	14
General administration	5 (-16.7%)	6
Total:	37 (-5.1%)	39

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11) (\$million)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11) (\$million)
10.2	13

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
\$30,001 or above	8 (-38.5%)	13
\$16,001 to \$30,000	12 (+20.0%)	10
\$8,001 to \$16,000	17 (+6.3%)	16

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
Monthly salary	Number of NCSC staff	
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)	0
\$5,001 to \$6,500	0 (-)	0
\$5,000 or less	0 (-)	0
Total:	37 (-5.1%)	39
Less than \$5,824	0 (-)	0
\$5,824 to \$6,500	0 (-)	0
Total:	0 (-)	0

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
<u>Length of services</u>	<u>Number of NCSC staff</u>	
5 years or above	0 (-100%)	2
3 years to less than 5 years	1 (0%)	1
1 year to less than 3 years	10 (-16.7%)	12
Less than 1 year	26 (+8.3%)	24
Total:	37 (-5.1%)	39

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant ^(Note)

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
8	9

Note : Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within CEDD only.

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant ^(Note)

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
8	11

Note : Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within CEDD only.

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
2.1%	2.2%

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
1.5%	1.5%

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
<u>Meal Break</u>	<u>Number of NCSC staff</u>	
Paid meal break	24 (-11.1%)	27
Unpaid meal break	13 (+8.3%)	12
Total:	37 (-5.1%)	39

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
<u>Working days</u>	<u>Number of NCSC staff</u>	
5 working days per week	24 (-11.1%)	27
6 working days per week	13 (+8.3%)	12
Total:	37 (-5.1%)	39

Percentages in () denote comparison of the figures as at 31.12.11 and 31.3.11 in these two financial years. The figures in items (b), (d) and (e) are cumulative total for the respective year up to the point of time specified and hence, it is inappropriate to compare the year-on-year change.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)058

Question Serial No.

0488

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational
Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()	()	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Duration of service for each employment agency	()	()	()
Number of agency workers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers			
Monthly salary range of agency workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of agency workers			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
4 (-42.9%)	7

(b) Contract sum and duration of services

Contract sum	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of contracts	
Less than \$0.5 million	4 (-33.3%)	6
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	0 (-100%)	1
Over \$1 million	0 (-)	0
Total:	4 (-42.9%)	7

Duration of services	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	3 (+50%)	2
Over 6 months to 1 year	1 (-80%)	5
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-)	0
Over 2 years	0 (-)	0
Total:	4 (-42.9%)	7

(c) Commission paid to EAs

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the departments to specify the amount or the rate of

commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
Number of workers	4 (-69.2%)	13

	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
Job category of workers^(Note)	Number of workers	
Backend office support	3 (-75%%)	12
Technical services	1 (0%)	1
Total:	4 (-69.2%)	13

Note Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers. Since April 2010, we specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders were invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April 2010 to April 2011, the minimum monthly salary specified in these contracts ranged from \$6,800 to \$8,656.

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW), for quotations invited on or after 1 May 2011, bidders are required to pay their agency workers salaries not lower than the average monthly wages for "General Worker for all selected industries" in the Quarterly Report for December 2010, unless it is overtaken by the prevailing SMW plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days. For the period from May to September 2011, the minimum monthly wages specified in the contracts ranged from \$7,572 to \$9,377.

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to

work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers against the total staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
0.2%	0.7%

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
0.06%	0.59%

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days

	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
<u>Working days</u>	<u>Number of workers</u>	
5 working days per week	4 (-69.2%)	13
6 working days per week	0 (-)	0
Total:	4 (-69.2%)	13

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead (No. &
Development Department title):

Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the development of the greening master plans (GMPs) for the New Territories (NT), please give information on their progress for various districts, including the dates of completion of public consultations, commencement of drafting the GMPs, completion of the draft GMPs, commencement and completion of works. What are the dates respectively?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

We have completed the consultation with all the nine NT District Councils in 2010 and Heung Yee Kuk in 2011 and obtained their support for the development of the NT GMPs.

The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for NT South East (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and NT North West (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for NT North East (covering Tai Po and North District) and NT South West (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) have just commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. We will study the GMPs in detail when they have been formulated before determining the implementation timetable and the greening works to take forward.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 27 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)060

Question Serial No.

0851

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

During 2012–13, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue the construction works for the cycle track network between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan, and the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the progress of the construction works for the cycle track network between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan, and the estimated expenditure and completion date of the works;
- (b) regarding the investigation and design of the works for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories, what are the details of the project, and how much is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

- (a) The construction works for the cycle track between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan commenced in May 2010 and are scheduled for completion in early 2013. The estimated expenditure in the 2012-13 financial year is \$76.45 million.
- (b) Regarding the other sections of the comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories that are under investigation and design, the current status is as follows:

Section	Current status	Anticipated completion date of investigation/design
Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui	Detailed design is in progress.	Early 2013
Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Preliminary design was completed in December 2011. Subject to the funding approval of Finance Committee, detailed design and site investigation works for the section from Tsuen Wan to Ting Kau and alignment review for the section from Ting Kau to Tuen Mun are scheduled for commencement in mid 2012.	End 2015

The estimated expenditure for the investigation and design works for the above-mentioned sections in 2012-13 is about \$2.65 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)061

Question Serial No.

0854

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The slope features upgraded and landscaped by the Civil Engineering and Development Department in 2010 are 375 in number, which have decreased to 173 and 150 in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the reasons for such a decrease in the number of works items, and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) regarding the works items already and will be implemented in the above 3 years, what is the percentage of them against the works for the slopes features needed to be upgraded and landscaped throughout Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

- (a) In 2010, 375 man-made slopes were upgraded under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme (LPMP) which was launched to deal with high-risk man-made slopes affecting major roads and developments. With the completion of the LPMP in 2010, we launched the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) to dovetail with the LPMP to deal with man-made slopes with moderate risk and natural hillside catchments with known hazards and close to existing buildings and important transport corridors. The target annual output under LPMitP is to upgrade 150 government man-made slopes with moderate risk and implement risk mitigation works for 30 natural hillside catchments. We gradually migrated to the planned annual output under the LPMitP in 2011 and 2012. In this respect, 150 man-made slopes will be upgraded in 2012 to meet the annual output target. The actual/estimated expenditure for the slope works is \$1,262.3 million, \$997 million and \$1,020 million in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

- (b) In 2010, 375 slopes were upgraded, representing 5.4% of the total of about 7 000 high risk man-made slopes upgraded under the LPMP since its implementation in 1977. In 2011 and 2012, 173 and 150 man-made slopes have been / will be dealt with respectively under the LPMitP according to the annual output which aims at dealing with the worst 1% each year of the remaining man-made slopes with moderate risk.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)062

Question Serial No.

0855

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The natural hillside catchments with mitigation measures implemented by the Civil Engineering and Development Department in 2010 are 6 in number, which have increased to 16 and 30 in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the reasons for such substantial increase in the number of works items in 2011 and 2012, and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) Regarding the works items already and will be implemented in the above three years, what is the percentage of them against the works for natural hillside catchments necessary for the implementation of mitigation measures throughout Hong Kong? What is the extent of the hazard involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

- (a) The Government implemented the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme (LPMP) from 1977 to 2010 and upgraded a total of about 7 000 high risk man-made slopes affecting major roads and developments. In 2010, with the completion of the LPMP, we launched the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) to dovetail with the LPMP to deal with both man-made slopes and natural hillsides. Under the LPMitP, we plan to upgrade, among others, 150 man-made slopes and implement risk mitigation works for 30 natural hillside catchments each

year. In setting this annual output target, we have taken into consideration that natural hillside catchments to be covered under LPMitP are substantially larger in area, and will involve mitigation works which are technically more complex than those for man-made slopes. Given that the typical lead-time for investigation, design and construction of slope works is about two years, we gradually migrated from six and 16 natural hillside catchments upgraded in 2010 and 2011 respectively to the planned annual output of 30 natural hillside catchments in 2012. The actual/estimated expenditure for the above slope works is \$1,262.3 million, \$997 million and \$1,020 million in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

- (b) Under the LPMitP commencing in 2010, there are at the moment about 2 700 natural hillside catchments with known hazards and close to existing buildings and important transport corridors. A risk-based priority ranking system is used to select the most deserving natural hillside catchments with known hazards for action. The target annual output of implementing mitigation measures to 30 catchments constitutes about 1% of the 2 700 natural hillside catchments.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)063

Question Serial No.

1378

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated that the Government will continue the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories in 2012-13. Will the Government inform this Committee of the present progress of the above work and the anticipated date of completion?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories comprises a total length of about 82 kilometres made up mainly of two sections, viz (i) Tuen Mun - Ma On Shan section which starts from Tuen Mun in the west and connects via Yuen Long, Sheung Shui, Fanling, Tai Po and Sha Tin to Ma On Shan in the east; and (ii) Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section. To enable early enjoyment by the public, we will take forward the implementation of the cycle track network in phases. The current status and anticipated completion dates for sections of the network under investigation or design are as follows-

Section	Current status	Anticipated completion date of investigation/design
Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui	Detailed design is in progress.	Early 2013
Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Preliminary design was completed in December 2011. Subject to the funding approval of Finance Committee, detailed design and site investigation works for the section from Tsuen Wan to Ting Kau and alignment review for the section from Ting Kau to Tuen Mun are scheduled for commencement in mid 2012.	End 2015

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)064

Question Serial No.

1380

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Greening and Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under the indicators in this Programme, the estimated expenditure in 2012 on greening works implemented under the greening master plans (GMPs) is \$33.5 million, representing a decrease of \$96.9 million from the actual expenditure of \$130.4 million in 2011. Will the Government inform this Committee of the reasons for such a significant decrease in the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The expenditure of \$130.4 million in 2011 catered for the implementation of the recommended greening measures under the GMPs in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Western District, Southern District and Eastern District, which were substantially completed in 2011. The estimated expenditure of \$33.5 million for 2012 mainly covers minor outstanding works to be carried out in the aforesaid locations and finalisation of the works contracts.

With the completion of all urban GMP works, the Civil Engineering and Development Department has recently commenced consultancy studies on the formulation of GMPs in the New Territories, together with their implementation programme.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 29 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)065

Question Serial No.

1409

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Government has indicated that the blasting works for ongoing and upcoming railway tunnel projects would lead to a further increase in explosives consumption, the number of blasting activities, tonnes of explosives delivered from government explosives depots, as well as the number of deliveries of explosives in 2012. The Policy Address announced by the Chief Executive last October mentioned that the Government would actively explore the use of rock caverns for reprovision of existing public facilities. Will this lead to a further increase in use of explosives? Has the Government made any plans to step up the existing safety measures to protect public safety? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

It is anticipated that the on-going and upcoming railway tunnel projects would largely be completed by the time the construction of new rock cavern projects will commence. Therefore, we do not expect major increase in use of explosives in the next few years due to the rock cavern projects.

In regard to measures to ensure public safety, we have increased the frequency of safety audits of explosives operations. We have also engaged an independent expert to conduct annual audits on our operations and procedures to ensure compliance with international standards and good practice.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)066

Question Serial No.

1987

Head: 707 – New Towns and Urban
Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7271RS—Cycle Tracks
connecting North West
New Territories with
North East New
Territories—Sheung Shui
to Ma On Shan Section

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Administration stated that the approved project estimate of “Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories—Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan Section” is \$230.3 million, whereas the actual expenditure is only \$38.127 million up to 31 March 2011 and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is only \$76.45 million. What is the time table for using the remaining \$115.72 million? How can the progress of works be expedited?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The expenditure of 2010-11 for the cycle track between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan is \$38.127 million. We forecast to spend \$54.8 million in 2011-12 and another \$76.45 million in 2012-13 under the project. The progress was affected by the difficult ground condition encountered at Lam Tsuen River. Adequate resources have been deployed to expedite the works for commissioning the cycle track in early 2013. The remaining expenditure of \$60.9 million will be incurred in 2013-14 and 2014-15 for the outstanding works and contract finalization.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)067

Question Serial No.

2016

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the cycle track, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the present progress of the construction works for the cycle track from Nai Chung to Sai Kung Town and the ancillary facilities?
- (b) Regarding the section from O Tau Village to Sai Kung Town, when will the environmental impact assessment (EIA) commence? How much resources in 2012-13 are reserved to carry out the work? And, when are the works expected to commence?
- (c) Regarding the section of cycle track from Tai Tung Tsuen to O Tau Village, what is the progress of the study on its alignment? Has any scheme been worked out? When is the consultation scheduled to be held again? When will the scheme be finalized? How much resources in 2012-13 are reserved to carry out the work?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The requested information is as follows:

- (a) The cycle track between Nai Chung and Sai Kung Town comprises two sections, viz from Nai Chung to Tai Tung Tsuen and from Tai Tung Tsuen to Sai Kung Town. We are currently carrying out the investigation and preliminary design for the section of cycle track between Tai Tung Tsuen and Sai Kung Town. The section from Nai Chung to Tai Tung Tsuen will be carried out as part of the Sai Sha Road widening works in conjunction with a nearby private development proposal.

- (b) The EIA for the section of cycle track between O Tau Village and Sai Kung Town is in progress for completion in mid 2012. We estimate to spend \$68,000 on the EIA in 2012-13 and plan to commence the detailed design for the works of this cycle track section in early 2013.
- (c) Regarding the cycle track between Tai Tung Tsuen and O Tau Village, we will carry out a review of the two possible alternative alignments with a view to commencing public consultation in 2013. We will work out the details and cost estimates of the review later this year. The relevant expenditure will be funded under block allocation for 2012-13.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 29 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)068

Question Serial No.

2572

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13 of this Programme, the Department will continue a number of work items, which include:

- (a) the enhancement of the urban design and accessibility to the waterfront at Kai Tak Development (KTD);
- (b) the implementation of KTD covering the construction of engineering infrastructure for housing and early developments, the site formation works for the new cruise terminal and the design of other infrastructure works;
- (c) the improvement works at Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter.

Please provide information on the relevant details, manpower, studies and funding involved in the above 3 work items.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

To enhance the urban design and accessibility to the waterfront, we are working on proposed refinements to the planning for Kai Tak, covering issues such as delineation of a 30m-wide preservation corridor to accommodate the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge remnants, relocation of carriageways from the waterfront to enhance public accessibility to the promenades, designation of building setback and non-building area, and redistribution of building disposition, etc. We will also carry out further study on public creatives to promote creating places of interest within KTD.

On implementation of KTD, we will continue to carry out detailed design for the remaining engineering infrastructure at the North Apron, South Apron and Former Runway and the adjacent waterways. In addition, we have commenced construction works, notably for the engineering infrastructure for housing and early developments and the site formation works for the new cruise terminal. In 2012-13, we will continue the construction works for completion in phases from 2013 to 2015 as scheduled.

We are also carrying out improvement works to the Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter by treatment of contaminated sediments. The part of the improvement works to tie in with the commissioning of the cruise terminal is anticipated to be substantially completed in mid 2013.

The approved project estimate on all works, studies and detailed design in relation to the above items being undertaken for KTD by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) is about \$5,150 million, and the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is about \$617 million.

Regarding the deployment of manpower, all the concerned studies, detailed design and contract management are undertaken through the engagement of consultants. CEDD has been managing the relevant consultancies with its existing resources.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)069

Question Serial No.

2934

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead: 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of outsourced service contracts	()	()	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Duration of service for each outsourced service provider	()	()	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of outsourced workers			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total	()	()	()

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
staff in the department			
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as cleansing and security, information technology, etc. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the Department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
66 (+40.4%)	47

(b) Total expenditure of outsourced service contracts

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11) (\$million)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11) (\$million)
20.9	23.6

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
<u>Duration of service</u>	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	16 (+45.5%)	11
Over 6 months to 1 year	32 (0%)	32
Over 1 year to 2 years	9 (+125.0%)	4
Over 2 years	9 (-)	0
Total:	66 (+40.4%)	47

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers ^(Note 1)

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
202 (+15.4%)	175

(e) **Number of outsourced workers against their work nature** ^(Note 1)

<u>Nature of service contracts</u>	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of outsourced workers	
Cleansing	25 (+47.1%)	17
Security	86 (+3.6%)	83
Information Technology	12 (+20.0%)	10
Technical service	26 (+4.0%)	25
General administration support	33 (+37.5%)	24
Others (e.g. staff training)	20 (+25.0%)	16
Total:	202 (+15.4%)	175

(f) **Salaries of outsourced workers**

Prior to the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which were no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders were invited. For the period from April 2010 to April 2011, the minimum monthly salaries specified in these contracts ranged from \$6,310 to \$6,585.

With the implementation of the SMW on 1 May 2011, contractors are required to pay their workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW, i.e. \$28 per hour plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) **Length of service of outsourced workers**

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the department or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) **Percentage of outsourced workers^(Note 1) against the total staff in the Department**

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
12.6%	11.0%

(i) **Percentage of expenditure of outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department**

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
3.1%	2.8%

(j) **Meal break for outsourced workers**

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) **Number of outsourced workers against working days^(Note 2)**

	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
Working days	Number of workers	
5 working days per week	0 (-)	0
6 working days per week-	111 (+11.0%)	100
Total:	111 (+11.0%)	100

Note 1: Only the employees known to the Department are counted

Note 2: For workers of service contracts on security and cleansing only

Percentages in () denote comparison of the figures as at 31.12.11 and 31.3.11 in these two financial years. The figures in item (b) are cumulative total for the respective year up to the point of time specified and hence, it is inappropriate to compare the year-on-year change.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead
Development Department (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under this programme, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to develop greening master plans (GMPs) for the New Territories (NT) in 2012-13. What is the progress of the relevant work? When will the NT GMPs be expected to complete? How much are the expenditures involved? The expenditure on greening works implemented under the GMPs will be reduced to \$33.5 million in 2012 from the actual expenditure of \$130 million in 2011. What are the reasons? What items have been included in the greening works expenditures in 2011 and 2012?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for NT South East (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and NT North West (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for NT North East (covering Tai Po and North District) and NT South West (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) have just commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. The total estimated expenditure for the formulation of all the NT GMPs, including the costs of associated site investigation works, is around \$70 million. We will determine the timetable for implementing the recommended greening works after the GMPs are formulated.

Regarding the expenditures on greening works, the amount of \$130.4 million in 2011 catered for the implementation of the recommended greening measures under the GMPs in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Western District, Southern District and Eastern District, which were substantially completed in 2011. The estimated expenditure of \$33.5 million for 2012 mainly covers minor outstanding works to be carried out in the aforeasaid locations and finalization of the works contracts.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 28 February 2012

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Would the Government please advise this Committee:

The establishment in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) under the Programme on “Mechanical Installations Safety”. Please show in tabular form the establishment in each discipline of Engineer as well as the staff lost over the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply:

The establishment and staff lost in each discipline of Engineer in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) under the Programme on “Mechanical Installations Safety” over the past three financial years are summarized in the table below:

Discipline	2009 – 2010		2010 – 2011		2011 - 2012	
	Establishment	Staff Lost	Establishment	Staff Lost	Establishment	Staff Lost
Electrical and Mechanical Engineer	20	0	20	0	21	[^] 1
Electronics Engineer	2	0	2	0	3	0
Civil Engineer	2	0	2	0	2	0

Engineer (Multi-discipline, i.e. either Electrical and Mechanical, Building Services or Electronics)	1	0	1	0	1	0
Total	25	0	25	0	27	1

^ The staff lost in financial year 2011 –12 was due to staff retirement and the vacant post arising from staff retirement had already been filled in the same year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical
Services

Date _____ 23 February 2012

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Would the Government please advise this Committee:

- (a) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is required to monitor the safety of different mechanical installations. In view of the technological advancement in the production of relevant installations and their increasing diversities, has the Administration, in the regulatory process, come across any mechanical installation that the engineers in the Department are not familiar with? How to deal with such situation? Have other experts been invited to participate in the process?
- (b) How does the Administration ensure that the contractors of mechanical installations would follow the statutory requirements in reporting incidents to the Department? Under what circumstances would the contractors be required to report the incidents? How would these reports be followed up?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply:

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has put in place a human resource management plan for sustainable development and enhancement of in-house expertise with regard to the various mechanical installations being regulated to ensure effective operation of its regulatory role. Over the years, EMSD has built up a team of engineers and inspectors capable of undertaking the regulatory functions. Apart from on-job training, EMSD staff regularly attend relevant local and overseas training courses, and international conferences to keep abreast of the latest technological advancement. EMSD maintains close contact with overseas and mainland authorities to keep track of the latest market development. Wherever

necessary, EMSD would also engage independent expert support, both local and overseas, on specific issues.

- (b) At present, for mechanical installations relating to lifts, escalators, builders' lift, tower working platforms, aerial ropeways, amusement rides and railways/trams, owners and/or contractors responsible for maintenance of mechanical installations are required to report occurrence of safety related incidents to the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services in accordance with the relevant ordinances and regulations governing the respective mechanical installations. In general, incidents involving death, personal injury, damage to properties, failure of major components, or serious service disruption, as applicable, should be reported. Failure to comply with relevant reporting provisions in the concerned ordinances and regulations could be an offence. To date, contractors and owners are observed to have complied with the reporting requirements. Separately, upon receipt of an incident report, EMSD would carry out an independent investigation to ascertain if there is any violation of relevant provisions of the concerned ordinances or regulations, and would consider taking appropriate enforcement actions. EMSD would carefully study the incident reports to identify the causes leading to the incidents and ensure that all necessary mitigation and/or improvement measures are implemented to prevent recurrence of similar incidents.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHAN Fan

Director of Electrical and Mechanical
Services

27 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)073

Question Serial No.

0125

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Last year recorded a substantial increase in the number of extended excavation permits as compared to the year before last year, what are the reasons? Is it necessary to increase provision to handle such matters?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

The increase in the number of excavation permits extended was mainly attributed to the fact that more difficult and complex deep excavation works were involved in the excavation permits last year in comparison with those in 2010. This resulted in higher chances for encountering unexpected problems and delays during the course of the works and subsequently leading to more applications for permit extensions. With the gradual completion of those deep excavation works, we expect that the number of excavation permit to be extended will become steady in 2012 and our current resources in coping with the situation are considered adequate to handle the related matters.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ K K LAU

Post Title: _____ Director of Highways

Date: _____ 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)074

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

1126

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the reasons for the 40% decrease in expenditure on roadside slope works from 76 million in 2011 to 45 million in 2012? Please provide the number and locations of roadside slope works to be carried out in 2012.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The expenditure of \$76 million in 2011 is mainly for large-scale roadside slope upgrading works whilst the expenditure in 2012 is estimated to be reduced to \$45 million because most of the roadside slope works would only involve preventive maintenance works in smaller scale.

The number and locations of roadside slope works projects planned to be carried out in 2012 are as follows:

Location	Number of roadside slope works projects involved
Clear Water Bay Road, Kowloon	1
Clear Water Bay Road, New Territories (NT)	1
Duddell Street, Hong Kong	1
Lai King Hill Road, Kwai Chung, NT	1
Lantau Toll Plaza, NT	1
Lion Rock Tunnel Road, Shatin, NT	1
Lo Wu Station Road, NT	1
Lung Cheung Road, Kowloon	1
Ma Wan Road, NT	1
Mount Parker Road, Hong Kong	1

Location	Number of roadside slope works projects involved
Nam Fung Road, Hong Kong	1
North Lantau Highway, NT	1
Pak Tam Road, Sai Kung, NT	1
Pak Wan Street, Kowloon	1
Repulse Bay Road, Hong Kong	1
Robinson Road, Hong Kong	1
Sai Sa Road, Sai Kung, NT	1
Sandy Bay Road, Hong Kong	1
Stanley Village Road, Hong Kong	1
Tai O Road, Lantau Island, NT	1
Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway, NT	2
Tseung Kwan O Road, Kowloon	1
Tsing Long Highway, NT	1
Tuen Mun Road, NT	6
Victoria Road, Hong Kong	1

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)075

Question Serial No.

1127

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Frequent excavation works on roads have not only resulted in vehicle-pedestrian conflict and dangerous situations, but also intensified traffic congestion. While the estimated number of excavation permits extended was 730 in 2011, the actual number turned out to be 894. What are the reasons that the actual number was 20% higher than the estimated number? What measures will be taken by the Government to shorten and reduce road excavation works, so as to minimise the impact on residents nearby, pedestrians and drivers?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The increase was mainly attributed to the fact that more difficult and complex deep excavation works were involved in the excavation permits (XPs) during the financial year. As such, there were more unexpected problems and delays encountered during the course of the works, leading to more applications for permit extension.

In order to avoid danger and minimise nuisance to the public due to road excavation works, we exercise stringent XP processing procedures and impose suitable permit conditions to properly manage and control road excavation works. Firstly, we critically assess each XP application in order to ensure that the purpose of the proposed excavation, the extent of the works and the applied permit period are necessary and reasonable. Secondly, XP applicants are required to seek approval from the Hong Kong Police Force and Transport Department on their proposed temporary traffic arrangement schemes prior to permit issuance. During excavation, we carry out site audit inspections to ensure compliance with the XP conditions. In case XP extension is required and vehicular road traffic is affected, economic cost will be charged if the delay of works is caused by the fault of the permittee concerned.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ K K LAU

Post Title: _____ Director of Highways

Date: _____ 28 February 2012

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

DEVB(W)076

Question Serial No.

0147

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 Development

Question:

Regarding water supply, could the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) the details of the promotion work on water conservation and the expenditure involved in the past two years (i.e. 2010-11 and 2011-12);
- (2) whether there was any study conducted on harvesting, treatment and reuse of rainwater in the past, e.g. the setting up of regional rainwater recovery systems and secondary water supply systems for non-potable uses, and the more effective use of rainwater resources to reduce fresh water consumption, and if so, what is the result; and
- (3) the proportion of the sources of fresh water supply in Hong Kong in the past year (i.e. 2011-12) and the cost comparison among the latest locally collected rainwater, Dongjiang water purchased from the Mainland and the production of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (1) We have been promoting water conservation as a key element of the Total Water Management Strategy, which we implemented since 2008. In the past two years, the following activities have been our main areas of focus:
 - (a) Education targeting at the younger generation - the work included the distribution of an information kit and a school water audit handbook to all primary schools; organising annually the Water Conservation Ambassador Selection Scheme for primary students; the publishing of a set of booklets as a teaching kit for liberal studies of the secondary curriculum; and conducting talks and roving exhibitions at schools throughout the school year;

- (b) Water conservation competition - we organised a competition in 2010-11 calling for creative water saving ideas from the property management sector, catering services and students of tertiary education institutes and changing the target contestants to households and secondary school students in 2011-12;
- (c) Publicity - we have been continuing our on-going water conservation publicity and public education activities through broadcasting announcements of public interest on television and radio, distributing leaflets and posters, and arranging regular exhibitions, talks and seminars; and
- (d) Promoting the use of water saving appliances - we have been implementing the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme progressively for various plumbing fixtures and appliances to facilitate the public to select water efficient appliances.

The expenditure involved (excluding staff cost) for conducting the above promotional work was \$3.0 million in 2010-11 and the estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$3.9 million.

- (2) We have been looking into ways for more effective use of rainwater resources and reduction of potable water for non-potable uses. Selected works projects are already identified for trial schemes on harvesting rainwater via rainwater harvesting systems for toilet flushing and irrigation purpose. Findings from these schemes will serve as references for setting the future standards of the rainwater harvesting system. Besides, we have commissioned a consultancy study on the development of the design guidelines and water quality standards for the rainwater harvesting system. The study is scheduled to be completed by end 2012.
- (3) From 1 April 2011 to 6 February 2012, the proportion of rainwater collected locally and imported from Dongjiang was 14 % and 86 % respectively. The unit cost of fresh water supply sourced from locally collected rainwater is about \$3.9/m³ and that from Dongjiang water is about \$8.0/m³. The estimated unit cost of supplying reclaimed water suitable only for non-potable use using reverse osmosis technology on secondary treated effluent with high saline content is around \$9.8/m³.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)077

Question Serial No.

0148

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
 (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding water leakage and water meters, could the Administration advise this Committee:

- (a) the number of cases of bursting or apparent leaking of fresh water pipes and salt water pipes in the past year (i.e. 2011-12) (by district in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils); the longest and the average hours of suspension of water supply affecting the general public as a result; and
- (b) the number of cases the Water Supplies Department received in the past year (i.e. 2011-12) from registered consumers querying the accuracy of water meters and requesting water meter tests; of the cases followed up, the number of bills requiring adjustments after the accuracy of the water meters concerned was confirmed to be problematic and the amount involved?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) The number of fresh and salt water main burst and leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong in 2011-12 (up to end January 2012) is tabulated below -

District	Number of water main burst and leakage cases	
	Water main bursts	Water main leakage
Central and Western	18	624
Eastern	6	396
Islands	0	291

Kwai Tsing	34	328
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District	Number of water main burst and leakage cases	
	Water main bursts	Water main leakage
Kwun Tong	25	473
North	9	954
Sai Kung	8	1 022
Sha Tin	27	453
Sham Shui Po	33	305
Southern	6	396
Tai Po	8	419
Tsuen Wan	2	351
Tuen Mun	12	630
Wan Chai	5	467
Wong Tai Sin	15	142
Yau Tsim Mong	37	425
Yuen Long	15	2 033
Total	284	10 146

For water main bursts, the average and longest time for resuming water supply in respect of fresh water mains were 4.3 and 18.0 hours respectively. Corresponding time for salt water mains were 10.0 and 40.8 hours respectively. For water main leakage, the average and longest time for resuming water supply in respect of the fresh water mains were 1.3 and 23.0 hours respectively, and those of salt water mains were 6.5 and 61.0 hours respectively. The cases with longer time for resuming the water supply service were isolated cases due to such reasons as congested ground conditions with lots of pipes and trunks of the utility companies, requiring breaking of large concrete blocks, fabrication of special pipe fittings to suit site conditions, and time for locating leak spots.

- (b) Out of the 6.4 million water bills issued by the WSD in 2011-12 (up to end January 2012), there were 328 cases of dispute over the accuracy of water meters, wherein the registered consumers requested for meter testing. After testing and follow-up investigations, five cases required downward adjustment of the bills due to inaccurate water meters, which amounted to \$16,657 in total.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ L T MA

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)078

Question Serial No.

0219

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the on-going meter replacement programme, please provide details including the progress of old meters replaced in the past three years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12), the number of meters to be replaced in the future and the time schedule of enhancing the accuracy of meters. Please also provide the expenditure and manpower involved in the meter replacement programme in the past three years (i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12) and the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2012-13. How many complaints relating to the accuracy of water meters were received in the three respective years?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, we have replaced respectively 210 000, 230 000 and 190 000 aged water meters. The respective expenditure was \$41 million, \$42 million and \$35 million. About 80% of the meter replacement works was carried out through contractors and the remainder by our in-house staff, deploying about 50 staff each year on the task. We will continue to deploy similar manpower resources to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2012-13 at an estimated cost of \$41 million, with more emphasis on the replacement of medium and large sized meters.

With regular replacement of aged water meters, the overall meter accuracy level has been improving. The percentage of meters with accuracy within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption has increased from 94.1% in 2009 to 95.3% in 2011. We will strive to sustain the improvement by continuing with the meter replacement programme and the projected percentage of accuracy is 95.5% for 2012.

The number of complaints disputing the accuracy of the water meters received in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (up to end January 2012) were 687, 538 and 328 respectively. Among them, there were respectively 47, 29 and five cases which required downward adjustment of the bills. The remaining cases did not involve inaccuracy of water meters

requiring bill adjustment.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****DEVB(W)079**

Question Serial No.

0482

Head: 194 Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Water SuppliesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff			
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500			
Length of service of NCSC staff			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 – 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 – 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()	()	()

Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs, we are unable to provide the information for 2012-13.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
Professional	10 (-28.6%)	14
Technical & inspectorate	26 (+550%)	4
General administration	98 (+19.5%)	82
Total:	134 (+34%)	100

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11) (\$M)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11) (\$M)
21.1	19.6

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
\$30,001 or above	18 (-10%)	20
\$16,001 to \$30,000	30 (+328.6%)	7
\$8,001 to \$16,000	86 (+17.8%)	73
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)	0
\$5,001 to \$6,500	0 (-)	0
\$5,000 or less	0 (-)	0
Total:	134 (+34%)	100
Less than \$5,824	0 (-)	0
\$5,824 to \$6,500	0 (-)	0
Total:	0 (-)	0

Length of services	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
5 years or above	49 (-3.9%)	51
3 years to less than 5 years	6 (-14.3%)	7
1 year to less than 3 years	23 (+35.3%)	17
Less than 1 year	56 (+124%)	25
Total:	134 (+34%)	100

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant ^(Note)

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
16	25

Note : Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within WSD only.

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
No record	No record

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
2.9%	2.2%

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
2.0%	1.5%

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

Meal break	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
Paid meal break	108 (+47.9%)	73
Unpaid meal break	26 (-3.7%)	27
Total:	134 (+34%)	100

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

Working days	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of NCSC staff	
5 working days per week ^(Note)	134 (+34%)	100
6 working days per week	0 (-)	0
Total:	134 (+34%)	100

Note: Including staff who are rostered to work shift for 5 days or less in a week

Percentages in () denote comparison of the figures as at 31.12.11 and 31.3.11 in these two financial years. The figures in items (b) and (d) are cumulative total for the respective year up to the point of time specified and hence, it is inappropriate to compare the year-on-year change.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ L T MA

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)080

Question Serial No.

0507

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()	()	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Duration of service for each employment agency	()	()	()
Number of agency workers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers			
Monthly salary range of agency workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of agency workers			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()

Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
10 (-16.7%)	12

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

Contract sum	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of contracts	
Less than \$0.5 million	0 (-)	0
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	3 (-25.0%)	4
Over \$1 million	7 (-12.5%)	8
Total:	10 (-16.7%)	12

<u>Duration of services</u>	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	0 (-100.0%)	1
Over 6 months to 1 year	9 (-10.0%)	10
Over 1 year to 2 years	1 (0%)	1
Over 2 years	0 (-)	0
Total:	10 (-16.7%)	12

(c) Commission paid to EAs

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the departments to specify the amount or the rate of commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
Number of workers	102 (-20.3%)	128

	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
Job categories of workers ^{Note}	Number of workers	
Backend office support	31 (-13.9%)	36
Technical services	71 (-22.8%)	92
Total:	102 (-20.3%)	128

Note: Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers. Since April 2010, we specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders were invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April 2010 to April 2011, the minimum monthly salary specified in these contracts ranged from \$7,183 to \$7,523.

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW), for quotations invited on or after 1 May 2011, bidders are required to pay their agency workers salaries not lower than the average monthly wages for "General Worker for all selected industries" in the Quarterly Report for December 2010, unless it is overtaken by the prevailing SMW plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days. For the period from May to September 2011, the minimum monthly wage specified in the contracts was \$8,031.

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers ^{Note} against the total number of staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
2.0%	2.7%

Note: For full-time workers only.

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

2011-12 (up to 30.9.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
1.1%	1.1%

(i) Paid meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days ^{Note}

<u>Working days</u>	2011-12 (as at 30.9.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	<u>Number of workers</u>	
5 working days per week	93 (-23.1%)	121
6 working days per week	0 (-)	0
Total:	93 (-23.1%)	121

Note: For full-time workers only.

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ L T MA

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)081

Question Serial No.

0639

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 Development

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Administration has mentioned that it would continue with the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains and ensure that adequate and uninterrupted supplies of fresh and salt water are maintained throughout the territory. Please provide the number of incidents of water main bursts over the last twelve months. Are these cases included in the stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme? If yes, will the Administration review the said programme and accord higher priority to the more urgent cases?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

There were 370 water main burst incidents in the twelve months from January to December 2011. Replacement or rehabilitation of the water mains concerned in 216 of the incidents have already been included in stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme. We will continue to review the R&R programme and as necessary accord higher priority to the more urgent cases.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)082

Question Serial No.

0681

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

To enhance the overall accuracy of meters, the Water Supplies Department is implementing the water meter replacement programme to replace old meters. Please provide information on the relevant expenditure in the past two financial years (2010-11 and 2011-12) and estimated expenditure in financial year 2012-13 as well as the number of meters replaced in 2010-11 and 2011-12 and expected to be replaced in 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

In 2010-11 and 2011-12, we have replaced respectively 230 000 and 190 000 aged water meters. The respective expenditure was \$42 million and \$35 million. We have planned to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2012-13 at an estimated cost of \$41 million, with more emphasis on the replacement of medium and large sized meters.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)083

Question Serial No.

1039

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 Development

Question:

Regarding the management of water resources, please provide the following information:

- (a) Which government departments are currently using reclaimed water in their daily operations? Please provide their names, and usage and quantity of reclaimed water involved.
- (b) Has the Administration reserved resources for further implementing the reclaimed water pilot scheme at district level? If yes, what are the details?
- (c) What is the annual operating cost of the reclaimed water pilot scheme currently implemented at Ngong Ping?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) At present, the Drainage Services Department (DSD), Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Correctional Services Department (CSD) and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) are using reclaimed water in their daily operations. The common applications are for toilet flushing, facilities washing and irrigation. In DSD's sewage treatment works, the reclaimed water is mainly used for preparation of chemical solutions required in the treatment process. The total quantity of reclaimed water used is around 700 000 m³ per year.
- (b) We have reserved resources to investigate, in collaboration with the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and DSD, into the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses in Sheung Shui, Fanling and the New Development Areas in the north-eastern part of the New Territories.
- (c) Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Works adopts a tertiary sewage treatment process. A portion of the treated effluent is further treated for reclaimed water application at an additional annual operation and maintenance cost of about \$126,000.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ L T MA

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)084

Question Serial No.

1040

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 Development

Question:

With regard to the Planning & Investigation Study of desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O, please advise the preliminary selected site location and its area, commencement and completion dates of the Study, probable environmental impact to the vicinity during its operation and the capital cost of the desalination plant.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The preliminary site for the proposed desalination plant is in Area 137 of Tseung Kwan O, with a size of about 10 hectares. We plan to seek Finance Committee's funding approval in mid 2012 for engaging consultants to start the planning and investigation study by end 2012 for completion by end 2014. Among other things, the study will include an assessment of the project's potential environmental impacts on such aspects as noise, air quality, water quality, waste management and the ecology, as well as recommendations of appropriate mitigation measures. The estimated capital cost of the desalination plant would need to be ascertained in the study.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ L T MA

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)085

Question Serial No.

1405

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 Development

Question:

Could the Administration advise the progress and details on the work of identifying a suitable industrial building to accommodate the New Territories West Regional Office?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

Since the approval of funding in June 2011 for the purchase and conversion of an industrial building to accommodate our New Territories West Regional Office together with a Water Conservation Education Center to promote water conservation, a consultant has been engaged in August 2011 to source suitable industrial buildings in New Territories West. A site search has been carried out to identify potential candidates of industrial buildings for a detailed study. We are currently working with the consultant on their study findings and recommendations. We hope to purchase the industrial building in 2012 and complete the conversion by end 2015 the earliest.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)086

Question Serial No.

2773

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In 2012-13, the Water Supplies Department will continue with the implementation of the water meter replacement programme to replace aged water meters. Could the Administration advise the target and progress of the programme as well as the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

We target to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2012-13 at an estimated cost of \$41 million, with more emphasis on the replacement of medium and large sized meters. Meter procurement is in progress.

Signature: _____

Name in block
letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)087

Question Serial No.

2851

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 Development

Question:

What are the details of the Department's work on the planning and investigation study for the construction of a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O this year? What is the time schedule of the study? When will the study be expected to be completed? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The planning and investigation study for the construction of a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O will include mainly a detailed investigation, an environmental impact assessment as well as site investigation works to assess the project feasibility. We plan to seek Finance Committee's funding approval for the study in mid 2012 and to engage consultants to commence the study by end 2012 for completion by end 2014. The estimated cost of the study is around \$32 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block
letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)088

Question Serial No.

2853

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 Development

Question:

- (a) How many aged water meters did the Department replace last year (i.e. 2011-12) and what was the expenditure involved? In response to the Report of the Audit Commission last November, will the Department expedite the replacement of water meters in 2012-13? If yes, how much extra resources are expected to be deployed? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) It was pointed out in the Audit Commission's Report last November that the water meters of the Department were inaccurate, resulting in undercharging of water charges. Apart from replacing water meters, will the Department deploy extra resources to examine other ways for improving the measurement of water consumption? (e.g. procurement of more advanced water meters or deployment of more staff to test the water meters of consumers proactively), how much extra resources are expected to be deployed? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) In 2011-12, we estimated that about 190 000 aged water meters would be replaced at an estimated cost of \$35 million. We are planning to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2012-13 at an estimated cost of \$41 million, with more emphasis on the replacement of medium and large sized meters.
- (b) According to international best practice in water meter management, the most effective strategy for reducing meter inaccuracies is to implement a regular meter replacement programme. We will continue to replace aged meters regularly. In addition, we will deploy existing resources to explore the feasibility of using electro-magnetic meters for the very high consumption accounts. This type of meter is more durable and accurate but more expensive. To this end, we will carry out trials to ascertain the cost-effectiveness of using this type of meter.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****DEVB(W)089**

Question Serial No.

2953

Head: 194 Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Water SuppliesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of outsourced service contracts	()	()	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Duration of service for each outsourced service provider	()	()	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of outsourced workers			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()

Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, information technology support, etc. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2012-13 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
48 (-11.1%)	54

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11) (\$M)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11) (\$M)
46.4	55.4

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

<u>Duration of service</u>	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	0 (-)	0
Over 6 months to 1 year	16 (+6.7%)	15
Over 1 year to 2 years	27 (-20.6%)	34
Over 2 years	5 (0%)	5
Total:	48 (-11.1%)	54

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers ^{Note}

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
267 (+7.7%)	248

Note : Only those contracts with specified number of staff to be provided are counted.

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	<u>Number of workers</u>	
Security	107 (+1.9%)	105
Cleansing	61 (+10.9%)	55
Information Technology	14 (+7.7%)	13
Drivers	77 (+14.9%)	67
Logistics (Store support)	8 (0%)	8
Total:	267 (+7.7%)	248

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

Prior to the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security, cleansing and logistics, the contractors were required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which were no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders were invited. For the period from April 2010 to April 2011, the minimum monthly salaries specified in these contracts ranged from \$5,001 to \$8,000.

With the implementation of the SMW on 1 May 2011, contractors are required to pay their workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW, i.e. \$28 per hour plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
5.8%	5.5%

(i) Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department

2011-12 (up to 31.12.11)	2010-11 (up to 31.3.11)
4.4%	4.1%

(j) Meal break for outsourced workers

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) Number of outsourced workers against working days

<u>Working days</u>	2011-12 (as at 31.12.11)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.11)
	<u>Number of workers</u>	
5 working days per week	124 (+13.8%)	109
6 working days per week	143 (+2.9%)	139
Total:	267 (+7.7%)	248

Percentages in () denote comparison of the figures as at 31.12.11 and 31.3.11 in these two financial years. The figures in item (b) are cumulative total for the respective year up to the point of time specified and hence, it is inappropriate to compare the year-on-year change.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)090

Question Serial No.

3045

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 Development

Question:

Under the programme above, the Water Supplies Department strives to provide round-the-clock supply of water to the territory throughout the year. In this connection, what was the total number of fresh water main burst cases throughout the territory in 2011-12? What were the numbers of hours of bursting, the areas and residents affected in these main burst cases?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The number of fresh water main burst cases in 2011-12 (up to end January 2012) was 151. The average and longest time for resuming water supply were 4.3 and 18.0 hours respectively. The cases with longer time for resuming the water supply service were isolated cases due to such reasons as congested ground conditions with lots of pipes and trunks of the utility companies and breaking of large concrete blocks. The area affected by a main burst varied from case to case and also we did not retrieve the number of households in the areas affected for record purpose, noting that any water stoppages were to be resumed the soonest possible. In every case, we have made an endeavour to maintain uninterrupted water supply to the affected area by arranging alternative supply from other water supply zones as far as possible. If this was not viable, we would provide temporary emergency fresh water supply to the affected consumers by provision of standpipes or deployment of water wagons and water tanks whenever practicable.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 1 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)091

Question Serial No.

3496

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide details of the new electronic tree management information system. What is its estimated operational expenditure? Is the system run by a private company? If yes, please provide the name of the service provider and the estimated annual expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The new electronic tree management information system is being developed for individual tree management departments to maintain records of trees under their respective purview (including information such as species, size, location and health / structural conditions as well as tree care records).

The system is being developed by Automated Systems (HK) Ltd and the estimated annual system maintenance cost and annual system support cost are \$562,878 and \$481,115 respectively for the second year and onwards, after free warranty service in the first year.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 16 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)092

Question Serial No.

3497

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide details of the work plans for the survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong and its estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong seeks to obtain basic information (such as location, species and size) of roadside trees on unallocated and unleased government land, and involves an initial assessment of the health and structural conditions of these trees for further follow-up action as necessary. We will give priority to areas with high pedestrian / vehicular flow in carrying out the survey.

The tree data collected from the survey will, in due course, be stored in the electronic tree management information system now under development. With the new tree inventory, the tree management departments would be able to handle tree-related complaints and referrals more efficiently and effectively in future.

Due to the extensive geographical spread of the unallocated and unleased government land, the Tree Management Office is now working on estimating the total number of roadside trees involved, and hence the unit cost, through conducting a pilot survey to test out the methodology and scope of services, before rolling out a comprehensive programme by end 2013. The estimated expenditure of the survey in 2012-13 is about \$8 million subject to the finalised service scope and requirement.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C S Wai

Post Title: _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: _____ 16 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)093

Question Serial No.

3400

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please advise on the number of trees felled and replanted as well as the expenditure involved when slope maintenance works were carried out by the Civil Engineering and Development Department in the past 3 financial years and provide the information by year and by district.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Slope maintenance works, comprising mainly simple operations, such as clearance of debris from drainage channels and repair of cracked slope surface covers to upkeep slopes in good condition, are carried out by the respective slope maintenance departments. On the other hand, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) carries out slope improvement works under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme (LPMP) targeted at high risk man-made slopes, and from 2010, the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) to deal with man-made slopes with moderate risk and natural hillside catchments.

The numbers of trees felled and new trees planted in connection with slope improvement works carried out by CEDD under the LPMP/LPMitP in the past 3 financial years are shown in the table below. The expenditure for tree felling and planting which is part of the slope improvement works cannot be identified separately.

Financial year	District	Number of trees felled due to tree health or to facilitate slope improvement works *	Number of new trees planted
2009-10	Hong Kong Island	143	3 550
	Kowloon	476	639
	New Territories	36	5 339
	Outlying Islands	97	4 671
	Sub-total	752	14 199
2010-11	Hong Kong Island	130	5 460
	Kowloon	66	1 000
	New Territories	64	8 236
	Outlying Islands	116	7 210
	Sub-total	376	21 906
2011-12 (up to end January 2012)	Hong Kong Island	166	1 272
	Kowloon	29	229
	New Territories	57	1 914
	Outlying Islands	0	1 675
	Sub-total	252	5 090
TOTAL		1 380	41 195

Note: * None of the trees felled are old and valuable trees.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 14 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)094

Question Serial No.

3401

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide the number of slope improvement works completed by the use of shotcrete, soil nail or other ways in the past 1 year; amongst them, how many slopes not under immediate danger have improvement works carried out by shotcrete method?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2011, we have upgraded under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) a total of 173 man-made slopes with 147 slopes by soil nailing and 26 slopes by other means including retaining walls and rock slope stabilization. After the slope upgrading works, the slope surface was protected by vegetation covers, shotcrete or other landscaped hard surfacing such as stone pitching.

Amongst these 173 slopes, shotcrete was applied to 38 slopes as the principal means of surface protection where vegetation or other landscaped covers could not be used. We have set up a Vetting Committee on Slope Appearance on the use of shotcrete in slope works to ensure that shotcrete is used only as the last resort in cases where application of vegetation and other landscaped covers is not feasible, such as on steep or rocky slopes. Mitigation measures such as vegetation planters and application of coloured shotcrete have been adopted to improve the visual appearance of the shotcreted slopes.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 14 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)095

Question Serial No.

3409

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) The estimated expenditure on greening works implemented under greening master plans (GMPs) decreases from \$130.4 million to \$33.5 million. What are the reasons?
- (b) When will the development work of all the urban and New Territories (NT) GMPs be expected to complete and when will they be implemented? Please provide the detailed work schedule and estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of \$130.4 million in 2011 catered for the implementation of the recommended greening measures under the GMPs in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Western District, Southern District and Eastern District, which were substantially completed in 2011. The estimated expenditure of \$33.5 million for 2012 mainly covers minor outstanding works to be carried out in the aforesaid locations and finalization of the works contracts.

- (b) The formulation of GMPs in the urban districts commenced in 2004. By 2011, all the adopted greening measures in the urban districts had been substantially completed. Regarding the NT districts, the consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for NT South East (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and NT North West (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for NT North East (covering Tai Po and North District) and NT South West (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) have just commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. The total estimated expenditure for the formulation of all the NT GMPs, including the costs of associated site investigation works, is around \$70 million. We will determine the timetable for implementing the recommended greening works after the NT GMPs are formulated.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 14 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)096

Question Serial No.

3421

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- a. For the past 3 years, how much marine mud was handled by respective marine mud disposal facilities each year? What is the operating expenditure of each facility in each year? At present, what is the remaining capacity of each facility? When will the capacity of the facility be expected to be used up?
- b. The Government proposed to build new facilities for mud disposal in light of the filling up of some marine mud disposal facilities. What is the present progress, work schedule and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- a. Marine mud is categorised into clean sediment and contaminated sediment with separate disposal facilities. The quantities of marine mud handled in the past three years and the corresponding operating expenditure are as follows:

Marine mud disposal facility	Year	Total quantity of marine mud handled (million m³)	Operating expenditure^{Note} (\$ million)
Disposal facility for clean sediment	2009	0.76	3.2
	2010	2.44	4.6
	2011	3.28	9.4
Disposal facility for contaminated sediment	2009	0.93	19.7
	2010	1.03	21.5
	2011	0.86	19.0

^{Note} Include only the operating cost of the respective facility but not the capital cost for forming mud pits for the disposal of contaminated sediment. No mud pits are required for the disposal of clean sediment.

As at the end of 2011, the remaining capacity of the disposal facility for clean sediment was about 49.3 million m³ which is capable of accommodating the anticipated demand from planned projects in the coming years. The remaining capacity of the disposal facility for contaminated sediment is about 8.0 million m³ which is expected to be depleted by late 2016.

- b. In view of the limited remaining capacity for the disposal of contaminated sediment, we have planned to set up a new disposal facility to the south of The Brothers. Subject to the approval of Finance Committee, we will start constructing the proposed disposal facility in mid 2012 at an estimated cost of \$618.0 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 14 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)097

Question Serial
No.

3440

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

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question :

Please advise on the progress of the construction of the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme (the Scheme). At present, there are many locals who still have reservations and even objections to the construction of the Scheme. Please provide details on the resources to be allocated and the measures to be taken to maintain communication with the locals.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The implementation of the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme is progressing as scheduled. Construction works already commenced in September 2011 and will be completed, in phases, by early 2018. Prior to commencement of the works, we have conducted thorough consultation with the public including consultation with the Wan Chai District Council (WCDC) and its area committees, parents and teachers of a nearby primary school, and separate meeting sessions with the residents in Wan Chai in 2011.

We have formed a public relations (PR) team, led by a chief engineer with members from the project and site supervisory staff. In addition, the contractor has also appointed a PR officer to support local communications. The PR team will continue to maintain close communications with the locals on a regular basis via different channels including newsletters and meetings with the locals throughout the construction period to update them on the progress of works and exchange views on arrangements to further minimise the inconvenience to the public. In the coming months, we plan to meet with the members of the WCDC and its area committees to further update them on the progress of the works, and will organize another meet-the-public session with the residents in Wan Chai.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 15 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)098

Question Serial No.

3441

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

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) Please provide details on the schedule and the estimated expenditure involved for the drainage master planning review studies for Kowloon.
- (b) Please list all flooding blackspots on Hong Kong Island and advise on the resources to be allocated to improve these blackspots. What are the details of the work plan?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) There are two drainage master planning review studies for Kowloon, one in West Kowloon and another in East Kowloon. Both studies commenced in January 2012 for completion by 2014. The total estimated costs for the studies in West Kowloon and East Kowloon, including consultancy fees and the associated surveys and site investigations, are \$13.7 million and \$13.4 million respectively.
- (b) The flooding blackspots on Hong Kong Island and the details and estimated costs of the drainage improvement works to deal with these flooding blackspots are as follows:

Flooding Blackspots on Hong Kong Island	Details of Improvement Works
(i) Pok Fu Lam Village	PWP Item No. 4158CD involving the upgrading of the drainage system inside the village commenced in March 2009 was completed in June 2009. The cost was \$5.9 million. Further drainage improvement works for Pok Fu Lam Village are under initial planning.

(ii) Junction of Wong Chuk Hang Road and Nam Long Shan Road	<p>PWP Item No. 4158CD involving the construction of stormwater drains along Wong Chuk Hang Road, Yip Kan Street and Tong Bin Lane commenced in March 2009 was completed in October 2010. The cost was \$7.5 million.</p> <p>Further drainage improvement works for the junction will be constructed under PWP Item No. 6056TR in early 2013 for completion by 2015. The estimated cost is \$6.0 million.</p>
(iii) Junction of Morrison Hill Road and Lap Tak Lane	<p>PWP Items No. 4103CD (Hong Kong West drainage tunnel) and 4104CD (with drainage improvement works including the construction of stormwater drains along Yat Sin Street, Sung Tak Street and Morrison Hill Road and roadside gullies at junction of Lap Tak Lane and Yat Sin Street for the blackspot) commenced in November 2007 and July 2008 respectively and both will be completed by 2012. The estimated costs are \$3,381.3 million and \$11.2 million respectively.</p> <p>PWP Item No. 4160CD involving the construction of an underground stormwater storage tank in Happy Valley commenced in September 2011 for completion by 2018 in phases. The estimated cost is \$1,065.8 million.</p>

Signature: _____

Name in block
letters: _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 15 March 2012

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

DEVB(W)099

Question Serial No.

3470

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

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The occurrence of a serious flooding incident which resulted in a fatality at Sha Po Tsai Village in Tai Po years ago is alleged to have been caused by the drainage works carried out by the Department. Please advise on the measures to be taken by the Department to ensure that the above situation will not happen to other drainage works, in order to allay the concerns of residents living in the vicinity of such works.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

According to the result of an investigation carried out after the flash flood incident at Sha Po Tsai Village, which occurred on 22 July 2010, the incident was caused by a combination of several extreme and highly unlikely events, and not due to the drainage works carried out by government. The result of the investigation was subsequently confirmed by an independent review conducted by a professor of a local university. On 21 April 2011, the Coroner's Court at its inquest into the flooding incident accepted the professor's independent review of the investigation.

To allay the concerns of residents living in the vicinity of stream courses, Drainage Services Department has already put in place a series of measures. These measures include (a) issue of weather warning messages to strengthen the advice to people living near rivers which are vulnerable to flooding; (b) engagement of a consultant to carry out a study to address the flood risk to people living along rivers to supplement previous flood studies; and (c) completion of a review of its on-going river improvement works in various parts of the territory so as to ensure that the flow capacities of these rivers will not be adversely affected by any construction works during heavy downpours.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 15 March 2012