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### Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development**

**Session No. : 8**

**File Name : DEVB(W)-2-e1**

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<a href="#">DEVB(W)099</a>	1120	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	CWRF 707	
<a href="#">DEVB(W)100</a>	2108	QUAT, Elizabeth	CWRF 707	7270RS
<a href="#">DEVB(W)101</a>	2109	QUAT, Elizabeth	CWRF 707	7715CL
<a href="#">DEVB(W)102</a>	2110	QUAT, Elizabeth	CWRF 707	7718CL
<a href="#">DEVB(W)103</a>	1921	TIEN Pei-chun, James	CWRF 707	
<a href="#">DEVB(W)104</a>	0558	TO Kun-sun, James	CWRF 707	7279RS



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<a href="#">DEVB(W)105</a>	2802	CHAN Hak-kan	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)106</a>	2846	CHAN Yuen-han	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)107</a>	0519	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	39	Subhead 000
<a href="#">DEVB(W)108</a>	1710	LEUNG Che-cheung	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)109</a>	1433	LO Wai-kwok	39	Subhead 000
<a href="#">DEVB(W)110</a>	1164	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)111</a>	0992	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)112</a>	3243	QUAT, Elizabeth	CWRF 704	4136CD
<a href="#">DEVB(W)113</a>	2803	CHAN Hak-kan	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)114</a>	3054	CHAN Han-pan	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)115</a>	2367	CHIANG Lai-wan	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)116</a>	0423	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)117</a>	0424	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)118</a>	2962	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)119</a>	0520	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	42	Subhead 000
<a href="#">DEVB(W)120</a>	2128	KWOK Wai-keung	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)121</a>	0615	LEE Wai-king, Starry	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)122</a>	1449	LO Wai-kwok	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)123</a>	1450	LO Wai-kwok	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)124</a>	2537	POON Siu-ping	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)125</a>	3245	POON Siu-ping	42	Subhead 000
<a href="#">DEVB(W)126</a>	0313	TANG Ka-piu	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)127</a>	0314	TANG Ka-piu	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)128</a>	0596	TO Kun-sun, James	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)129</a>	0532	CHAN Kam-lam	60	(2) District and Maintenance Works
<a href="#">DEVB(W)130</a>	0411	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	95	(3) Heritage and Museums
<a href="#">DEVB(W)131</a>	2339	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	95	(3) Heritage and Museums
<a href="#">DEVB(W)132</a>	2550	CHAN Chi-chuen	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)134</a>	0090	CHAN Hak-kan	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)135</a>	0799	CHAN Han-pan	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)136</a>	0536	CHAN Kam-lam	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)137</a>	2845	CHAN Yuen-han	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)138</a>	2865	CHAN Yuen-han	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)139</a>	2866	CHAN Yuen-han	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)140</a>	2351	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)141</a>	2960	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)145</a>	1732	KWOK, Dennis	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)146</a>	1730	LEUNG Che-cheung	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)147</a>	1784	LEUNG Che-cheung	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)148</a>	0158	MA Fung-kwok	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)149</a>	1736	MO, Claudia	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)150</a>	1737	MO, Claudia	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)151</a>	2115	QUAT, Elizabeth	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)152</a>	0991	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)153</a>	4852	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	159	(3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management
<a href="#">DEVB(W)154</a>	5323	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	159	
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)165</a>	4326	KWOK Ka-ki	159	(2) Heritage Conservation
<a href="#">DEVB(W)166</a>	4687	KWOK Wai-keung	159	(2) Heritage Conservation
<a href="#">DEVB(W)167</a>	3755	LAM Tai-fai	159	(4) Energizing Kowloon East
<a href="#">DEVB(W)168</a>	3792	LAM Tai-fai	159	(5) Intra-Governmental Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)169</a>	3797	LAM Tai-fai	159	(2) Heritage Conservation
<a href="#">DEVB(W)170</a>	5484	LEUNG Kwok-hung	159	(3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management
<a href="#">DEVB(W)171</a>	4503	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	159	(3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management
<a href="#">DEVB(W)172</a>	3566	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	159	(5) Intra-Governmental Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)173</a>	3574	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	159	(4) Energizing Kowloon East
<a href="#">DEVB(W)174</a>	3575	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	159	(5) Intra-Governmental Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)175</a>	4921	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	159	(4) Energizing Kowloon East
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)180</a>	3544	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	Various Head	CWRF Various Head 703 - 711
<a href="#">DEVB(W)181</a>	4396	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	25	(3) Facilities Development
<a href="#">DEVB(W)182</a>	4291	WONG Kwok-hing	25	(1) Monitoring and Advisory Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)183</a>	4299	WONG Kwok-hing	25	(3) Facilities Development
<a href="#">DEVB(W)184</a>	3443	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	33	(4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)186</a>	3445	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	33	(5) Greening and Technical Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)187</a>	3809	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	33	(4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards
<a href="#">DEVB(W)188</a>	5477	LEUNG, Kenneth	33	(3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)190</a>	4298	WONG Kwok-hing	33	(5) Greening and Technical Services
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)192</a>	4929	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	CWRF 705	5750CL
<a href="#">DEVB(W)193</a>	4935	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	CWRF 707	7685CL
<a href="#">DEVB(W)194</a>	4936	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	CWRF 707	7718CL
<a href="#">DEVB(W)195</a>	4937	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	CWRF 707	7271RS
<a href="#">DEVB(W)196</a>	4327	KWOK Ka-ki	CWRF 707	
<a href="#">DEVB(W)197</a>	3758	LAM Tai-fai	CWRF 707	
<a href="#">DEVB(W)198</a>	3548	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	CWRF 707	
<a href="#">DEVB(W)199</a>	3447	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)200</a>	3448	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)201</a>	5389	WONG Kwok-hing	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)202</a>	4604	WU Chi-wai	39	(1) Stormwater Drainage
<a href="#">DEVB(W)203</a>	4928	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	CWRF 704	4379DS
<a href="#">DEVB(W)204</a>	4213	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)205</a>	4214	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)206</a>	4047	CHEUNG Kwok-che	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)207</a>	4542	CHEUNG Kwok-che	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)208</a>	4490	KWOK Ka-ki	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety
<a href="#">DEVB(W)209</a>	4491	KWOK Ka-ki	42	(2) Mechanical Installations Safety



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<a href="#">DEVB(W)211</a>	5363	WONG Kwok-hing	42	Subhead 000
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)213</a>	5081	TANG Ka-piu	60	(2) District and Maintenance Works
<a href="#">DEVB(W)214</a>	5327	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	95	(3) Heritage and Museums
<a href="#">DEVB(W)215</a>	4105	CHEUNG Kwok-che	95	(3) Heritage and Museums
<a href="#">DEVB(W)216</a>	4533	CHEUNG Kwok-che	95	(3) Heritage and Museums
<a href="#">DEVB(W)217</a>	4535	CHEUNG Kwok-che	95	(3) Heritage and Museums
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)219</a>	4825	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)220</a>	4826	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)222</a>	4828	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	194	(3) Customer Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)223</a>	4829	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	194	(3) Customer Services
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)225</a>	4540	CHEUNG Kwok-che	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)226</a>	4541	CHEUNG Kwok-che	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)227</a>	3482	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	194	(3) Customer Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)228</a>	3810	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
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<a href="#">DEVB(W)230</a>	3812	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)231</a>	3813	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)232</a>	3814	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(3) Customer Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)233</a>	3815	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(3) Customer Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)234</a>	3816	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(3) Customer Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)235</a>	3817	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(3) Customer Services
<a href="#">DEVB(W)236</a>	3818	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)237</a>	3671	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	194	Subhead 000
<a href="#">DEVB(W)238</a>	4632	KWOK, Dennis	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)239</a>	4633	KWOK, Dennis	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)240</a>	4634	KWOK, Dennis	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<a href="#">DEVB(W)241</a>	4655	KWOK Wai-keung	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and

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				Distribution
<a href="#"><u>DEVB(W)242</u></a>	5356	WONG Kwok-hing	194	Subhead 000
<a href="#"><u>DEVB(W)243</u></a>	5357	WONG Kwok-hing	194	Subhead 000
<a href="#"><u>DEVB(W)244</u></a>	5358	WONG Kwok-hing	194	Subhead 000
<a href="#"><u>DEVB(W)245</u></a>	4603	WU Chi-wai	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

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

**DEVB(W)001**

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:

While the problem of an ageing workforce in the construction industry is getting more serious in recent years, there are a number of infrastructure projects under planning currently. Please inform this Committee of the following:

a) Please provide the information in tabular form:

Trade	Average monthly Salary	Age			
		Under 31	31 to 40	41 to 50	51 or above

- b) The Administration earmarked another \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council in enhancing manpower training last year (2012-13). How many training places have been provided so far and what trades are involved? How many trainees have joined the construction industry after the completion of training?
- c) What is the estimated number of additional construction workers to be employed in the next three years (i.e. from 2013-14 to 2015-16) to meet the manpower demand with the commencement of various projects? What measures will be taken to encourage more people, particularly young people, to join the construction industry?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a) The wage and age distribution of the 10 trades with more registered skilled workers are as follows :

Trades	Average daily wage (HK\$) <sup>#</sup>	Age <sup>*</sup>			
		Below 30 years old	30 to 39 years old	40 to 49 years old	50 years old or above
Electrical fitter	771.5	576	6 526	7 463	10 981
General welder	1,002.3	119	420	1 169	3 876
Painter and decorator	831.2	358	939	1 026	2 031
Lift and escalator mechanic <sup>ψ</sup>	608.7	125	1 275	1 256	1 447
Carpenter (formwork)	1,270.8	78	219	336	2 860
Plumber	945.6	360	571	625	1 834
Bar bender and fixer	1,349.3	182	391	574	2 077
Leveller	953.2	391	880	963	781
Plasterer	997.8	55	234	300	1 758
Joiner	931.6	161	239	544	1 399

Note :

<sup>#</sup> : *Average daily wages of workers engaged in Public Sector Construction Projects as reported by main contractors published by Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR (November 2012)*

<sup>\*</sup> : *Information from the Construction Industry Council (December 2012)*

<sup>ψ</sup> : *Include lift and escalator mechanic responsible for installation, adjustment, maintenance and repair of lifts and escalators respectively*

- b) Development Bureau (DEVB) has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to implement various training initiatives to attract new entrants to the construction industry and enhance the skill levels of local workers. The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) provides training allowances for the trades facing labour shortages to attract new entrants to the industry. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2013, more than 2 000 training places for the ECMTS have been provided for trades including bar-bender and fixer, carpenter (formwork), metal formwork erector and concreter, drainlayer, metal worker, scaffolder, tower crane workers' assistant, leveller, site surveying officer and tunnel worker. About 1 600 trainees have joined the construction industry after

graduation. CIC will suitably review and adjust the trades under the ECMTS to better meet the market needs.

DEVB has provided subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses to encourage and assist the in-service construction workers to be registered as skilled workers, and has provided subsidy to the senior construction workers to assist them to advance to the frontline supervisors / management level. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2013, there were about 4 800 in-service workers who have applied for the above subsidies.

- c) Taking into account the forecast construction output in coming years, it is estimated that about 20 000 more construction workers, of which about 10 000 more being skilled workers, are required. We have adopted a multi-pronged approach to uplift the image of the construction industry and to attract more new entrants. The initiatives include the “Build Up” publicity campaign, enhancing construction site safety, uplifting site cleanliness and tidiness and workers’ welfare, and providing uniform for site personnel. As revealed in a recent survey, the general perception of the construction industry has improved and more young people are willing to work in the industry, indicating that the above initiatives are effective.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)002**

Question Serial No.

0086

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 following information on tree management under the above programme:

- a. What are the numbers of trees felled each year by the various government departments in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)? How many of them are on the Register of Old and Valuable Trees? What are the reasons for felling these trees and the species involved? How many of these trees were replanted?
- b. In light of the Administration's active pursuit of land development for the construction of residential flats in the coming years, will there be a substantial increase in the number of trees expected to be felled with the launch of government works projects? Is there any compensation mechanism in place for addressing the situation?
- c. What are the names of the tree management departments, numbers of trees under their management and numbers of tree management staff (the numbers of staff with professional qualifications and their total numbers) in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)?
- d. What are the numbers of contractors engaged by the various government departments to prune trees or plants in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)? What are the expenditures involved? Have any contracts been terminated due to sub-standard performance of the contractors?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a. A breakdown of the trees removed by major tree management departments in 2010-11 to 2012-13 is set out below –

Reason \ Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)
(a) Number of trees removed under public works projects	8 842	6 443	2 528
(b) Number of trees removed due to health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety	10 257	10 269	8 628
(c) Number of trees removed due to vegetation maintenance (e.g. weeding, thinning)	2 564	2 410	1 092
(d) Number of trees removed due to damage under inclement weather	1 821	2 180	16 920
(e) Of (b) & (d), number of Old and Valuable Trees (OVTs) removed	5	6	17

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*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Macaranga tanarius*, 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).

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*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Bauhinia spp.*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, 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 planting, etc.

For category (e), the reasons for removal of OVTs are mainly due to health or structural problem or damage caused by inclement weather. The species involved was mainly *Ficus microcarpa*. We are in the process of identifying potential trees meeting the criteria for OVT to enrich the OVT Register.

- b. The impact of works projects on existing trees can only be estimated when the data of tree survey and site planning are available. As such, the number of trees to be felled during works projects within the coming years cannot be estimated at this moment. If it is necessary to remove trees during works projects carried out by the government, departments concerned must abide by internal guidelines and instructions on tree preservation, including the handling of proposed tree removal and the requirement for compensatory planting.
- c. A breakdown of the number of trees under the purview of the 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 3) (Note 4)		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (As at 31 Dec 2012)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	N/A (Note 1)			86(50)	86(54)	87(52)
Architectural Services Department	200 000			15(4)	18(5)	5(5)
Civil Engineering and Development Department (Note 7)	7 650	25 650	24 800	12(3)	12(5)	18(1)
Drainage Services Department	25 500	34 254	25 600	16(1)	16(2)	16(2)
Highways Department	500 000	500 000	600 000	22(1)	22(1)	37(7)
Housing Department (Note 8)	100 000			28(10)	31(10)	36(11)

Lands Department	N/A (Note 2)			-	-	12(8) (Note 5)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	700 000	521 000	513 600	210(101)	210(105)	210(126 ) (Note 6)
Water Supplies Department	49 400			16(1)	16(1)	14(2)

**Note 1:**

All trees in country parks are under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Due to the very large number of trees involved, AFCD is unable to provide a figure.

**Note 2:**

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 3:**

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.

**Note 4:**

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

**Note 5:**

The figures refer to the staff in the Tree Unit of the Lands Department.

**Note 6:**

For the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the number of staff includes full-time staff only while the number of staff with professional qualifications (in bracket) also includes staff on a part-time basis.

**Note 7:**

From 2009-10 to 2013-14, the Civil Engineering and Development Department is responsible for maintaining the trees planted under the urban Greening Master Plans.

**Note 8:**

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

- d. 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 warning letters issued by the major tree management departments in the past three years are as follows -

Financial Year	Number of Contracts	Contract Amount (\$M)	Warning Letters Issued
2010-11	48	175	1
2011-12	58	300	4
2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)	48	266	2

In 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012), there was no contract terminated or penalties imposed due to improper tree pruning or other sub-standard performances.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)003**

Question Serial No.

0088

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 this financial year (2013-14), the Administration will continue to implement the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately owned graded historic buildings. In this connection, will the Administration provide the following information:

- a) How many private owners have been provided with the financial assistance in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)? What are the gradings of these buildings and the amounts of financial assistance involved?
- b) What is the estimated amount of financial assistance in this financial year (2013-14)? How many historic buildings will be benefited? What considerations will be taken into account by the Administration when processing the applications?
- c) Will the ceiling on financial assistance for each application be raised in light of inflation and rising construction costs?
- d) Will the Administration consider allocating additional funding to the scheme or setting up a heritage trust so as to provide financial assistance for the maintenance of historic buildings in the long term?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a) In the past three years, we have approved 19 applications, providing 17 private owners with financial assistance for their carrying out of maintenance works. The details are listed below.

Approved Applications in 2010/11

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
1. Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	2	1,000,000

Approved Applications in 2011/12

2. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	2	999,000
3. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	2	1,000,000
4. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	3	1,000,000
5. Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	2	390,000
6. Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	3	950,000
7. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	1	1,000,000
8. Lim House, Yuen Long	2	1,000,000
9. Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	2	661,000
10. No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	2	1,000,000
11. Kowloon Union Church, Jordon	3	1,000,000
12. St. Joseph's Church, Fanling	3	870,000

Approved Applications in 2012/13

13. Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	2	1,000,000
14. Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	3	1,000,000
15. Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	3	980,000
16. Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	1	950,000
17. Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	2	1,000,000
18. Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	3	999,960
19. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun, Phase II	1	1,000,000

- b) The estimated amount of financial assistance to be approved in 2013-14 is around \$ 6 million, 6 graded historic buildings will be benefited. When considering the applications, we will take into account the following criteria: i) urgency for the proposed maintenance works, ii) reasonableness of degree of access to the graded building allowed for public appreciation and iii) benefits to the community in terms of heritage conservation. The criteria for assessing the applications are available on the website of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.
- c) We will review the ceiling on financial assistance on each application along with the policy review on conservation of privately owned historic buildings.

- d) As announced by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address 2013, we consider that we should review the present policy on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings to better meet the public's expectations. Our preliminary proposal for the scope of review covers the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme for privately-owned historic buildings (such as whether the subsidy amount should be increased and whether it should be related to the grading of the historic buildings) and the impact of setting up a heritage trust outside the Government regime on the conservation of privately-owned historic building.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)004**

Question Serial No.

3011

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 implementation of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme), please provide the following information:

- a) Please set out in tabular form for each revitalised project the number of people who have visited or used the building and the operating expenses.
- b) Has the Administration assessed whether the projects have so far kept in line with the principles of conservation and sustainable development? If yes, what are the results of the assessment?
- c) Has the Administration earmarked funds for the implementation of the next stage of the scheme?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a) The four revitalised projects which have commenced operation under the Revitalisation Scheme include Savanna College of Arts and Design, Hong Kong (SCAD Hong Kong), Tai O Heritage Hotel, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) School of Chinese Medicine - Lui Seng Chun, and Phase I of Jao Tsung-I Academy. The table below listed the number of people who have visited or used the buildings since the projects concerned commence operation till end 2012.

<b>Historic buildings</b>	<b>No. of People who visited or used the building</b>
SCAD Hong Kong (North Kowloon Magistracy)	About 42 000
Tai O Heritage Hotel (Tai O Police Station)	About 168 200
HKBU School of Chinese	About 40 200

<b>Historic buildings</b>	<b>No. of People who visited or used the building</b>
Medicine - Lui Seng Chun (Lui Seng Chun)	
Jao Tsung-I Academy (Lai Chi Kok Hospital)	About 4 500
(Note: The facilities for the second phase of Jao Tsung-I Academy, which includes food and beverage service, office, multi-purpose room, performance venue and hostel facilities are not yet in use)	

The operation expenses of the Revitalisation Scheme projects are borne by respective non-profit making organisations (NPOs). Where justified, the Government will provide one-off financial assistance to the NPOs to meet the operating deficits in the first two years of operation at a ceiling of \$5 million for each project, on the prerequisite that the business of the NPOS can be self-sustainable after the first two years.

- b) The Government has all along been assessing the projects of the Revitalisation Scheme to see if they have kept in line with the principles of conservation and sustainable development through the regular submission of reports by the NPOs and the review visits conducted by our staff. Through the revitalisation projects, the historic buildings which have originally been left vacant are now completely preserved, put into good use and given a new lease of life. Through guided tours or related activities, the public can now visit and appreciate the architectural features and historical value of these historic buildings. The public's awareness of the importance of heritage conservation has thus been increased. Moreover, as these projects are run in the mode of social enterprise, employment opportunities are created in the districts and the development of social enterprise is promoted. These projects are thus considered in line with the principles of conservation and sustainable development.
- c) The Administration has already earmarked \$378M for the implementation of the next phase of the scheme.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)005**

Question Serial No.

0071

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:

Although the Government has announced that Ho Tung Gardens will not be declared a monument, will it earmark resources for the building and hold discussions with the owner on other conservation options? Please provide details of the relevant timetable, estimated expenditure and conservation options.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Secretary for Development has personally written to the owner of Ho Tung Gardens, hoping to continue the discussion with the owner, and expressing our wish that the owner would consider preserving parts of Ho Tung Gardens while redeveloping the site. We have not been able to commence discussion with the owner on details of the conservation, and therefore the relevant timetable and resource requirements cannot be ascertained.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)006**

Question Serial No.

0072

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. How many privately-owned graded historic buildings have been funded under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme since its launch in 2008? Please provide details of the maintenance projects by year, including the names and grading of buildings, brief scope of maintenance works and the amounts of grants approved. What is the estimated expenditure for the scheme in the coming year?
2. Since the implementation of the historic buildings grading system, how many applications for redevelopment or alteration of graded historic buildings have been received? How many cases are still being processed? Please provide details of each of the applications.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. Since the launch of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme in 2008, we have approved 27 applications for the carrying out of maintenance works to 23 privately-owned graded historic buildings. The details are listed below.

Approved Applications in 2009/10

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
i) Lo Pan Temple, Kennedy Town	1	Restoration of roof, columns and walls	711,000
ii) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Shatin	2	Restoration of roofs and walls of Pilgrim's Hall and Conference Hall	820,000
iii) Main Building of Helena May, Central	2	Preservation of existing walls at Garden Room by cavity wall system	600,000
iv) Ancestral Hall of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	1	Restoration of ancestral altar and roof	1,000,000

v) No. 3 Bungalow, St. Stephen's College, Stanley	2	Restoration of roof, external walls	606,000
vi) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	3	Restoration of roof, external walls	985,000
vii) Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	3	Restoration of roof, walls, columns	880,000
viii) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	1	Repainting of building	860,000

Approved applications in 2010/11

ix) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof and structural frame	1,000,000
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Approved applications in 2011/12

x) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	2	Roof rectification works, structural repair to walls	999,000
xi) Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xii) Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors and ancestral altars	1,000,000
xiii) Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	2	Restoration of the walls and ground slab of the shrine	390,000
xiv) Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors, plaques and murals	950,000
xv) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	1	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xvi) Lim House, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof, walls, doors, windows and balconies	1,000,000
xvii) Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	2	Restoration of the higher roof	661,000
xviii) No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	2	Restoration of roof, structural repair to slab and beam,	1,000,000
xix) Kowloon Union Church, Jordon	3	Upgrading of the storm water and waste water System	1,000,000
xx) St. Joseph's Church, Fanling	3	Repair spalling concrete, clean and repair external masonry façade	870,000

Approved Applications in 2012/13

xxi) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	2	Restoration of the roof and wall at the entrance hall and main hall	1,000,000
xxii) Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	3	Restoration of the roof, walls, and the shrine	1,000,000
xxiii) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	3	Restoration of eaves boards, granite plaque	980,000
xxiv) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	1	Install new waterproofing system at roof	950,000

xxv) Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	2	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xxvi) Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	3	Install new waterproofing system at roof	999,960
xxvii) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun Phase II	1	Repair spalling of concrete	1,000,000

The estimated expenditure for providing financial assistance under this scheme in 2013-14 is around \$ 6 million.

- Under the internal monitoring mechanism, relevant departments will alert the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau and the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department if they have received applications which may affect privately-owned historic buildings. Among the applications approved by respective departments, 29 graded or proposed graded historic buildings are involved. Among these 29 cases, we are exploring with the owners on preservation-cum-development options in 11 cases. For the remaining 18 cases, one building had been extensively renovated before the announcement of its proposed grading in 2009 and a revised nil grade was therefore proposed for the building; and in the other 17 cases, we have obtained agreement from the owners to conserve the historic buildings concerned in whole or in part or conserve selective building elements for incorporation into the new development or have arranged photographic recording. Details of these 18 cases are set out below:

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
1.	CLP Administration Building, Nos.139-147 Argyle Street	Proposed Grade 1	Planning application and building plan were approved by Town Planning Board (TPB) in November 2011 and Buildings Department (BD) in December 2011 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.
2.	No. 47 Barker Road	Grade 2	Planning application was approved in November 2011 by TPB. Latest building plans were approved by BD in December 2011.	Part of the façade of the building will be preserved and incorporated into the new development.
3.	Nos. 6 and 8 Kennedy Road	Grade 2	Latest building plan and demolition plan were approved by BD in February 2011 and May 2012 respectively.	Façade of the building has been salvaged and will be incorporated into the new residential development.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Name and address of the historic building</b>	<b>Grading</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Portion retained</b>
4.	Enchi Lodge, Castle Peak Road	Grade 2	Planning application and demolition plan were approved by TPB in November 2009 and BD in July 2007 respectively.	The main building will be preserved as a clubhouse.
5.	Nos. 2-4 Tai O Market Street	Proposed Grade 2	Redevelopment application approved by Lands Department (LandsD) in December 2012. A revised application is being considered by LandsD.	The owner is advised to preserve and incorporate into the new development the significant architectural features of the buildings.
6.	Jessville, No.128 Pok Fu Lam Road	Grade 3	Planning application and building plan were approved by TPB in June 2009 and BD in January 2011 respectively. The owner submitted alternative development proposal in November 2011 with Jessville preserved and converted into four residential units.	Jessville will be preserved in-situ.
7.	No. 179 Prince Edward Road West	Grade 3	Planning application and building plan were approved by TPB in March 2010 and BD in February 2011 respectively.	The front portion of the building with significant architectural features will be preserved and incorporated into the new development.
8.	No. 11 Kak Tin Village Third Street	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment was approved by LandsD in October 2009.	Notwithstanding that attempts had been made to discuss with the owner possible economic incentives, the owner decided to demolish the building but photographic recording was arranged.
9.	Nos. 31-33 First Lane, Wu Kai Sha	Grade 3	Applications for redevelopment were approved by LandsD in	Notwithstanding that attempts had been made to discuss with the



Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
	Village First Lane		July 2002, August 2007 and September 2009.	owner possible economic incentives, the owner decided to demolish the building but photographic recording was arranged.
10.	Eastern Cotton Mills Ltd., No. 7 Mok Cheong Street	Grade 3	The building plan and demolition plan were approved by BD in December 2010 and May 2011 respectively. Demolition consent was given by BD in June 2012.	A portion of the front façade is preserved in-situ.
11.	No. 119 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment was approved by LandsD in December 2008, 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.	Nos. 76-77 Hung Uk Tsuen	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment was approved by LandsD in March 2012.	Notwithstanding that attempts had been made to discuss with the owner possible economic incentives, the building was demolished in Jan 2013 but photographic recording was arranged.
13.	No. 186 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Grade 3	Building plan was approved by BD in August 2010.	The building will be preserved and adapted as a plant room.
14.	No. 19 Hing Hon Road	Proposed Grade3	Latest demolition plan and building plan were approved by BD in January 2010 and November 2012 respectively.	Selective building elements have been salvaged and will be incorporated into the new residential development.
15.	No. 43 Tseng Lan Shue	Proposed Grade 3	Redevelopment application was approved by LandsD in December 2012. A	Attempts had been made to discuss with the owner for possible economic incentives.

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
			revised application is being considered by LandsD.	The owner will demolish the building but photographic recording was arranged.
16.	No. 4 Shek O Road	Proposed Grade 3	Building plan was approved by BD in January 2012.	The building had been extensively renovated before the announcement of the proposed grading in 2009. A revised nil grade has therefore been proposed for the building concerned. The building will be redeveloped.
17.	No. 45 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Proposed Grade 3	Redevelopment application was approved by LandsD in July 2009.	While the Ancillary Building was demolished in May 2010, the Main Building will be retained.
18.	Entrance Tower, Tai Kiu Tsuen	Proposed Grade 3	Planning application for the development of the whole Tai Kiu Tsuen was approved by TPB in August 2010.	The entrance tower will be retained.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)007**

Question Serial No.

0073

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. Has the Government earmarked funds to review the “integrated approach” and the organisation structure and functions of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, and to commence the enactment of a tree ordinance? If yes, please provide details of the relevant timetables, reviews and work plans;
2. What are the numbers of Old and Valuable Trees under the purview of various tree management departments? Please provide the following information on the current numbers of trees by department:

Department	Number of trees when the Register of Old and Valuable Trees was set up	Current number of trees	Number of trees included in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees after it was set up	Number of trees removed

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. 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, if conducted, will be taken up by existing staff.
2. The numbers of Old and Valuable Trees (OVT) under the purview of various tree management departments are given below (up to 15 March 2013) -

Department	Number of trees when the Register of Old and Valuable Trees was set up (in 2004)	Current number of trees (Note 1)	Number of trees added in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees after it was set up	Number of trees removed
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	10	5	1	0
Architectural Services Department	0	83	1	1
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	0	6	0	0
Commissioner for Heritage's Office, DEVB	0	2	0	0
Department of Health	0	2	0	0
Fire Services Department	0	1	0	0
Government Property Agency	0	1	0	0
Highways Department	0	9	0	0
Hong Kong Police Force	0	2	0	0
Housing Department	4	4	1	0
Lands Department	0	7	0	0
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	513	355	13	65 (Note 2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>66</b>

**Note 1** – The current number of trees in each department has been updated upon transfer of maintenance responsibility between departments

**Note 2** – The figure includes four OVTs removed from the Register due to the change in land status

We are processing nominations of trees to enrich the OVT Register.

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)008**

Question Serial No.

0074

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 expenditures involved in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13). How many contractors have received warning letters or have punitive action taken against them for improper tree pruning or failure to meet the work requirements under the contract? Please provide the relevant details;
2. Please list by year 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 (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13);
3. Please provide information on the estimated expenditure for the centralised tree support team and its staff establishment, as well as the tree management qualifications required for each of the newly created posts; and
4. 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.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

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 warning letters issued by the major tree management departments in the past three years are as follows -

Financial Year	Number of Contracts	Contract Amount (\$M)	Warning Letters Issued
2010-11	48	175	1
2011-12	58	300	4
2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)	48	266	2

In 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 (up to 31 December 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 the 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 3) (Note 4)		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (As at 31 Dec 2012)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	N/A (Note 1)			86(50)	86(54)	87(52)
Architectural Services Department	200 000			15(4)	18(5)	5(5)
Civil Engineering and Development Department (Note 7)	7 650	25 650	24 800	12(3)	12(5)	18(1)
Drainage Services Department	25 500	34 254	25 600	16(1)	16(2)	16(2)
Highways Department	500 000	500 000	600 000	22(1)	22(1)	37(7)
Housing Department (Note 8)	100 000			28(10)	31(10)	36(11)
Lands Department	N/A (Note 2)			-	-	12(8) (Note 5)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	700 000	521 000	513 600	210(101)	210(105)	210(126 ) (Note 6)
Water Supplies Department	49 400			16(1)	16(1)	14(2)

**Note 1:**

All trees in country parks are under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Due to the very large number of trees involved, AFCD is unable to provide a figure.

**Note 2:**

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 3:**

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.

**Note 4:**

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

**Note 5:**

The figures refer to the staff in the Tree Unit of the Lands Department.

**Note 6:**

For the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the number of staff includes full-time staff only while the number of staff with professional qualifications (in bracket) also includes staff on a part-time basis.

**Note 7:**

From 2009-10 to 2013-14, the Civil Engineering and Development Department is responsible for maintaining the trees planted under the urban Greening Master Plans.

**Note 8:**

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

3. 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 posts are required to be certified arborists. They, 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 Specialists 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 staffing costs concerned amount to \$4M each year. These Arborists and Assistant Arborists posts form an integral part of the establishment of the Tree Management Office.
4. 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, cameras, laser pointers, etc. These simple handheld tools and equipment are kept by departments and they involve a large quantity. For advanced equipment, as at 31 January 2013, the main tree management departments, together with the Tree Management Office in Development Bureau, had a total of 47 resistograph instrument, 39 tomograph



instrument and four stump grinders. A breakdown for the tomography and resistograph instruments and stump grinder is listed below.

Department	Number of tomograph instrument	Number of resistograph instrument	Number of stump grinder
Tree Management Office, DEVB	2	2	0
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	4	7	0
Lands Department	1	1	0
Highways Department	1	1	0
Housing Department	1	2	0
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	29	34	4
Water Supplies Department	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)009**

Question Serial No.

1685

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 indicators for the planting of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers under this Programme, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) how many trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers planted in 2012 are native species; and
- (2) what is the estimated numbers of native trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers to be planted in 2013?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) In 2012, 664 000 numbers of native trees were planted. Major species of these native trees include *Schima superba*, *Polyspora axillaris* and *Liquidambar formosana*. We have not maintained statistics on the native species for shrubs and annuals.
- (2) As the planting works for works projects in 2013 are either in progress or under planning, the number of native tree species to be planted this year cannot be made available at this stage. Nonetheless, we have been promoting the use of native plant species in public works projects and relevant plant lists have been made available for designers' reference.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)010**

Question Serial No.

2849

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 for different community groups in 2012 to enhance their interest and understanding of heritage conservation, which included “Heritage Discovery 2012” and “Heritage Fiesta 2012.” Questions as follow:

1. How many people participated in these promotional activities in 2012-13? What were the expenditures and how many staff was involved in each event?
2. How many activities are planned for 2013-14? Please provide details of the activities. What is the budget and how many staff will be involved in each event? Is the Administration planning to organise more cultural activities in collaboration with other organizations in 2013-14? If so, please provide details.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. In 2012-13, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office organised a variety of activities to enhance public awareness on heritage conservation and their appreciation of historic buildings. The table below illustrates the activities organised, number of participants and expenditures for each activity during 2012-13. The workload of organising these activities was mainly absorbed by the staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

Activities	No. of Participants	Actual Expenditure
“Heritage Discovery” Roving Exhibition	148 864	\$1,730,635.80
“Revitalisation of King Yin Lei” Open Days	7 303	\$111,312

<b>Activities</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
“Heritage Conservation and Teaching History through Historic Buildings in Yau Ma Tei” workshop	39	Not applicable <sup>Note 1</sup>
Talk on Heritage Conservation	500	Not applicable <sup>Note 2</sup>
Conference on Materials, Techniques and Construction Management of Heritage Architecture in Mainland China and Hong Kong	200	Not applicable <sup>Note 3</sup>
Heritage Fiesta 2012	122 808	\$452,855

Note 1: The workshop was coorganised with the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and Education Bureau. All the costs were absorbed by the AMO.

Note 2: The talk was organised by a school with a representative from the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office delivering the talk on heritage conservation to students at the school. No cost was involved.

Note 3: The Conference was coorganised with the Construction Industry Council (CIC). All the costs were absorbed by CIC.

2. In 2013-14, we will continue to organise promotional and educational activities for the public, including open days, guided tours, exhibitions and conference. The estimated budget is approximately \$4,900,000. These activities will mainly be organised by staff of the Commissioner’s for Heritage’s Office. We will continue to collaborate with different organisations to promote Hong Kong’s built heritage. For example, we will organise exhibitions with the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, work with the Hong Kong Post on issuing a stamp collection commemorating Batch I of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, and organise open days with some schools which are graded historic buildings or declared monuments.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)011**

Question Serial No.

2850

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:

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 under Programme 3, the Administration will continue to conduct the survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong, oversee the effective implementation of the tree risk management arrangement within the Government, and develop a database of problematic trees. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. How many areas had their survey completed last year? How many are expected to have the survey completed in the coming year?
2. What is the expected date of completion of the survey? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower?
3. Has there been any change in the number of trees included in the database of problematic trees in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-2011 to 2012-2013)? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in the management of the database in the coming year?
4. What is the current number of departmental staff responsible for the caring and treating of problematic trees? How many trees were treated and received special care last year? How many of them have recovered after treatment and how many were removed?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The roadside tree survey covers all the eighteen administrative districts of Hong Kong. Up to this moment, survey works in six districts, namely Yau Tsim Mong, Wan Chai, Central & Western, Southern, Eastern and Kwun Tong have been completed. It is expected that the survey for the remaining districts will be completed within 2013-14.

2. The whole survey will be completed within 2013-14. The manpower requirements arising from the survey have been met by redeployment of existing resources. The expenditure of the survey in 2012-13 is about \$1.6 million, excluding redeployed manpower resources, while the estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is about \$5.7 million.
3. The numbers of trees included in the database of Tree Register by end of 2010, 2011 and 2012 were 1 039, 1 058 and 1 021 respectively. The management work of the database will be undertaken by existing manpower resources and no additional expenditure will be incurred in 2013/14.
4. Caring and treating of problematic trees are part and parcel of the daily duties of tree management staff. We cannot provide therefore statistics on staff dedicated to treating problematic trees. In 2012, after detailed inspection, tree management departments undertook about 19 350 mitigation measures, including pruning, removing dead branches, controlling pests and diseases, and cabling and propping as support to trees. Some 3 500 trees were removed due to public safety considerations after tree risk assessment. Another 200 were included in the Tree Register after treatment for continued monitoring.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)012**

Question Serial No.

2851

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:

According to the indicators in Programme (3), the estimated number of shrubs to be planted by the Government and the estimated expenditure on greening works in the coming year will substantially decrease compared with previous years. Will the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the reasons for the decrease in the number of shrubs planted from 6 million this year to 3.9 million next year, and the district distribution of the shrubs planted in 2012-13 and 2013-14;
2. the reasons for the decrease in the expenditure on greening works from \$188.6 million this year to \$125.9 million next year, and the projects that have been scrapped under this initiative; and
3. the number of plants cultivated by the Government which have died due to various reasons, such as being blown over and improper planting, in the past two years (i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The decrease in the estimated number of shrubs to be planted in 2013 was mainly attributed to the completion of a few major planting works in 2012, including those at Stage 1 Infrastructure Works at North Apron Area of Kai Tak Airport, Drainage River Improvement Works in Upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River and Upper Tai Po River, New Civil Aviation Department Headquarters and Lai Chi Kok Transfer Scheme, which involved a large quantity of shrubs.

The number of shrubs by district is as follows:

District	Number of shrubs	
	2012 (Actual)	2013 (to end of the year) (Estimate)
Central & Western	315 138	116 300
Eastern	163 788	136 900
Southern	194 996	127 500
Wan Chai	92 087	72 100
Kowloon City	388 421	433 500
Kwun Tong	510 386	294 300
Sham Shui Po	326 112	129 500
Wong Tai Sin	573 610	304 000
Yau Tsim Mong	272 232	186 800
Islands	312 400	59 300
Kwai Tsing	281 707	99 900
North	417 481	168 900
Sai Kung	712 804	329 600
Sha Tin	275 124	135 100
Tai Po	246 408	400 500
Tsuen Wan	360 213	232 100
Tuen Mun	207 430	433 000
Yuen Long	369 395	237 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 019 732</b>	<b>3 896 300</b>

2. The decrease in expenditure in 2013 as compared with 2012 was mainly attributed to the completion of the planting works of some major works projects in 2012, for example, Provision of Wo Hop Shek Columbarium and Garden of Remembrance, New Civil Aviation Department Headquarters, North Lantau Hospital, Phase 1, Kai Tak Development - Stage 1 Infrastructure Works at North Apron Area of Kai Tak



Airport and Infrastructure Works at Town Centre South and Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung Kwan O.

3. The number of trees removed as a result of having been damaged under inclement weather in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are 2 180 and 16 900 respectively. There is no record on the number of plants which have died owing to improper planting.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)013**

Question Serial No.

2852

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:

Extensive flooding still occurs at various locations in the urban areas of Hong Kong during the rainy season each year. This not only poses a threat to public safety but also affects the operation of roadside small shop tenants. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (1) Please set out in tabular form the current number and distribution of flooding blackspots in the urban areas, as well as the changes in the number of flooding blackspots in various districts in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13).
- (2) The locations with nullah/improvement projects completed in 2012-13, and the ways in which the Administration monitors the effectiveness of the improvement works carried out at the blackspots.
- (3) The locations where nullah/improvement works will be carried out in 2013-14, the dates of commencement and completion of each project, and the estimated expenditure and staff establishment involved in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) The current flooding blackspots in the urban areas are tabulated as follows:-

Location	District
Chatham Road South between Granville Road and Austin Avenue	Tsim Sha Tsui
Pok Fu Lam Village	Pok Fu Lam
Wong Chuk Hang Road junction of Nam Long Shan Road	Aberdeen
Morrison Hill Road junction of Lap Tak Lane	Wan Chai

There has been no change in the number of flooding blackspots in the urban areas in the past three years.

- (2) Drainage improvement projects in the urban areas completed in 2012-13 are Lai Chi Kok drainage tunnel and Hong Kong West drainage tunnel. For drainage improvement works completed at flooding blackspots, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) would carry out inspection, maintenance and clearance of the drainage system before and soon after each heavy rainfall to ensure their proper functioning. DSD will monitor the performance of the completed works, and determine the need for further improvement works if residual flooding problem still occurs.
- (3) Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, DSD will commence the reconstruction and rehabilitation works of Kai Tak nullah (from Tung Kwong Road to Prince Edward Road East) in late 2013 for completion in late 2017. The estimated expenditure of the project in 2013-14 is \$9.3 million with two professional staff in DSD overseeing the project implementation.

Other on-going drainage improvements projects in urban areas are as follows:

Project Title	Commencement Date	Completion Date	Estimate 2013-14 (\$ million)
Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island — western lower catchment works	Jul 2008	Late 2013	27.7
Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Po Kwong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road — remaining works	Oct 2011	Mid 2017	156.5
Happy Valley underground stormwater storage scheme	Sep 2011	Early 2018	130.0
Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Po Kwong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road — stage 1	Aug 2010	Late 2013	20.0

The total manpower involved in implementing the above on-going projects is about 12 professional staff and 10 technical staff in DSD.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
 Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)  
 Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)014**

Question Serial No.

2854

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:

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 under Programme (5), the Administration will, in the coming year, continue to monitor the progress of the various initiatives and enhance them for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry to enhance local construction manpower. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What is the growth rate of construction manpower in the past two years (i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13)? What is the average age of newcomers to the construction industry in the past two years? Which trades of the construction industry are facing manpower shortage? Will the Administration take measures or organise courses to address manpower shortage in certain trades of the construction industry? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What are the details of the initiatives for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in each of the initiatives?
3. 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? Will measures be taken to address the situation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

According to information provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC), the number of registered construction workers increased from about 270 000 in April 2011 to about 310 000 in December 2012, and the average age of the newly registered construction workers was about 39 in the concerned period.

In the past years, Development Bureau (DEVB) has been closely monitoring the construction manpower demand arising from the implementation of massive infrastructure and public housing construction programmes. In 2010 and 2012, DEVB obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total of \$320 million to support the CIC to strengthen its training under various initiatives to enhance the skill levels of local workers, and attract new entrants to the construction industry through promotion and publicity activities.

The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) provides training allowances for the trades facing labour shortages to attract new entrants to the industry. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2013, more than 2 000 training places for the ECMTS have been provided for trades including bar-bender and fixer, carpenter (formwork), metal formwork erector and concretor, drainlayer, metal worker, scaffolder, tower crane workers' assistant, leveller, site surveying officer and tunnel worker. CIC will suitably review and adjust the trades under the ECMTS to better meet the market needs.

DEVB has provided subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses to encourage and assist the in-service construction workers to be registered as skilled workers, and has provided subsidy to the senior construction workers to assist them to advance to the frontline supervisors / management level. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2013, there were about 4 800 in-service workers who have applied for the above subsidies.

We will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to uplift the image of the construction industry and attract more new entrants to join the industry. The initiatives include "Build Up" publicity campaign, enhancing construction site safety, uplifting site cleanliness and tidiness and workers' welfare, and providing uniform for site personnel.

In addition to the existing set-up, in 2013-14, DEVB will continue to employ an officer on non-civil service contract terms, with an estimated expenditure of HK\$300,000, to assist in implementing promotion and publicity activities.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)015**

Question Serial No.

2864

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the substantial increase of \$14.6 million (67.6%) in the estimated expenditure for Energizing Kowloon East in 2013-14, please provide the following information:

1. On the face-lifting of waterfront along Hoi Bun Road, face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground and conversion of King Yip Street Nullah to Tsui Ping River, what are the details of and estimated expenditure for these initiatives, as well as the timetables for the announcement of design proposals and public consultation?
2. On the strategic planning studies to release the government sites including the two Action Areas under the Energizing Kowloon East initiative, will the Administration consider using the two Action Areas for the development of local creative industries, which will allow local practitioners of creative and cultural activities to continue their operation in the district? Has the Administration held any dialogues with them and carried out studies on the number of practitioners of creative and cultural activities in the district, as well as earmarking space in the two Action Areas for them to continue their operation? What are the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for the studies?
3. On the increasing rental for commercial units in the district due to the release of the two Action Areas for commercial purposes, will the planned study on the industrial heritage of Kowloon East consider helping small businesses and economic activities with local characteristics in the district by earmarking space in the two Action Areas for them to move in and continue their operation, so that economic activities with local characteristics will not disappear? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in the study?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. (i) Revitalisation of Kwun Tong Waterfront

The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) has derived a comprehensive revitalisation strategy for the Kwun Tong waterfront. Apart from the Kwun Tong Promenade stage 2 project which has already started works in February 2013, we have converted one of the unused sites underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass to an informal venue called “Fly the Flyover Operation 01”. The area has already been opened for public use since January 2013. We have also started the preparation works for the realignment of Hoi Bun Road to convert it to a tree-lined boulevard. In-house resources are being deployed to undertake preliminary study on this proposal. The project estimate and details of the works will be established when the project is included in the Public Works Programme at a later stage. We have consulted Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) in January 2013 on the Hoi Bun Road greening works. We will continue to consult KTDC at various design stages.

(ii) Face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground

We have consulted KTDC in September 2012 on the face-lifting scheme and obtained support from members. The face-lifting works will be implemented in two phases. The phase 1 works covering the removal of railings and renovation of the sitting out area have commenced in January 2013 and the phase 2 works for converting the remaining Tsun Yip Street Playground to an industrial heritage park is targeted for commencement in 2014-15. The whole project will be completed in 2016-17. Consultants have been employed to undertake the design and implementation of the phase 1 works.

(iii) Conversion of King Yip Street Nullah

Our intention is to convert the King Yip Street nullah to Tsui Ping River with environmental, ecological and landscaping upgrading without compromising the storm-water discharge function and capacity. In-house resources are being deployed to undertake preliminary study on this proposal. The project estimate and details of the works will be established when the project is included in the Public Works Programme. We will also consult KTDC at the later design stage.

2 & 3 One of the Energizing Kowloon East strategies is to promote diversity. To sustain the role of Kowloon East (KE) as incubator for small and medium enterprises, art, cultural and creative industries, the EKEO seizes every opportunity to engage the stakeholders in the transformation process. The Administration has undertaken a survey on the business establishments, including cultural and creative workshops, in the district in 2011. We have established a dialogue with artists, art groups and creative designers in the district and will explore opportunities to provide suitable space for them. These opportunities include reserving the remaining plots of flyover sites for diversified activities and the possibility of incorporating space for art and culture uses in existing and new premises in KE.

In the longer term, the Kowloon Bay Action Area is proposed for a new vibrant node with offices, hotel and retail/ entertainment outlets, whereas the Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Area 2 is proposed for a mixed development with artist workshops/ office studio, retail, restaurants and outdoor performance area. The detailed development parameters, development mix and mode of development of the two Action Areas are to be established in the consultancy studies. The consultancy studies scheduled for commencement in 2013/2014 for completion in around two years' time are estimated to cost about \$6 million. The stakeholders and the public will be engaged at key stages of the studies.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)016**

Question Serial No.

2867

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 Programme (2) Heritage Conservation, the financial provision for 2012-13 has decreased from the original estimate of \$52 million to the revised estimate of \$45.3, representing a decrease of 12.9%, while the financial provision for the coming year will increase by 20.3% to \$9.2 million. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What are the reasons for the reduction of financial provision for this year? What departmental projects or initiatives have been scrapped by the Administration to make such revision?
2. What are the expenditures for the implementation of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme and the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the coming year respectively? What are the reasons for the Administration to employ NCSC staff?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The reduction of financial provision in 2012-13 is mainly related to the non-recurrent expenditure on the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme). Since some of the non-profit-making organisations implementing the projects under the Revitalisation Scheme have not yet submitted their reimbursement claims for government subsidies in the current financial year, the non-recurrent expenditure will be carried forward to the next financial year.

2. In 2013-14, the provision for implementing projects under the Revitalisation Scheme and employment of NCSC staff is \$13.3 million and \$14.5 million respectively. In order to meet the manpower need in the short and medium terms for implementing the Revitalisation Scheme, and to implement a series of initiatives under the Heritage Conservation Policy, the employment of NCSC staff is required.

in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)017**

Question Serial No.

3060

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 Programme (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management, the financial provision for 2012-13 has decreased from the original estimate of \$52.5 million to the revised estimate of \$42.3 million, representing a decrease of 19.4%, while the financial provision for the coming year will increase by 21% to \$8.9 million. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What are the reasons for the reduction of financial provision for this year? What departmental projects or initiatives have been scrapped by the Administration to make such revision?
2. What are the expenditures for conducting the survey of roadside trees and minor consultancies, and providing training to personnel engaged in landscape and tree management work in the coming year respectively?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The decrease in provision in 2012-13 for Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section is mainly due to staff vacancies in the Section and reduced expenditure on the survey of roadside trees.

2. The provision in 2013-14 for the items concerned is as follows:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Provision (in \$Million)</u>
Survey of roadside trees	\$5.7
Minor consultancies	\$1.3
Training	\$1.9

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)018**

Question Serial No.

3015

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 Administration allocated a total of \$320 million in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council's labour training, with more than 2 000 training places provided so far. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) a breakdown in tabular form of the numbers of people who have enrolled in and completed the following courses in the past 2 years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2011-12); and

Year	2010-11		2011-12	
Course	Enrolled	Completed	Enrolled	Completed
One-year Basic Craft Course				
Two-year Basic Craft Course				
Two-year Construction Supervisor/Technician Course				
"Build Up" Training Programme				
Total				

- (b) a breakdown in tabular form of the attendance allowance and special allowance for workplace attachment of the following courses in the past 2 years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2011-12).

Year	2010-11		2011-12	
Course	Attendance Allowance	Special Allowance for Workplace Attachment	Attendance Allowance	Special Allowance for Workplace Attachment
One-year Basic Craft Course				

Two-year Basic Craft Course				
Two-year Construction Supervisor/Technician Course				
“Build Up” Training Programme				
Total				

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

- (a) According to the information provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) in 2010-11 and 2011-12, the numbers of enrollments and graduates in CIC’s relevant courses are as below -

Course	Enrolled * $\Psi$	Graduated in 2010-11 $\Psi$	Enrolled * $\Psi$	Graduated in 2011-12 $\Psi$
One-year Basic Craft Course	182	140	181	135
Two-year Basic Craft Course	169	94	168	95
Two-year Construction Supervisor/Technician Course	125	98	154	111
Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme referred in the “Build Up” Training Programme #	76	67	794	662

\* It refers to the number of intake for the course.

$\Psi$  The trainees in the “Enrolled” and “Graduated in 2010-11 / 2011-12” columns for a course are the same cohorts.

# The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme is one of the key training initiatives under the \$320 million commitment mentioned in the question. Other initiatives include providing subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses, and providing subsidy to the training course for senior construction workers.

- (b) According to the information provided by CIC, the attendance allowance and special allowance for workplace attachment of CIC’s concerned courses in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as below –

Year	2010-11		2011-12	
Course	Attendance Allowance	Special Allowance for Workplace Attachment	Attendance Allowance	Special Allowance for Workplace Attachment
One-year Basic Craft Course	\$1,550 per month <i>(Apr 2010 to Aug 2010)</i>  \$1,600 per month <i>(Sep 2010 to Mar 2011)</i>	Not applicable	\$1,600 per month <i>(Apr 2011 to Aug 2011)</i>  \$1,800 per month <i>(from Sep 2011 onwards)</i>	Not applicable

Year	2010-11		2011-12	
Course	Attendance Allowance	Special Allowance for Workplace Attachment	Attendance Allowance	Special Allowance for Workplace Attachment
Two-year Basic Craft Course	<b>1<sup>st</sup> yr:</b> \$1,550 per month <i>(Apr2010 to Aug 2010)</i> \$1,600 per month <i>(Sep 2010 to Mar 2011)</i> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> yr :</b> \$1,800 per month <i>(Apr 2010 to Aug 2010)</i> \$1,850 per month <i>(Sep 2010 to Mar 2011)</i>	\$45 per day	<b>1<sup>st</sup> yr:</b> \$1,600 per month <i>(Apr 2011 to Aug 2011)</i> \$1800 per month <i>(from Sep 2011 onwards)</i> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> yr:</b> \$1,850 per month <i>(Apr2011 to Aug 2011)</i> \$2,200 per month <i>(from Sep 2011 onwards)</i>	\$45 per day <i>(Apr2011 to Aug 2011)</i> \$100 per day <i>(from Sep 2011 onwards)</i>
Two-year Construction Supervisor/Technician Course	\$2,315 per month <i>(Apr 2010 to Aug 2010)</i> \$2,380 per month <i>(Sep 2010 to Mar 2011)</i>	\$25 per day	\$2,380 per month <i>(Apr2011 to Aug 2011)</i> \$2,600 per month <i>(from Sep 2011 onwards)</i>	\$25 per day <i>(Apr 2011 to Aug 2011)</i> \$100 per day <i>(from Sep 2011 onwards)</i>
Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme referred in the “Build Up” Training Programme	\$200 per day <i>(from Sep 2010 onwards)</i>	Not applicable	\$200 per day	Not applicable

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)019**

Question Serial No.

1388

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 in 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. It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the authorities will step up efforts to attract ethnic minorities to join the industry. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the statistical figures for the construction workforce in 2012-13 by age group, race, gender, trade and average monthly salary.
- (b) Has the Administration studied measures to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry?

Asked by: Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan

Reply:

- (a) According to information provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) as at December 2012, of the about 310 000 registered construction workers, about 44% are aged over 50 whereas 6% is below the age of 25. More than 90% of the registered workers are male. In terms of skill level, about 36% have registered as skilled workers. With reference to the General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, the median monthly earning of construction workers in October to December 2012 was about \$12,000. According to the information collected by Development Bureau in March 2012, there were about 5 000 ethnic minorities working under public works contracts.



- (b) CIC is stepping up promotion efforts to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry. The initiatives include liaising with social groups of ethnic minorities, related labour unions and non-government organizations; placing advertisement in their newspapers, launching Family Days for them, and inviting their students as promotion ambassadors, etc. CIC has collaborated with the industry to launch job fairs at various districts to provide job opportunities in the construction industry for the ethnic minorities.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)020**

Question Serial No.

1269

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012):

- (a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- (b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Information on the departmental records management work undertaken by Works Branch, Development Bureau over the past three years (up to 2012-13) is provided below -

- (a) Number and rank of designated officers:

There are two Confidential Assistants designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

- (b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme Records	1999 – 2013	No.: 2 089 (104.45 linear metres)	7 – 25 years after the records have become inactive	94 out of 2 089 records are confidential records
Administrative Records	2003 – 2012	No.: 45 (2.25 linear metres)	3 – 5 years after action completed	27 out of 45 records are confidential records

(c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative Records	1957 - 2003	No.: 36 (1.8 linear metres)	2011-12 and 2012-13	3 – 5 years after action completed	No

(d) Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme Records	1966 – 2009	No.: 2 499 (124.95 linear metres)	2010 – 11 and 2011-12	1 – 17 years after the records have become inactive	2 out of 2 499 records are confidential records
Administrative Records	1946 – 2011	No.: 4 798 (239.9 linear metres)	2010 – 11 and 2011-12	1 – 7 years after action completed	240 out of 4 798 records are confidential records

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)021**

Question Serial No.

1073

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Will the Secretary inform this Council of:

- (a) the details of the plan and budget for stepping up the promotion efforts to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry mentioned in the Budget; and
- (b) whether the Government will strengthen the recruitment of ethnic minority workers in the construction industry on a district level; if so, the details of the plan and the budget; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

- (a)&(b) The Construction Industry Council (CIC) is stepping up the promotion efforts to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry. The initiatives include enhancing the promotion through social groups of ethnic minorities, labour unions and related non-government organizations, placing advertisement in newspapers of ethnic minorities, conducting Family Days for the ethnic minorities, and inviting ethnic minorities students as promotion ambassadors, etc. CIC has collaborated with the industry to conduct job fairs at various districts to provide job opportunities in the construction industry for the ethnic minorities. According to CIC, the estimated expenditure in 2013-14 for the above work will be about \$100,000.

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)022**

Question Serial No.

0919

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

Programme:                      (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

The Government announces in the Budget Speech that it will continue to carry out a detailed planning and investigation study, including an assessment of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness, for the construction of a desalination plant on a reserved site in Tseung Kwan O. What are the studies or other work to be carried out by the Works Branch for the desalination plant in 2013-14? What are the expenditures and manpower involved? Apart from Tseung Kwan O, will the Branch consider other locations for the construction of the desalination plant?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Works Branch oversees the policy initiative of exploring more water resources. Under this initiative, the Water Supplies Department commissioned a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. Work under the study in 2013-14 includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments and cost estimation. The provision for the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million. The Works Branch only incurs minimal resources in related works.

In tandem with the planning of new developments, we will look into the need for alternative water resources including desalination water in meeting additional water demand and, as necessary, identify sites for desalination plants.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)023**

Question Serial No.

0920

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Please set out the specific work done under the Energizing Kowloon East initiative by the Energizing Kowloon East Office since its establishment in June 2012.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Since the setting up of Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) in June 2012, EKEO has taken forward various works aiming at enhancing connectivity, improving environment and releasing development potential in Kowloon East (KE):

(i) Enhancing Connectivity

We have implemented 12 local traffic improvement works, converted 26 existing directional signs from “Kwun Tong Industrial Area” to “Kwun Tong Business Area”, provided 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, and reviewed 41 existing road junctions with improvement works done in KE. The first stage public engagement exercise regarding the development of an Environmentally Friendly Linkage System has also been completed and the second stage engagement will be rolled out in mid 2013. In February 2013, we commissioned a feasibility study to improve the pedestrian environment at the Kowloon Bay Business Area. We have also kick-started the preparation works for the realignment of Hoi Bun Road to convert it to a tree-lined boulevard and the enhancement of traffic/pedestrian environment at Shun Yip Street, Hang Yip Street and Yan Yip Street. We will continue pushing ahead other local traffic improvement works with the Transport Department and Highways Department in KE.

(ii) Improving Environment

We have converted one of the unused sites underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass to an informal venue called “Fly the Flyover Operation 01” which has already been opened for public use since Jan 2013. Drainage facilities blocking the pedestrian way and views

along Hoi Bun Road are being removed in phases with the first phase completed in January 2013. Improvement of Hoi Bun Road sitting out area will also commence around mid 2013. Kwun Tong Promenade phase 2 project, face-lifting of Lai Yip Street public toilet and face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground phase 1 are currently under construction. Meanwhile, we have commissioned the pre-construction/design works for various face-lifting projects to existing facilities including Tsun Yip Street Cooked Food Centre, Kwun Tong public ferry pier and Lai Yip Street Refuse Collection Point. We have also commissioned the hydraulic performance analysis for the King Yip Street nullah to facilitate examination of its conversion to a landscaped Tsui Ping River. 28 trees and 5 700 shrubs have been planted along Lai Yip Street, Hoi Bun Road and various locations in KE. More trees and shrubs will be planted under the greening master plan.

(iii) Releasing Development Potential

We are working closely with concerned departments in relocating the existing facilities including the vehicle examination centre, waste recycling centre and driving test centre in the two Action Areas in KE such that the sites currently occupied by these facilities can be released for development of a diversity of uses and activities conducive towards transformation of KE. The pre-construction works for relocating these facilities are underway. We have also commenced preparation works for the Kai Tak Fantasy in organizing an international idea competition to generate original concepts, master planning and urban design layouts and schemes for the area comprising the former runway tip taking due account of other developments at the runway, the Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Area and the water body enclosed between them.

(iv) Engagement and Promotional Activities

Apart from the works above, EKEO has engaged various stakeholders, including professional institutions, property owners and District Councils of Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City to collect their views. More than 1 800 participants have participated in various public engagement activities including briefings, public workshop, artist workshop, place making forum, international seminars and international exhibitions organised by EKEO. EKEO will continue to engage different stakeholders, collect their valuable views and suggestions in pushing ahead with various area improvement projects.

EKEO has also organized a number of promotional activities including a weekly carnival 'Playful Thursday' with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and Kwun Tong District Council at Tsun Yip Street Playground from 25 October 2012 to 10 January 2013, Launching Ceremony of Face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground on 10 January 2013, Opening Ceremony of Fly the Flyover 01 on 20 January 2013, and "Sharing Memoirs and Extending Legacy in Transforming Kowloon East" campaign from 1 March to 31 May 2013. EKEO will continue to explore opportunities in promoting the initiative of Energizing Kowloon East.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)024**

Question Serial No.

0921

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Works Branch will continue to improve the pedestrian linkages between Kowloon East and its neighbouring areas. What are the specific locations of the pedestrian linkages that will be improved? What are the timetables for the improvement works, as well as the manpower and resources involved? Will the Works Branch consult the residents of Kowloon East on the initiative?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

According to the Energizing Kowloon East Conceptual Master Plan 2.0 (CMP 2.0), three out of the ten major tasks specifically focus on enhancing the pedestrian connectivity from the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong MTR Stations to the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong Business Areas.

We have commissioned consultants to undertake a feasibility study in February 2013 for completion in late 2014 to examine improvement required for the pedestrian environment at the Kowloon Bay Business Area. The study will cost about \$7 million and be administered by in-house resources of the Energizing Kowloon East Office. We will carry out public engagement exercises during the course of the study to solicit public views on the Study. The Kwun Tong District Council will also be consulted. The Study will identify short-term measures to improve the existing pedestrian environment for early implementation ahead of completion of the Study. For medium to long-term proposals, we will formulate an implementation plan with the relevant departments and carry out detailed assessment and design as necessary.

We have established an inter-departmental traffic focus group with the Transport Department and Highways Department to work out short-term road improvement measures, including enhancement to pedestrian environment in the Kwun Tong Business Area. Some of these measures, including improvement works to 41 existing road junctions and provision of 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, have been implemented by the departments. We will continue to push ahead with other improvement works to pedestrian linkages in the Kwun Tong Business Area, and to undertake technical studies and consult Kwun Tong District Council as necessary. In-house resources will be deployed to undertake the preliminary studies of these improvement works.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)025**

Question Serial No.

0922

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Works Branch will co-ordinate Government's efforts and resources for improvement of the environment. Regarding the face-lifting of waterfront and Tsun Yip Street Playground, as well as the conversion of King Yip Street Nullah mentioned, what are the timetables for the various works, as well as the manpower and resources involved? Will the Works Branch consult the local residents on the improvement works? If yes, what are the details of the consultation? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

(i) Revitalisation of Kwun Tong Waterfront

The Energizing Kowloon East Office has derived a comprehensive revitalisation strategy for the Kwun Tong waterfront. Apart from the Kwun Tong Promenade stage 2 project which has already started works in February 2013 for completion by around end 2014, we have converted one of the unused sites underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass to an informal venue called "Fly the Flyover Operation 01". The area has already been opened for public use since January 2013. We have also started the preparation works for the realignment of Hoi Bun Road to convert it to a tree-lined boulevard and explore a direct linkage from Hoi Bun Road Park to the waterfront. In-house resources are being deployed to undertake preliminary study on this proposal and a traffic consultant is being appointed to review the traffic impacts of the proposal. The timetables for the works, manpower and resources involved on this proposal are yet to be established. We have consulted Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) in January 2013 on the Hoi Bun Road greening works. We will continue to consult KTDC at various design stages.

(ii) Face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground

We have consulted KTDC in September 2012 on the face-lifting scheme and obtained support from members. The face-lifting works will be implemented in two phases. The phase 1 works covering the removal of railings and renovation of the sitting out area have commenced in January 2013 and the phase 2 works for converting the remaining Tsun Yip Street Playground to an industrial heritage park is targeted for commencement in 2014-15. The whole project will be completed in 2016-17. Consultants have been employed to undertake the design and implementation of the phase 1 works.

(iii) Conversion of King Yip Street Nullah

Our intention is to convert the King Yip Street nullah to Tsui Ping River with environmental, ecological and landscaping upgrading without compromising the storm-water discharge function and capacity. In-house resources are being deployed to undertake preliminary study on this proposal. The timetables for the various works, manpower and resources involved are yet to be established. We will consult KTDC after formulation of the project details at a later stage.

Name in block letters:	<u>C S Wai</u>
Post Title:	<u>Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)</u>
Date:	<u>5 April 2013</u>

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

**DEVB(W)026**

Question Serial No.

0923

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Works Branch will carry out strategic planning studies to release the potential of the government sites. Please set out the topics and details of the proposed studies in 2013-14, as well as the expenditures involved and dates of completion.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Two Action Areas, with clusters of existing facilities in Kowloon East (KE), are identified to have potential for optimizing their development to facilitate the transformation of KE. They are now mainly occupied by waste recycling centre, vehicle examination centre and driving test centre. The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) of the Development Bureau is considering relocating these facilities and speeding up the release of these government sites for development of a diversity of uses and activities. Consultants will be commissioned to examine the feasibility of relocating these facilities and formulate master development plans for the comprehensive development of the sites. The consultancy studies scheduled for commencement in 2013/2014 are estimated to cost about \$6 million and take around two years to complete.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)027**

Question Serial No.

0125

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

How will the provision be used to:

1. carry out strategic planning studies to release the potential of the government sites including the two Action Areas; and
2. carry out study on the industrial heritage of Kowloon East with a view to enhancing interests on legacy of the area through promoting integration of industrial heritage in urban design and public arts?

(Please provide a breakdown of the estimated provision required, staff establishment and time required.)

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

1. Two Action Areas, with clusters of existing facilities in Kowloon East (KE), are identified to have potential for optimizing their development to facilitate the transformation of KE. They are now mainly occupied by waste recycling centre, vehicle examination centre and driving test centre. The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) of the Development Bureau is considering relocating these facilities and speeding up the release of these government sites for development of a diversity of uses and activities. Consultants will be commissioned to examine the feasibility of relocating these facilities and formulate master development plans for the comprehensive development of the sites. The consultancy studies scheduled for commencement in 2013/2014 are estimated to cost about \$6 million and take around two years to complete.

2. In December 2012, the EKEO of the Development Bureau commissioned a multi-disciplinary team of consultants comprising historians, architects, artists, planners and overseas experts to undertake a “Study on Industrial Heritage of Kowloon East and its Potential for Public Art and Urban Design”. The Study will systematically collect and record the industrial development history of Kowloon East, translate the unique industrial heritage into urban design guidelines and potential for public art installations. To arouse public interest on the industrial heritage of the study area, public engagement activities will be undertaken during the course of the Study. The findings of the Study will provide guidance in the transformation process of Kowloon East into a core business district to enhance its urban culture and integrate the area’s industrial legacy with the vision of future creative design. The estimated budget of the Study is approximately \$1.4 million and is funded under Head 159 and administered by the internal resources of the Works Branch of the Development Bureau. The Study is expected to be completed in one to one and a half years.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)028**

Question Serial No.

2448

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

Programme:                      (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the plan to construct a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O, please provide the following information:

1. What are the progress and initial findings, if any, of the feasibility study of the plant?
2. What are the specific work plans and targets of the construction of the plant as well as the resources involved in 2013-14?
3. In light of public concern over the costs and safety of drinking water due to the rising price of Dongjiang water and environmental problems such as water pollution, will the Administration earmark provision in the coming year to speed up the study of the plant with reference to successful cases and techniques of other countries, and identify a suitable site earlier for the construction of the plant so as to reduce our reliance on Dongjiang water as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The planning and investigation study for the proposed desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012. The study is currently at project inception and data collection stage whilst initial findings of the study are expected to be available only till 2014.
2. The work plan for 2013-14 includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments and cost estimation for the setting up of a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O. The provision for the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million.



3. We estimate that the study could be completed by end 2014 and the current study progress is satisfactory. As for expediting the completion of the study, we have to allow sufficient time for the critical activities such as environmental impact assessment for studying the impact of the proposed plant on the environment. We have already reserved a site at Tseung Kwan O for the desalination plant. The consultants undertaking the study are required to make reference to successful cases and techniques in other countries.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)029**

Question Serial No.

2487

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 the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 that the Development Bureau (Works Branch) will continue to lead the public engagement exercise on increasing land supply by reclamation and rock cavern development. What are the objectives and specific plans of the public engagement exercise? How will the Administration enhance the transparency of the exercise and widely consult the various sectors of the community?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

The Stage 2 public engagement activities on “Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development” will be conducted from March to June this year. The aim is to introduce the potential reclamation and rock cavern development sites, their opportunities and challenges and consult the public on the issues to be covered in the coming technical studies of each potential reclamation site and rock cavern development site to ascertain the feasibility.

Under the Stage 2 public engagement, we will widely disseminate the public engagement digest and upload related information to the study website. We will gather the views of the community via public forums and roving exhibitions. We will also consult the views of the Legislative Council, District Councils, political parties, relevant statutory advisory bodies and professional institutions, and other stakeholders.

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)030**

Question Serial No.

2488

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:

What is the role of the Development Bureau (Works Branch) in support for the reconstruction work in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Area? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the post-quake reconstruction work in the past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

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 co-ordinates the HKSARG's efforts in support of the reconstruction of the quake stricken areas which include 151 reconstruction projects comprising 5 categories: infrastructure, education, social welfare/rehabilitation, medical and health as well as reconstruction work in 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 Highway) and 23 projects in Wolong. The remaining projects are led by other members of the Steering Committee.

The following table sets out the manpower (including the posts created for the Sichuan reconstruction work) and expenditures (including salaries, engagement of "independent professional consultants" to conduct technical audits, sending officials to Sichuan to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the projects, arranging Hong Kong experts to Sichuan to assist in monitoring the quality of works as well as organising seminars/workshops and other related activities) in connection with the reconstruction work carried out by the DEVB in the past 5 years:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13 (as at 28 February 2013)</b>
Manpower (number of post)	3	10	11	11	11
Expenditure (HK\$M)	1.0	11.8	14.3	13.2	11.0

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)031**

Question Serial No.

1079

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

A number of measures are proposed in this year's Budget to attract young people to join the construction industry. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of the expenditures for publicity and education in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) to uplift the professional image of the industry? What are the uses under each category of the expenditure items in detail? What are the expenditures on this front in the coming three years (i.e. 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16)?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

With about \$20 million to be used for promotion and publicity under the funding of a total of \$320 million approved by the Legislative Council, Development Bureau (DEVB) has launched the "Build Up" Publicity Campaign aiming to uplift the image of the construction industry in May 2011. Under the Campaign, the estimated expenditure up to the end of 2012-13 is about \$13.3 million with breakdown as follows:-

<b>Items</b>	<b>Estimated expenditure ( \$ M )</b>
Seed Money for the Construction Industry Resource Centre	6.0
Promotion and publicity activities, including media production, road shows, career talks and expos, dedicated web-sites, etc.	5.9
Staff Cost on non-civil service contract terms	1.4
Total:	13.3

The estimated expenditure in this area in the coming three years is around \$6.7 million.

In the past few years, DEVB have collaborated closely with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to organize promotion and publicity activities. In future, DEVB will continue to collaborate with CIC to strengthen the promotion and publicity efforts, with a view to attracting more people to join the construction industry. Promotional measures to be rolled out include MTR light box advertisements, construction industry ambassador election, promotional videos and posters, a television drama series on the construction industry, school visits, roving exhibitions, etc.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)032**

Question Serial No.

1085

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 the face of problems like labour shortage and ageing, succession gap and unwillingness of young people to join the industry, representatives of the construction industry have proposed that the title “construction worker” be renamed “urban make-up artist” to uplift the professional image of construction workers. Will the Administration look into the feasibility of renaming the title and put in resources for publicity? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) is formulating a series of new initiatives and activities to uplift the image of the construction industry. As regards follow up action to the suggestion of renaming the construction workers as “urban make-up artist”, it will be dependent on whether the construction industry as a whole would be prepared to adopt the new title or any suitable alternative.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)033**

Question Serial No.

2263

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 indicator for the planting of shrubs, the estimated number for 2013 is 3.9 million, a decrease of 35% from the 6 million in 2012. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The decrease in the estimated number of shrubs to be planted in 2013 was mainly attributed to the completion of a few major planting works including Stage 1 Infrastructure Works at North Apron Area of Kai Tak Airport, Drainage River Improvement Works in Upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River and Upper Tai Po River, New Civil Aviation Department Headquarters and Lai Chi Kok Transfer Scheme in 2012 which involved a large quantity of shrubs.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)034**

Question Serial No.

2264

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

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The revised estimate for 2012-13 has increased substantially by 31.7% over the original estimate. What are the reasons? Besides, the estimated provision for 2013-14 is \$14 million higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13, representing a significant increase of 67.6%. The Bureau explains that it is due to other consultancy studies and operating expenses. Please provide a breakdown of the provision for other consultancy studies.

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The 2012-13 revised estimate exceeds the original estimate by 31.7%. This is mainly due to expenditure items which have not been provided in the original estimate including civil service pay adjustment in 2012-13, public engagement activities and branding events.

The financial provision in 2013-14 for conducting planning and other consultancy studies is \$7.7 million including traffic and pedestrian studies (\$4.7 million) as well as industrial heritage studies and other planning studies (\$3 million).

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)035**

Question Serial No.

2265

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 estimated provision for 2013-14 is about \$80 million higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13, representing a substantial increase of 33.5%. The Bureau states that it is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the general non-recurrent item on “Investing in Construction Manpower”. Please provide details of the item concerned and the additional provision required, as well as the reasons for the increased cash flow requirement.

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The provision on “Investing in Construction Manpower” in 2013-14 is increased by around \$60 million as compared with that in 2012-13. The main reason is that the number of trainees in 2013-14 is more than that in 2012-13 under the items of “Enhanced Construction Manpower Training for Selected Trades” and “Enhanced Construction Supervisor / Technician Training”.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)036**

Question Serial No.

1461

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 implementation of a new electronic tree management information system, please provide the following information:

1. The current work progress of the system, as well as the resources deployed and staff establishment in this area; and
2. Has the Administration reviewed the effectiveness of the mobile application “Tell me@1823” launched in April 2011? If yes, what are the findings?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. The Tree Management Information System (TMIS) has come into operation since May 2012. Tree management departments have been loading tree information into the system step by step. Currently, there is information on some 420 000 trees in the system.

The estimated expenditures for the maintenance and operation of the TMIS in 2013-14 is about \$1.5 million. The management and operation work of the TMIS will be undertaken by the existing staff.

2. "Tell me@1823" has provided a useful channel in line with the technological development to aid the collection of tree information since GPS references, photos and voice messages are collected to facilitate prompt follow-up actions by relevant departments. A total of 740 tree cases has been received via "Tell me@1823" App from April 2011 to December 2012.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)037**

Question Serial No.

1464

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 commencement of a survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong with priority given to areas with high pedestrian/vehicular flow, please provide the following information:

1. Which areas have been chosen for the survey? Which areas have their survey completed? When will the entire survey be expected to be completed? Will any review on its effectiveness be carried out? If yes, when will it be carried out?
2. What is the number of problematic trees found since the launch of the survey? What are the follow-up measures?
3. What are the resources deployed and staff establishment in 2012-13? What is the estimated amount of resources to be deployed in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. The roadside tree survey covers all the eighteen administrative districts of Hong Kong. Up to this moment, survey works in six districts, namely Yau Tsim Mong, Wan Chai, Central & Western, Southern, Eastern and Kwun Tong have been completed. It is expected that the whole survey will be completed within 2013-14 and a review of its effectiveness will follow.
2. From the survey, about two hundred problem trees have so far been identified and referred to relevant tree management departments for follow-up actions.

3. The manpower requirements arising from the survey have been met by redeployment of existing resources. The expenditure of the survey in 2012-13 is about \$1.6 million, excluding redeployed manpower resources, while the estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is about \$5.7 million.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)038**

Question Serial No.

1465

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the action plans of Energizing Kowloon East, please provide the following information:

1. A breakdown of the expected completion date as well as the manpower and resources involved for each of the major action plans under the Energizing Kowloon East initiative; and
2. The ways in which the Administration can inform the public of the implementation progress of the Energizing Kowloon East initiative.

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) for Energizing Kowloon East is a broad framework to guide Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) in formulating its major action plans to facilitate the transformation process of Kowloon East (KE). The CMP is a living and evolving document to be updated periodically to take on board public views received in the on-going public engagement process. As such, we do not have a definitive timeframe for completion of all major action plans. Nevertheless, we expect to see some initial results of these action plans in a few years time and the effect of the transformation will be more apparent in about 10 years' time.

We are working on the pre-construction work of various improvement projects proposed in the CMP, including the preparatory work to improve the traffic and pedestrian environment, to face-lift Tsun Yip Street Playground and to enhance the streetscape of Hoi Bun Road. We have also commissioned the industrial heritage study and are undertaking preliminary studies required for releasing development potential of undeveloped/under-developed government sites, including the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Areas. We are working on the relocation of existing government facilities within the two Action

Areas and preparing for an international design idea competition for the “Kai Tak Fantasy”. We will continue organising various place-making events and branding activities such as carnivals, arts and musical performances, exhibitions, visits, etc. aiming at creating a new walkable, sittable, stayable and playable “place” in KE.

In 2013-14, EKEO will spend \$7.7 million on appointing consultants to undertake various studies to facilitate the carrying out of the abovementioned work. In addition, in-house resources of EKEO will be deployed to conduct preliminary studies on them, as necessary.

EKEO works closely with the community and will keep relevant stakeholders and the public informed of the implementation progress of the Energizing Kowloon East initiative. We will maintain our close liaison with the Kwun Tong District Council and provide updated information through the EKEO website.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)039**

Question Serial No.

0327

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:

According to the information of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), 26 of the 1 444 historic buildings in Hong Kong have been demolished or substantially altered by their owners while pending AAB's grading. As a result, they do not warrant any grading since their heritage merits have been greatly diminished. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. A breakdown of the number of historic buildings not graded due to demolition or substantial alteration by their owners in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13);
2. A tabular breakdown of the names of private property owners who have applied for the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (the scheme), names and locations of the historic buildings involved, and amounts of grants applied for and approved in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13);
3. The criteria and procedures for the application, assessment and approval of the scheme;
4. The maintenance progress of the historic buildings with grants approved in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13) in tabular form; and
5. The establishment of the Antiquities and Monuments Office staff responsible for following up on the implementation of the scheme, criteria and measures adopted in overseeing the scheme, and estimated changes in staff establishment for the scheme in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. The grading result of 1 444 historic buildings/structures was announced by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on 19 March 2009. According to records, 11 graded or proposed graded buildings were demolished or substantially altered in the past three financial years, i.e.

2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. The Assessment Panel of the Antiquities Advisory Board has reviewed the proposed gradings of the aforesaid items and decided not to proceed further with the grading assessment of the buildings demolished and substantially altered.

2. In the past three years, we have approved 19 applications under the scheme. The details are listed below.

Approved Applications in 2010/11

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amounts of Grants(\$) (Approved amount equivalent to applied amount)</u>
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Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Tang Wai San Tong	1,000,000
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Approved Applications in 2011/12

ii. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	Sha Tin	Areopagos Norge	999,000
iii. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Sung Shing Tong	1,000,000
iv. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	Tai Po	Leung Tung Cheong Tong	1,000,000
v. Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Sheung Shui	Kam Tsin Tsuen	390,000
vi. Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan	Tsang Tai Cheung Tso	950,000
vii. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Sai Ying Pun	Hong Kong of the Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Incorporated	1,000,000
viii. Lim House, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Lim Fat Property Limited	1,000,000
ix. Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	Kowloon City	Holy Trinity Church, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui	661,000
x. No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Sha Tau Kok	The Owner of No. 8, San Lau Street	1,000,000
xi. Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Yau Ma Tei	The Trustees of Kowloon Union Church	1,000,000
xii. St. Joseph's Church, Fanling	Fanling	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong	870,000

Approved Applications in 2012/13

xii.	Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Yuen Long	Tang Wai San Tong	1,000,000
xiv.	Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	Sha Tau Kok	Ip Sz Fat Tso	1,000,000
xv.	Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Yuen Long	Tang Shui Mi Tsuen	980,000
xvi.	Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Sheung Wan	The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong	950,000
xvii.	Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Tai Po	Lam Tsuen Valley Committee	1,000,000
xviii.	Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Wong Chuk Hang	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong	999,960
xix.	Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun Phase II	Sai Ying Pun	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong	1,000,000

3. The criteria for application include that the applicants are the owners of the privately owned graded building, and they have to agree to a number of conditions including not to demolish their buildings, not to transfer the ownership of their buildings and to allow reasonable public access to their buildings for appreciation within an agreed period of time (usually 10 years) after completion of the maintenance works.

The assessment of the applications will be carried out by a vetting panel, with reference to a number of factors including urgency of the works, degree of public access allowed, benefits of the maintenance works to the community, etc. The application procedure and criteria for approval are available on the website of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

4. In the past 3 years, the maintenance progress of the historic buildings with grants approved are as below.

Approved Applications in 2010/11

Name of Historic Building

Maintenance Progress

i.. Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long

Completed

Approved Applications in 2011/12

ii.. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin

Completed

iii. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long

Work in progress

iv. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po

Work in progress

v.	Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Works tender under preparation
vi.	Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Work in progress
vii.	Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Work in progress
viii.	Lim House, Yuen Long	Work in progress
ix.	Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	Works tender under preparation
x.	No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Works tender under preparation
xi.	Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Work in progress
xii.	St. Joseph's Church, Fanling	Works tender under preparation

Approved Applications in 2012/13

xiii.	Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Work in progress
xiv.	Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	Works tender under preparation
xv.	Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Works tender under preparation
xvi.	Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Works tender under preparation
xvii.	Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Consultancy tender under preparation
xviii.	Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Works tender under preparation
xix.	Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun, Phase II	Works tender under preparation

5. The Technical and Advisory Unit (TAU) of the AMO is responsible for providing technical advice and support to the Development Bureau (DEVB) in the implementation of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS). The team is also responsible for planning and supervising the works and maintenance projects undertaken by AMO. It is led by a Senior Heritage Officer (a non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff who is equivalent to an architect), and supported by 4 NCSC technical staff. DEVB is the co-ordinator and approval body, while TAU provides conservation and technical advice throughout the delivery of the works projects. The scope of advice includes vetting conservation guidelines, conservation management plans, conservation proposals and tender documents prepared by the applicants, monitoring the progress of works, checking completion of works and payment certified by project consultants and making recommendation for stage payments. The number of staff deployed to work on FAS would remain unchanged in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)040**

Question Serial No.

1171

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 number of conservation proposals for privately-owned buildings with significant local characteristics and historic value have been shelved due to a lack of consensus despite repeated discussions with the owners. The incidents raise public concerns and doubts about the effectiveness of the existing conservation policies in protecting our historical heritage and buildings. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. The progress of the study on the feasibility of setting up a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong, and the estimated timetables for public consultation and announcement of the study;
2. The establishment of staff responsible for carrying out discussions with owners of historic buildings, and the increase in provision for the establishment in 2013-14; and
3. The estimated number of buildings to be included in Batch IV of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme and the timetable for announcing the scheme.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. The consultancy study on the setting up of a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong to promote heritage conservation has been substantially completed, and the consultants are now finalising the study report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Government will examine in detail the findings and recommendations made by the consultant, especially whether the setting up of a heritage trust will help in the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings and if so, the feasibility of setting up of a trust in the context of Hong Kong. Consultation with the stakeholders and the public will be conducted as appropriate.

2. At present, the work in discussing preservation options with privately-owned historic buildings is absorbed by existing staff. We have no plans to increase our establishment for the work.
3. The Development Bureau is now examining potential historic buildings for inclusion into Batch IV of the "Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme", which is anticipated to be launched in the first quarter of next year.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)041**

Question Serial No.

3228

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:

As mentioned in Programme (3), the tree management courses provided by the Administration have attracted an attendance of about 6 000 participants from government bureaux/departments, professional bodies, consultants, contractors and other tree management personnel. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- a. What are the details of the course content (please specify whether on-site inspection, practice on tree inspection equipment, tree risk assessment etc. are included), qualifications of instructors, as well as durations and qualification recognition of the courses?
- b. Will improvement measures be put forward to the relevant departments after serious tree incidents? Will these incidents be included in the teaching materials?
- c. What are the channels and number of exchange activities and experience sharing with overseas tree experts?
- d. What are the estimated number of participants in the courses and the estimated expenditure involved this year?
- e. What are the current standards and assessment criteria against which the “tree management capacity” of various departments is measured, and how often will such standards be updated?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- a. The Tree Management Office (TMO) has arranged a series of training courses, seminars and workshops on tree management for government staff and their service contractors in 2012. These training programmes included the Comprehensive Tree Risk Assessment and Management Training Course, Tree Risk Assessment Course & Examination (TRACE) by International Society of Arboriculture, Tree Hazard Assessment Course with Integrated Assessment (British Accredited LANTRA

Professional Tree Inspection Qualification), CUHK SCS Professional Diploma Programme in Arboriculture, Tree Identification Course and other seminars and workshops on specific tree management topics such as Pre-wet Season Precautionary Tree Management Measures, Seminar and Workshop on Occupational Health and Safety in Arboriculture, Tree Failure Database and Common Tree Problems, Pest and Disease and Plant Health Care for Trees in Hong Kong, Surveillance Programme and Management Strategy for Brown Root Rot Disease, Preservation of Stonewall Trees in Hong Kong and Tree Protection on Construction Sites, etc. Speakers for the above courses, seminars and workshops were either local or overseas tree experts or professional staff from the TMO. The duration of training programmes will depend on their content, including the 200-hours CUHK SCS Professional Diploma Programme in Arboriculture, workshops which last for a few days and half-day workshops or seminars. The tree risk assessment training courses include field work, practical sessions and assessment for trainees. The Tree Risk Assessment Course & Examination (TRACE) and Tree Hazard Assessment Course with Integrated Assessment (British Accredited LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Qualification) are internationally recognized programmes.

- b. The TMO will take into account experience gained from tree incidents for relevant training programmes and promulgate guidelines (such as the “Guidelines on Arboriculture Occupational Safety and Health” and “Guidelines on Brown Root Rot Disease” promulgated in 2012) and best practices for the reference of tree management departments.
- c. The TMO staff have many opportunities for sharing experience and knowledge with overseas tree experts. For example, among the 11 non-official members in the Expert Panel on Tree Management (Expert Panel) under Development Bureau, five of them come from areas outside Hong Kong including Guangzhou, Macau, Malaysia, Australia and the U.S.A. Both the local and overseas members have actively participated in the five meetings and eight site inspections held in 2012, in addition to regular communication through emails and telephones. Moreover, the TMO also arranged its staff and sponsored departmental colleagues in attending the “Seminar on Mature Trees” held in August 2012 in Taiwan, the “5th International Arboriculture Summit - Hong Kong” organised by the Institute of Arboriculture Studies in November 2012 and the “5th Seminar on the Best Practices for Urban Tree Management Hong Kong” organized by the Institute of Horticultural Science in December 2012 to share with many overseas experts the experience and knowledge in tree management work.
- d. The estimated number of government staff and contractors who will participate in tree management training programmes in 2013 is around 6 100 and the estimated expenditure is about \$1.7 million.
- e. The Development Bureau assists tree management departments in formulating a training and manpower development plan and continually review on the skill set and



required competency in tree maintenance works, so as to improve the capacity on tree management and its professional quality. For instance, the competency requirement for Inspection Officer and Endorsement Officer for the Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement has been clearly set out. The contractors of tree maintenance works are required to meet the financial, technical and management criteria for admission and retention on the approved list and for the tendering of tree maintenance works. There are also requirements on the contractor staff at the managerial, supervisory and frontline levels. The performance of contractors would be appraised and reflected in regular performance reports. Unsatisfactory performance reports may adversely affect tendering in future. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, together with relevant departments, conduct reviews on the management of landscape and tree management consultants and contractors providing services to government departments, including the academic and professional qualifications and work experience requirement for practitioners in tree maintenance works so as to enhance service standards.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)042**

Question Serial No.

2673

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On 30 January 2013, the Administration replied to the question raised by a Legislative Council member regarding the application of building information modelling (BIM) technology:

- (a) The Administration indicated that there are a total of 5 public works contracts that have incorporated provisions on using BIM technology. How many contracts are expected to incorporate such provisions in 2013-14? What is the percentage of such contracts in all the public works contracts?
- (b) The Administration indicated that about 200 civil servants in works departments have received training related to BIM technology in 2012, with a total expenditure of about \$60,000. What are the estimated expenditure for training related to BIM technology and the estimated number of civil servants to be trained in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. MOK Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) Public works projects cover a very wide range of works that vary in type and complexity. As understood, the benefits of BIM technology are more apparent in delivering relatively complex building works projects. For those relatively simple works such as pipe laying, at-grade road construction and slope upgrading, the merits of adopting BIM technology are relatively less. With a view to assessing the cost-effectiveness of the technology in public works projects, we plan to roll out pilot projects in a progressive manner. Following the designation of five public works contracts to incorporate provisions on using BIM technology in the past, we plan to select a few more public works contracts in 2013-14 (up to 3% of the estimated total number of contracts and consultancies to be tendered in 2013-14) with provisions to incorporate the use of BIM technology.

- (b) We estimate to have about 200 civil servants, covering both professional and technical staff, in works departments receiving training related to BIM technology in 2013-14. While the training provided in 2012 is mainly at introductory level, we plan to provide civil servants with more advanced levels of training related to BIM technology in 2013-14 so as to help them gain more in-depth understanding of the technology. The estimated expenditure for training related to BIM technology in 2013-14 is \$200,000.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)043**

Question Serial No.

1602

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

Programme:                      (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 97 of the Budget Speech, the Administration mentioned the construction of a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O. Will the Administration inform this Council the details for this project, namely the construction cost and the cost of future water supply by seawater desalination, etc.?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department commissioned a consultant in December 2012 to carry out a planning and investigation study for setting up a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O, with a water production capacity of 50 million cubic metres (mcm) per annum, expandable to 90 mcm amounting to 9% of the total water supply. The construction cost of the desalination plant will be estimated under the above-mentioned study. Whilst the ongoing planning and investigation study for setting up a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O will estimate the production cost of water by desalination, the unit cost of water produced from desalination has previously been broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level.

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)044**

Question Serial No.

1607

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Branch will continue to closely monitor the delivery of the Public Works Programme to ensure early completion of projects and keep its underspending, if any, to below 5%. In this aspect, construction industry stakeholders have relayed to me that the Government has required contractors to sign a charter to shorten the construction period of public works projects. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- a) whether it has taken the prevailing tight labour market into account when formulating this initiative;
- b) the Administration's plans to help contractors to meet the compressed work schedule of public works projects, e.g. ensuring adequate labour supply of various trades during the construction period of each public works project and providing viable work implementation plans for contractors to pursue; and
- c) whether it has measures to ensure work quality and occupational safety will not be hampered due to compression of construction period of public works projects.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

For Public Works Programme under the Capital Works Reserve Fund, we have not required contractors to compress the construction period or asked contractors to sign any charter to shorten the construction programme. We will continue to closely monitor the delivery of the Public Works Programme, keep playing the co-ordination role and work closely with Works Departments and the construction industry to ensure that the projects can be completed within a reasonable period.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)045**

Question Serial No.

1608

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 matters requiring special attention in 2013-14, the Branch will monitor the implementation of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618). In this connection, what is the financial provision and manpower for implementing this work for 2013-14? How many regular check-ups were taken in each month for 2011-12 and 2012-13? How many regular check-ups are scheduled to take place in each month for 2013-14? How many violation cases were detected and prosecutions were taken for 2011-12 and 2012-13; if any, and the details of each of these cases?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The manpower in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to enforce the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance comprises a team of one Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, two Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, seven Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, one Senior Inspector, 18 Inspectors, and nine clerical/supporting staff. The total expenditure is estimated to be about \$31.5 million in 2013-14.

The average number of audit inspections carried out per month by EMSD in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is 756 and 764 respectively. In 2013-14, the estimated number of audit inspection per month is 783.

There was one prosecution case each in 2011-12 and 2012-13 against registered contractors for violation of regulatory provisions. Details are tabulated below –

Year	Defendants	Violation	Sentences
2011-12	Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd. (Registered Contractor)	Charge: s.11J(1)(d), 27G, 27H & 28(3)(a) of the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327)(the Ordinance) Failed to carry out lift works in accordance	Fine: \$2,000

Year	Defendants	Violation	Sentences
		with the provisions of the Ordinance	
2012-13	Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd. (Registered Contractor)	Charge: s.11J(1)(d), 27H(1), 27H(2) & 28(3)(a) of the Ordinance Failed to carry out lift works in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance	Fine: \$4,000

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)046**

Question Serial No.

1610

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Branch will collaborate with industry stakeholders to work out the preliminary framework of a new legislation to enhance payment practice in the construction industry. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee the followings:

- a) What is the timetable of introducing this legislation to the LegCo?
- b) What is the scope of this legislation?
- c) What consultation exercises have already been taken and will be taken for 2013-14? Please indicate the details of the consultation exercises as well as the financial provision and manpower incurred for this work.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- a) We aim to introduce a bill on security of payment for the construction industry to the Legislative Council in 2015-16.
- b) Subject to the views of stakeholders, the preliminary scope of the proposed legislation will include provisions for facilitating regular and timely progress payments, providing a mechanism for speedy resolution of disputes, providing remedies for recovery of payments due and prohibiting conditional payment terms such as “pay when paid” provisions in construction contracts.



- c) We have set up a Working Group on Security of Payment Legislation for the Construction Industry consisting representatives from key industry stakeholders. The Working Group is currently working out a framework of the proposed legislation. We will collaborate with the Working Group in due course to formulate an appropriate consultation strategy on the framework of the proposed legislation, including the timing, scale and methodology of the consultation exercise.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)047**

Question Serial No.

1617

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 Construction Industry Council (CIC) has launched the “Contractors Collaborative Training Scheme” (CCTS) under which contractors can employ trainees and provide in-service training on construction sites, while CIC will pay the trainees' allowances and other training costs. In this connection, the Government has required, since December 2011, relevant public works contractors to participate in the CCTS. What are the outcomes of CCTS so far (Please provide a breakdown showing the public works contracts involved, the number of trainees employed for each of the contracts, the trainees' allowances and other training costs already paid by CIC)? What is the provision for CCTS for 2013-14? Is there a plan to review CCTS and enhance CCTS for 2013-14; if there is, the details?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Under the Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS), contractors will hire trainees and then provide them with training on construction sites. Training allowances and other training expenses will be provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to the trainees and contractors respectively. For the trades<sup>1</sup> facing acute ageing, labour shortage and difficulties in recruiting new trainees, the trainees' allowances will be reimbursed from Development Bureau (DEVB)'s approved funding of \$320 million, while for other trades, the allowances will be provided by CIC.

Other than the voluntary participation of the contractors in the CCTS, DEVB has included provisions in the relevant public works contracts tendered after December 2011 requiring the contractors to participate in the CCTS. With time, the number of contracts subject to this requirement is increasing and up to February 2013, four relevant public works contracts

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<sup>1</sup> Development Bureau collaborates with CIC to implement the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme for trades with problems of acute ageing, labour shortage and difficulty in recruiting new entrants to attract more new entrants to the construction industry.

have participated in the CCTS. The total number of training places for these contracts is expected to be about 160 which will be provided in the course of the construction works. Amongst them, according to the information provided by CIC, 16 training places have been provided as at February 2013, which involved training allowances of about \$380,000 provided from DEVB's approved funding while the expenses provided by CIC was about \$260,000. It is anticipated that, up to end 2013, the number of public works contracts that will participate in the CCTS will be increased to about 30. The total number of training places to be provided for these contracts is expected to be about 900, of which, about 500 training places will be provided by end 2013. The provision for these training places (including the training allowances and training expenses) was about \$26 million, of which, the training allowances provided from DEVB's approved funding was about \$11 million. CIC will review the CCTS from time to time to better meet the market needs.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)048**

Question Serial No.

0315

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 the Brief Description of Programme 5 that the Works Branch enacted the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance and related subsidiary legislation in 2012 to enhance regulatory control of lift and escalator safety. What are the details of the enhanced regulatory measures? What are the expenditure and manpower involved? Will there be any study on the number of workers in the industry and their salaries? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

Main provisions of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance) and related subsidiary legislation came into full operation on 17 December 2012. The Ordinance introduced a series of enhanced control measures including (a) strengthening the registration regime of the personnel and contractors engaged in lift and escalator works; (b) increasing the penalty levels of offences; (c) extending the coverage of the legislative frameworks; and (d) enhancing the operational efficiency and enforcement effectiveness.

To enhance the regulation of escalator and lift safety, approval was granted in 2010 for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to expand its establishment by creating one engineer and seven inspectors posts. The expenditure involved is \$4.8M per annum. EMSD will review the manpower situation from time to time to ensure that sufficient resources are available to carry out inspection of lifts and escalators.

To administer and enforce the legislation on lift and escalator safety, EMSD collects information from registered lift/escalator contractors on their workers who are qualified to carry out lift/escalator works. As at end February 2013, the total number of qualified workers is about 5 000. Regarding their salary, it is dependent upon a number of factors such as experience and competence level of individual employee. The Census and Statistics Department regularly publishes report on average daily wages of workers engaged in public sector construction projects as reported by main contractors which include the lift and escalator mechanic trade. The information can provide an indication on the salary level of the lift and escalator workers. As at December 2012, the average daily wage of the lift and escalator mechanic is \$605.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)049**

Question Serial No.

0436

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 the Brief Description of Programme 5 that the Works Branch collaborated with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) in 2012 to implement the various initiatives for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry to enhance local construction manpower. Will the Government advise:

- (a) how many measures were implemented by the Branch and CIC last year (2012-13) to strengthen the training and trade testing for construction workers? How many workers have received training and taken the trade tests?
- (b) what were the manpower and expenditure involved last year (2012-13) for the Administration and CIC to strengthen the training and trade testing for the construction workers?
- (c) whether the Administration will make reference to the training mode of CIC and extend it to other technical industries such as the lift industry, so as to lift its image, improve the manpower situation, and consequently solve the problems of low wages and succession gap? If not, does the Administration have other plans for the training of lift workers?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

- (a) Development Bureau (DEVB) has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to implement various training initiatives to attract new entrants to the construction industry and enhance the skill levels of local workers. The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) provides training allowances for the trades facing labour shortages to attract new entrants to the industry. According to the information provided by CIC, in 2012-13, up to January 2013, about 1 600 trainees

have received training under the ECMTS.

DEVB has provided subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses to encourage and assist the in-service construction workers to be registered as skilled workers, and has provided subsidy to the senior construction workers to assist them to advance to the frontline supervisors / management level. According to the information provided by CIC, in 2012-13, up to January 2013, there were about 1 600 in-service workers who have completed the trade tests with subsidy.

- (b) In addition to the existing set-up in the DEVB, the above efforts entail manpower of an officer on non-civil service contract terms with estimated expenditure of HK\$300,000 for implementing promotion and publicity activities. In regard to CIC, over 50 instructing staff and clerical staff have been recruited to strengthen the training and trade testing for the construction workers. The related expenditure was around \$16 million.
- (c) CIC is actively discussing with the Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors, the Lift and Escalator Contractor Association and the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to provide more training for electrical and mechanical (E&M) trades. It was agreed in-principle to make reference to the training mode of Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS) for building and civil engineering trades in launching the CCTS for the E&M trades. Under the scheme, CIC will bear the trainees' allowances and other training costs while contractors will hire the trainees first and then provide them with training on construction sites. Further, in order to enhance the manpower resource for the E&M trades in the construction industry, CIC is considering to provide subsidy to students who will join the E&M apprenticeship after completing the basic craft certificates<sup>2</sup> in VTC. We will collaborate with CIC to implement various publicity and promotional activities, with a view to uplifting the image of the construction industry and attracting more new entrants, especially the young people, to join the industry.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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<sup>2</sup> *Diploma in Vocational Education programmes (including E&M trades) are offered by VTC to provide Secondary 3 to Secondary 5 graduates with a study choice outside mainstream education. Upon satisfying the credit requirements after the 1<sup>st</sup> year study, students may choose to be awarded with the basic craft certificates to pursue employment.*

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

**DEVB(W)050**

Question Serial No.

1907

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 Financial Secretary has stated that a total of \$320 million was allocated in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC)'s labour training, and more than 2 000 training places have been provided by the CIC so far. In this connection, will the Administration continue to earmark provision to support the CIC's manpower training work? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure and additional number of construction workers available in each of the next five years (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Development Bureau has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total funding of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its training under various initiatives, including the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), to enhance the skill levels of local workers and attract new entrants to the construction industry. It is estimated that, in coming years, the estimated expenditure for various training initiatives will be about \$250 million. In July 2012, the levy rate was increased under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance by 0.1% to 0.5% while keeping the overall levy rate to the industry unchanged. This has provided CIC with more resources to conduct various new initiatives to attract new entrants to the industry.

CIC aims to train about 6 000 skilled workers under the ECMTS by end 2014. It is estimated that the ECMTS and other CIC's training initiatives including the Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme and the regular training courses will provide over 10 000



training places in 2013 and 2014. CIC will review and adjust the training programmes from time to time to better meet the market needs.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)051**

Question Serial No.

1915

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Given that the Financial Secretary has mentioned that the estimated capital works expenditure for 2013-14 exceeds \$70 billion, will the Administration inform this Committee of the content and cost breakdown of the relevant capital works projects?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Some of the on-going and new major capital works projects expected to commence soon, which contribute to the estimated capital works expenditure of \$70 billion, are listed below (the estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is shown in the bracket):

- Hong Kong section of Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link (\$13.70B)
- Various Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge related Hong Kong projects including boundary crossing facilities, Hong Kong Link Road and funding support for Main Bridge, and Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link (\$10.13B)
- Shatin to Central Link (\$7.70B)
- Central–Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (\$3.66B)
- Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A and Sludge Treatment Facilities (\$3.57B)
- Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains (\$2.33B)

- Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road, and traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre section (\$1.65B)
- Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre, phase 2, Tin Shui Wai Hospital and Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics (\$1.36B)
- Widening of Tolo Highway (\$1.03B)
- Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works (\$0.77B)

The content and cost breakdown details of the 2013-14 capital works expenditure is published in the Capital Works Reserve Fund section (Page 21 to 88, under Head 702-709 and 711) of Volume II — Fund Account of the 2013-14 Budget.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
 Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
 Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)052**

Question Serial No.

1916

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As mentioned by the Financial Secretary, the Government's total commitments for capital projects are expected to be over \$310 billion by late March 2013. In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee of the financial years involved and set out in detail the content of the relevant capital projects and their costs?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

By late March 2013, the Government's total commitments for capital projects are expected to be over \$310 billion, this is the total capital works expenditure of all Category A projects from 2013-14 and onwards. Based on the works progress, we anticipate that the total capital works spending from financial year 2013-14 to 2017-18 is about \$250 billion, which constitutes about 80 percent of the total commitments. Some of the major Category A projects are as follows (the estimated expenditure from 2013-14 to 2017-18 is shown in the bracket):

- Shatin to Central Link (\$48B)
- Various Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge related Hong Kong projects including boundary crossing facilities, Hong Kong Link Road and funding support for Main Bridge, and Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link (\$53B)
- Hong Kong section of Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link (\$35B)
- Central–Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (\$20B)

- Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works (\$12B)
- Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A and Sludge Treatment Facilities (\$11B)
- Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains (\$10B)
- Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road, and traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre section (\$3B)
- Redevelopment of Fire Services Training School (\$3B)
- Wan Chai development phase 2, engineering works (\$2B)

The content and cost breakdown details of the Category A projects are published in the Capital Works Reserve Fund section (Page 21 to 88, under Head 702-709 and 711) of Volume II — Fund Account of the 2013-14 Budget.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
 Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
 Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)053**

Question Serial No.

1919

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Financial Secretary has stated that it is estimated that capital works expenditure will increase to over \$70 billion for each of the next few years, far exceeding the average annual expenditure of about \$40 billion in the past five years. These large infrastructure projects create a large number of jobs which are particularly crucial in times of uncertain economic outlook. In this connection, will the Administration set out in tabular form the expenditure items and costs of each capital works project to be carried out in the next few years? Has the Administration assessed the job opportunities and economic benefits to be created by the expenditures on the projects?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

In the next few years, we shall continue to take forward infrastructure projects in an orderly manner. The capital works expenditure is expected to rise to over \$70 billion each year. In 2013-14, the projects under the Capital Works Programme are projected to provide 74 600 man-year jobs. This comprises 8 600 jobs for professional or technical staff and 66 000 for labourers. Besides, as the capital works expenditure would remain on a high level in the coming several years, it would also bring about direct support to the domestic demand of the Hong Kong's overall economy. Moreover, upon completion, the infrastructure projects will help boost the growth potential of the Hong Kong's economy, thereby providing sustained economic benefits to the society.

In fact, the continued increase in capital works expenditure in the past several years also helped raise the construction sector's direct contribution to Hong Kong's overall economy from 2.5% in 2007 to 3.4% in 2011.

Please find below some of the major Category A and B capital works projects listed in the budget (the total estimated expenditure from 2013-14 to 2017-18 of individual item is shown in the bracket):

- Various Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge related Hong Kong projects including boundary crossing facilities, Hong Kong Link Road and funding support for Main Bridge, and Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link (\$74B)
- Shatin to Central Link (\$48B)
- Hong Kong section of Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link (\$35B)
- Central–Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (\$20B)
- Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works (\$13B)
- Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics, Tin Shui Wai Hospital and Reprovisioning of Yaumatei Specialist Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (\$12.5B)
- Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A and Sludge Treatment Facilities (\$11B)
- Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains (\$10B)
- Expansion of Tai Po water treatment works and ancillary raw water and fresh water transfer facilities—part 2 works (\$4.5B)
- Widening of Tolo Highway (\$4.2B)

Based on the works progress, we anticipate that in the coming 5 years, the capital works expenditure of the above items will constitute about 60 % of the total expenditure of Category A and B capital works projects.

The content and cost breakdown details of the capital works projects are published in the Capital Works Reserve Fund section (Page 21 to 88, under Head 702-709 and 711) of Volume II — Fund Account of the 2013-14 Budget.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)054**

Question Serial No.

0555

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 for HKSAR Government's involvement in the post-quake reconstruction work in Sichuan, including Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Highway as well as 23 reconstruction projects in the Wolong Nature Reserve, what is the progress? What is the number of staff the Government sent to the sites last year (i.e. 2012-13) to check on the progress? How much of the Government's contribution has been used and how much is left? When will the works be expected to be completed?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

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 co-ordinates 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 in the Wolong Nature Reserve (Wolong Reconstruction). As a member of the Steering Committee, the Development Bureau (DEVB) is responsible for liaising with its Mainland counterparts to take forward two infrastructure projects (Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Highway) and 23 projects in 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. the Education Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau and Food and Health Bureau respectively. The reply below covers the latest situation of the projects led by DEVB.

(a) Progress

Insofar as the 25 projects led by DEVB are concerned, as at the end of February 2013, 13 have been completed and the remaining 12 are in progress. The anticipated completion programme is appended below:

Type of Projects	No. of Projects Completed before 2012-13	No. of Projects Anticipated to be Completed			Total
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 or after	
Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Highway	-	-	-	2	2
Wolong Reconstruction	3	11	8	1	23

Note:

The frequent torrential rains in Sichuan in the last three years which triggered geological disasters have caused severe damage to the Provincial Road 303 and Mianmao Highway works. To raise the safety standards, the Governments and experts of Hong Kong and Sichuan have revised the design proposals for the two roads after in-depth studies and discussions with a view to increasing the roads' resistance to natural disasters and ensuring their long term safe operation. Construction works of the two projects have resumed and are expected to be completed in 2016.

As Provincial Road 303 is a lifeline access to Wolong, the progress of a series of Wolong reconstruction projects has therefore been affected. As at the end of February this year, 13 of the 23 Wolong projects have been completed, while the majority of the remaining projects are expected to be completed this year.

(b) Site Inspections/Technical Audits

During the period from 1 April 2012 to 28 February 2013, 63 attendances by DEVB staff and 10 attendances by technical auditors of the independent professional consultants conducted 18 site inspections, technical audits and meetings on the reconstruction projects led by DEVB.

(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. As at the end of February this year, the Trust Fund has transferred about HK\$3.14 billion to the Sichuan Dedicated Accounts for financing these projects. The balance is about HK\$1.63 billion.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)055**

Question Serial No.

2312

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

In 2013-14, the Works Branch will carry out strategic planning studies to release the potential of the government sites including the two Action Areas. What are the specific scopes, details, expenditures, manpower and implementation timetable regarding the studies? What complementary and follow-up measures will be taken by the Administration during and upon the completion of the studies? Apart from the Development Bureau, what other bureaux and departments will be involved in it? What are their respective roles and degrees of participation?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

Two Action Areas, with clusters of existing facilities in Kowloon East (KE), are identified to have potential for optimizing their development to facilitate the transformation of KE. They are now mainly occupied by waste recycling centre, vehicle examination centre and driving test centre. The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) of the Development Bureau is identifying suitable sites for relocation of these facilities so as to release these government sites for development of a diversity of uses and activities. Consultants will be commissioned to examine the feasibility of the potential relocation sites and formulate master development plans for the comprehensive development of the two Action Areas. The consultancy studies scheduled for commencement in 2013/2014 are estimated to cost about \$6 million and take around two years to complete.

Throughout the studies, we will solicit the joint effort of other bureaux and departments including the Transport and Housing Bureau, Architectural Services Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Environmental Protection Department, Lands Department, Planning Department, Marine Department and Transport Department to expedite the relocation of the facilities. Their input and degree of participation will vary depending on the different stages of the studies. Meanwhile, there are some other bureaux

and departments such as the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, Home Affairs Bureau, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Drainage Services Department and Highways Department who will provide advice and input in the studies to facilitate the relocation and development of the sites.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)056**

Question Serial No.

2313

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

What are the specific scopes, objectives, expenditures required, manpower and timetable regarding the study on the industrial heritage of Kowloon East? Apart from the Works Branch of the Development Bureau, what other bureaux and departments will be involved in it? What are their respective roles and degrees of participation? Will the business sector and district organisations be invited to participate? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The “Study on Industrial Heritage of Kowloon East and its Potential for Public Art and Urban Design” will systematically collect and record the industrial development history of Kowloon East, translate its unique industrial heritage into urban design guidelines and potential for public art installations. The findings of the Study will provide guidance in the transformation process of Kowloon East into a core business district to enhance its urban culture and integrate the area’s industrial legacy with the vision of future creative design.

The estimated budget of the Study is approximately \$1.4 million. It is administered by the internal resources of the Works Branch of the Development Bureau. The Study is expected to be completed in one to one and a half years. The Architectural Services Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Planning Department will advise and make suggestions on the Study approach.

To arouse public interest on the industrial heritage of the study area, public engagement activities will be undertaken during the course of the Study. We have met with industry associations and owners (such as Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Alliance for the Kowloon East Development and Hong Kong Kwun Tong Industries & Commerce Association) to seek their views on the Study. In addition, a public engagement campaign entitled “Sharing Memoirs and Extending Legacy in Transforming Kowloon East” is being

undertaken until May 2013 to invite the public in sharing stories and donating photos, products and machines with interesting industrial heritage value related to Kowloon East.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)057**

Question Serial No.

2314

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

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

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

The provision for Programmes (4) and (5) for 2013-14 is \$14.6 million (67.6%) and \$80.3 million (33.5%) higher respectively than the revised estimate for 2012-13 due mainly to the filling of vacant posts. What are the staff establishment, as well as the current numbers of staff and vacancies under these two Programmes? What positions and ranks have vacancies? How many of them are civil service and non-civil service contract posts? What is the estimated expenditure for filling these posts? Will the posts be filled in one go or in phases? If they are to be filled in phases, what is the timetable?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The staff establishment of Programme 4 in 2013-14 is 18 with 16 posts currently filled and 2 posts being left vacant as at 28 February 2013. The vacant civil servant posts include 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Architect and their annual personal emoluments are about \$1 million.

The staff establishment of Programme 5 on 31 March 2013 will be 153, decreasing to 151 on 31 March 2014 with lapse of two time-limited posts upon completion of some Sichuan Reconstruction projects. As at 28 February 2013, 4 posts including 1 Senior Government Counsel, 2 Clerical Assistant and 1 Senior Typist were vacant involving annual personal emoluments of about \$1.7 million.



The vacant posts will be filled as soon as suitable officers are identified.

NCSC staff is not included in the establishment of Programmes 4 and 5.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)058**

Question Serial No.

1658

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:

There are media reports that shortage or even lack of operators is not uncommon for heavy construction machinery such as tower cranes, bulldozers, crawler cranes, pile drivers for foundation works, excavators and mobile cranes amid a flourishing construction industry in recent years. With the rollout of major infrastructure projects in the coming years, manpower demand in this area will be ever increasing.

What policies and initiatives will be taken by the Government in the new financial year to bring in young people and employees from other industries to become construction machinery operators in order to solve the manpower shortage problem? What are the estimated manpower and resources involved in the relevant training policies and initiatives?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

Development Bureau (DEVB) has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total funding of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen the training for local construction personnel and to attract new entrants to the construction industry through promotion and publicity activities. We have adopted a multi-pronged approach to uplift the image of the construction industry and attract more new entrants to join the industry and engage in construction machinery work. The initiatives include “Build Up” publicity campaign, enhancing construction site safety, uplifting site cleanliness and tidiness and workers’ welfare, and providing uniform for site personnel. In addition to the existing set-up, in 2013-14, DEVB will continue to employ an officer on non-civil service contract terms to assist in implementing promotion and publicity activities.

For the training initiatives, apart from organizing various short courses for machinery operation, CIC will collaborate with the contractors to adopt the training mode of “hire and then train” to employ the trainees to receive training for machinery operation such as training for operation of mobile crawler cranes on construction sites, through the Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme. CIC will review and adjust the training programmes from time to time to better meet the market needs.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)059**

Question Serial No.

1661

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:

How much resource has been deployed by the Construction Industry Council to provide subsidies to contractors to employ trainees on a “first-hire-then-train” basis in the past two financial years (2011-12 and 2012-13)? What is its percentage out of the total provision of \$320 million in 2010-12? What are the actual results delivered and how many trainees have been benefited? What are the respective numbers of trainees who have continued to serve the subsidised contractors for over one year and two years upon the completion of training?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

Under the Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS), contractors will hire trainees and then provide them with training on construction sites. Training allowances and other training expenses will be provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to the trainees and contractors respectively. For the trades<sup>3</sup> facing acute ageing, labour shortage and difficulties in recruiting new trainees, the trainees' allowances will be reimbursed from Development Bureau (DEVB)'s approved funding of \$320 million, while for other trades, the allowances will be provided by CIC.

Up to January 2013, the CCTS has attracted about 200 trainees and about 170 of them have graduated. The provision for these 200 trainees under the CCTS (including the training allowances and training expenses) was about \$7.5 million, of which, the training allowances provided from DEVB's approved funding was about \$3.4 million.

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<sup>3</sup> Development Bureau collaborates with CIC to implement the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme for trades with problems of acute ageing, labour shortage and difficulty in recruiting new entrants to attract more new entrants to the construction industry.

According to CIC, it has not kept records on the number of trainees who have continued to serve the subsidised contractors for over one year upon the completion of training.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)060**

Question Serial No.

1662

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:

What is the estimated expenditure for the provision of subsidies by the Construction Industry Council to contractors to train trainees on a “first-hire-then-train” basis in the 2013-14 financial year?

What are the estimated numbers of contractors and trainees to be subsidised respectively? What is the average training cost for each trainee? What are their average wages during and upon the completion of subsidised training respectively?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

Under the Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS), contractors will hire trainees and then provide them with training on construction sites. Training allowances and other training expenses will be provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to the trainees and contractors respectively. For the trades<sup>4</sup> facing acute ageing, labour shortage and difficulties in recruiting new trainees, the trainees' allowances will be reimbursed from Development Bureau (DEVB)'s approved funding of \$320 million, while for other trades, the allowances will be provided by CIC.

At this stage, CIC expects that about 2 500 training places can be provided under the spirit of the CCTS in 2013, which will involve total estimated expenditure of about \$170 million. CIC will continue to encourage and welcome the participation of contractors in the CCTS, suitably review the effectiveness of the CCTS and adjust the number of training places to better meet the market needs.

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<sup>4</sup> Development Bureau collaborates with CIC to implement the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme for trades with problems of acute ageing, labour shortage and difficulty in recruiting new entrants to attract more new entrants to the construction industry.

Apart from being provided with wages by the employers, the trainees will receive training allowances during the training period. For trades with training allowances to be provided from DEVB's approved funding, the trainees participating in the CCTS will receive monthly training allowance of about \$8,000. After graduation, they will receive monthly wages of not less than \$10,000 in the initial six months and not less than \$15,000 for the following six months.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)061**

Question Serial No.

1327

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 106 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary says that the Government will expedite the development of the Kowloon East core business district, and consider speeding up the release of two clusters of government sites for commercial development in Kowloon East, including assessing the feasibility of relocating the government facilities there. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. The locations and areas of the two clusters of sites, reasons for their selection and their current uses;
2. The respective timetables for the planning studies of the two clusters of sites, and the dates of completion of the studies;
3. The timetables for the announcement of preliminary planning schemes for the two clusters of sites, the launch of local consultation, and the removal of the government facilities concerned;
4. The expected modes of development, floor areas and plot ratios of the two clusters of sites in future, as well as the estimated expenditures for the studies; and
5. Given that the Energizing Kowloon East initiative and the Kwun Tong Town Centre redevelopment project have provided Kwun Tong district with a substantial amount of commercial land, why will the Administration still release the two clusters of government sites for commercial use?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

The two Action Areas are identified in the Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) for Energizing Kowloon East as having potential for comprehensive development to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East into a core business district. They are strategically located and are sizable to create a critical mass for bringing in more activities and vibrancy to the area. The Kowloon Bay Action Area (Action Area 1), which is located at Hoi Bun



Road with an area of about 6.4 hectares, is mainly occupied by a waste recycling centre and two vehicle examination centres. The Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Area (Action Area 2) is about 2.7 hectares in area and mainly occupied by a bus terminus, a driving test centre and Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Garden.

Action Area 1 is proposed for a new vibrant node with offices, hotel and retail/entertainment outlets. Action Area 2 is proposed to create a mixed development with artist workshops/ office studio, retail, restaurants and outdoor performance area. They have the potential to provide a total floor area of about 500 000 square metres.

In order to speed up the release of these government sites for a diversity of uses and activities, we are identifying suitable sites for relocation of the government facilities at the two Action Areas and will commission consultants to examine the feasibility of the potential relocation sites. Regarding the two Actions Areas, we will commission consultants to formulate master development plans for their comprehensive development. The detailed development parameters and mode of development of the two Action Areas are to be established in the consultant studies, which are scheduled for commencement in 2013/2014 for completion in around two years' time and are estimated to cost about \$6 million. The public will be engaged at key stages of the studies.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)062**

Question Serial No.

1240

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

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer:

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What is the average amount of subsidy provided by the Government for the training of a new construction worker currently?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

Development Bureau has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council to implement various training initiatives, including the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), to enhance the skill levels of local workers and attract new entrants to construction industry. Trainees under the ECMTS will receive a monthly training allowance of about \$8,000 during the training period of not more than six months.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)063**

Question Serial No.

1241

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development  
(Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Since the Government is committed to increasing the supply of commercial land, will consideration be given to development of underground commercial spaces? If yes, what studies and action plans are being carried out? How much financial resources and manpower have been involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

The Government is committed to increasing land supply to meet housing and other needs, including the supply of commercial land to facilitate the further development of different economic activities in Hong Kong.

The Civil Engineering and Development Department is planning to conduct a study on underground space development in the urban areas of Hong Kong with a view to exploring commercial opportunities and enhancing connectivity with the underground developments of existing and/or planned buildings and MTR stations. Details of the study, including financial resources and manpower requirements, have yet to be determined.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)064**

Question Serial No.

2203

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Please set out the current progress of and the expenditure involved in the Energising Kowloon East initiative, including the public engagement and consultation activities organised so far. Please also lay down the plans for 2013-14 and the expenditures involved. As mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Administration will provide task oriented one-stop advisory and co-ordination service for both public and private sectors development and maintain active dialogue with the local community. What are the expenditures involved and the specific content of the measures?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

Since the setting up of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) in June 2012, EKEO has been facilitating the transformation of Kowloon East (KE) into another core business district in accordance with the Conceptual Master Plan (CMP), which provides a broad framework for formulation of EKEO's major action plans. The expenditure involved up to March 2013 including public engagement and consultation activities will be about \$22.3 million.

We are working on the pre-construction work of various improvement projects proposed in the CMP, including the preparatory work to improve the traffic and pedestrian environment, to face-lift Tsun Yip Street Playground and to enhance the streetscape of Hoi Bun Road. We have also commissioned the industrial heritage study and are undertaking preliminary studies required for releasing development potential of undeveloped/under-developed government sites, including the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Areas. We are working on the relocation of existing government facilities within the two Action Areas and preparing for an international idea competition for the "Kai Tak Fantasy". We will continue organising various place-making events and branding activities such as

carnivals, arts and musical performances, exhibitions, visits, etc. aiming at creating a new walkable, sittable, stayable and playable “place” in KE.

In 2013-14, EKEO will spend \$7.7 million on appointing consultants to undertake various studies to facilitate the carrying out of the abovementioned work. In addition, in-house resources of EKEO will be deployed to conduct preliminary studies on them, as necessary.

EKEO will continue to provide task oriented one-stop advisory and co-ordination service for both public and private sectors development. A high level Steering Committee chaired by Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) has been set up to resolve development issues encountered in the transformation process. We will also maintain active dialogue with the local community through various engagement activities. In addition to deployment of internal staff resources, the expenditure involved in this aspect of work is subsumed in the cost of appointing consultants to undertake the various studies.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)065**

Question Serial No.

2166

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated in the Policy Address announced early this year that the former runway tip in the Kai Tak Development Area has excellent potential to be developed into a tourism and entertainment hub, and the Administration proposes to set up on this site a recreational landmark – Kai Tak Fantasy. However, the part on the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal in the Budget Speech makes no mention of the project. How will the Budget incorporate the construction of Kai Tak Fantasy in the allocation of financial resources?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply:

The Energizing Kowloon East Office is going to launch an international idea competition to generate original concepts, master planning and urban design layouts and schemes for the 'Kai Tak Fantasy' (KTF) in 2013 with announcement of competition results in 2014. KTF comprises the area in the former runway tip, the Runway Precinct, the Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Area and the enclosed water body. Based on the ideas received from the competition, the Administration will proceed with planning and engineering studies and statutory procedures as necessary to take forward the proposal. The competition, including prizes, is estimated to cost about \$4 million. Implementation of the infrastructural works for the adopted Kai Tak Fantasy proposal will follow the established public works projects delivery system.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)066**

Question Serial No.

0728

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):  
Head 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708  
(Capital Subventions), 709 and  
711

Programme:

Controlling Officer:

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Please set out in terms of “man-years” the number of job opportunities for professional/technical staff and labourers provided in 2012-13 and 2013-14 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 2012-13, 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 66 700 man-years of job opportunities (comprising 6 900 for professional/technical staff and 59 800 for labourers). In 2013-14, the job opportunities provided by projects under these Heads of the Capital Works Programme will be increased to 74 600 man-years (comprising 8 600 for professional/technical staff and 66 000 for labourers).

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)067**

Question Serial No.

0509

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 departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012-13):

- (a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- (b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents



- (d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Information on the departmental records management work undertaken by Architectural Services Department over the past three years (up to 2012-13) is provided below -

- (a) Number and rank of designated officers:

There are no officers designated solely to perform records management work. A number of officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

- (b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Confidential Files
Programme Records	1957 - 2010	4 522 records + 300 boxes (Note) (335.28 linear metres)	3 – 15 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	47 out of 4 522 records and 300 boxes of records are confidential records
Administrative Records	1986 - 2012	525 records (26.49 linear metres)	2 – 7 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	4 out of 525 records are confidential records

- (c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Confidential Files
Programme Records	1961 – 2010	5 919 records + 7 850 boxes (Note) (2 912.62 linear metres)	2010 – 2013	12 – 15 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	No

- (d) Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Confidential Files
Programme Records	1986 - 1996	3 578 records (304.34 linear metres)	The records were kept in the Department until disposal	12 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	No
Administrative Records	1995 - 2010	432 records (22.85 linear metres)	1 record was transferred in 2012. The remaining 431 records were kept in the Department until disposal	2 – 7 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	No

*Note      These records have been transferred to GRS by boxes in batch numbers, instead of by no. of records.*

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)068**

Question Serial No.

1440

Head: 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead:

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As regards promoting roof greening and vertical greening, would the Administration provide the following information:

1. Please provide information of 2012-13 with the following breakdown: government department/public body, buildings/facilities involved and reduction in carbon emission; and
2. In 2013-14, are there any new measures/plans to promote roof greening and vertical greening? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. It is the established practice of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to promote roof greening and vertical greening. In 2012-13, ArchSD has completed roof greening and vertical greening on various types of new and existing government buildings / facilities for use by different government bureaux / departments and related organisations including the Education Bureau, Civil Aviation Department, Customs and Excise Department, Fire Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Home Affairs Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Immigration Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Hospital Authority. The types of buildings / facilities involved include columbarium, crematorium, fire station, food inspection facility, government office, government quarter, hospital, joint-user complex, police station, school, sports centre and community hall. Roof greening and vertical greening are usually implemented along with other energy saving measures (e.g. installation of energy efficient lighting and appliances). We do not, therefore, have statistics on the effect of the greening measures alone on reduction of carbon emission.

2. In 2013-14, ArchSD will continue to include roof greening where practicable in new government buildings 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 experience of successful installations, will extend the recommendation of vertical greening to management departments of existing buildings whenever practicable. In 2013-14, ArchSD will complete roof greening on new buildings in nine projects and on existing buildings in ten projects, at an estimated expenditure of \$32.7 million, and will also complete vertical greening on new buildings in seven projects and on existing building in one project, at an estimated expenditure of \$5.6 million.

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 manage construction projects and to provide technical advisory services including those on roof greening and vertical greening and there is no separate breakdown of manpower or expenditure involved.

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG  
Post Title: Director of Architectural Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)069**

Question Serial No.

1441

Head: 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead:

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under the Programme “Facilities Development”, the Architectural Services Department indicates in the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14” that it will “enhance existing and develop new information systems for improved efficiency and transparency”. In this connection, would the Administration please advise on: the respective manpower and resources allocated for enhancing existing and developing new information systems in 2012-13; and the manpower establishment and financial provisions to be earmarked for this programme in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

In 2012-13, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has implemented the following projects for new information system and enhancement of existing information systems:

- (a) New complaints and enquiries handling system;
- (b) Enhancement of ArchSD website for adoption of accessibility design; and
- (c) Enhancement of project cost database system.

The total estimated cost for the new and enhancement projects are \$3.0 million and \$3.4 million respectively.

In 2013-14, ArchSD plans to implement the following projects for new information system and enhancement of existing information systems:

- (a) New electronic form system;
- (b) Enhancement of the automated communication, technical information and operations network system for building maintenance work; and
- (c) Enhancement of the desktop application of Repair Call Center.

The total estimated cost for the new and enhancement projects are \$3.9 million and \$18.1 million respectively.

Both the development of new information systems and the enhancement of existing information systems will be carried out by outsourced contractors including the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund.

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG  
Post Title: Director of Architectural Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)070**

Question Serial No.

1453

Head: 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead:

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Has the Architectural Services Department considered adopting ISO 50001 Energy Management System Certification and other green building standards to promote energy efficiency and emission reduction in buildings? If so, please advise this Committee of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) understands that ISO 50001 - Energy Management System would be more suitable for organisations which consume large amount of energy in their operation, such as those in manufacturing industry. Instead of adopting this standard, ArchSD has been certified under an integrated management approach, comprising ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHS18001 management systems, for quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management which includes continual control and monitoring of energy use in ArchSD premises.

On promotion of green government buildings, ArchSD follows guidelines jointly issued by Development Bureau and Environment Bureau to adopt energy saving and emission reduction measures in our building projects and participate in the building environmental assessment system developed by the Hong Kong Green Building Council.

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)071**

Question Serial No.

0127

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 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*



Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: The Architectural Services Department has not procured any agency service in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG  
Post Title: Director of Architectural Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)072**

Question Serial No.

0159

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 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than \$6,240	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Architectural Services Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, customer services, management services and information technology. The required information is provided below.

**(a) Number of outsourced service contracts**

2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
4 (0%)

**(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012) (\$ M)
19.82 (+5.3%)

**(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts**

Duration of service	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	
	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	0	( - )
Over 6 months to 1 year	1	( - )
Over 1 year to 2 years	2	(-33.3%)
Over 2 years	1	(0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(0%)</b>

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
62 (-4.6%)

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

<b>Nature of service contracts</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	
	<b>Number of workers</b>	
Customer services	4	(0%)
Property management	1	(0%)
Security	10	(0%)
Cleansing	8	(0%)
Information technology	39	(-7.1%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>(-4.6%)</b>

**(f) Salaries of outsourced workers**

After the implementation of Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were 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**

2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
3.4%

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

2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012)
2.7%

(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** <sup>(Note 1)</sup>

Working days	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	
	Number of workers	
5 working days per week	1	(0%)
6 working days per week	16	(+6.7%)
Others <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	1	(-50.0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>(0%)</b>

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 with 2011-12.*

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)073**

Question Serial No.

0160

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 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than \$6,240	( )
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )
Number of NCSC staff with application for paternity leave	( )
Number of NCSC staff with approval granted for paternity leave	( )

Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below.

**(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature**

Job nature	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	
	Number of NCSC staff	
Professional	22	(+37.5%)
Technical & inspectorate	1	(-50.0%)
General administration	11	(+10.0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(+21.4%)</b>

**(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012) (\$ M)
14.67    (+7.1%)

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

Monthly salary	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	
	Number of NCSC staff	
\$30,001 or above	24	(+33.3%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	10	(+11.1%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	0	(-100.0%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0	( - )
\$6,241 to \$6,500	0	( - )
\$6,240 or less	0	( - )
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(+21.4%)</b>

Length of services	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	
	Number of NCSC staff	
15 years or above	0	( - )
10 years to less than 15 years	0	( - )
5 years to less than 10 years	0	( - )
3 years to less than 5 years	3	( - )
1 year to less than 3 years	16	(+14.3%)
Less than 1 year	15	(+7.1%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(+21.4%)</b>

**(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant** <sup>(Note 1)</sup>

2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012)
3 (-25.0%)

Note 1: Including information on NCSC staff appointed as civil servant within the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

**(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant** <sup>(Note 2)</sup>

2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012)
8 (-20.0%)

Note 2 :Including information on NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant within ArchSD only.

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
1.9%

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

2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012)
2.0%



**(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break**

<b>Meal break</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Paid meal break	34 (+21.4%)
Unpaid meal break	0 ( - )
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34 (+21.4%)</b>

**(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days**

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
5 working days per week	34 (+21.4%)
6 working days per week	0 ( - )
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34 (+21.4%)</b>

**(j) Number of NCSC against paternity leave** <sup>(Note 3)</sup>

<b>Paternity leave</b>	2012-13 (up to 31.12.2012)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Applied for paternity leave	0
Granted approval for paternity leave	0

Note 3 : NCSC staff are eligible for paternity leave with effect from 1 April 2012.

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12.*

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)074**

Question Serial No.

2779

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 rock caverns development investigation and feasibility study, can the Government inform this Committee of the expected time required for the investigation and study? What are the expenditures incurred in the study stage? What are the estimated expenditures before the completion of the whole study?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) commenced a consultancy study on enhancing land supply by reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development in July 2011 for completion by end 2013. The total expenditure incurred for the study in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is about \$20.6 million against the estimated cost for the whole study of about \$27.9 million. As the study covers both reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, we do not have a separate cost breakdown for the two initiatives.

CEDD also commenced another consultancy study on long-term strategy for cavern development in September 2012 for completion in around end 2015. The expenditure incurred for the study in 2012-13 is about \$3.2 million against the estimated cost for the whole study of about \$40.4 million.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)075**

Question Serial No.

0085

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:

Regarding the development of the Greening Master Plan (GMP)s, please advise:

- (a) in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), what was the additional greening area in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong?
- (b) what is the progress of development of the Greening Master Plan (GMP)s in the Southeast New Territories (NT) and Northeast NT, including the dates of completion of consultant studies, government internal deliberations, commencement of GMPs drafting, completion of GMPs drafting, commencement and completion of construction works respectively? What are the estimated expenditures of the above work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) About 9 hectares (ha) of new greening area have been completed in the past three years under the GMP, with breakdown as follows: Central & Western District (0.2 ha), Southern District (0.6 ha), Eastern District (1 ha), Sham Shui Po (1.4 ha), Kowloon City (1.2 ha), Wong Tai Sin (1.2 ha) and Kwun Tong (3.4 ha).
- (b) The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Southeast NT (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. We have submitted the draft GMPs to the relevant District Councils for discussion in March 2013. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Northeast NT (covering Tai Po and North District) commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. The draft GMPs are under preparation and expected to be available in the second half of 2013. We will determine the timetable for implementing the

recommended greening works after the GMPs are formulated. The construction works would take about 2 to 3 years.

The estimated expenditures for the formulation of the Southeast NT and Northeast NT GMPs are about \$19 million and \$17 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for the construction of the greening works will be worked out after the detailed design is completed.

Name in block letters: C K HON  
Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)076**

Question Serial No.

0087

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:

As the Administration is actively identifying land for building domestic premises, has the Department reserved funds to conduct studies this year (i.e. 2013-2014) on the number of slopes that can be used for building domestic premises throughout the territory? What are the funds and manpower involved respectively?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Government is taking a multi-pronged approach to increase land supply in the short, medium and long terms through various initiatives including land use reviews and planning and engineering studies. Where slopes are involved in these reviews/ studies as well as the use of specific sites, the Department will continue to make use of its existing resources to provide the relevant bureaux and departments with geotechnical input, including that in the slope safety aspects. Against the above, no specific studies have been planned for nor funds reserved by the Department in the financial year (2013-2014) in relation to the use of slopes for building domestic premises.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)077**

Question Serial No.

3012

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 construction works of the cycle network between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan, please advise:

- a) the progress of works and when will the various sections be expected to complete?
- b) upon completion, what is the estimated bicycle flow of the above cycle track?
- c) has provision been allocated this year (i.e. 2013-14) for improving and enhancing the facilities and design of the existing cycle tracks?
- d) has provision been allocated for setting up cycle parking areas at public transport interchanges in major districts to facilitate the use of bicycles as a means of feeder transport by the residents?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The cycle track network between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan is currently under construction and is expected to be substantially completed by end 2013.
- (b) As the cycle track network is mainly provided for recreational purposes, unlike the road traffic forecast, no estimation on the bicycle flow has been made.
- (c) The provision for construction of the cycle track network between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan in 2013-14 is \$29.2 million among which about \$5 million will be expended for the improvement and enhancement of existing facilities such as widening of cycle tracks, signage enhancement and provision of resting stations.

- (d) Cycle track facilities are mainly provided for recreational purposes. Nevertheless, to facilitate cyclists' access to/from neighbouring public transport facilities, provision has been included in the project for providing cycle parking spaces at the two entry/exit hubs at Sha Tin and Sheung Shui, as well as at the four resting stations along the cycle track network in Tong Hang in Fanling, Mui Shue Hang in Tai Po, Tai Shui Hang and Nai Chung in Ma On Shan.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)078**

Question Serial No.

1687

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:

The Administration has indicated in paragraph 94 of the budget speech that it will plan to seek funding approval this year to commence the construction works of part of the Sheung Shui - Yuen Long section of the cycle track.

- (1) Will the Administration inform this Committee when it will seek the funding approval?
- (2) What are the detailed route and length of the above cycle track?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

We plan to seek funding approval for the cycle track project from the Legislative Council Finance Committee in mid 2013. The scope of the project comprises:

- (i) construction of new cycle tracks along Kam Tin River, Sheung Yue River and Shek Sheung River, totalling about 2.5km;
- (ii) construction of three hubs and five resting stations along the existing or new cycle tracks in Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long and Sheung Shui; and
- (iii) improvement works to various sections of the existing cycle tracks in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai, totalling about 4.5km.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)079**

Question Serial No.

1688

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 matters requiring special attention in 2013-14, the Administration has indicated that it will “continue the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track in the New Territories”. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) What are the sections involved in the investigation and design work mentioned above?
- (2) What are the expected completion dates of the investigation and design work for such sections?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories, at a total length of 82 kilometres, is made up of mainly 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. We plan to implement the cycle track network in phases to enable early enjoyment of the facilities by the public. The expected completion dates of the investigation and design for the relevant sections of the network are as follows :-

<b>Section</b>	<b>Sub-Section</b>	<b>Expected completion date of investigation/ design</b>
Tuen Mun – Sheung Shui	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui – Stage 1	Mid 2013 (detailed design completion)
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui – Remaining Works	In phases from mid 2014 (detailed design completion)
Tsuen Wan – Tuen Mun	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun – Advance Works and Stage 1	In phases from mid 2014 (detailed design completion)
	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun – Stage 2	Early 2015 (alignment review completion)

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)080**

Question Serial No.

3211

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 “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” study project, please advise:

- a. When will the “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” study project start?
- b. How much is the estimated expenditure on the “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” project this year (i.e. 2013-14)? Is there any fund set aside for the consultation expenditure? How much is the budget? Please reply in the form of the following table.

Location of Study	Project Expenditure	Expected no. of Consultation	Consultation Expenditure
Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour			

- c. What is the distribution of estimated expenditures on the “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” project this year?
- d. What is the estimated expenditure on engaging consultant(s) for the “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” this year? Please reply in the form of the following table.

Year	Company Names	Consultation Expenditure
2013-14 (estimated)		

- e. Is there any time table for the “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” study project? If yes, please provide the details.
- f. Who leads the “Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour” study project? What is the staff establishment?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

- a. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) commenced a consultancy study on enhancing land supply by reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development (the Study) in July 2011. The Stage 2 public engagement (PE2) of the potential reclamation sites outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern developments was launched on 21 March 2013.
- b & c. The details of the further feasibility studies including the estimated expenditure for the potential reclamation sites will be determined after the completion of the PE2 in June 2013. The expenditures for the studies in 2013-14 have yet to be determined.
- d. As the Study covers both reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, we do not have separate cost breakdown for the two initiatives. The estimated expenditure on engaging consultant is as follows:

Year	Company Name	Study Expenditure Inclusive of Public Consultation (Reclamation & Cavern)	Public Consultation Expenditure Only (Reclamation & Cavern)
2013-14 (estimated)	Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd	\$6.5 million	\$3.1 million <sup>Note</sup>

Note: Another \$0.8 million is expected to be paid to others on venue rental, exhibition material, etc.

- e. The Stage 1 PE of the Study was conducted between November 2011 and March 2012. The PE2 on the potential reclamation and rock cavern development sites commenced in March 2013 for completion in June 2013. The Study is scheduled for completion in 2014.
- f. The CEDD leads the Study and deploys an average of two senior engineers and four engineers for the Study in 2012-13.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)081**

Question Serial No.

3212

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 "Development of Caverns" study project, please advise:

- a. When will the "Development of Caverns" study project start?
- b. How much is the estimated expenditure on the "Development of Caverns" project this year (i.e. 2013-14)? Is there any fund set aside for the consultation expenditure? How much is the budget? Please reply in the form of the following table.

Location of Study	Project Expenditure	Expected no. of Consultation	Consultation Expenditure
Development of Caverns			

- c. What is the distribution of estimated expenditures on the "Development of Caverns" project this year?
- d. What is the estimated expenditure on engaging consultant(s) for the "Development of Caverns" this year? Please reply in the form of the following table.

Year	Company Names	Consultation Expenditure
2013-14 (estimated)		

- e. Is there any time table for the "Development of Caverns" study project? If yes, please provide the details.
- f. Who leads the "Development of Caverns" study project? What is the staff establishment?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

- a. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) commenced a consultancy study on enhancing land supply by reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development (the Study) in July 2011. The Stage 2 public engagement (PE2) of the potential rock cavern developments and reclamation sites outside Victoria Harbour was launched on 21 March 2013.
- b&c. The details of the further feasibility studies including the estimated expenditure for the potential rock cavern developments will be determined after the completion of the PE2 in June 2013. The expenditures for the studies in 2013-14 have yet to be determined.
- d. As the Study covers both reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, we do not have a separate cost breakdown for the two initiatives. The estimated expenditure on engaging consultant is as follows:

Year	Company Name	Study Expenditure Inclusive of Public Consultation (Reclamation & Cavern)	Public Consultation Expenditure Only (Reclamation & Cavern)
2013-14 (estimated)	Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd	\$6.5 million	\$3.1 million <sup>Note</sup>

Note: Another \$0.8 million is expected to be paid to others on venue rental, exhibition material, etc.

- e. The Stage 1 PE of the Study was conducted between November 2011 and March 2012. The PE2 on the potential reclamation and rock cavern development sites commenced in March 2013 for completion in June 2013. The Study is scheduled for completion in 2014.
- f. The CEDD leads the Study and deploys an average of two senior engineers and four engineers for the Study in 2012-13.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)082**

Question Serial No.

2989

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 Budget Speech, paragraph 99 states, "I shall allocate \$4.5 billion in the coming five years (from 2013-14 onwards) to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out the land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns." Will the Government inform this Committee the items and locations of the studies and design concerned; the respective commencement dates of the items; details of the expenditures and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech is allocated for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

For reclamation and cavern development, we plan to conduct feasibility studies of five potential reclamation sites at Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay, Siu Ho Wan, Southwest Tsing Yi and Ma Liu Shui near the estuary of Shing Mun River; a strategic study of the potential of constructing artificial islands in the central waters (i.e. between Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island); and feasibility studies of accommodating various facilities within rock caverns. The Stage 2 public engagement (PE2) for these projects was launched on 21 March 2013. We also plan to conduct a pilot study on underground space development in urban areas of Hong Kong. As these projects are at a preliminary stage and subject to further consultation, the respective commencement dates and details of expenditures and manpower will be determined at later stages of the projects.

For the NDAs, we have so far engaged consultants to undertake planning and engineering studies on the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu NDAs. We are continuing with the relevant studies and will take into account the public views collected during the public engagement exercise in refining the development proposals. The commencement dates and details of expenditures and manpower involved will be determined after the development proposals have been firmed up.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013



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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)083**

Question Serial No.

0514

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:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012-13):

- (a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- (b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

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Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Information on the departmental records management work undertaken by Civil Engineering and Development Department over the past three years (up to 2012-13) is provided below -

(a) Number and rank of designated officers:

There is a Confidential Assistant designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

(b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1972-2013	No.: 13 560 (678 linear metres)	1-20 years after the records have become inactive	540 out of 13 560 are confidential records
Administrative records	1972-2013	No.: 3 390 (170 linear metres)	3 months-13 years after action completed	130 out of 3 390 are confidential records

(c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1993-2012	No.: 3 082 (135 linear metres)	2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13	9-13 years after the records have become inactive	No
Administrative records	1993-2009	No.: 98 (2 linear metres)	2010-11	9 years after action completed	No

(d) Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Year that approval was granted by GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1947-2005	No.: 13 954 (737 linear meters)	2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13	3-7 years after the records have become inactive	76 out of 13 954 are confidential records
Administrative records	1972-2008	No.: 7 664 (326 linear meters)	2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13	2-13 years after action completed	47 out of 7 664 are confidential records

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)084**

Question Serial No.

1797

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:

In Programme (5), it is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 to “continue to develop greening master plans (GMPs) for the New Territories”.

- (a) what are the progress, completion dates and expenditures involved for the GMPs?
- (b) what are the commencement dates, programmes and expenditures involved for the greening works?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

(a) The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Southeast New Territories (NT) (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and Northwest NT (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. We provided the proposed GMPs to the relevant District Councils (DCs) for discussion in February and March 2013. The DCs consulted have indicated support to our proposals. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Northeast NT (covering Tai Po and North District) and Southwest NT (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. Draft GMPs are under preparation and expected to be available in the second half of 2013. The total estimated expenditure for the formulation of the NT GMPs are about \$70 million.

(b) We will determine the timetable for implementing the recommended greening works after the GMPs are formulated. The construction works would take about two to three years. The estimated expenditure for the construction of the greening works will be worked out after the detailed design is completed.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)085**

Question Serial No.

1798

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 Programme (3), it is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 to “continue the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track in the New Territories”. What are the progress of the cycle tracks in New Territories East and West, the project details and the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

The comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories, at a total length of 82 kilometres, is made up of mainly 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 plan to implement the cycle track network in phases. The current status for the various sections of the network is as follows-

Section	Sub-Section	Current status	Anticipated completion date	Expenditures in 2013/14
Tuen Mun – Ma On Shan	Ma On Shan to Sheung Shui	Construction in progress	End 2013 (construction completion)	\$29.2 million
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui – Stage 1	Detailed design in progress	End 2016 (construction completion)	\$38.7 million
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui – Remaining Works	Detailed design in progress	In phases from mid 2014 (detailed design completion)	\$2 million

Tsuen Wan – Tuen Mun	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun – Advance Works and Stage 1	Detailed design in progress	In phases from mid 2014 (detailed design completion)	\$3.4 million
	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun – Stage 2	Alignment review in progress	Early 2015 (alignment review completion)	\$0.6 million

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)086**

Question Serial No.

1455

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 2013-14, Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue the study on the long-term strategy for rock cavern development. In this connection, will the Administration advise:

1. the manpower and expenditure allocated for this;
2. the expected completion date of the study; and
3. what is the follow-up action upon the completion of the study?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. We have commissioned a consultant to carry out the study on long-term strategy for rock cavern development. The total expenditure under the consultancy will be about \$40.4 million and the expenditure on FY 2013-14 is estimated at about \$13.9 million. The study is being managed by a Chief Geotechnical Engineer on a part-time basis with support from a Senior Geotechnical Engineer and two Geotechnical Engineers.
2. The study commenced in September 2012 and is scheduled for completion in end 2015.



3. Under the study, we will formulate policy guidelines to facilitate cavern development for both public and private sectors. We will also prepare Cavern Master Plans to reserve strategic areas in Hong Kong for cavern development and develop a systematic programme for the long-term relocation of suitable Government facilities to rock caverns. The study will also recommend appropriate follow-up actions to take forward the proposals.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)087**

Question Serial No.

1892

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 construction works of infrastructure projects in Sha Tin and Tseung Kwan O that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) will continue during 2013-14, will the government inform this Committee what are the works items, expected completion dates and expenditures involved respectively?**

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The construction works of infrastructure projects in Sha Tin and Tseung Kwan O, including road and drainage works which we will continue during 2013-14, are detailed below:

<u>Subhead (Code)</u>	<u>Approved Project</u>	<u>Expected completion date</u>	<u>Estimated expenditure in 2013-14 (\$million)</u>
7458CL	Sha Tin New Town, stage 2 - construction of Road T3	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2015	7.055
7270RS	Cycle tracks and associated facilities along seafront at Town Centre South, Tseung Kwan O	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2013	15.042
7715CL	Tseung Kwan O further development—infrastructure works at Town Centre South and Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung Kwan O	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2013	14.365

7717CL Tseung Kwan O further  
development—site formation  
and infrastructure works at  
Pak Shing Kok 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2013 5.440

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)088**

Question Serial No.

1893

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 2013-14, Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to complete the construction works of the cycle track between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan, and continue the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories. Will the Administration advise the completion date of the construction works of the cycle track between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan and the expenditures involved, and the project details of the comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories as well as the breakdown of the estimated expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories, at a total length of 82 kilometres, is made up of mainly 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 plan to implement the cycle track network in phases. The current status for the various sections of the network is as follows-

Section	Sub-Section	Current status	Anticipated completion date	Expenditures in 2013/14
Tuen Mun – Ma On Shan	Ma On Shan to Sheung Shui	Construction in progress	End 2013 (construction completion)	\$29.2 million
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui – Stage 1	Detailed design in progress	End 2016 (construction completion)	\$38.7 million
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui – Remaining Works	Detailed design in progress	In phases from mid 2014 (detailed design)	\$2 million

			completion)	
Tsuen Wan – Tuen Mun	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun – Advance Works and Stage 1	Detailed design in progress	In phases from mid 2014 (detailed design completion)	\$3.4 million
	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun – Stage 2	Alignment review in progress	Early 2015 (alignment review completion)	\$0.6 million

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)089**

Question Serial No.

0557

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:

The Administration indicated that studies on the reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and the development of caverns would be carried out in 2012-13 for enhancing land supply strategy. What are the relevant expenditures and specific details? In the Budget Speech 2013-14, it is stated in paragraph 99 that \$4.5 billion will be allocated to carry out such projects. Will the government inform us the source of the \$4.5 billion? Is it from the Government General Revenue Account or from the Capital Works Reserve Fund? Will reports be issued at different stages of the studies with consultations?

Asked by: Hon. To Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department has undertaken the following tasks under the study for enhancing land supply by reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, with an estimated expenditure of about \$10.5 million in 2012-13 -

- A territory-wide site search in Hong Kong, including the associated broad technical studies, to identify potential sites for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development; and
- Public engagement on the land supply initiatives.

The allocation of \$4.5 billion mentioned in paragraph 99 of the 2013-14 Budget Speech in the coming five years is for carrying out detailed technical studies and design work and progressively rolling out land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. The funding will be sought from the Capital Works Reserve Fund when details of the studies and projects are worked out. We will conduct appropriate consultations and issue reports in due course at different stages of the studies.

Name in block letters: C K HON  
Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
Date: 2 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)090**

Question Serial No.

0164

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 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )



	2012-13 (the latest position)
• 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	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*

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.

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

2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
1 (-75%)

**(b) Contract sum and duration of services**

	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
<b>Contract sum</b>	<b>Number of contracts</b>
Less than \$0.5 million	1 (-75%)
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	0 (-)
Over \$1 million	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1 (-75%)</b>

	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
<b>Duration of services</b>	<b>Number of contracts</b>
6 months or less	0 (-100%)
Over 6 months to 1 year	1 (-)
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-)
Over 2 years	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1 (-75%)</b>

**(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**

Whilst there was one existing contract with an EA, no agency worker was actually engaged as at 30.9.2012.

**(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers**

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) since 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. As at 30.9.2012, the department engaged one contract and the minimum monthly wages specified in the contract was \$8,407.

**(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**

2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
0%

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

2012-13 (up to 30.9.12)
0.02%

(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**

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of workers</b>
5 working days per week	0 (-100%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0 (-100%)</b>

*Percentage in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12 except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)091**

Question Serial No.

0165

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 “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

	2012-13 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than 6,240	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )

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.

**(a) Number of outsourced service contracts**

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
76 (+15.2%)

**(b) Total expenditure of outsourced service contracts**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12) (\$M)
24.0 (+14.8%)

**(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts**

Duration of service	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	10 (-37.5%)
Over 6 months to 1 year	39 (+21.9%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	16 (+77.8%)
Over 2 years	11 (+22.2%)
<b>Total:</b>	76 (+15.2%)

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
209 (+3.5%)

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

Nature of service contracts	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	Number of workers
Cleansing	33 (+32.0%)
Security	91 (+5.8%)
Information technology	7 (-41.7%)
Technical service	17 (-34.6%)
General administration support	49 (+48.5%)
Others (e.g. staff training)	12 (-40.0%)
<b>Total:</b>	209 (+3.5%)

**(f) Salaries of outsourced workers**

After the implementation of Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were 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 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 against the total staff in the Department**

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
11.8% (-0.8%)

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

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
3.4% (+0.3%)

(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** <sup>(Note 1)</sup>

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)	
	<b>Number of workers</b>	
5 working days per week	1	(+100%)
6 working days per week	123	(+10.8%)
<b>Total:</b>	124	(+11.7%)

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

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12 except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)092**

Question Serial No.

0166

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:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than 6,240	( )
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )
Number of NCSC staff with application for paternity leave	( )



	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff with approval granted for paternity leave	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*

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.

**(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature**

<b>Job nature</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Professional	15 (-16.7%)
Technical and inspectorate	1 (-92.9%)
General administration	8 (+60.0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24 (-35.1%)</b>

**(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12) (\$M)
10.2 (-)

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

<b>Monthly salary</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
\$30,001 or above	11 (+37.5%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	9 (-25.0%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	4 (-76.5%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 ( - )
\$6,240 to \$6,500	0 ( - )
Less than \$6,240	0 ( - )
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24 (-35.1%)</b>

<b>Length of services</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
15 years or above	0 ( - )
10 years to less than 15 years	0 ( - )
5 years to less than 10 years	0 ( - )
3 years to less than 5 years	2 ( +100% )
1 year to less than 3 years	8 (-20.0%)
Less than 1 year	14 (-46.2%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24 (-35.1%)</b>

**(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant** <sup>(Note 1)</sup>

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
9 (+12.5% )

Note 1 : Including information on NCSC staff appointed as civil servant within the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

**(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant** <sup>(Note 2)</sup>

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
3 (-62.5%)

Note 2 : Including information on NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant within CEDD only.

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
1.4%

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
1.4%

**(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break**

<b>Meal Break</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Paid meal break	23 (-4.2%)
Unpaid meal break	1 (-92.3%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24 (-35.1%)</b>

**(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days**

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
5 working days per week	23 (-4.2%)
6 working days per week	1 (-92.3%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24 (-35.1%)</b>

**(j) Number of NCSC staff with application for paternity leave and number of NCSC staff with approval for paternity leave application <sup>(Note 3)</sup>**

<b>Paternity leave</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Applied for paternity leave	0
Granted approval for paternity leave	0

Note 3 : NCSC staff are eligible for paternity leave with effect from 1 April 2012.

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12 except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)093**

Question Serial No.

2241

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:

Regarding man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Upon the completion of the “upgrading and landscaping of slopes and retaining walls” and the “implementation of mitigation measures” on natural hillside catchments in 2012-13, what is the respective number of man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments with high potential risk (or below government standards) pending action? (Please list out according to the demarcation of the 18 Districts).
2. Are there any statistics about the number of people directly affected by the man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments with high potential risk mentioned above? If yes, what are the details?
3. According to present progress, how much time is required to complete the work on all man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments with high potential risk?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. & 3. The Landslip Preventive Measures Programme (LPMP) aiming to deal with high-risk man-made slopes and retaining walls affecting major roads and developments was completed in 2010 thereby substantially reducing the overall landslide risk. The LPMP was dovetailed by the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) to deal with the remaining landslide risk in Hong Kong. The remaining landslide risk mainly comes from about 15,000 man-made slopes and retaining walls with moderate risk, and some 2,700 natural hillside catchments with known hazards and close to existing buildings and important transport corridors. The LPMitP is a rolling programme, under which we plan to upgrade 150 government man-made slopes and retaining walls, and implement mitigation measures to 30 natural hillside catchments each year. A risk-based

priority ranking system is used to select the most deserving man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments with known hazards for action. The number of man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments to be dealt with in 2013-14 under the LPMitP in each District is:

District	Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls	Hillside Catchments
Central & Western	13	4
Eastern	11	0
Islands	10	0
Kowloon City	0	0
Kwai Tsing	5	2
Kwun Tong	4	0
North	6	0
Sai Kung	8	0
Sha Tin	17	0
Sham Shui Po	4	0
Southern	25	5
Tai Po	6	3
Tsuen Wan	11	5
Tuen Mun	13	5
Wan Chai	6	5
Wong Tai Sin	1	1
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0
Yuen Long	10	0
Total	150	30

2. Among the 150 man-made slopes and retaining walls to be dealt with in 2013-14, about 100 of them mainly affect buildings including squatter structures and the rest mainly affect roads and other facilities. As regards the 30 natural hillside catchments to be dealt with, all of them mainly affect buildings. There are no readily available information on the number of people directly affected by the man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)094**

Question Serial No.

3300

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 work under this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. In connection with the population intake of Kai Tak housing development in this mid-year, what is the progress of the associated roads and other infrastructure works?
2. As the Government has indicated that it would conduct Stage 2 consultation on Kai Tak Environmentally Friendly Linkage System at the end of last year and would report the result of the Stage 1 consultation to the Legislative Council early this year. When will the Stage 2 consultation be expected to conduct and the result of Stage 1 consultation be announced by the Government? In what manner will Stage 2 consultation be conducted and what are the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. Construction of the Stage 1 infrastructure works at the former north apron area in Kai Tak Development is currently in progress for completion in mid-2013 to tie in with the population intake of Kai Tak housing development.

2. The Stage 1 public consultation exercise on the findings of the feasibility study on Environmentally Friendly Linkage System was completed in October 2012. We are analyzing the views collected and will share the result with the public and relevant stakeholders via consultation meetings/workshops during the Stage 2 public consultation planned to start in mid-2013. We will undertake the Stage 2 public consultation exercise with the support from a consultant involving an estimated expenditure of about \$0.4 million.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)095**

Question Serial No.

2938

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve Subhead (No. & title): 7271RS - Cycle tracks  
Fund : New Towns and connecting North West  
Urban Area Development 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:

Will the Government inform this Committee of the progress of the construction works of the cycle track between Ma On Shan and Sheung Shui? Upon the completion, what will be the supporting facilities? What are the estimated recurrent expenditures on maintenance?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The works for the cycle track section from Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan are being carried out under two separate contracts, one for the main route and the other for the two entry/exit hubs. The works for the main route commenced in May 2010 for substantial completion by end 2013. The works for two entry/exit hubs commenced in June 2011 for substantial completion by mid 2013.

Supporting facilities to be provided at the entry/exit hubs include cycle parking spaces, cycle rental and repair kiosks, practising areas, toilets, information boards and first aid stations. There are also four resting stations with cycle parking spaces provided along the cycle tracks.

The estimated annual recurrent expenditure arising from this project is about \$2.6 million.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)096**

Question Serial No.

2939

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund : New Towns and  
Urban Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7279RS - Cycle tracks  
connecting North West  
New Territories with  
North East New  
Territories – Tuen Mun  
to Sheung Shui section  
(Stage 1)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

How many phases will the construction works of the cycle track connecting Sheung Shui and Yuen Long be implemented? What is the expected completion date? What is the estimated total expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Sheung Shui – Yuen Long section of the cycle track will be implemented in stages. Construction of the stage 1 works covering 2.5km new cycle tracks, improvement of 4.5km existing cycle tracks, provision of associated facilities and environmental mitigation measures, estimated to cost about \$295 million, is scheduled to commence in mid-2013-14 for completion in end 2016. The programme and cost estimate for the remaining works are under review.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)097**

Question Serial No.

0082

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the Budget Speech, it is stated in paragraph 99 that \$4.5 billion will be allocated in the coming five years to carry out studies and design work relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. In this regard, will the government inform this Committee to which Heads and Subheads will the \$4.5 billion be allocated? What are the specific purposes? On the funding of the estimated expenditures, will the applications be made to the Legislative Council (LegCo) under Block Allocation in each financial year, or to the Finance Committee of LegCo under each project item in different stages? Besides, regarding the studies and design work, will they be carried out separately under three different fields, or in a comprehensive form? How many stages will be involved in the work? How much additional area of land will be expected to provide, and what is the area of land reserve after five years in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The allocation of \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech will be made under Head 705 and Head 707 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

Apart from minor feasibility studies, investigations and works chargeable to block allocations, funding approvals for major feasibility studies, detailed design and construction of individual projects will be sought from the Finance Committee in due course.

As the studies and design work are generally project specific, they will be carried out on project by project basis except for studies to assess the cumulative impacts arising from more than one project in the vicinity.

For the reclamation and rock cavern development projects, public engagement for these projects was launched on 21 March 2013. As for the NDAs, we have so far engaged consultants to undertake planning and engineering studies on the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu NDAs. We are continuing with the relevant studies and will take into account the public views collected during the public engagement exercise in refining the development proposals. As all of these projects are at a preliminary stage, the staging of works, additional area of land to be formed and area of land reserve to be made available will be determined at the later stages of the projects.

Name in block letters: C K HON  
Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)098**

Question Serial No.

1943

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The government will allocate \$4.5 billion in the coming five years to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out the land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. Please inform this Committee:

- (a) What is the implementation progress of the above items at present and the details of the projects?
- (b) Regarding the reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns, what are the details of the estimated expenditures and the manpower deployment in relation to the associated studies and design work, and the progressively rolling out of the relevant land development projects in the coming five years (2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18)? Among them, what are the details, estimated expenditures and manpower deployment involved in the study of impacts on fisheries resources?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech is allocated for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, rock cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

For reclamation and rock cavern development, we launched the Stage 2 public engagement (PE) exercise for Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development on 21 March 2013 to consult the public on the potential reclamation and rock cavern development sites.

For NDAs, the North East New Territories NDAs Planning and Engineering Study is on-going and scheduled for completion in end 2013. We are now finalising the Recommended Outline Development Plans for the NDAs taking into account the public views collected during the public engagement exercise.

- (b) For reclamation and cavern development, the projects are at a preliminary stage and subject to further consultation. The forecast expenditure and manpower deployment including those for studying impact on fishery resources will be determined during the later stages of the projects. For the NDAs, the development proposals are being refined taking into account the public views. The forecast expenditure and manpower deployment will be determined after the development proposals have been firmed up.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)099**

Question Serial No.

1120

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

According to paragraph 99 in the Budget Speech, in order to expand the land reserve, the Government will allocate \$4.5 billion in the coming five years to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out the land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. What are the details of the related projects? How much expenditure will be involved in the items?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

The \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech is allocated for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

For reclamation and cavern development, we plan to conduct feasibility studies of five potential reclamation sites at Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay, Siu Ho Wan, Southwest Tsing Yi and Ma Liu Shui near the estuary of Shing Mun River; a strategic study of the potential of constructing artificial islands in the central waters (i.e. between Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island); and feasibility studies of accommodating various facilities within rock caverns. The Stage 2 public engagement (PE2) for these projects was launched on 21 March 2013. As these projects are at a preliminary stage, the details of expenditure will be determined at later stages of the projects.

For the NDAs, we have so far engaged consultants to undertake planning and engineering studies on the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu NDAs. We are now continuing with the relevant studies and will take into account the public views collected during the public engagement exercise in refining the development proposals. The details of expenditure will be determined after the development proposals have been firmed up.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)100**

Question Serial No.

2108

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund : New Towns and  
Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7270RS – Cycle tracks  
and associated facilities  
along seafront at Town  
Centre South, Tseung  
Kwan O

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On “Cycle tracks and associated facilities along seafront at Town Centre South, Tseung Kwan O”, the approved project estimate (APE) is about \$107 million, whereas the actual expenditure up to 31 March 2012 is only about \$7.4 million. In the remaining APE of about \$99 m, the revised estimate 2012-13 is only about \$40 million and the estimate 2013-14 is about \$15 million.

What is the time table of utilizing the remaining APE? How to speed up the progress of works to provide the service to the public as soon as possible? Could details be provided on the allocation of the resources involved in various facilities included in the items? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The scope of the project mainly comprises the construction of cycle tracks, footpaths, and an open space along the seafront and landscaping works.



The construction of the project commenced in July 2011 and the facilities under the project are scheduled to be open for public use in the third quarter of 2013. The cumulative project expenditure up to 31 March 2013 would be about \$48.3 million. The anticipated expenditures in 2013-14 is \$15 million and the remaining provision would be used for project finalisation. As the project account is yet to be finalised, the allocation of resources for various items of works are not yet available.

Name in block letters: C K HON  
Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)101**

Question Serial No.

2109

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund : New Towns and  
Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7715CL – Tseung Kwan  
O further development –  
infrastructure works at  
Town Centre South and  
Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung  
Kwan O

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On “Tseung Kwan O further development—infrastructure works at Town Centre South and Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung Kwan O”, the approved project estimate (APE) is about \$546 million, whereas the actual expenditure up to 31 March 2012 is only about \$290 million. In the remaining APE of about \$256 million, the revised estimate 2012-13 is only about \$73 million and the estimate 2013-14 is about \$14 million.

What is the time table of utilizing the remaining APE? How to speed up the progress of works to provide the service to the public as soon as possible? Could details be provided on the allocation of the resources involved in various facilities included in the items? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The scope of the project mainly comprises land formation, construction of roads with associated footpaths and cycle tracks, drainage and sewerage systems and landscaping works.

The works under the project scope were substantially completed in end 2012, and the newly constructed roads, including the associated footpath and cycle tracks, will be opened for public use in phases starting from the first half of 2013.

The cumulative project expenditure up to 31 March 2013 would be about \$364.2 million. The anticipated expenditures in 2013-14 is \$14.4 million and the remaining provision would

be used for project finalisation. As the project account is yet to be finalised, the allocation of resources for various items of the works are not yet available.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)102**

Question Serial No.

2110

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve Subhead (No. & title): 7718CL - Ma On Shan development - roads, drainage and sewerage works at Whitehead and Lok Wo Sha phase 1  
Fund : New Towns and Urban Area Development

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On “Ma On Shan development—roads, drainage and sewerage works at Whitehead and Lok Wo Sha phase 1”, the approved project estimate (APE) is about \$219.7 million, whereas the actual expenditure up to 31 March 2012 is only about \$130.365 million. In the remaining APE of about \$89 million, the revised estimate 2012-13 is only about \$17.1 million and the estimate 2013-14 is about \$3 million.

What is the time table of utilizing the remaining APE? How to speed up the progress of works to provide the service to the public as soon as possible? Could details be provided on the allocation of the resources involved in various facilities included in the items? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The scope of the project mainly comprises formation of two sites of about 3 hectares, construction of roads with associated footpaths and cycle tracks, drainage and sewerage systems and landscaping works.

All the works under the project scope were substantially completed in January 2012 and the newly constructed roads, including the associated footpaths and cycle tracks, have been opened for public use since January 2012.

The latest project estimate is about \$155 million, which is much lower than the APE of about 219.7 million due to the lower tender price received for the construction contract. As the project account is yet to be finalised, the allocation of resources for various items of works are not yet available.

Name in block letters: C K HON  
Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)103**

Question Serial No.

1921

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Financial Secretary stated that \$4.5 billion would be allocated in the coming five years to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. Will the Administration inform us the funding allocation of the expenditures and the details of different projects and plans?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech is allocated for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

For reclamation and cavern development, we plan to conduct feasibility studies of five potential reclamation sites at Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay, Siu Ho Wan, Southwest Tsing Yi and Ma Liu Shui near the estuary of Shing Mun River; a strategic study of the potential of constructing artificial islands in the central waters (i.e. between Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island); and feasibility studies of accommodating various facilities within rock caverns. The Stage 2 public engagement (PE2) for these projects was launched on 21 March 2013. As these projects are at a preliminary stage and subject to further consultation, the details of expenditures, projects and plans will be determined at the later stages of the projects.

For the NDAs, we have so far engaged consultants to undertake planning and engineering studies on the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu NDAs. We are continuing with the relevant studies and will take into account the public views collected during the public engagement exercise in refining the development proposals. The details of expenditures, projects and plans will be determined after the development proposals have been firmed up.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)104**

Question Serial No.

0558

Head: 707 New Towns and Urban  
Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7279RS - Cycle tracks  
connecting North West  
New Territories with  
North East New  
Territories—Tuen Mun  
to Sheung Shui section  
(Stage 1)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As indicated in paragraph 94 of the budget speech, it is planned to seek funding approval this year to construct part of the Sheung Shui - Yuen Long section of the cycle track. What is the expenditure of the works involved? What is the expected completion date? Will the cycle track be connected to Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai or even Tsuen Wan?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The part of the Sheung Shui - Yuen Long section of the cycle track for which funding approval is planned to be sought in 2013-14 is estimated to cost about \$295 million. The construction works are scheduled to start in mid-2013-14 for completion in end 2016.

We plan to connect the Sheung Shui – Yuen Long section of the cycle track to Tuen Mun and Tin Shui Wai via some existing cycle tracks, and via Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan through proposed cycle tracks as part of the cycle track network in the New Territories.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)105**

Question Serial No.

2802

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:

According to the Administration, the review of drainage master plans for Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung will commence in 2013-14. In this connection, please advise on:

- a) the details of the abovementioned review. What are the expected dates of completion? To what extent will the drainage capacity be improved upon completion?
- b) the number of flooding blackspots in the territory over the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012). Of which, how many are located in Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung? What are the exact locations of these blackspots?
- c) the number of drainage works being carried out in Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung by the Administration over the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012) and the details of these works.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a) The drainage master plan reviews are being conducted under two studies, one for Tai Po and the other for Shatin and Sai Kung. Both studies commenced in February 2013 for completion by 2015. These studies will formulate drainage improvement works to address identified drainage deficiencies in the study areas. It is anticipated that upon completion of the proposed drainage improvement works, the capacity of the drainage systems will be improved to the current standard as far as practicable.

b) Number of flooding blackspots over the past three years are set out below:

	2010	2011	2012
Total Number in the Territory	18	16	15
Total Number in Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung	5	5	4

The locations of flooding blackspots in Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung in the past three years are listed as follows –

District	Location
Tai Po	Lam Tsuen Valley Basin
Tai Po	Ting Kok Road – Shuen Wan Chim UK to Wong Yue Tan
Tai Po	Tung Tsz Road
Shatin	Ha Wo Che Village, Ha Wo Che
Sai Kung	Ho Chung River*

\* Ho Chung River is no longer a flooding blackspot in 2012.

c) The drainage improvement projects carried out in Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung over the past three years from 2010 to 2012 are as follows –

- PWP Item No. 4152CD involving the upgrading of Lam Tsuen River and She Shan River commenced in September 2007 and was completed in December 2012; and
- PWP Item No. 4109CD involving the construction of a box culvert along Tung Tsz Road and a stormwater pumping station in Shuen Wan commenced in February 2009 for completion in early 2014.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)106**

Question Serial No.

2846

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:

It is mentioned in Programme (1) that the Administration will commence the review of drainage master plans for Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung in 2013-14. In this connection, please provide the following information.

- (1) For the drainage master plans for Tai Po, Shatin and Sai Kung, please set out in detail the target study area, the expected dates of commencement as well as the timeframe for the completion of the consultancy study; and
- (2) The details of the estimated expenditure for the above studies on three districts.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) The drainage master plan reviews are being conducted under two studies, one for Tai Po and the other for Shatin and Sai Kung.

The study areas for Tai Po mainly cover Tai Po, Ma Liu Shui, Lam Tsuen Valley and Ting Kok including Science Park and Ma Shi Chau whilst the study areas for Shatin and Sai Kung mainly cover Ma Liu Shui, Fo Tan, Sha Tin, Tai Wai, Ma On Shan, Sai Kung, Ho Chung, Tai Mong Tsai and Pak Tam Chung.

Both studies commenced in February 2013 for completion by 2015.

- (2) The estimated costs for the studies in Tai Po, and the studies in Shatin and Sai Kung are \$11 million and \$13.2 million respectively.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 2 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)107**

Question Serial No.

**0519**

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012-13):

- (a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- (b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

(d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Information on the departmental records management work undertaken by Drainage Services Department over the past three years (up to 2012-13) is provided below -

(a) Number and rank of designated officers:

There are 13 officers (one Clerical Officer, six Assistant Clerical Officers, five Clerical Assistants and one Confidential Assistant) designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

(b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal :

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1986 to 2013	No.: 9 470 (473.50 linear meters)	four years after action completed or permanent	340 out of 9 470 are confidential records
Administrative records	1989 to 2013	No.: 2 105 (105.25 linear meters)	one to seven years after action completed	227 out of 2 105 are confidential records

- (c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

**Nil**

- (d) Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1971 to 2002	No.: 1 127 (24.42 linear meters)	The records were kept by the department until destruction	four to 12 years after action completed	65 out of 1 127 are confidential records
Administrative records	1961 to 2011	No.: 2 233 (111.68 linear meters)	The records were kept by the department until destruction	one to seven years after action completed	37 out of 2 233 are confidential records

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)108**

Question Serial No.

1710

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) Regarding the Drainage Master Plan Review Study for the New Territories (including Outlying Islands), please advise on the details of the work schedule and estimated expenditure etc.
- (b) Please set out all flooding blackspots in the New Territories (including Outlying Islands). How much resources are planned to be allocated by the Department to improve the situation of these blackspots? What are the details of the work plans?
- (c) Please set out the flooding blackspots in the New Territories (including Outlying Islands) where drainage improvement works cannot be carried out due to title problems or other reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

- (a) There are two on-going Drainage Master Plan review studies in the New Territories, one for Tai Po and the other for Shatin and Sai Kung. Both studies commenced in February 2013 for completion by end 2015. The estimated costs for the studies in Tai Po and in Shatin and Sai Kung are \$11 million and \$13.2 million respectively.
- (b) The flooding blackspots in the New Territories (including Outlying Islands) and the details and estimated costs of the drainage improvement works to deal with these flooding blackspots are as follows:

<b>Flooding Blackspots in the New Territories (including Outlying Islands)</b>	<b>Details of Improvement Works</b>
Tuen Mun San Tsuen*	Works involving the construction of U-channels and drainage pipes at Tuen Mun San Tsuen commenced in February 2012 and was completed in January 2013.



	The cost is about \$1.6 million.
Lam Tsuen Valley Basin*	PWP Item No. 4152CD involving the upgrading of Lam Tsuen River and She Shan River commenced in September 2007 and was completed in December 2012. The cost is about \$568 million.
Ting Kok Road – Shuen Wan Chim Uk to Wong Yue Tan	PWP Item No. 4109 CD involving the construction of a box culvert along Tung Tsz Road and a stormwater pumping station in Shuen Wan commenced in February 2009 for completion in early 2014. The estimated cost is \$253 million.
Tung Tsz Road	
Shek Tsai Leng*	PWP Item No. 4156CD involving the construction of a drainage channel in Shek Tsai Leng commenced in November 2008 and was completed in May 2012. The cost is about \$10 million.
Ping Kong*	PWP Item No. 4148CD involving the construction of drainage channels in Ping Kong and Nam Wa Po commenced in December 2006 and was completed in October 2012. The cost is about \$197 million.  Further drainage improvement works for Ping Kong and Nam Wa Po are under planning.
Nam Wah Po*	
Ko Po, Kan Tau Tsuen and Kwan Tei *	PWP Item No. 4151CD involving the construction of a drainage channel in Kwan Tei South commenced in June 2007 and was completed in July 2011. The cost is about \$17 million.
Shek Wu Wai and San Tin	PWP Item No. 4164CD involving the upgrading of a box culvert underneath Castle Peak Road commenced in April 2011 for completion in February 2014. The estimated cost is \$18.5 million.  Further drainage improvement works for Shek Wu Wai are under planning.

\*Drainage improvement works have been completed recently. We will monitor the performance of these completed drainage improvement works for determining if the areas can be removed from the blackspot list.

- (c) At present, there is no flooding blackspot in the New Territories (including Outlying Islands) where drainage improvement works cannot be carried out due to title problems or other reasons.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)109**

Question Serial No.

1433

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* for 2012-13, the Departmental Expenses for 'light and power' is revised as \$243,300,000, which is higher than the original estimated expenses of \$234,423,000; and the estimated expenses is further increased to \$254,040,000 for 2013-14. Please inform this Committee if the Department has reviewed the reasons for the increase in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Has the Administration taken any energy saving measures to reduce the expenses? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The change of the Departmental Expenses for 'light and power' in 2012-13 was mainly due to the increase in the tariff rates for The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited (HEC) and CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLPP) by 6.3% and 4.9% on average respectively with effect from 1 January 2012. Similarly for 2013-14, HEC and CLPP have increased their tariff rates by 2.9% and 5.9% on average with effect from 1 January 2013. Furthermore, the increase has also taken into account the operation of new facilities, such as the new deodourizers at Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to minimize odour impacts to the environment.

In order to reduce the expenses, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) will continue to adopt energy saving measures in various DSD facilities. The major energy saving measures include the following:-

- (a) Utilisation of biogas produced during the sludge treatment process to generate electricity and heat by installation of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Generators at Tai Po STW and Shek Wu Hui STW;
- (b) Reduction of the surplus activated sludge produced in secondary sewage treatment process to save electricity requirements for its subsequent treatment

and improvement on the sludge digestion process at Shatin STW; and

- (c) Efficiency improvement of the dewatering facilities at Stonecutters Island STW.

With the implementation of various energy saving measures, around \$3.6 million were saved in 2012.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)110**

Question Serial No.

1164

Head: 39–Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in Programme (1) that the Administration would continue with the design of the improvement work for the Yuen Long Town centre nullah. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- 1) the current progress of the design work for the nullah and the estimated expenditure for the construction, after collating the views of the Yuen Long District Council on the Stage 1 Improvement Works last year;
- 2) the timetable for public consultation on the final design option for the nullah; and
- 3) the feasibility to advance the commencement and completion of the works.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- 1) The detailed design of the stage 1 improvement works including construction of a dry weather flow interception system and reconstruction of existing nullah wall and associated piping network for the Yuen Long Town centre nullah commenced in December 2012 for completion in end 2013. The nullah beautification works will be implemented under the stage 2. At present, the preliminary design of the nullah beautification scheme has been completed. As we need to develop an integrated landscape design scheme with the proposed elevated footbridge along the nullah under the Pedestrian Environment Improvement Scheme (PEIS) being undertaken by the Highways Department (HyD), the implementation programme of the stage 2 works will be tied in with the progress of HyD's PEIS project. The cost for construction works will only be ascertained upon completion of detailed design.
- 2) The progress of the stage 1 improvement works was reported to the Environmental Improvement Committee of the Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) on 14 January 2013 with its support obtained. As regards the stage 2 beautification works, we will

join with HyD to carry out public engagement and consultation activities under the PEIS project. We have consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of YLDC in March 2013 and plan to hold a public forum in April 2013.

- 3) Taking into consideration the restriction on construction activities within the nullah during wet seasons (from April to October), there is limited scope to advance the completion of the stage 1 improvement works. For the stage 2 works, the implementation programme is subject to HyD's PEIS project and the outcome of the public consultation exercise. The feasibility to advance the commencement and completion of the works cannot be ascertained at this moment.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu  
Post Title: Director of Drainage Services  
Date: 3 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)111**

Question Serial No.

0992

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the stormwater drainage matters, please inform this Committee of:

- a) the progress of the review of the drainage master plans for Kowloon, the expenditure involved, the estimated completion date and relevant improvement works or projects (if applicable);
- b) the progress of the design and relevant works of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah; and
- c) the progress of the design of the improvement work for the Yuen Long Town centre nullah.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- a) There are two ongoing drainage master plan review studies in Kowloon, one for West Kowloon and the other for East Kowloon. Both studies commenced in January 2012 for completion by end 2014. Surveys to investigate the existing conditions of the drainage system have been completed and the hydraulic models are being updated. The total estimated costs for the studies, including consultancy fees and the associated surveys and site investigations, are \$13.7 million and \$13.4 million respectively.
- b) Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah are being implemented in stages under four projects. The progress of the design and improvement works of each project is as follows:
  - (i) The advance works of Kai Tak Nullah comprising the construction of a box culvert at Prince Edward Road East and widening of a section of Choi Hung Road commenced in August 2010 for completion by end 2013.

- (ii) The improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah at the upstream reach from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road commenced in October 2011 for phased completion by 2017.
  - (iii) The improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah at the downstream reach within Kai Tak Development area commenced in January 2013 for phased completion by 2018.
  - (iv) The design of the improvement works at the midstream reach from Tung Kwong Road to Prince Edward Road East will be completed in mid 2013. We plan to commence the improvement works in end 2013 for completion in 2017.
- c) The investigation study and preliminary design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town centre nullah project have been completed. The detailed design of the stage 1 improvement works commenced in December 2012 for completion by end 2013.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 3 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)112**

Question Serial No.

3243

Head: 704 – Drainage    Subhead (No. & title): 4136CD – Drainage improvement works in Sha Tin

Programme:

Controlling Officer:    Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Development

Question:

The approved project estimate for “Drainage improvement works in Sha Tin” is \$82.2 million, whereas the actual expenditure is only around \$68 million up to 31 March 2012. Of the remaining provision of around \$13 million, the revised estimate for 2012-13 is only \$1 million and the estimate for 2013-14 is \$1 million.

What is the timetable for drawing down the remaining provision? How can the progress of works be expedited so as to serve the public as early as possible? Will the Administration set out in detail the distribution of resources allocated for this project? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by:    Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Works under 4136CD “Drainage improvement works in Sha Tin” commenced in March 2005 and were substantially completed under Contract No. DC/2004/05 in April 2009. The remaining works at Siu Lek Yuen Road Playground and Sha Tin Rural Committee Road were carried out under Contract No. DC/2009/22 and were completed in August 2012.

Out of the approved project estimate of \$82.2 million, the cumulative project expenditure up to 31 March 2013 is about \$70 million. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is about \$1 million. We expect that the remaining \$11 million for account finalization will be spent in 2014-15 upon completion of the assessment of various contractual claims and variations.

Name in block letters:    CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title:    Director of Drainage Services

Date:    3 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)113**

Question Serial No.

2803

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:

The Administration indicates that it will continue to implement the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, and under the said programme, has listed out the number of inspections and the inspection rates for lifts and escalators, as well as the number of incidents investigated. In this regard, would the Administration please provide the following information:-

(a) The estimated inspection percentage for lifts and escalators this year (i.e. 2013) is lower than that in 2011 and 2012. What are the considerations in setting the relevant inspection percentages? Will the Administration consider to increase the inspection percentage?

(b) How many staff are responsible for carrying out the inspection works? Any resources reserved to increase the manpower this year?

(c) What is the average time required by the Department to carry out each lift and escalator inspection? What are the areas covered by the inspection? Will re-inspection be targeted at contractors with lower performance?

(d) The Department has investigated 272 lift and escalator incidents last year. What are the main problems involved in these incidents? What are the numbers of injuries and fatalities resulted from the above incidents?

(e) Since the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance was enacted in April 2012, how many contractors have to face disciplinary proceedings action due to their unsatisfactory performance?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

(a) The numbers of inspections for lifts and escalators in 2011 and 2012 were 9 107 and 9 173 respectively, equivalent to 15.6% and 15.3% respectively of the total numbers of lifts and escalators under statutory control of the legislation in force at the time. The newly enacted Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance), with main provisions put into operation on 17 December 2012, is applicable to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those of the Government and the Housing Authority, thereby increasing lifts and escalators subject to the statutory control from 52 000 to 60 000 lifts and 7 400 to 8 200 escalators. Whilst the inspection percentage was set based on a risk-based approach, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has increased the number of lifts and escalators inspections from 9 173 in 2012 to 9 400 in 2013.

(b) The team in EMSD responsible for carrying out on-site audit inspections of lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 inspectors. EMSD has deployed one Senior Engineer and one Engineer to cope with the additional workload arising from the preparation for implementation of the Ordinance. EMSD will review the manpower situation from time to time to ensure that sufficient resources are available to carry out inspection of lifts and escalators.

(c) On average, the number of lifts and escalators inspected by an inspector ranges from two to four per day, depending on the complexity of the installation. The areas covered by the inspection include performance of lift safety components such as governor, safety gears, brakes, door locks; and the condition of other components such as suspension ropes, lighting, emergency alarm, ventilation fan. By adopting a risk-based approach, additional audit inspections will be carried out by EMSD on lifts and escalators maintained/ serviced by contractors with lower performance according to a risk-based approach to ensure safety.

(d) About 90% of the incidents investigated was related to personal behaviour such as passenger's hand being too close to the lift doors while the remaining incidents were due to the failure of equipment, mainly involving defective suspension ropes and electrical and mechanical components. Amongst the incidents investigated in 2012, there were 17 injury cases and one fatality case.

(e) The Ordinance was enacted in April 2012 with the main provisions put into operation on 17 December 2012. No disciplinary proceeding has been initiated to date. There were however two disciplinary cases completed in 2011 and one disciplinary case initiated in 2012 under the repealed Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327).

Name in block letters:	CHAN Fan
Post Title:	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date:	2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)114**

Question Serial No.

3054

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:

In view of the recent lift incident that caused a number of injuries, please advise:

- a. What are the current resources deployed by the Administration in conducting inspection and monitoring of lift safety? What are the manpower and workflow?
- b. Will the Administration consider reviewing the existing legislation in regulating lift safety? Is there sufficient deterrent effect? Is it effective in regulating and monitoring the safety level of lifts, so as to ensure the safety of general public in using lifts? If yes, please provide the details; if no, what are the reasons?
- c. In the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), what are the numbers of warnings or prosecutions/disciplinary actions against the lift maintenance contractors for failing to comply with the above legislation? What are the related penalties?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- a. For monitoring lift and escalator safety, the team in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) responsible for carrying out audit inspections for lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 Inspectors. The estimated expenditure in this respect for 2013-14 is around \$15.9 million. EMSD adopts a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts and escalators taking into account age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD also conducts surprise checks to ensure that the services provided by the registered contractors, engineers and workers are up to the standard requirements. Warning letters will be issued to concerned parties for improvement if irregularities are found in the inspections. In case offences are found during inspections,

EMSD will take appropriate enforcement and/or disciplinary actions against the parties concerned.

b. The main provisions of the new Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, Cap 618 (the Ordinance) were put into full operation on 17 December 2012 when the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap.327) was repealed. The Ordinance has introduced a series of enhanced control measures including (a) strengthening the registration regime of the personnel and contractors engaged in lift and escalator works; (b) increasing the penalty levels of offences; (c) extending the coverage of the legislative frameworks; and (d) enhancing the operational efficiency and enforcement effectiveness. The maximum penalty under the new Ordinance is increased to a fine of \$200,000 while maintaining a maximum period of imprisonment at 12 months to achieve greater punitive and deterrent effects. In addition, the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services as the Registrar under the Ordinance can suspend or cancel the registration of a registered contractor under stipulated circumstances including contravention of any provision of the Ordinance.

c. The number of warning letters issued to, and prosecutions and disciplinary cases initiated against registered lift contractors in the past three years are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Number of Warning Letters Issued	16	21	10
Number of Prosecutions Initiated <sup>1</sup>	4	1	1
Number of Disciplinary Cases Initiated <sup>1</sup>	2	0	1

Note: 1 – the prosecutions and disciplinary cases were initiated under the repealed Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap 327).

The fines imposed on the convicted prosecution cases range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 while the fines together with the associated administrative charges which the contractors have to pay for the two already completed disciplinary cases are \$424,635 and \$281,289 respectively.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)115**

Question Serial No.

2367

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:

Regarding the inspection of lift and escalator facilities, how many lifts and escalators were/will be inspected by the Administration in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively? What are the percentages of the total number of lifts and escalators in Hong Kong inspected in these three years? In order to enhance the safety of lifts, will the Administration adjust the target number of inspections in 2013-14 so as to step up lift inspections? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan

Reply:

The numbers of inspections for lifts and escalators in 2011 and 2012 were 9 107 and 9 173 respectively, equivalent to 15.6% and 15.3% respectively of the total numbers of lifts and escalators under statutory control of the Lifts & Escalators (Safety) Ordinance which was repealed on 17 December 2012. The newly enacted Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap.618), which was put into operation on 17 December 2012, is applicable to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those of the Government and the Housing Authority thereby increasing the numbers of lifts and escalators subject to the statutory control from 52 000 to 60 000 lifts and 7 400 to 8 200 escalators respectively. With this change, the annual inspection of lifts has lowered the inspection ratio from 15.3% to 13.5%. Indeed, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will increase the number of inspections from 9 173 in 2012 to 9 400 in 2013 for lifts and escalators safety. Following the North Point lift incident in March 2013, EMSD will review the risk elements for sampling of lifts and escalators for inspection such that more inspections would be conducted for lifts and escalators maintained by contractors with poor performance.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)116**

Question Serial No.

0423

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:

- a. The Administration states that it will continue to step up inspection and enforcement actions on lifts and escalators in 2013-14, what are the detailed measures?
- b. The target percentage of lifts and escalators to be inspected by Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in 2013 is 13.5%, which is lower than that of 15.3% in 2012. In view of the serious lift incident occurred in North Point on 2 March 2013, will the Administration increase the number of inspections?
- c. What is the manpower of EMSD for carrying out inspection and examination of lifts and escalators in Hong Kong? Will the manpower be increased correspondingly to cope with the increasing number of lifts in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- a. Apart from general enforcement activities including the approval of new lift and escalator models, investigation of incidents and handling of complaints, EMSD will increase the number of inspections for lifts and escalators in 2013-14, particularly for those maintained by contractors with lower performance rating. Disciplinary and prosecution actions will be taken by EMSD as necessary against any non-compliances identified during inspections.
- b. The Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) is applicable to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those of the Government and the Housing Authority, thereby increasing the numbers of lifts and escalators subject to the statutory control from 52 000 to 60 000 lifts and 7 400 to 8 200 escalators respectively. This change has lowered EMSD's inspection ratio for lifts from 15.3% to 13.5%. That said, EMSD will increase the number of inspections from 9 173 in 2012 to 9 400 in 2013 for lifts and escalators, and as a follow-

up to the North Point lift incident in March 2013, the department will review the risk elements for sampling of lifts and escalators for inspection such that more inspections would be conducted for lifts and escalators maintained by contractors with poor performance.

c. The team in EMSD responsible for carrying out inspection of lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 Inspectors. EMSD will review the manpower situation from time to time to ensure that sufficient resources are available to carry out inspection of lifts and escalators.

Name in block letters:	<u>CHAN Fan</u>
Post Title:	<u>Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services</u>
Date:	<u>2.4.2013</u>



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

**DEVB(W)117**

Question Serial No.

0424

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:

- a. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) commits to process a lift and escalator periodic testing certificate in 13 days. What are the current procedures for approving and issuing the certificate?
- b. Before issuing periodic testing certificates, would EMSD conduct sampling inspection on the acceptability of testing works carried out by the lift and escalator maintenance contractors? What is the sampling size of such inspection? In the past five years (i.e. 2008 to 2012), how many non-compliant testing cases were found?
- c. How many lift and escalator periodic testing certificates were issued last year (i.e. 2012)? How many cases were rejected?
- d. In the past five years (i.e. 2008 to 2012), how many disciplinary cases were taken against lift and escalator maintenance contractors with poor performance? What are the details of penalty in these cases?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- a. The current procedures for processing periodic testing certificates for lifts and escalators are as follows:
  1. The reception office will check each application in regard to whether the required information has been provided in the specified form, whether the testing certificate has been submitted with necessary payment made.
  2. The application will be verified by an engineer; and then endorsed by a Chief Engineer.

3. The certificate if found in order and endorsed will be issued to the applicant.

b. EMSD will conduct on-site audit inspections of the periodic testing of lifts and escalators. In this regard, the registered lift engineers and registered escalator engineers are required to report their periodic testing schedules to EMSD on a web-based e-platform system before conducting the testing. Based on the schedules provided, EMSD will adopt a risk-based approach in selecting sample cases for conducting the audit inspections. In 2012, about 3 750 audit site inspections were conducted, equivalent to about 5.5% of the total number of periodic testing cases. No non-compliance has been found in the past five years.

c. In 2012, EMSD issued 52 212 periodic testing certificates for lifts and 15 284 periodic testing certificates for escalators. All the applications for periodic testing certificates received were found in order and approved.

d. In the past five years, disciplinary actions have been taken against registered lift contractors in two occasions. Apart from the fines imposed by the disciplinary board, the contractors also had to pay administrative charges for processing the disciplinary cases. Altogether the two registered contractors paid a total sum of \$424,635 and \$281,289 respectively.

Name in block letters:	<u>CHAN Fan</u>
Post Title:	<u>Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services</u>
Date:	<u>2.4.2013</u>

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

**DEVB(W)118**

Question Serial No.

2962

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:

How many inspections on lift safety have been carried out by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) over the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13)? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved? What are the estimated manpower and resources required to handle the related work this year (i.e. 2013-14)?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The numbers of lift inspections carried out in 2010, 2011, and 2012 were 7 617, 7 603, and 7 875 respectively. A dedicated team in EMSD responsible for carrying out on-site audit inspections of lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 Inspectors, with the total expenditures for the past three years as follows:

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	13.5	14.3	15.1

The manpower for inspection remains the same and the estimated expenditure in this respect for 2013-14 is around \$15.9 million.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)119**

Question Serial No.

0520

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical  
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012-13):

- (a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- (b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Information on the departmental records management work undertaken by Electrical and Mechanical Services Department over the past three years (up to 2012-13) is provided below -

- (a) Number and rank of designated officers:

There are four officers (three Confidential Assistants and one Assistant Clerical Officer) designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in the duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

- (b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1994-2013	No.: 268 (14.17 linear meters)	8 years after the records have become inactive	No
Administrative records	2008-2013	No. :1013 (42.14 linear meters)	7 years after action completed	No

- (c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Nil

(d) Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1992-2008	No.:14 074 (340 linear metres)	Records are kept by the department until destruction	3 years after the records have become inactive	No
Administrative records	2003-2007	No.: 390 (19 linear metres)	2012	1 year after action completed	No

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)120**

Question Serial No.

2128

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:

There are over 60 000 lifts in Hong Kong, and their machinery and functional performance will have direct implication on passenger safety. In order to enable the public to have a better understanding, and the Legislative Council to more effectively monitor the existing mechanism in repair and maintenance of lifts, so as to enhance public confidence in using lifts, would the Administration please provide the following information:

(1) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) introduced the lift contractors' performance rating system in 2009, with the contractors' non-compliant items classified into five categories. Please provide the quarterly figures for the past four years (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13) in the table below.

		2010				2011				2012				2013
Quarter		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
Points Deducted	1-5													
	6-11													
	12 or above													
Warning Letters Issued	1													
	2													
	3 or above													
Removal from the Register														

(2) Please provide the numbers of inspections carried out, the numbers of registered engineers responsible for carrying out inspections, and the expenditures of the concerned staff establishment for the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

(1) The lift contractors' performance rating system is an administrative measure employed by EMSD to supplement the legislation enforcement works. The number of contractors with performance monitoring points deducted, with warning letters issued and removed from the Register in each quarter of the past four years are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Number of contractors		2010				2011				2012				2013*
Quarter		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
With performance points deducted	1-5	22	20	18	26	9	13	9	9	10	5	1	5	2
	6-11	13	14	12	11	9	16	11	13	10	10	8	9	4
	12 or above	0	4	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	2	1	2
With warning letters issued	1	3	5	3	4	2	4	1	6	6	5	3	1	1
	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 or above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Removed from the Register		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Figures are up to 28 February 2013

(2) EMSD conducts sample audit inspections for lifts and escalators by adopting a risk-based approach. The numbers of lift inspections carried out in 2010, 2011, and 2012 were 7 617, 7 603, and 7 875 respectively.

The team responsible for carrying out audit inspections for lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 inspectors, with the total expenditure for the past three years summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 <sup>#</sup>
Expenditure (in \$ million)	13.5	14.3	15.1

<sup>#</sup>Projected figure

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
 Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
 Date: 2.4.2013



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

**DEVB(W)121**

Question Serial No.

0615

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:

The Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, Cap. 618, was enacted in April 2012 to extend the regulatory control to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those installed in government buildings and housing estates. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) estimates that the inspection rate of lifts and escalators in 2013 will be 13.5%, which is lower than the actual inspection rate of 15.3% in 2012.

- (1) How many staff members are responsible for carrying out on-site lift inspections in Hong Kong?
- (2) What are the normal inspection procedures? On average, how many lifts are inspected per staff per day? Does the Administration adopt a risk-based approach in carrying out inspections? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (3) Is there any increase in manpower as a result of the commencement of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (4) How to ensure that the safety level of lifts will not be affected by the lowered inspection rate?
- (5) In the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012), what are the details and figures of incidents involving injury and fatality for each contractors under the EMSD's Register?
- (6) In the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012), has EMSD punished any lift contractors for their poor performance, leading to removal of their names from the Register?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

- (1) A dedicated team in EMSD responsible for carrying out on-site audit inspections of lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 inspectors.
- (2) EMSD has adopted a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts and escalators taking into account the age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD has also conducted surprise checks to ensure that the services provided by registered contractors, engineers and workers are up to standard requirements. On average, the number of lifts inspected by an inspector ranges from two to four per day, depending on the complexity of the lift/escalator installation.
- (3) To enhance the regulation of lifts and escalators safety, EMSD created one engineer, one senior inspector and six inspector posts in 2010. Further, EMSD has deployed one Senior Engineer and one Engineer to cope with the additional work load arising from the preparation for implementation of the new Ordinance.
- (4) The Ordinance is applicable to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those of the Housing Authority and the Government, increasing lifts and escalators under statutory control from 52 000 to 60 000 lifts and 7 400 to 8 200 escalators. With this change, the inspection ratio for the annual inspection of the lift has lowered from 15.3% to 13.5%. However, EMSD will increase the total number of inspections from 9 173 in 2012 to 9 400 in 2013 for lifts and escalators safety.
- (5) In the past three years, there was no fatality cases while the number of injury cases related to failure of equipment maintained by the respective registered contractors are tabulated below :

	2012	2011	2010
Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	1	0	1
Antonfield Engineering Co. Ltd	0	0	0
Chevalier (HK) Limited	1	2	0
Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	5	0	0
Fujitec (HK) Co. Ltd.	0	0	3
Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	0	1	1
Hitachi Elevator Engineering Co. (HK) Ltd.	0	0	2

Jekco Elevators Ltd.	1	1	0
KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd.	0	4	6
Lighthouse Elevator Engineering Ltd.	0	0	0
Mitsubishi Elevator (H.K.) Co. Ltd.	0	0	0
Nikkin Lifts & Escalators Ltd.	2	1	0
Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd.	2	6	1
Rich Mark Engineering Ltd.	0	0	0
Ring Hing Engineering Services Co., Ltd.	0	0	0
Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd	3	1	9
Sigma Elevator (HK) Ltd.	0	3	1
Shineford Engineering Ltd.	1	0	0
The Express Lift Company Ltd.	1	0	1
ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Ltd.	0	0	0

(6) In the past three years, a total of eight prosecution cases and three disciplinary cases were initiated against the concerned registered lift contractors whilst no contractor was removed from the registration as of end of 2012.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)122**

Question Serial No.

1449

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:

In view of the increasing number of lifts and escalators under the control of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance enacted in April 2012, and the extensive public concern on repeated occurrence of lift incidents in recent years, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) should have stepped up the inspection and enforcement works on lifts and escalators. In this connection, would the Administration please advise whether EMSD has increased the necessary resources and recruitment of professional staff, so as to enhance its regulatory role. If yes, please provide the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The EMSD has adopted a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts and escalators taking into account the age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD has also conducted surprise checks to ensure that the services provided by the registered contractors, engineers and workers are up to standard requirements.

To enhance the regulation of lift and escalator safety, EMSD created one engineer, one senior inspector and six inspectors posts in 2010. Further, EMSD has deployed one Senior Engineer and one Engineer to cope with the additional work load arising from the implementation of the new Ordinance. EMSD will continue to review its enforcement procedures with a view to improving the overall effectiveness of its regulatory control on the lift safety.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)123**

Question Serial No.

1450

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:

In 2012, the number of lifts and escalators inspections carried out by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) was 9 173. In this connection, would the Administration advise on the number of lifts involved and among them, how many lifts have reached the stage of compulsory replacement; has EMSD taken any appropriate follow up actions on such cases; if yes, please provide the details; if no, what are the reasons ?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

Among the 9 173 inspections carried out in 2012, 7 875 inspections were on lifts. The Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) provides that the responsible person for a lift, irrespective of their years of service, must ensure that periodic maintenance works are carried out in respect of the lift at intervals of not exceeding a month; and must cause the lift and all its associated equipment or machinery to be thoroughly examined by a registered lift engineer at intervals of not exceeding a year. Any components of a lift that requires replacement should have been identified during the above-mentioned periodic maintenance and examination. In addition, the EMSD carries out audit inspections to lifts in Hong Kong to safeguard public safety. If any improvement works is considered necessary, EMSD will issue advisory letters to the responsible person of the lifts concerned and then follow up with them through to completion of the improvement items. Also, EMSD will not issue Use Permits to lifts that fail to meet the safety requirements, irrespective of their years of service. We trust the above control measures will help ensure that a lift will not reach a stage which will require compulsory replacement and jeopardize public safety.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)124**

Question Serial No.

2537

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:

The provision under Programme (2) is \$161,500,000, which is substantially increased by \$91,700,000 (131.4%) as compared to that of last year. The Administration explained that this is because of the increased provision for modernising existing lifts of government bureaux and departments. Would the Administration please advise:

- (a) Why the provision is only targeted at modernising existing lifts of government bureaux and departments? What are the details and work programme of these modernisation works?
- (b) Whether the above modernisation works involve the creation of new posts? If yes, what are these posts.
- (c) The matters requiring special attention in 2013-14 include the continued step-up of inspection and enforcement actions for lifts and escalators, and publicity work for the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance. Please advise the details and expenditure involved in this respect.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply:

- (a) The existing lifts of government bureaux and departments were commissioned at different times in compliance with the standards prevailing at the time of installation. Many of the existing lifts are not yet up to the current design standard.

The modernisation works will upgrade the existing lifts to the current standard by installing one or more of the following additional safety features:-

- (i) Double brake system;
- (ii) Unintended car movement protection device;
- (iii) Ascending car overspeed protection device;
- (iv) Advanced car door mechanical lock and door safety edge;
- (v) Intercom and closed circuit television system; and
- (vi) Obstruction switch to protect suspension rope.

In 2013-14, we target to modernise about 180 existing lifts of government bureaux and departments.

Modernisation of existing lifts of government bureaux and departments will not only demonstrate government's commitment on lift safety, but also set a good example for other public organisations and the private sector to follow.

- (b) The modernisation works will not involve the creation of any new posts in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD).
- (c) The main provisions of the new Lift and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance) were put into operation on 17 December 2012. EMSD will step up inspection based on a risk-based approach with higher priority accorded to the lifts maintained by contractors with poor performance, have long years of service or are of those models that have frequent breakdowns.

In addition, EMSD will continue taking appropriate enforcement actions for non-compliances or disciplinary offences found in the course of inspections, including initiating prosecutions or requesting for setting up disciplinary boards to conduct disciplinary hearings against registered persons.

Furthermore, EMSD will continue stepping-up publicity work with a view to raising the public's awareness of lift safety and drawing their attention to the factors that should be considered when selecting contractors. The publicity work will include organising briefing sessions for responsible persons of lifts and escalators and other stakeholders; conducting roving exhibitions and visits to different districts; disseminating promotional materials and videos; and broadcasting TV and radio APIs.

The estimated expenditure for enforcing and publicising the Ordinance in 2013-14 is \$31.5 million. .

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013



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

**DEVB(W)125**

Question Serial No.

3245

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical  
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the operational expenses, why is there a decrease of about 18% from the original estimate of \$3,462,000 to the revised estimate of \$2,829,000 in 2012-13 for the Allowances under the Personal Emoluments?

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply:

The decrease is mainly due to the reduced need for Acting Allowance and Overtime Allowance in 2012-13 as a result of a lower level of vacancy in 2012-13.

Name in block letters:	CHAN Fan
Post Title:	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date:	2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)126**

Question Serial No.

0313

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:

According to the indicators in Programme (2), there were a total of 71 746 lifts and escalators in 2011 and 72 806 lifts and escalators in 2012. The numbers of lifts and escalators inspected in 2011 and 2012 were 9 107 and 9 173 respectively. The numbers of lift and escalator incidents investigated in 2011 and 2012 were 268 and 272 respectively.

(a) In the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012), how were the lifts and escalators classified? Please list out the lifts and escalators according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors in Hong Kong that they belonged to.

(b) Please list out the lifts and escalators inspected by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012) according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors in Hong Kong that they belonged to. What are the manpower and expenditures involved in EMSD's inspection works?

(c) Please list out the incidents investigated by EMSD in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012) according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors that they belonged to. What are the manpower and expenditures involved in EMSD's incident investigation?

(d) How many employees are there in the lift and escalator industry? What are the employees' average years of experience? What is the expected number of new employees to be registered in the next year?

(e) Is the Administration aware of the average salaries of employees in the lift and escalator industry? If yes, what are the average salaries of relevant posts in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012)? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

(a) The total numbers of lifts and escalators in the past three years are summarised in Table 1, which are maintained by 45 registered lift contractors, out of which 32 are also registered escalator contractors. The list of registered lift and escalator contractors can be found on EMSD web site [http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/leo\\_reg\\_ctrctr.shtml](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/leo_reg_ctrctr.shtml).

Table 1: Numbers of Lifts and Escalators

Year	2010		2011		2012	
Sector	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public
Total no. of lifts	50 723	7 860	51 191	8 054	52 212	8 144
Total no. of escalators	7 451	486	7 459	774	7 642	828

*Note – The Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327), which was repealed on 17 December 2012, only covered lifts and escalators in the private sector. Lifts and escalators under the control of Government and Housing Authority are classified under the public sector.*

(b) The inspections conducted by EMSD in the past three years have covered all registered lift and escalator contractors providing maintenance services for lifts and escalators. The manpower involved in conducting inspections and incident investigations for lifts and escalators includes one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 Inspectors. The expenditures involved in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are \$13.5 million, \$14.3 million and \$15.1 million respectively.

(c) Most of lift and escalators incidents are related to personal behaviours such as passenger's hand being too close to the lift doors which are not classified according to the registered contractors. The incidents classified under the respective registered contractors are those related to failure of equipment, mainly involving defective suspension ropes and electrical and mechanical components. They are tabulated in Table 2 below.

Table 2 : Number of Incidents Related to the Failure of Equipment

Year	2010	2011	2012
Sigma Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	3	0
Hitachi Elevator Engineering Co. (HK) Ltd.	3	0	0
Chevalier (HK) Ltd.	4	2	1
Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd.	6	3	5
Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd.	2	8	6
Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	2	1	1
Fujitec (HK) Co. Ltd.	9	0	3
KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd.	7	8	1
Mitsubishi Elevator Hong Kong Co. Ltd.	1	0	0

Nikkin Lifts & Escalators Limited	0	2	2
Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	1	2	1
Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	2	1	1
The Express Lift Co. Ltd.	1	3	2
Antofield Engineering Co. Ltd.	1	0	0
ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	0	1
Jekco Elevator Ltd.	0	1	1
Shineford Engineering Ltd.	1	0	2
Ring Hing Engineering Services Co. Ltd.	0	1	0
Lighthouse Elevator Engineering Ltd.	0	0	1
Rich Mark Engineering Ltd.	0	0	1
Total:	44	35	29

For resources involved in EMSD's incident investigation, please refer to the manpower and expenditure in (b) above.

(d) In December 2012, there were a total of 294 registered lift/escalator engineers (RE) and 4 960 competent lift/escalator workers (CWs). There are also around 630 general workers who work under the supervision of REs or CWs. According to the information obtained from the trade, the average years of experience for registered engineers and competent workers are around 15 years and 20 years respectively. In the past three years, on average there was a net increase of around 15 registered engineers and 50 competent workers joining the industry each year through various channels e.g. experienced general workers or graduates of apprentice training scheme. It is expected that this trend will continue in the coming years.

(e) The Census and Statistics Department regularly publishes report on average daily wages of workers engaged in public sector construction projects as reported by main contractors which include the lift and escalator mechanic trade. The information can provide an indication on the salary level of CWs. As in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the average daily wages of lift and escalator mechanic were \$696, \$644 and \$605 respectively. As for the REs, we do not have the corresponding salary information.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)127**

Question Serial No.

0314

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:

Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2013-14 under Programme (2), the Department will continue to implement the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance and publicise the new requirements to relevant stakeholders. Please advise:

- (a) The details of publicity work and whether there is plan to organise publicity work in collaboration with workers' union.
- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in publicising the new requirements.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

- (a) The work programme in 2013-14 to publicise the new requirements of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance) to relevant stakeholders will include :-
  - (i) Broadcasting TV and radio APIs on the key provisions of the Ordinance ;
  - (ii) Organising briefing sessions on the new requirements of the Ordinance for responsible persons of lifts and escalators, property management companies, contractors, engineers, workers, trade associations and workers' unions;
  - (iii) Conducting roving exhibitions and visits to different districts to promote the new requirements of the Ordinance; and

- (iv) Disseminating promotional materials and videos on the new requirements of the Ordinance to relevant stakeholders.

As in 2012-13, we will collaborate with the industry stakeholders including worker's union in 2013-14 in carrying out the above publicity work. The publicity work will include organising briefing sessions for workers on the new requirements of the Ordinance.

- (b) A team, comprising one Senior Engineer and three Engineers, is involved in organising the publicity programme at an estimated expenditure of about \$2.3 million in 2013-14.

Name in block letters:	<u>CHAN Fan</u>
Post Title:	<u>Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services</u>
Date:	<u>2.4.2013</u>

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

**DEVB(W)128**

Question Serial No.

0596

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:

(a) The breakage of suspension ropes incident happened to a lift in an ageing building in North Point in early March 2013 caused a number of injuries. How many lifts are being repaired and maintained by the contractor involved in the incident? How many of these lifts have already been inspected by the Administration? What are the findings?

(b) In the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13), how many lift incidents were caused by the breakage of suspension ropes? How many people were injured and how many contractors were involved in these incidents? Were there any offending cases? If yes, how many prosecution cases were involved?

(c) Will the Administration reinforce the enforcement procedures; including enhancing the inspection regime, improving the risk assessment method, conducting inspections after annual examinations for all contractors who have lower ranking or lower safety index in the contractors' performance rating? If yes, what additional resources are required? Will enforcement actions be stepped up to prosecute the offenders? If yes, what additional resources are required?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

(a) A total of 248 lifts are being repaired and maintained by Shineford Engineering Limited, the contractor involved in the said lift incident. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has completed the preliminary inspection of all these lifts. Among them, eight lifts were found not complying with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Lifts Works and Escalator Works and hence suspended from services for necessary repair.

(b) In the past five years, nine lift incidents were related to the breakage of suspension ropes involving seven contractors. Except for the above incident in North Point with seven injuries, there was no injury case in all previous eight incidents. There were altogether three prosecution cases related to these eight rope breakage incidents due to contravention of the legislation.

(c) EMSD has adopted a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts and escalators taking into account the age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD has also conducted surprise checks to ensure that the services provided by the registered contractors, engineers and workers are up to the standard requirement.

EMSD has been from time to time reviewing its enforcement procedures with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of its regulatory control on the lift safety. In particular EMSD will carry out a critical review taking into account lessons learnt from the recent lift incident in North Point. The review will aim to enhance the risk-based approach in its audit inspections of lifts and escalators, in particular for those contractors of lower ranking in the contractors' performance rating. EMSD will deploy its resources to suit the changes in its inspection approach.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013



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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)129**

Question Serial No.

0532

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

Programme: (2) – District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please explain why the number of excavation permits extended has increased from 894 nos. in year 2011 to 1200 nos. in recent two years, and table out the excavation permits extended in terms of work trades.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

In 2012, there was an increase in the amount of utility works involving more difficult and complex deep excavations. The increase in the number of permit extensions issued in 2012 mainly arose from the increase in extension to permits for these more difficult and complex deep excavation works for electricity and water supplies. These deep excavation works are more susceptible to higher chances of unexpected problems and delays during the course of the works, such as uncharted underground utility, unanticipated obstructions, and/or adverse weather conditions, which may subsequently trigger the need for permit extensions. It is anticipated that a similar level of excavation permit extension will continue in 2013. The breakdown of the excavation permits extended in 2011 and 2012, in terms of work trades, is as follow:

	Gas	Electricity	Tele-comm unications	Water works	Drainage/ Sewage	Road construction/ maintenance	Other Government Departments	Other non-government Departments	Total
<b>2011</b>	54	280	70	105	68	58	145	114	894
<b>2012</b>	51	414	120	225	71	72	121	145	1219

Name in block letters:

K K LAU

Post Title:

Director of Highways

Date:

28.3.2013

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

**DEVB(W)130**

Question Serial No.

0411

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title):  
Department

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The work under this Programme involves “conducting archaeological surveys and excavations”. In this connection, will the Administration provide details of the work and expenditure involved in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

The major archaeological surveys and excavations conducted in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13) were arranged in relation to infrastructure and development projects as required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) and Town Planning Ordinance (Cap.131). The proponents of these projects carried out the archaeological surveys and excavations under the monitoring of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and absorbed the costs within the infrastructure and development projects. 16, 15 and 11 such surveys and excavations were conducted in the past three years respectively.

Apart from the above larger scale archaeological surveys and excavations, the AMO conducts smaller scale archaeological surveys arising from small house development in the New Territories. The expenditure incurred by AMO in this respect in the past three years is listed in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of archaeological surveys and excavations arising from small house development</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2010-11	10	\$772,484
2011-12	11	\$882,068
2012-13 (Estimated)	12	\$888,440

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 19 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)131**

Question Serial No.

2339

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 694 Archaeological excavations (block vote)

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

There is a decrease in the estimated provision for “archaeological excavations” under the Department this year when compared to that in the past two years. Please provide the following information:

- (a) how many archaeological excavations were conducted last year (i.e. 2012-13)? How many archaeologists and how much expenditure were involved?
- (b) how many archaeological excavations are expected to be conducted this year (i.e. 2013-14)? How many archaeologists and how much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department conducts archaeological surveys and excavations necessitated by small-scale development projects such as small house development in the New Territories. There are two field archaeologists in the AMO to undertake such surveys and excavation work.

The number of archaeological excavations carried out and hence the expenditure incurred in a particular year depends on the number of small scale developments that necessitate such surveys/excavations. In 2012-13, 12 archaeological projects had been conducted involving an expenditure of \$888,440. It is anticipated that ten such projects will be arranged in 2013-14 at an estimated expenditure of \$750,000.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**DEVB(W)132**

Question Serial No.

2550

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 Government advise this Committee the annual expenditure for purchasing Dongjiang water from the Mainland in the past ten years (i.e. 2003-2012)? What are the amount of water purchased and the increase in price within these ten years? Has the Administration made any comparison of the cost-effectiveness between purchasing Dongjiang water and desalination?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The quantities of and expenditure on water purchased from Dongjiang (DJ) for the years from 2003 to 2012 are summarized as follow:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Amount of water purchased (million cubic metre)	810	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820
Annual Expenditure (\$M)	2,498.8	2,529.7	2,529.7	2,494.8	2,494.8	2,494.8	2,959.0	3,146.0	3,344.0	3,538.7

The increase in prices for the purchase of DJ water in the last ten years was 3.9% per annum on average. The increases are based on the operation cost having regard to changes in the exchange rate between Renminbi and Hong Kong dollars as well as the relevant price indices of both sides.

Whilst the ongoing planning and investigation study for setting up a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O will, amongst others, estimate the production cost of water by desalination, the unit cost of water produced from desalination has previously been broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level. In comparison, the unit cost of potable water produced from DJ water is \$8.4 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level. Thus, Dongjiang water remains a more economic water resource available to Hong Kong at present when compared with water produced from desalination.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)133**

Question Serial No.

2551

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 is the estimated expenditure for the Government to introduce foreign technologies and exploring desalination technology by itself? How will the Government deploy more resources to reduce the cost of desalination? Apart from the site in Tseung Kwan O, how much land has the Government reserved for the construction of desalination plants?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the planning and investigation study for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O in 2013-14 is \$9 million. As the desalination technology is an energy consuming intensive process, the study will look into various technologies to minimise energy consumption thereby reducing cost of the desalination.

In tandem with the planning of new developments, we will look into need for alternative water resources including desalination water in meeting additional water demand and, as necessary, identify sites for desalination plants.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)134**

Question Serial No.

0090

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:

The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that new water sources have to be explored for Hong Kong and that a site in Tseung Kwan O has been reserved for the construction of a desalination plant. In this regard, would the Administration advise on the following:

- a) What is the expenditure involved in the detailed planning and investigation study of the desalination plant this year (i.e. 2013-14)? When will the study be expected to complete?
- b) When commissioned, what will be the anticipated capacity of fresh water supplied from the desalination plant? What will be the expected changes in the quantity of Dongjiang water imported into Hong Kong and the relevant expenditure?
- c) What will be the anticipated annual operating cost and cost of water supply of the desalination plant? Has there been any assessment of the impact of desalination on water tariff?
- d) Apart from desalination, has the Administration made any provision for the study of the feasibility of using reclaimed water as another new water source? What are the current consumption and uses of reclaimed water in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a) The estimated expenditure of the planning and investigation study for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O (TKO) in 2013-14 is \$9 million. The study is expected to be completed by end 2014.
- b) The water production capacity of the desalination plant at TKO is around 50 million cubic metre (mcm) per annum, expandable to 90 mcm per annum. With an anticipated earliest plant commissioning date in 2020 and the projected population and economic



growth, the quantity of Dongjiang water to be imported should not increase above the current level and no additional expenditure should be incurred in import of extra quantity.

- c) The annual operating cost of the desalination plant and cost of water supply of the desalination plant will be studied in detail in the planning and investigation study which will be completed by end 2014. As regards water tariff, it will be reviewed regularly according to the “user-pay” principle taking into account the affordability and acceptability of the public, financial conditions of the government and other policy considerations.
- d) We conducted two pilot schemes in 2006 on the recycling of treated effluent in Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui and concluded that the use of reclaimed water is technically feasible in Hong Kong. At present, we are using approximately 800 000 cubic metres of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses. We are also pursuing the planning of the use of reclaimed water in Sheung Shui, Fanling and the New Development Areas in the north-eastern part of the New Territories.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)135**

Question Serial No.

0799

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 connection with operating and maintaining fresh water supply and distribution systems, please advise on:

- a. The resources allocated for the maintenance of underground water mains in face of frequent main bursts during recent years. What is the present situation of ageing fresh water mains across the territory? When will the replacement of aged water mains be completed territory-wide?
- b. Whether the Administration has allocated any resources for studying or researching on stronger materials for constructing water mains of higher durability. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- c. Measures taken to minimise water main bursts for the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- a. The resource allocated for replacement, rehabilitation and maintenance of underground water mains in 2013-14 is \$2,555 million while the actual and estimated expenditure in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$2,207 million and \$2,407 million respectively. We have launched a replacement and rehabilitation of water mains programme for 3 000 kilometres (km) of aged water mains for completion by end 2015. Of these water mains, 2 500 km are fresh water mains and 65% of them have been rejuvenated as at February 2013.
- b. The new water mains installed in our water supply and distribution network are of more durable materials, including polyethylene pipes, ductile iron pipes with epoxy and cement mortar lining and zinc and bitumen coating, and steel pipes with epoxy lining

and coating. They have much better performance in respect of resistance to corrosion, leakage and breakage than the old water mains of materials like cast iron, galvanised iron and asbestos cement. We will continue to research for stronger and more durable pipe materials with resources absorbed in the relevant project votes and recurrent provisions of our Department.

- c. We have been taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle the water main burst problem including leakage detection, pressure management and replacement and rehabilitation of water mains. These works are progressing well in the past three years with the number of water mains burst incidents dropping from 610 in 2010-11 to 243 in 2012-13 (up to February 2013).

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)136**

Question Serial No.

0536

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:

According to the Budget Speech, the Administration had started last year a detailed planning and investigation study, including an assessment of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness, for the construction of a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O with a view to tapping sea water as a water source. What was the expenditure for the study last year (i.e. 2012-13)? What is the provision earmarked for continuing with the study this year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The expenditure for planning and investigation study of desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O for 2012-13 is \$0.9 million. The provision earmarked for continuing with the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)137**

Question Serial No.

2845

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:

According to Targets under Programme (3), the Administration has set the accuracy of water meters at 100% (with inaccuracy not exceeding plus or minus 3%). However, the target could not be achieved in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. Could the Government advise on:

1. The reasons for failing to achieve the target. Will the Administration study the enhancement of the overall accuracy of water meters? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. The participation figures of the “regular meter replacement programme” for the recent three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-2013). What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The “accuracy of water meters” refers to the percentage of water meters of which the accuracy of registered readings is within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption. Water meters when put into operation for some time will become less accurate due to mechanical wear and tear and tend to under-register the amount of water used. Replacement of aged meters is the most cost effective way to enhance their overall accuracy.

The target of 100% represents the long-term goal that 100% of our water meters can attain the accuracy level within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption. With regular replacement of aged water meters over the years, the level of accuracy has improved from 92.7% in 2006 to 95.7% in 2012. The accuracy level is expected to further increase to 96% in 2013. We will strive to sustain the improvement by continuing with the meter replacement programme.

2. In 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, we have replaced 230 000, 190 000 and around 210 000 aged water meters respectively. The respective expenditure on the cost of meter and the contractor's work was \$42 million, \$35 million and around \$41 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.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)138**

Question Serial No.

2865

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:

According to Targets under Programme (1), the leakage rates of water mains for the recent two years are 19% and 18% respectively, and the leakage rate of water mains for the coming year is expected to be 17%. In this regard, could the Government advise on the following:

1. How many water main burst incidents occurred due to aging of water mains this year?
2. What measures has the Administration taken to address the problem of leakage of water mains this year? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?
3. Since the leakage rate reduces by 1% only each year, what measures will the Administration take to effectively reduce the leakage rate for next year? What will be the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The number of water main burst incidents in 2012-13 (up to February 2013) was 243. Water main bursting is commonly due to a confluence of various factors, including aged water mains, ground movements and external disturbances.
2. We have been taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle the water main leakage problem including leakage detection, pressure management and implementation of the Replacement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Programme for water mains. These works have reaped positive results, with the number of water main burst incidents dropping from a peak of about 2 500 in 2000-01 to 243 in 2012-13 (up to February 2013). The

water main leakage rate has also reduced from 25% in 2001 to 18% in 2012. We will continue to press ahead with the implementation of the water main R&R programme with a view to completing the programme in end 2015 and the water main leakage rate is expected to be further reduced to 15%. In 2012-13, the expenditure on implementing these measures is estimated to be \$2,256 million, of which \$333 million is for the employment of consultants including site staff for supervision of implementation of these measures.

3. In implementing the above measures, we have endeavoured to fast-track works programmes while striking a balance between the early improvement to the distribution network to reduce leakage and the need to minimise disruption to road traffic and the local environment. We will however keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and reschedule to bring forward the works of those water mains in need of earlier maintenance, replacement or rehabilitation. We consider that the approach adopted has effectively reduced the leakage rate steadily. We therefore will continue with the above-mentioned measures in 2013-14 which will involve an estimated expenditure of \$2,480 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)139**

Question Serial No.

2866

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:

According to Programme (1), the Water Supplies Department will continue with the planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O in 2013-14. Could the Government advise on:

1. The details of the study. When will the study be conducted and completed? What will be the expenditure and manpower involved?
2. Whether the Administration has examined any other ways, such as conducting research on reclaimed water, to develop water resources. If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what measures will the Administration take to develop water resources?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The planning and investigation study for desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012 for completion by end 2014. The work plan for 2013-14 includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis. The estimated expenditure for the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million.

2. Apart from seawater desalination, two pilot schemes conducted in 2006 on the recycling of treated effluent in Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui concluded that the use of reclaimed water is technically feasible in Hong Kong. We are pursuing the planning of the use of water reclamation and to make more effective use of rainwater and grey water as alternative water resources. The estimated expenditure for these studies in 2013-14 is around \$0.66 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)140**

Question Serial No.

2351

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 connection with the commencement of the “desalination” programme:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2013-14? When will funds be sought?
- (b) Apart from the reserved site in Tseung Kwan O, has the Administration selected any other site locations for the construction of additional desalination plants to optimise water sources in Hong Kong? If yes, when will funds be sought?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

- (a) The estimated expenditure for the planning and investigation study for the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O in year 2013-14 is \$9 million, for which relevant fund has already been secured.
- (b) In tandem with the planning of new developments, we will look into need for alternative water resources including desalination water in meeting additional water demand and, as necessary, identify sites for desalination plants.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)141**

Question Serial No.

2960

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:

How much Dongjiang (DJ) water did the Government import in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? What were the percentages against water consumption in Hong Kong and the average purchase prices for the respective years? What are the estimates this year? Please provide answers in the table below.

Year	Quantity of DJ water imported (million cubic metre, (mcm))	Percentage against water consumption (%)	Average purchase price (HK\$ /cubic metre)
2008-09			
2009-10			
2010-11			
2011-12			
2012-13			
2013-14 (Estimated)			

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The quantities of DJ water imported to Hong Kong, their percentages against consumption and the average purchase prices for the past five years are summarized as follows:

Year	Quantity of DJ water imported (million cubic metre, (mcm))	Percentage against water consumption (%)	Average purchase price (HK\$ /cubic metre)
2008-09	621	64.8	3.15
2009-10	717	75.6	3.65
2010-11	717	77.0	3.88
2011-12	822	88.7	4.12
2012-13 (up to Feb 2013)	646	75.5	4.36
2013-14 (Estimate)	70 – 80% of the total quantity of water consumption.		4.61

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)142**

Question Serial No.

2961

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 were the quantities of fresh water discharged due to overflow from reservoirs in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? What were the values of fresh water discharged for the respective years? Please provide answers in the table below.

Year	No. of times reservoir overflow	Quantities of overflow (million cubic metre (mcm))	Total value of fresh water (HK\$)
2008-09			
2009-10			
2010-11			
2011-12			
2012-13			

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The overflow quantities from reservoirs for the years 2008-09 to 2012-13 are as follows:

Year	No. of times reservoir overflow	Quantities of overflow (million cubic metre (mcm))	Total value of fresh water (HK\$)
2008-09	Not Applicable <sup>1</sup>	92 <sup>3</sup>	Not applicable <sup>2</sup>
2009-10		15	
2010-11		25	
2011-12		0	
2012-13 (Up to Feb 2013)		15	

Notes :

1. We record overflow by quantities only rather than by number of occurrence.
2. The overflow is locally collected rainwater and occurs normally in small reservoirs during heavy rainstorms. Such overflow is rather an operational constraint than a loss.
3. The relatively high amount of overflow in 2008-09 was due to the heavy rainfall of 1 346 mm recorded for the month in June 2008.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)143**

Question Serial No.

1528

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department      Subhead (No. & title): (223) Purchase of Water

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The purchase of Dongjiang water costs as much as over \$3.5 billion each year. However, tens of millions cubic metres of fresh water has been discharged to the sea due to overflow from our reservoirs, resulting in a wastage of water resources and money. Has the Administration discussed with the Government of Guangdong Province how Dongjiang water could be conserved? If yes, what are the measures? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

Since 2006, the Dongjiang water supply agreement has adopted a package deal lump sum approach with provision for adjusting the daily supply rate of Dongjiang water according to our need and enabling us to well control the storage level of our large reservoirs in which Dongjiang water is stored. We have neither overflow nor discharge of Dongjiang water since then.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)144**

Question Serial No.

1731

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:

The Administration stated that it would commence a planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. Could the Government advise this Committee:

- (a) The progress of the investigation study and advance work for the desalination plant;
- (b) The expenditure involved in the construction of the desalination plant so far. What is the estimated expenditure for the relevant project in 2013-14? What are the processes involved in the relevant expenditure or what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

- (a) The planning and investigation study of desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012 for completion by end 2014.
- (b) The expenditure for the study in 2012-13 is \$0.9 million. The provision for the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million. The scope of work under the planning and investigation study for setting up a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)145**

Question Serial No.

1732

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:

The Administration continues to take forward the implementation of the water management programme to explore new water sources and maintain the existing quality of water. The proportion of Dongjiang water supply is about 70 to 80% of Hong Kong's total water demand each year. With the commission of a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O, will the total annual cost of fresh water supply in Hong Kong be expected to increase or decrease? What will be the amount?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

The water production capacity of the proposed desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O is around 50 million cubic metre (mcm) per annum, expandable to 90 mcm per annum amounting to around 9% of the total fresh water supply. With an anticipated earliest plant commissioning date of 2020 and the projected population and economic growth, the quantity of Dongjiang water to be imported should not increase above the current level and no additional expenditure would be incurred on importing extra quantity.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)146**

Question Serial No.

1730

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:

As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Administration would “continue with the planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O”.

- (a) What was the work progress in this respect in 2012? What are the work plan for next year, as well as the actual expenditure and estimated expenditure for the respective year?
- (b) According to the latest study findings, what are the unit costs of turning each cubic metre of seawater into fresh water, processing local fresh water and processing Dongjiang water?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

- (a) The planning and investigation study for desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012 for completion by end 2014. The scope of work carried out under the planning and investigation study for setting up a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis. The provision for the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million.

- (b) The unit cost of potable water produced from water collected from local catchment and Dongjiang water are \$4.0 per cubic metre and \$8.4 per cubic metre respectively. Whilst the ongoing planning and investigation study for setting up a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O will, amongst others, estimate the production cost of water by desalination, the unit cost of water produced from desalination has previously been broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)147**

Question Serial No.

1784

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) In the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), what were the quantity of fresh water lost due to leakage of water mains and the cost involved?
- (b) In the past three years, how many households used fresh water for flushing and what was the quantity of fresh water involved?
- (c) What measures will the Administration carry out in 2013-14 to reduce the quantity of fresh water lost due to leakage of water mains and flushing? What are the details of expenditure in this respect?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

- (a) The water main leakage rates of 2010, 2011 and 2012 are 20%, 19% and 18% respectively.

With service reservoirs located at high altitude for water supply to premises at different levels, water mains at lower altitudes are operating under a relatively high water pressure which renders them more susceptible to leakage. Therefore, water main leakage is considered more an operational constraint rather than a loss. However, with the adoption of a host of measures, including water main replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) works, pressure management and leakage detection, the leakage rate has dropped from 25% in 2001 to 18% in 2012.

- (b) The population served with fresh water for flushing and the corresponding quantity over the last 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	Population served with fresh water for flushing	Quantity of fresh water for flushing (million cubic metre)
2010-11	1,500,000	78
2011-12	1,510,000	76
2012-13 (projected estimate)	1,520,000	74

- (c) We have been taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle the water main leakage problem including leakage detection, pressure management, replacement and rehabilitation of water mains. The expenditure on these works for 2013-14 is estimated at \$2,480 million.

In order to reduce fresh water consumed for flushing, new salt water supply systems are being constructed for the conversion of fresh water flushing to sea water flushing in different areas, including Pok Fu Lam, Tuen Mun East, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai, with an estimated expenditure of \$129 million in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)148**

Question Serial No.

0158

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:

For the desalination plant mentioned in paragraph 97 of the Budget and Programme (1):  
Water Supply: Planning and Distribution:

- a. As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under Programme (1), the Water Supplies Department will continue with the planning and investigation study for a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O. Would the Administration advise on the purpose of setting up the desalination plant?
- b. What are the expected construction costs of the entire project and the recurrent expenditure in future? What are the expected completion and commissioning dates of the project?
- c. What is the expected percentage of the total water consumption in Hong Kong to be supplied from the above project after its commissioning?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

- a. To better prepare Hong Kong for uncertainties such as acute climate changes and low rainfall, we need to carry out the planning and investigation study of the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O so that an alternative water source can be readily tapped in good time when needed.
- b. The construction cost and recurrent expenditure of the desalination plant will be studied under the planning and investigation study which will be completed by end 2014. Subject to the planning and investigation study, the earliest date for commissioning of the desalination plant is expected to be around 2020.

- c. The anticipated output capacity of the desalination plant will be around 5% of Hong Kong's total fresh water consumption, expandable to around 9% as needed.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)149**

Question Serial No.

1736

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 this Committee the specific work schedule of commissioning a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O? Has the Administration reserved any sites for setting up more desalination plants in future so as to reduce the reliance on Dongjiang water? If yes, what are the locations? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

The planning and investigation study of desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012 for completion by end 2014. The scope of work of the planning and investigation includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis.

In tandem with the planning of new developments, we will look into need for alternative water resources including desalination water in meeting additional water demand and, as necessary, identify sites for desalination plants.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)150**

Question Serial No.

1737

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 connection with the “Water Resources Education Centre”, please provide information in the table below about the use of the Centre since its coming into operation last year. Please provide a detailed cost breakdown of the 4.77 million dollars used in setting up the Education Centre and the information on other manpower resources (if any). Before setting up the Education Centre, did the Administration know that the office would be moved to Tin Shui Wai in 2017? If yes, why did the Administration still set up the Centre? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

The Water Resources Education Centre (the Centre) in Mong Kok was officially opened on 4 March 2013. We have however invited primary schools for advance viewing of our centre since December 2012. The utilization of the Centre by the schools up to 6 March 2013 is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of school</u>	<u>Number of visitors</u>
4 Dec 2012	G.C.C.C.I.T.K.D.Cheung Wong Wai Primary School	25
5 Dec 2012	Pok Oi Hospital Chan Kwok Wai Primary School	24
6 Dec 2012	G.C.C.C.I.T.K.D.Cheung Wong Wai Primary School	25
6 Dec 2012	Pok Oi Hospital Chan Kwok Wai Primary School	24
7 Dec 2012	S.H.K.Chu Yan Primary School	29
10 Dec 2012	S.H.K.Chu Yan Primary School	40
11 Dec 2012	S.H.K.Chu Yan Primary School	29
17 Dec 2012	Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School	20
19 Dec 2012	HKFEW Wong Cho Bau School	24
20 Dec 2012	Kowloon Woman's Welfare Club Li Ping Memorial School	26
9 Jan 2013	Christain Alliance Toi Shan H.C. Chan Primary School	25
10 Jan 2013	Christain Alliance Toi Shan H.C. Chan Primary School	24

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Number of visitors</u></b>
14 Jan 2013	Hong Kong Academy	40
18 Jan 2013	Tsung Tsin Primary School	27
22 Jan 2013	S.H.K.Chu Yan Primary School	29
23 Jan 2013	HKFEW Wong Cho Bau School	24
24 Jan 2013	HKFEW Wong Cho Bau School	24
25 Jan 2013	Baptist Lui Ming Choi Primary School	38
25 Jan 2013	Aplichau Kaifong Primary School	25
28 Jan 2013	Tsung Tsin Primary School	27
29 Jan 2013	Beacon Hill school	30
30 Jan 2013	Yan Tak Catholic Primary School	25
31 Jan 2013	Yan Tak Catholic Primary School	28
1 Feb 2013	Beacon Hill school	30
4 Feb 2013	Salesian School	37
5 Feb 2013	Beacon Hill school	30
5 Feb 2013	St Bonaventure Catholic Primary School	38
6 Feb 2013	Tsung Tsin Primary School	26
6 Feb 2013	Shak Chung Shan Memorial Catholic Primary School	24
20 Feb 2013	Baptist Lui Ming Choi Primary School	38
25 Feb 2013	Fanling Government Primary School	38
5 Mar 2013	Po Leung Kuk Lam Man Chan English Primary School	23
6 Mar 2013	Po Leung Kuk Lam Man Chan English Primary School	23
6 Mar 2013	RTC GAIA School	20
Total		959

There are currently two staff working in the Centre, involving an annual operating cost of \$0.73 million. The cost used to set up the Centre amounts to \$4.77 million as detailed below:

Consultancy fees	\$ 0.17 million
Building Services Facilities	\$ 1.58 million
Exhibits reusable in permanent Education Centre	\$ 2.23 million
Renovation costs	\$ 0.79 million
Total:	\$ 4.77 million

Before setting up the Centre, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) was planning that in the longer term (about four to five years later), a permanent Education Centre would be accommodated within the new office for the department's New Territories West regional office. We note that water resources is part of primary school curriculum for some time, so the early setting up of the Centre (mainly targeted at primary school students) could help deliver knowledge on water resources more effectively and promptly. We estimate that about 6 000 students could be received by the Education Centre each year. Thus, the Centre can benefit 24 000 to 30 000 students prior to opening of the permanent Centre, not to mention the positive impacts projected to their family members in promoting water

conservation. The Centre will also play a vital role to support our other water conservation campaign.

Against the above, we have adopted an environmental friendly and frugal approach whilst most of the exhibits and interactive games currently displayed (about 50% of the total cost for setting up the Centre) could be reused in the permanent Education Centre to be set up in Tin Shui Wai.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)151**

Question Serial No.

2115

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 planning and investigation study of a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O? Will there be any assessment of the environmental impacts to the vicinity?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The planning and investigation study for the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012 for completion by end 2014. The works of the study include detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)152**

Question Serial No.

0991

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 connection with fresh water supply, please advise this Committee on:

- a. The progress in continuing the planning and development of water resources and supply systems;
- b. The proportion of the sources of fresh water supply in Hong Kong (i.e. locally collected rainwater against Dongjiang water purchased) in the past two years (i.e. 2011-12 to 2012-2013). What is 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?
- c. The total quantity of the discharge of water to the sea resulting from overflow from reservoirs in the past two years. Please provide a breakdown by reservoir of the proportion of the overflow quantity to fresh water supply in Hong Kong for the respective year.
- d. Whether the Administration has conducted other projects, apart from the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O, to explore local water sources in order to avoid wastage of fresh water resources and provide a steadier supply of water. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- a. The Water Supplies Department undertakes regular reviews of water supply and demand situations in Hong Kong for meeting future development needs. We are carrying out a planning and investigation study for a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. We are also pursuing the planning of the supply of reclaimed water to Sheung Shui, Fanling and the Northeast New Territories New Development Areas for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses.

- b. The quantities of fresh water supply from water collected locally and Dongjiang in the past two years are as follows:

	<b>2011-12</b>		<b>2012-13</b> <b>(up to end Feb 2013)</b>	
	<b>Quantity (million cubic metre (mcm))</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Quantity (mcm)</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Water collected locally</b>	105	11.3	210	24.5
<b>Dongjiang water</b>	822	88.7	646	75.5
<b>Total quantity of fresh water supply</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>100</b>

The production costs per cubic metre of fresh water supply from locally collected and Dongjiang at 2012-13 price level are estimated to be about \$4.0 and \$8.4 respectively. The cost of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology is estimated to be about \$10.4 per cubic metre.

- c. The overflow quantities in 2011-12 and 2012-13 (up to end February 2013) were 0.3 mcm (about 0.03% of total water supply) and 15.4 mcm (about 1.8% of total water supply) respectively. The overflow is locally collected rainwater and occurred in small reservoirs during heavy rainstorms. Such overflow is an operational constraint rather than a loss.

The overflow quantities in reservoirs are as follows:

	<b>Overflow Quantity (mcm) in 2011-12</b>	<b>Overflow Quantity (mcm) in 2012-13 (up to end Feb 2013)</b>
Aberdeen	0.3	1.3
Kowloon	0	1.6
Shek Pik	0	0.9
Tai Tam	0	10.0
Tai Lam Chung	0	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>15.4</b>

- d. Two pilot schemes conducted in 2006 on the recycling of treated effluent in Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui concluded that the use of reclaimed water is technically feasible in Hong Kong. We are also pursuing the planning of the supply of reclaimed water to Sheung Shui, Fanling and the Northeast New Territories New Development Areas for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)153**

Question Serial No.

4852

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. 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 (i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13) due to their potential risk or immediate danger, and the respective expenditures involved?
2. What is the number of trees that have to be removed in the past two years (i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13) due to improper pruning or maintenance by the tree management departments in their routine pruning and maintenance work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. 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 in 2011-12 to 2012-13 is set out below –

<b>Reason \ Year</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)</b>
<b>(a)</b> Number of trees removed due to health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety	10 269	8 628
<b>(b)</b> Number of trees removed due to damage under inclement weather	2 180	16 920

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

2. There are no reports on trees removed due to improper pruning or maintenance works in 2011-12 and 2012-13 (up-to-date). To enhance awareness of proper tree pruning practices, the Tree Management Office 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.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)154**

Question Serial No.

5323

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What is the expenditure for fung shui compensation due to the implementation of public works projects in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13)? What is the expenditure for the building of such structures as Pai Lau and fung shui pavilions?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Works departments will strive to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment when implementing public works projects. However, there may be cases where the works will cause unavoidable adverse impact or inconvenience to the neighbourhood. In such cases, to ensure smooth implementation of the projects as well as to address the concerns of the residents, the works departments will provide certain community facilities or improve the existing ones, such as Pai Lau or rain shelters, to alleviate the adverse impact of the public works projects. While some residents may consider these compensatory works are related to "fung shui", "fung shui" is actually not a consideration for the departments concerned.

In the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13), the expenditure on provision or improvement of community facilities such as Pai Lau or rain shelters is around \$5 millions.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)155**

Question Serial No.

4126

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 Administration has worked closely with the Construction Workers Registration Authority (CWRA) to facilitate registration of construction workers. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. the trades registered under the CWRA and the total number of construction workers; and
2. the numbers in tabular form of registered workers of various categories in the construction industry in the past 5 years:

Categories	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Registered skilled worker					
Registered skilled worker (provisional)					
Registered semi-skilled worker					
Registered semi-skilled worker (provisional)					
Registered general worker					
Total					

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

1. At present, there are 99 trades regulated under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 583) (the Ordinance). Their names and relevant information are listed in Schedule 1 of the Ordinance.

According to the information provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC)<sup>1</sup>, as at end December 2012, there were about 310 000 registered construction workers.

2. According to the information provided by the CIC, as at end December 2012, the status of the five trades with more registered construction workers is as follows -

(1) Electrical Fitter

Categories	Number of registered construction workers *				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Registered skilled worker	26 088	24 987	24 370	25 694	25 522
Registered skilled worker (provisional)	N/A #	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Registered semi-skilled worker	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Registered semi-skilled worker (provisional)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	26 088	24 987	24 370	25 694	25 522

# : “N/A” means that the registration under the category of registered skilled worker (provisional), registered semi-skilled worker and registered semi-skilled worker (provisional) for the trade is not available under the Ordinance.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon the Construction Industry Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2012 coming into operation on 1 January 2013, the Construction Workers Registration Authority was dissolved with all its powers and functions transferred to the Construction Industry Council.

(2) General Welder

	Number of registered construction workers *				
<b>Categories</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Registered skilled worker	2 921	2 826	2 909	3 009	3 035
Registered skilled worker (provisional)	153	111	25	16	7
Registered semi-skilled worker	2 570	2 459	2 440	2 564	2 536
Registered semi-skilled worker (provisional)	64	37	10	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 708</b>	<b>5 433</b>	<b>5 384</b>	<b>5 594</b>	<b>5 581</b>

(3) Painter and Decorator

	Number of registered construction workers *				
<b>Categories</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Registered skilled worker	2 637	2 534	2 479	2 707	2 745
Registered skilled worker (provisional)	533	746	887	808	535
Registered semi-skilled worker	970	963	903	988	1,023
Registered semi-skilled worker (provisional)	127	124	94	60	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 267</b>	<b>4 367</b>	<b>4 363</b>	<b>4 563</b>	<b>4 349</b>

(4) Plumber

	Number of registered construction workers *				
<b>Categories</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Registered skilled worker	2 486	2 310	2 289	2 386	2 315
Registered skilled worker (provisional)	393	470	327	327	195
Registered semi-skilled worker	922	815	772	807	845
Registered semi-skilled worker (provisional)	47	40	25	27	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 848</b>	<b>3 635</b>	<b>3 413</b>	<b>3 547</b>	<b>3 387</b>

(5) Bar Bender and Fixer

	Number of registered construction workers *				
Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Registered skilled worker	2 140	2 126	2 205	2 269	2 257
Registered skilled worker (provisional)	297	323	186	64	20
Registered semi-skilled worker	427	395	419	560	944
Registered semi-skilled worker (provisional)	26	8	2	2	2
Total	2 890	2 852	2 812	2 895	3 223

(Note: \* number of valid registered construction workers as at end December of that year.)

Regarding the number of registered construction workers of the other trades, please find the information in the website of CIC <http://cwr.hkcic.org/information/total.asp>.

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)156**

Question Serial No.

3808

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:

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the total number of enquiries and complaints on tree management received by the Administration (including those received by the “1823” Call Centre) in 2011-12 and 2012-13; 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; the main reasons for making the final decision of tree removal; the staff establishment and expenditure of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under the Works Branch of the Development Bureau in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14; and the number of Certified Arborists among its staff?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

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 the Development Bureau from 2011-12 to 2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012) is as follows-

<b>Year</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)</b>
Number of complaint and enquiry cases received	11 589	17 744
Number of cases completed	11 589	17 003
Number of outstanding cases	0	741

A breakdown of the trees removed by major tree management departments in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is set out below –



<b>Reason \ Year</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)</b>
(a) Number of trees removed under public works projects	6 443	2 528
(b) Number of trees removed due to health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety	10 269	8 628
(c) Number of trees removed due to vegetation maintenance (e.g. weeding, thinning)	2 410	1 092
(d) Number of trees removed due to damage under inclement weather	2 180	16 920

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.

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 public safety is a priority concern.

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Number of staff in Tree Management Office</b>	15	17	17
<b>Number of staff in Greening &amp; Landscape Office</b>	7	6(1)	7
<b>Number of administrative, executive and clerical staff in the GLTM Section</b>	9	9	9

Note: number in ( ) indicates current vacant post

Among the 17 member of staff in the Tree Management Office, there are 15 professional and two technical officers. They have internationally accredited arboricultural qualifications such as International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor, ISA Certified Municipal Specialist and Professional Tree Inspection (LANTRA Awards). Three of them have relevant doctoral degrees.

The staffing provision of the GLTM Section in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are \$24.58 million, \$25.23 million and \$26.5 million respectively.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

## DEVB(W)157

3689

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Development Bureau (Works Branch) and its various 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 in the past 2 financial years (up to 2012-13):

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, 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 in the past 2 financial years (up to 2012-13) is given in the table below:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Mott MacDonald (previously known as Mott Connell)	Invitation of quotation	Consultancy Study on Developing a Sustainable Construction Management Framework for Public Works (Civil Engineering) Projects	1,150,000	Dec 2007	Completed	The study findings will be taken into consideration in the improvement of the construction management framework for public works projects.	We will share the study findings within the Government and with the 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	Jun 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed by mid 2013.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.
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 (\$9M under Head 159 for public engagement and the remaining under CEDD block allocations)	Jul 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited	Open tender	Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development – Feasibility Study	30,056,000	Sept 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2015.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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	Nov 2011	In progress. The study report is being finalized.	As announced by the Chief Executive in his 2013 Policy Address, in light of experiences in the past few years, we consider that we should review the present policy on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The review will cover the impact of setting up a heritage trust outside the Government regime on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The Secretary for Development invited the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to assist the Government with this policy review, including offering suggestions on the scope of the review, advising on the way in which the review should be conducted and the related timetable. The consultancy study report would be provided to AAB for the purpose of this review.	To be decided upon completion of the study.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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 minimize risk	1,055,000	Nov 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in the formulation of comprehensive street tree management plan.	Research was primarily for internal use. Information has been shared with the relevant Government departments.
Chi Lin Nunnery	Invitation of 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	Nov 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in the management of tree pest/disease control.	Research was primarily for internal use of government. Information has been shared with the relevant Government departments.
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	Dec 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2013-14.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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	798,373	Feb 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2013-14.	Not applicable	Not applicable
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Field and in vitro evaluation of <i>Trichoderma</i> species as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong  -To research on the applicability, effectiveness and practicality of using <i>Trichoderma</i> as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong	888,400	Jan 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	<p>Selection of Suitable Tree Species for Greening in Hong Kong &amp; Choice of Suitable Planting Media for Greening in Hong Kong</p> <p>- To evaluate tree species and analyse findings to group into landscape applications and matrix database</p> <p>- To evaluate urban soils and make recommendations on potential to improve for practical applications</p>	800,000	Dec 2010	The Study was terminated in October 2012.	The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section has been gathering relevant data from Government departments, which provide useful information that form a basis of the intended Study. Alongside with the slow progress of the Study, a mutual agreement was sought with the consultant to terminate the Study without cost incurred by the Government.	Not applicable



(b) Information of projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2013-14.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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	Jun 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed by mid 2013.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.
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 (\$9M under Head 159 for public engagement and the remaining under CEDD block allocations)	July 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014.	Follow-up action will be taken after completion of study.	Pending completion of study.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited	Open tender	Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development – Feasibility Study	30,056,000	Sept 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2015.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.
Aon Hong Kong Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Review of Construction Related Insurance for Public Works Contracts	380,000	Oct 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed by mid 2013.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.
Pinsent Masons	Invitation of quotation	Consultancy Study for Security of Payment Legislation	1,250,000	Sep 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2013/early 2014.	Pending completion of study.	Pending completion of study.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
To be appointed	To be decided	Review of the Existing Guidelines on Construction, Design and Management	Not yet known	Third Quarter, 2013	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable
To be appointed	To be decided	Consultancy on reclaimed water implementation strategy	Not yet known	Third Quarter, 2013	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable
To be appointed	To be decided	Consultancy on Total Water Management Strategy review	Not yet known	First Quarter, 2014	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Field and in vitro evaluation of <i>Trichoderma</i> species as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong  -To research on the applicability, effectiveness and practicality of using <i>Trichoderma</i> as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong	888,400	Jan 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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	Dec 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2013-14.	Not applicable	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the industry via workshops, seminars, etc.
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	798,373	Feb 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2013-14.	Not applicable	We will share the study findings with the relevant Government departments and professionals in the industry via workshops, seminars, etc.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Opinion Survey on Public Perception and Aspiration on Greening – To gauge public views on greening works, understand the effectiveness of the promotional activities; and identify improvement areas.	350,000	Apr 2013	Under planning	The Study will be completed in 2013-14.	The Study is primarily for internal use. We will also share the findings with relevant Government departments.

- (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.

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Date: 16 April 2013

**DEVB(W)158**

3706

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which the Development Bureau (Works Branch) has been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information over the past 2 years (up to 2012-13) as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Mainland department/ rganization involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme
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(b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes of this year, please provide information as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the	Mainland department/ organization involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion	Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the
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	Framework Agreement		date)	ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons	project/programme
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- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary cooperation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past 3 years? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in this year's Estimates?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes over the past 2 years (up to 2012-13) in which the Development Bureau (Works Branch) has been involved are provided as follows-

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Mainland department/ rganization involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme
Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works	The project is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement.  Upon completion of the project, a new boundary control point (BCP) will be provided in the eastern part of the New Territories to facilitate "East in – East out" and "West in – West out".	Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality	The detailed design of the BCP site formation and the connecting road was completed in April 2012. The detailed design of the BCP buildings and the associated facilities commenced in January 2013 for completion in early 2015.	The details, objectives etc are released to the public at various project stages when we consult the Legislative Council, the District Councils and the relevant stakeholders. Resources are mainly included in the project expenditure or absorbed by the respective Departments.	No legislative amendment or policy change is involved in the project /programme.

- (b) Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2013-14 in which the Development Bureau (Works Branch) has involved are provided as follows-

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement	Mainland department/ organization involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme
Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works	<p>The project is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement.</p> <p>Upon completion of the project, a new BCP will be provided in the eastern part of the New Territories to facilitate “East in – East out” and “West in – West out”.</p>	Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality	<p>Site formation works and construction of a 11 kilometre long connecting road will commence in phases in the first half of 2013 for completion in mid 2018.</p> <p>The regulation of Shenzhen River stage IV will commence in the second half of 2013 for completion in end 2017.</p>	<p>The details, objectives etc are released to the public at various project stages when we consult the Legislative Council, the District Councils and the relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Resources are mainly included in the project expenditure or absorbed by the respective Departments.</p>	No legislative amendment or policy change is involved in the project /programme.

- (c) Under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), the Development Bureau closely works with the Mainland counterparts to promote the construction and related professional services and to pursue further market access in the Mainland with focus on effective implementation of pilot schemes for construction and related engineering professionals to register for practice and to set up enterprises in the Guangdong Province. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the Qianhai Authority for a framework cooperation agreement with a view to exploring these measures to enable Hong Kong professionals to directly provide services there. Three staff members of the Works Branch are tasked to be mainly responsible for the service promotion to the Mainland including CEPA and the Qianhai cooperation agreement. The expenditure on salaries was \$2.1 million, \$2.2 million and \$2.7 million in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The expenditure on salaries is about \$2.7 million in 2013-14.

The Development Bureau also cooperates with the Mainland in the supply of Dongjiang water and natural sand to Hong Kong. Two senior professional staff are responsible for related works on a part-time basis. The annual expenditure on salaries is about \$0.1 million from 2010-11 to 2013-14.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)159**

Question Serial No.

4320

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 past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the Development Bureau (DEVB) offered assistance and explored economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate conservation of privately owned historic buildings. Please set out in detail the historic buildings involved, assistance offered, as well as expenditure and manpower involved. What are the details of public consultation launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What is the estimated number of public consultation to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

In the past 5 years, we have successfully secured owners' agreement to conserve historic buildings under the following six projects through the provision of economic incentives:

- (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 Chief Executive in Council on 2 December 2008;
- (b) Jessville (a Grade 3 building) is preserved under a preservation-cum-development proposal which was facilitated by the partial uplifting of the Pokfulam Moratorium approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 22 September 2009;
- (c) The front portion of the shophouse at 179 Prince Edward Road West (a Grade 3 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 at 1 Lower Albert Road

(three Grade 1 buildings and one Grade 2 building) are preserved through a transfer of plot ratio approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 7 June 2011;

- (e) The Clock tower of the CLP Administration Building (Proposed Grade 1 building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of building height from 80 metres above Principle Datum (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 (Grade 2 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.

No public money was involved in the above cases and the manpower involved in discussing with the owners concerned on the economic incentives is absorbed within existing resources.

When applying the policy of providing economic incentives, we will present the proposals to the public and adhere to required statutory procedures. In the cases of King Yin Lei, 179 Prince Edward Road West, CLP Administration Building and 47 Barker Road, the application for rezoning of the newly granted site (for the King Yin Lei case) and other applications submitted to TPB under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (for the other cases) were made public and the public was allowed to express their views within a certain period of time. For the other two cases (i.e. Jessville and the four historic buildings of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui), the District Councils concerned have been consulted.

The number of public consultation and expenditure involved in respect of the implementation of the economic incentive policy in 2013-14 would depend on the number of cases. The manpower involved in discussing with the owners concerned on possible economic incentives will be absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)160**

Question Serial No.

4321

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 past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the Development Bureau (DEVB) implemented the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately owned graded historic buildings for conservation. Please set out in detail the historic buildings involved, assistance offered, as well as expenditure and manpower involved. What are the details of public consultation launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What is the estimated number of public consultation to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Since the launch of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) in 2008, we have approved 27 applications for the carrying out of maintenance works to privately-owned graded historic buildings. The details are listed below.

Approved Applications in 2009/10

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
i) Lo Pan Temple, Kennedy Town	Restoration of roof, columns and walls	711,000
ii) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Shatin	Restoration of roofs and walls of Pilgrim's Hall and Conference Hall	820,000
iii) Main Building of Helena May, Central	Preservation of existing walls at Garden Room by cavity wall system	600,000
iv) Ancestral Hall of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	Restoration of ancestral altar and roof	1,000,000
v) No. 3 Bungalow, St. Stephen's College, Stanley	Restoration of roof, external walls	606,000

vi) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof, external walls	985,000
vii) Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	Restoration of roof, walls, columns	880,000
viii) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	Repainting of building	860,000

Approved applications in 2010/11

ix) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof and structural frame	1,000,000
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Approved applications in 2011/12

xi) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	Roof rectification works, structural repair to walls	999,000
xi) Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xii) Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors and ancestral altars	1,000,000
xiii) Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Restoration of the walls and ground slab of the shrine	390,000
xiv) Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors, plaques and murals	950,000
xv) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xvi) Lim House, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof, walls, doors, windows and balconies	1,000,000
xvii) Holy Trinity Church, Kowloon City	Restoration of the higher roof	661,000
xviii) No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Restoration of roof, structural repair to slab and beam,	1,000,000
xix) Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Upgrading of the storm water and waste water System	1,000,000
xx) St. Joseph's Church, Fanling	Repair spalling concrete, clean and repair external masonry façade	870,000

Approved Applications in 2012/13

xxi) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of the roof and wall at the entrance hall and main hall	1,000,000
xxii) Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	Restoration of the roof, walls, and the shrine	1,000,000
xxiii) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of eaves boards, granite plaque	980,000
xxiv) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Install new waterproofing system at roof	950,000
xxv) Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xxvi) Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Install new waterproofing system at roof	999,960
xxvii) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun Phase II	Repair spalling of concrete	1,000,000

In the implementation of FAS, DEVB is the co-ordinator and approval body, while the Technical and Advisory Unit (TAU) of the AMO provides conservation and technical advice to the approved applicants throughout the delivery of the work projects. TAU is led by a Senior Heritage Officer (a non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff who is equivalent to an architect), and supported by 4 NCSC technical staff. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is approximately \$6 million and the number of staff deployed to work on FAS remains unchanged in 2013-14. Detailed information regarding FAS is available at the website of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of DEVB.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)161**

Question Serial No.

4322

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 past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the Development Bureau (DEVB) took forward the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. What are the expenditure and manpower involved? What are the details of public consultation launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What is the estimated number of public consultation to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Under the partnership arrangement between the DEVB and the Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC"), the HKJC will fund all the revitalisation works and all operational deficits until the operation of the Central Police Station Compound is financially self-sustainable. As such, the Government will not be required to contribute any expenditure or manpower under this revitalisation project.

HKJC conducted a six-month public engagement exercise from October 2007 to April 2008 to engage stakeholders through various channels and activities. During this period, HKJC held a total of 56 meetings (including 4 public forums) with relevant organizations and members of the public to collect their views. These include -

- (a) the Heritage Conservation Subcommittee of the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs and individual Members of the Legislative Council;
- (b) the Central & Western District Council, residents and concerned groups of the Central & Western District and representatives of trade groups in Lan Kwai Fong and SoHo;
- (c) the Antiquities Advisory Board, professional institutes and heritage conservation groups;
- (d) the arts & cultural community, the tourism sector, business groups, and young professional groups; and

- (e) retired police and prison officers who had worked at the Central Police Station and the Prison Compound.

An exhibition entitled “Conservation & Revitalisation - the Central Police Station Compound” was held from December 2007 to early May 2008 at the Hong Kong Racing Museum to display the historical photographs, videos, building plans and architectural models of the Central Police Station Compound to collect the public views on the revitalisation proposal. Roving exhibitions were also held in the City Hall, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Sha Tin Town Hall attracting more than 19 000 visitors in total. A dedicated website with detailed information on the revitalisation proposal was launched where the public could express their views and make suggestions. A total of 112 857 page view counts were recorded during the public consultation period.

After extensive consultation with the public, the Government jointly announced the revised design of the revitalisation of Central Police Station Compound with HKJC on 11 October 2010. DEVB and HKJC consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Development and the Central and Western District Council on 23 November 2010 and 6 January 2011 respectively and obtained members’ support on the revised design. Public consultation was also conducted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) and the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) on HKJC’s proposal. After considering the public views collected, the authorities granted the Environment Permit and planning permission in April and May 2011 respectively.

Furthermore, DEVB has regularly reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Development, the Central and Western District Council, the Antiquities Advisory Board and the District Council’s Working Group about the latest development of this revitalisation project and would continue to do so in 2013-14. The expenditure and manpower involved in these public consultation exercises will be absorbed within the existing resources.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)162**

Question Serial No.

4323

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:

The Development Bureau (DEVB) took forward the transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark in partnership with the selected non-profit-making organisation. What are the expenditure and manpower involved? What are the details of public consultation launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? What is the estimated number of public consultation to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The estimated capital works expenditure for the project “Transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark” is \$560.1 million in money-of-the-day prices. The manpower required by the Development Bureau (DEVB) in taking forward this project will be absorbed within the existing resources.

In order to gauge the community's views on how best the site should be revitalised, DEVB conducted a three-month public consultation exercise between February and May 2008. During this period, DEVB has held a total of eight meetings with relevant organisations and members of the public to collect their views. These include the Heritage Conservation Subcommittee in the Legislative Council, the Central and Western District Council, the Tourism Board, the Travel Industry Council, the Tourism Strategy Group, the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Urban Renewal Authority, etc. Apart from the above, DEVB also organised public seminars and open days.

After extensive public consultation, the Government and the Musketeers Education and Culture Charitable Foundation Limited (Musketeers Foundation), which is the non-profit-making organisation selected for the project, consulted the Central and Western District Council on 3 March 2011 and 15 March 2011 and obtained members' support.



Moreover, the Government and the Musketeers Foundation also consulted the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Legislative Council Panel on Development on 22 March 2011 and 20 April 2011 respectively and members' support of the project were obtained. Public consultation was also conducted under the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) on the project proposal. After considering the public views collected, the Metro Planning Committee of the Town Planning Board granted the planning permission on 15 April 2011.

Furthermore, DEVB has regularly reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Development, the Central and Western District Council, the Antiquities Advisory Board and the District Council's Working Group about the latest development of this project, and would continue to do so in 2013-14. The expenditure and manpower involved in such work will be absorbed within the existing resources.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)163**

Question Serial No.

4324

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:

The Development Bureau has carried out grading exercise for about 1 444 historic buildings and other buildings suggested for grading by the public by seeking the Antiquities Advisory Board's confirmation of the proposed grading. What is the progress and manpower involved? What is the estimated number of public consultation to be held by the Bureau on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Since 2009, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has been reviewing the grading of 1 444 historic buildings in the territory. Apart from these 1 444 buildings, some 200 suggestions for grading some other items (new items) have been received from the public. As at the last AAB meeting held on 20 February 2013, AAB has finalised the grading of 1 228 buildings. The work is absorbed within the existing manpower resources.

The AAB agreed at its meeting on 20 February 2013 that, the AAB will proceed to examine new items alongside the remaining buildings from the list of 1 444 buildings. Such arrangement was reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Development on 26 February 2013. According to the established practice, after AAB has agreed on a proposed grading for an individual item, AAB will conduct public consultation through its website before finalising the grading. The expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14 will be absorbed within the existing resources.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)164**

Question Serial No.

4325

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:

What are the numbers of participants in the “Heritage Discovery 2012” roving exhibition and “Heritage Fiesta 2012”? What is the expenditure involved and how successful are the activities? Will similar activities be launched by the Development Bureau in 2013-14? What are the details as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office organised a variety of activities to enhance public awareness on heritage conservation and their appreciation of historic buildings. The table below illustrates the number of participants and expenditures for “Heritage Discovery” Roving Exhibition and Heritage Fiesta 2012 during 2012-13. The workload of organising these activities was mainly absorbed by the staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
“Heritage Discovery” Roving Exhibition	148 864	\$1,730,635.80
Heritage Fiesta 2012	122 808	\$452,855

In 2013-14, we will continue to organise promotional and educational activities for the public, including open days, guided tours, exhibitions and conferences. The estimated budget is approximately \$4,900,000. These activities will mainly be organised by staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office. We will continue to collaborate with different organisations to promote Hong Kong's built heritage. For example, we will organise exhibitions with the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, work with the Hong Kong Post on issuing a stamp collection commemorating Batch I of the

Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, and organise open days with some schools which are graded historic buildings or declared monuments.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)165**

Question Serial No.

4326

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 past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the Development Bureau (DEVB) has conducted consultancy study on the feasibility of setting up a heritage trust in Hong Kong. What are the details of the study and the expenditure and manpower involved? What are the details of public consultation launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What is the estimated number of public consultation to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Development Bureau commissioned a consultancy study in 2011-12 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 heritage conservation efforts. The cost of the consultancy study is \$1,307,500. The consultancy study is handled by existing staff.

As announced by the Chief Executive in his 2013 Policy Address, in light of experiences in the past few years, we consider that we should review the present policy on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The review will cover the impact of setting up a heritage trust outside the Government regime on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) will assist the Government with this policy review, including offering suggestions on the scope of the review, advising on how the review should be conducted and the related timetable. AAB will work on a consultation paper by end 2013 and join hands with the Development Bureau in collating public views. Detailed plans on public consultation, including the expenditure and manpower to be involved, will be worked out after the AAB has come up with suggestions on the scope of the review, the related timetable, etc.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)166**

Question Serial No.

4687

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:

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 under Programme (2), the Works Branch will in the coming year continue to take forward the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club for completion in 2015. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the progress of the revitalisation project in 2013-14 in detail? Will it be completed in 2015 as scheduled? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Does the Administration plan to open the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project to the public on a pilot basis in 2013-14? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
3. What is the number of artefacts and amount of space that will be used to introduce the history of the compound upon its completion? How much area and space will be used for art and cultural activities?
4. Has the Administration considered inviting some of the traditional shops and crafts with local characteristics that have been in decline or out of business to move into the compound so as to preserve the local tradition in the past while developing the creative industries?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

1. The Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC") is carrying out foundation works for the new buildings, as well as works for the conservation of the historic buildings and infrastructure works within the Central Police Station Compound. These works would continue in 2013-14. It is expected that the revitalisation works would be completed in 2015.

2. Since the revitalisation works in the Central Police Station Compound would continue in 2013-14, there is no plan to open the Compound to the public during this period.
3. The Central Police Station Compound will comprise a total construction floor area of around 300 000 square feet after revitalisation works. Approximately 37% of the construction floor area will be used for heritage appreciation and contemporary art, 36% for public circulation and electrical and mechanical plant space, and 27% for commercial activities to provide leisure and entertainment to the visitors. There will also be over 40 000 square feet of open spaces which can be used for contemporary art programmes. Detailed display arrangements for the interpretation areas (including artefacts) in the Compound would be determined in due course.
4. HKJC is inviting interested operators to express their interest or submit initial proposals on the operation of the Central Police Station Compound Revitalisation Project. Interested operators can put forward a variety of suggestions in their operation proposals.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013



**DEVB(W)167**

3755

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The financial provision for Energizing Kowloon East increases by 67.6% to \$36.2 million in 2013-14. What are the reasons? Please set out in detail the use of the additional provision and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) was set up in June 2012 to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East into another core business district in accordance with the Conceptual Master Plan. The increase in financial provision in 2013-14 is mainly due to the following-

- 1) Increase in staff costs (\$3.6 million) being full year effect of posts filled in 2012-13 and staff vacancies;
- 2) consultancies to be commenced in 2013-14 including traffic and pedestrian studies (\$4.7 million) as well as industry heritage studies and other planning studies (\$3 million); and
- 3) increase in other operating expenses (\$3.3 million).

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
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Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)168**

Question Serial No.

3792

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 Administration indicates in paragraph 82 (page 25) of the Budget Speech that it will step up promotion efforts to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the specific measures, administrative costs involved and the expected number of vacancies to be filled.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

With about \$20 million to be used for promotion and publicity under the funding of a total of \$320 million approved by the Legislative Council, the Development Bureau (DEVB) has launched the “Build Up” Publicity Campaign aiming to uplift the image of the construction industry in May 2011. DEVB will continue to collaborate with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen the promotion and publicity efforts, with a view to attracting more people to join the construction industry, including ethnic minorities.

In addition to the existing set-up, in 2013-14, DEVB will continue to employ an officer on non-civil service contract terms, with an estimated expenditure of HK\$300,000, to assist in implementing promotion and publicity activities. CIC will enhance the promotion through various initiatives including liaising with social groups of ethnic minorities, related labour unions and non-government organizations, placing advertisement in their newspapers, conducting Family Days for them, and inviting their students as promotion ambassadors, etc. According to CIC, the estimated expenditure in 2013-14 for CIC in carrying out the above work will be about \$100,000.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)169**

Question Serial No.

3797

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:

It is stated in Programme (2) that the Administration will continue to monitor the implementation of the projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. The Government has proposed revitalising Haw Par Mansion as a wine centre, but eventually approved its conversion into a “music farm”. Does it involve any government expenditure? If yes, what is the amount involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

In 2011, we had twice launched tender exercises for the revitalisation of Haw Par Mansion in the form of commercial operation. We were open to the market offer on the proposed use of the Mansion (including the use as a wine centre). As the tender submissions received did not conform to the mandatory requirements as stated in the tender, we cancelled the tender exercises but remain committed to the adaptive re-use of the Haw Par Mansion. In 2012, we included the Haw Par Mansion into Batch III of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme to invite proposals from non-profit-making organisations to revitalise the Haw Par Mansion for adaptive re-use in the form of a social enterprise. After assessment, the Advisory Committee on Revitalisation of Historic Buildings has selected the Haw Par Music Farm as the most appropriate revitalisation scheme at an estimated cost of \$130.5 million (in October 2011 price level) to be funded by the Government.

Name in block letters:                      C S Wai

Post Title:                      Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

Date:                      16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)170**

Question Serial No.

5484

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:

Tree management and conservation have long been subject to public criticism. As far as I know, a number of government departments are involved in this area of work, including the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Works Branch of the Development Bureau, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Home Affairs Bureau, Architectural Services Department, Drainage Services Department, Highways Department, Housing Department, Water Supplies Department and Lands Department. The insufficient co-ordination among departments only leads to duplication of work, lack of efficiency and professionalism as well as a waste of resources. Does the Administration have any future plans to rationalise the establishment for tree management and conservation as soon as possible? If yes, what is the timetable? Will the Administration state the rationale for such an establishment?

Has the Government invited any tree experts in the community to carry out consultancy work for tree management and conservation in the past five years (up to 2012-13)? If yes, please set out the relevant information and the expenditure involved.

What are the respective numbers of trees felled and re-planted in areas outside the country parks in the past 10 years (up to 2012-13)? Please provide a breakdown by District Council District.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

Given the large number of trees all over the territory, it is neither desirable nor practical if tree management is taken up by one single government department. At present, the Government adopts the “integrated approach” in tree management, i.e. the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees, which is reflecting a well established division of responsibilities amongst departments and effective use of resource. If there is just one single department

managing all trees in the territory, problems of co-ordination and fragmentation of responsibilities for the day-to-day management of the same facility or piece of land will arise.

The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section was established under the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB) in March 2010 to champion a new, strategic policy on greening, landscaping and tree management with a view to achieving the sustainable development of a greener environment in Hong Kong. The GLTM Section is underpinned by the Greening and Landscape Office (GLO) and the Tree Management Office (TMO), which works in close cooperation to promote a holistic greening approach embracing adequate space allocation for new planting, proper selection of planting species as well as quality landscape design and planting practices upstream; and through proper works implementation to professional vegetation maintenance downstream.

To ensure more effective implementation across departments under the “integrated approach” to tree management, the TMO acts as a central authority to give policy steer, a focal point of coordination of departmental efforts and a provider of arboricultural expertise. The TMO also facilitates more professional and effective tree management by departments by promotion of public education and community involvement, provision of training, promulgation of best practices and guidelines, provision of professional knowledge, carrying out research in arboriculture and handling complex tree cases.

The “integrated approach” to tree management has worked well. The Administration has no plan to change the current establishment.

As regards the engagement of tree experts in the community in providing advice to the Administration, the DEVB set up the Expert Panel on Tree Management (Expert Panel) in March 2011 to provide the expertise in both policy and operational aspects concerning tree management, with the objective of promoting the well-being of trees in Hong Kong, especially those with special value or of special interest. Among the 11 non-official members in the Expert Panel, five come from areas outside Hong Kong including Guangzhou, Macau, Malaysia, Australia and the U.S.A. The participation of all non-official members in the Expert Panel is not on a remuneration basis and does not involve any honorarium.

Moreover, DEVB has commissioned consultants to carry out studies with a view to informing policy formulation and assessment. These studies include -

1. engagement of Urbis Ltd to carry out "Comprehensive Street Management Plan for Hong Kong" in 2011 at a consultancy fee of \$1,055,000.
2. engagement of Chi Lin Nunnery to carry out "Field experiment in the control and prevention of needle casts on *Pinus thunbergii*" in 2011 at a consultancy fee of \$1,400,000.

3. engagement of the University of Hong Kong to carry out "Occurrence and Distribution of Common Wood Decay Fungi on Trees of Hong Kong" in 2011 at a consultancy fee of \$1,098,235.
4. engagement of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to carry out "Wood Strength Assessment of Common Tree Species in Hong Kong" in 2012 at a consultancy fee of \$798,313.
5. engagement of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to carry out "Field and in vitro evaluation of *Trichoderma* species as a biological control agent against *Phellinus noxius* infected trees in Hong Kong" in 2013 at a consultancy fee of \$888,400.

We do not have the number of trees removed and re-planted outside country parks for the past ten years. A breakdown of the trees removed by the major tree management departments from 2010-11 to 2012-13 is set out below –

<b>Reason \ Year</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)</b>
<b>(a)</b> Number of trees removed under public works projects	8 842	6 443	2 528
<b>(b)</b> Number of trees removed due to health or structural problems which posed risks to public safety	10 257	10 269	8 628
<b>(c)</b> Number of trees removed due to vegetation maintenance (e.g. weeding, thinning)	2 564	2 410	1 092
<b>(d)</b> Number of trees removed due to damage under inclement weather	1 821	2 180	16 920

The number of trees planted by the government (including the number of trees replanted from 2010-11 to 2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012) are as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)</b>
Number of trees planted	1 111 000	900 000	570 000

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)171**

Question Serial No.

4503

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 Register of Old & Valuable Trees (OVTs) managed by the Tree Management Office (TMO), please provide the following information:

- (1) the changes in the number and species of the OVTs included in the Register in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2010 to 2012);
- (2) the reasons for the changes in the number of OVTs in the past 3 year and the species involved;
- (3) the numbers of experts and research teams deployed for the conservation and inspection of OVTs as well as the number of maintenance works carried out in the past 3 years; and
- (4) the details of the exchanges with overseas and Mainland experts on the conservation and inspection methods of OVTs as well as the visits made by them.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. The change in the number of Old and Valuable Trees (OVTs) from 2010 to 2013 is given in the following table-

Year	2010-11 (as at 31 March 2011)	2011-12 (as at 31 March 2012)	2012-13 (as at 31 December 2012)
Number of OVT in the Register	501	495	478



The major tree species in the OVT Register remain to be *Ficus microcarpa*, *Ficus virens*, and *Cinnamomum camphora* during the period.

2. The main reasons for the change in the number of trees in the OVT Register are health and structural problems and damage under inclement weather. The breakdown of OVT removal due to these reasons for the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2012 is given in the following table-

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (up to 31 December 2012)
Number of OVT removed due to health or structural problems	5	6	11
Number of OVT removed due to damage under inclement weather	0	0	6

We are processing nomination of trees to enrich the OVT Register.

3. Since its set up in March 2011, the Expert Panel on Tree Management (Expert Panel) has held eight meetings and 15 site inspections, during which invaluable advice has been provided on tree management topics such as management and preservation of OVTs, Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement, arboriculture occupational safety and health, surveillance programme and management strategy for Brown Root Rot Disease and various research projects on tree management.
4. The TMO staff have many opportunities for exchanges with overseas tree experts. For example, among the 11 non-official members in the Expert Panel under the Development Bureau, five of them come from areas outside Hong Kong including Guangzhou, Macau, Malaysia, Australia and the U.S.A. Both the local and overseas members have actively participated in the meetings and site inspections, in addition to regular communication through emails and telephones. Moreover, the TMO also arranged its staff and sponsored departmental colleagues in attending the “Seminar on Mature Trees” held in August 2012 in Taiwan, the “5th International Arboriculture Summit - Hong Kong” organized by the Institute of Arboriculture Studies in November 2012 and the “5th Seminar on the Best Practices for Urban Tree Management Hong Kong” organized by the Institute of Horticultural Science in December 2012 to share with many overseas experts the experience and knowledge in tree management work.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
 Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
 Date: 16 April 2013

## CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

**DEVB(W)172**

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Question Serial No.

3566

<u>Head:</u> 159 – Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch)	<u>Subhead (No. &amp; title):</u> (000) Operational expenses
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Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Provision for 2013-14 is \$80.3 million (33.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13. The Administration says this is mainly due to, among other things, the increased cash flow requirement for the general non-recurrent item on “Investing in Construction Manpower”. In this connection, will the Administration provide a breakdown of how the provision be used on “Investing in Construction Manpower” for 2013-14, including the provision for enhancing the productivity of construction workers, strengthening the training and trade testing, uplifting the image of the construction industry as well as the work plan and provision for attracting ethnic minorities to join the industry as mentioned in paragraph 82 of the Budget Speech?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Development Bureau (DEVB) has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its training under various initiatives to enhance the skill levels of local workers and attract new entrants to the construction industry through promotion and publicity activities. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is about \$100 million with breakdown as follows –

Item	Estimated expenditure (\$M)
Enhanced construction manpower training for selected trades	74
Enhanced construction supervisor/technician training	23
Subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training courses and skill enhancement courses and advanced training courses for senior workers	3

Promotion and publicity activities	3
Total :	103

DEVB provides training allowances and subsidies for the above various training courses and trade tests. This helps enhance the skill levels of the construction workers, thereby increasing their productivity. Further, in May 2011, DEVB launched the “Build Up” Publicity Campaign aiming to uplift the image of the construction industry. DEVB will continue to collaborate with CIC to strengthen the promotion and publicity efforts, with a view to attracting more people to join the construction industry, including ethnic minorities. CIC will enhance the promotion through various initiatives including liaising with social groups of the ethnic minorities, related labour unions and non-government organizations, placing advertisement in their newspapers, conducting Family Days for them, and inviting their students as promotion ambassadors, etc.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)173**

Question Serial No.

3574

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

In Programme (4), Provision for 2013-14 increased by 67.6% (amounting to \$14.6 million). The Administration mentioned that it was mainly due to the increased provision for filling of vacant posts, conducting planning and other consultancy studies and other operating expenses. With this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee the nature of work, ranks and salaries of these vacant posts, the details for the planning involved, the expenses, natures and completion dates of the consultancy studies involved and the details for the operating expenses.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) was set up in June 2012 to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East into another core business district in accordance with the Conceptual Master Plan (CMP). EKEO is headed by Head/EKEO and assisted by Deputy Head/EKEO underpinning by 18 civil servants and non-civil service contract staff (NCSC) forming a multi-disciplinary team of town planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers as well as technical and administrative support staff. After the setting up of EKEO in June 2012, the staffing was filled progressively in the second to fourth quarters of 2012-13 resulting in a higher provision of about \$3.6 million in 2013-14 due to full year effect of posts filled in 2012-13 and staff vacancies. Up to 28 February 2013, there were 2 vacancies including 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Architect with total annual personal emoluments of about \$1 million.

EKEO is working on the pre-construction work and studies of various improvement projects proposed in the CMP, including the preparatory work to improve the traffic and pedestrian environment, and to enhance Hoi Bun Road. We have also commissioned the industrial heritage study and are undertaking preliminary studies required for releasing development potential of undeveloped/under-developed government sites, including the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Areas. We are working on the relocation of existing

government facilities within the two Action Areas and preparing for an international design idea competition for the “Kai Tak Fantasy”. In this connection, the financial provision in 2013-14 for conducting planning and other consultancy studies is about \$7.7 million including traffic and pedestrian studies (\$4.7 million) as well as industrial heritage studies and other planning studies (\$3 million). These studies will be completed within a 2-year period.

EKEO was erected underneath the flyover of Kwun Tong Bypass and commissioned for service in June 2012 resulting in an increase in cleansing and security expenses in 2013-14 due to full year effect. In addition, there is an increase in other operating expenses. The total additional provision in 2013-14 is around \$3.3 million.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)174**

Question Serial No.

3575

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 Budget, the Government allocated \$100 million to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to attract new blood to the construction industry; in 2012-13 Budget, the Government further allocated an additional funding of \$220 million to CIC to increase the training quota to 6 000 as well as increasing the training allowance and duration. What are the outcomes of the additional funding in 2012-13? How many new entrants have remained in the construction industry after receiving the CIC training since 2010? Please provide a breakdown by various trades of the industry.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Development Bureau (DEVB) has obtained approval from the Legislative Council for a total of \$320 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to implement various training initiatives to attract new entrants to the construction industry and enhance the skill levels of local workers. The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) provides training allowances for the trades facing labour shortages to attract new entrants to the industry. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2013, more than 2 000 training places for the ECMTS have been provided for trades including bar-bender and fixer, carpenter (formwork), metal formwork erector and concreter, drainlayer, metal worker, scaffolder, tower crane workers' assistant, leveller, site surveying officer and tunnel worker. About 60% of the trainees were aged below 35 and many are new entrants, indicating that younger people have been attracted to join the construction industry. According to CIC, about 1 600 trainees have joined the construction industry after graduation.

DEVB has provided subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses to encourage and assist the in-service construction workers to be registered as skilled workers, and has provided subsidy to the senior construction workers to

assist them to advance to the frontline supervisors / management level. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2013, there were about 4 800 in-service workers who have applied for the above subsidies.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)175**

Question Serial No.

4921

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

As mentioned under this programme, the Government has announced that Kowloon East will be transformed into an attractive premier business district in order to meet the demand for quality office space outside traditional central business districts. Specifically, this will involve land use review, urban design, improved connectivity and the associated infrastructure. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- 1) What does it mean by “premier business district”? Are there any specific targets or figures against which the initiative will be assessed whether it has finally achieved the expected results? If not, what are the reasons?
- 2) What is the overall progress and the progress of individual items since the launch of the initiative?
- 3) What are the details of the various items of the Energizing Kowloon East initiative and their respective amounts of provision in 2013-2014?
- 4) What is the definition of “industrial heritage of Kowloon East”?
- 5) Regarding the initiative to “carry out strategic planning studies to release the potential of the government sites including the two Action Areas”, what are the details of the “government sites”?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (1) It is our target to make Kowloon East (KE) another “premier business district” - a place where people would like to work, to do business, to walk, to stay and to play. KE has the potential to supply an additional office floor area of 4 million square metres, which is equal to twice the total office space in Central. It will be the major source of new office supply to sustain our economic growth and strengthen our global competitiveness.



As Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay are mostly occupied by private developments and the economic activities there are still very vibrant, its transformation process, which is mainly market driven, is a delicate balance between facilitating new development while maintaining the existing economic vibrancy. The process is likely to be organic and will extend over a long period of time. We therefore do not have a specific target date for completion of the transformation of KE. However, we would expect to see more apparent effect of the transformation in about 10 years' time when the Kai Tak Development would be more or less completed.

(2)&(3) Since the setting up of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) in June 2012, EKEO has taken forward various works aiming at enhancing connectivity, improving environment and releasing development potential in KE:

(i) Enhancing Connectivity

We have implemented 12 local traffic improvement works, converted 26 existing directional signs from "Kwun Tong Industrial Area" to "Kwun Tong Business Area", provided 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, and reviewed 41 existing road junctions with improvement works done in KE. The first stage public engagement exercise regarding the development of an Environmentally Friendly Linkage System has also been completed and the second stage engagement will be rolled out in mid 2013. In February 2013, we commissioned a feasibility study to improve the pedestrian environment at Kowloon Bay Business Area. We have also kick-started the preparation works for the realignment of Hoi Bun Road to convert it to a tree-lined boulevard and the enhancement of traffic/pedestrian environment at Shun Yip Street, Hang Yip Street and Yan Yip Street. We will continue pushing ahead other local traffic improvement works with the Transport Department and Highways Department in KE.

(ii) Improving Environment

We have converted one of the unused sites underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass to an informal venue called "Fly the Flyover Operation 01" which has already been opened for public use since January 2013. Drainage facilities blocking the pedestrian way and views along Hoi Bun Road are being removed in phases with the first phase completed in January 2013. Improvement of Hoi Bun Road sitting out area will also commence around mid 2013. Kwun Tong Promenade phase 2 project, face-lifting of Lai Yip Street public toilet and face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground phase 1 are currently under construction. Meanwhile, we have commissioned the pre-construction/design works for various face-lifting projects to existing facilities including Tsun Yip Street Cooked Food Centre, Kwun Tong public ferry pier and Lai Yip Street Refuse Collection Point. We have also commissioned the hydraulic performance analysis for the King Yip Street nullah to facilitate examination of its conversion to a landscaped Tsui Ping River. 28 trees and 5 700 shrubs have been planted along Lai Yip Street, Hoi Bun Road and various locations in KE. More trees and shrubs will be planted under the greening master plan.

(iii) Releasing Development Potential

We are working closely with concerned departments in relocating the existing facilities including the vehicle examination centre, waste recycling centre and driving test centre

in the two Action Areas in KE such that the sites currently occupied by these facilities can be released for diversified uses and activities conducive towards transformation of KE. The pre-construction works for relocating these facilities are underway. We have also commenced preparation works for the Kai Tak Fantasy in organizing an international idea competition to generate original concepts, master planning and urban design layouts and schemes for the area comprising the former runway tip taking due account of other developments at the runway, the Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Area and the water body enclosed between them.

In 2013-14, EKEO will spend \$7.7 million on appointing consultants to undertake various studies to facilitate the carrying out of the abovementioned work. In addition, in-house resources of EKEO will be deployed to conduct preliminary studies on them, as necessary.

- (4) Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay used to be one of HK's thriving manufacturing centres in the late 50's to mid 80's. The industrial heritage of KE refers to both tangible and intangible aspects of its different industries in terms of tools and machinery, building structures, documents and photographs, as well as tales and stories of the entrepreneurs and workers. Some of such industries, which are still in active operation, may have existed in the area for a long period of time. Others may be manufactured brand-named products that are popular world-wide, and are unique and rarely found nowadays. In recent years, KE has nurtured Hong Kong's arts and cultural services and creative industries. The concept of living industrial heritage of KE is evolving and its legacy extending in the pace of rapid urban transformation.
- (5) Two Action Areas, with clusters of existing facilities in KE, are identified to have potential for optimizing their development to facilitate the transformation of KE. They are now mainly occupied by waste recycling centre, vehicle examination centre and driving test centre. The EKEO is considering relocating these facilities and speeding up the release of these government sites for development of a diversity of uses and activities.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)176**

Question Serial No.

4271

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:

It is stated in Programme (3) that the Administration will carry out surveillance of trees through co-operation with District Councils, schools and non-governmental organisations. Please provide the following information:

1. What is the current mode of co-operation between the Administration and the three parties? Please provide details and number of co-operation among them in the past 3 years (2010, 2011 and 2012).
2. What is the established response mechanism, such as response time and improvement mechanism, with regard to the feedback (including comments and reports) made by the three parties to the Administration on the surveillance of trees?
3. What are the numbers and details of public education and community involvement activities organised by the Administration in the past 3 years (2010, 2011 and 2012)? How to assess the effectiveness of the activities?
4. What are the numbers of public enquiries and comments on tree condition received in the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012)? What is the follow-up mechanism for public enquiries and comments?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. In the past three years, the Tree Management Office (TMO) of the Development Bureau (DEVB) has arranged 18 talks on tree management for District Councils and visited every District Council to promote community surveillance on trees. Three guided visits of Old and Valuable Trees have been organised for District Councillors. TMO has organised roving exhibitions on tree care, guided tree tours and delivered a total of 28 talks for secondary and primary schools. Moreover, TMO arranged a total of 16 seminars for the public, professional groups and other non-government

organizations such as the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies, Rotary Club and Hong Kong Scout Association on proper tree management and tree care.

2. Upon receipt of tree cases, TMO would make referrals to the responsible tree management departments for follow up action, monitor the progress and keep complainants posted of development. TMO will acknowledge receipt of the tree case within seven days. In view of the varying degree of complexity of individual cases, an interim reply will be issued if the case cannot be settled within a short period of time. TMO will also take the lead in resolving complex tree cases which the tree management departments may not be able to deal with by themselves, e.g. cases requiring specialised arboricultural expertise, trees of special interest to the community, or cases with cross-departmental implications, etc.
3. The DEVB seeks to foster a culture of care for greenery, including trees, across the territory through a variety of community involvement and public education activities, and encourages the public to participate in community surveillance of trees. In addition to conducting seminars and talks, DEVB publishes the 'Greening' Newsletter regularly and releases updated information on its websites to disseminate messages of greening and tree management to different sectors of the community. A Photography/Video Contest has been organised to enhance the awareness of the general public of the value of trees and landscape and the importance of tree preservation. TMO has also developed an interactive game, 'Tree Care Action Team', using the 'Facebook' platform to promote community surveillance of trees. TMO has organised 36 public education and community involvement activities with about 10 000 participants in the past three years.
4. About 29 300 enquiries and complaints concerning tree management were received by the "1823" Call Centre, the major tree management departments and TMO of the DEVB from 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2012. Upon receipt of public enquiries and comments on tree matters, TMO would make referrals to the responsible tree management departments for follow up action, monitor the progress and keep complainants posted of development. TMO will also take the lead in resolving complex tree cases which the tree management departments may not be able to deal with by themselves. For cases that have remained unresolved for a period of time, TMO will liaise and follow up with the responsible department.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)177**

Question Serial No.

4306

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:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 under Programme (2) that the Works Branch will continue to work closely with the selected non-profit-making organisation in the coming year to transform the former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters Site into a creative industries landmark by end 2013. Please provide the following information:

1. What is the latest progress of the above revitalisation project in 2012-13? Will it be completed as scheduled by the end of 2013? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Can the Administration engage enough professionals for the operation of the creative industries landmark? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
3. Regarding the above conservation project, how much area and space of the creative industries landmark is expected to be open to the public? How much of them is used for the introduction of the history of the Central School and display of relevant artefacts?
4. How the future creative industries landmark and the nearby Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail can create synergy effects and become a place of innovation, local culture and historical integration?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. Regarding the progress of the construction works, most of the structural strengthening works and revitalisation works have been completed. The internal builder's works and building services works are now in progress. Excavation for the underground interpretation area has commenced. Works for the project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2013.

2. The selected non-profit-making organisation, Musketeers Education and Culture Charitable Foundation Limited, has set up the PMQ Management Company Limited for the operation of the project. As such, the Government will not be required to bear any expenditure or contribute manpower for the operation of the project.
3. Most of the facilities of the project, including studio units, covered and semi-covered event spaces, will be open to public throughout the year. The project will provide about 1 400 m<sup>2</sup> of public open space. The underground interpretation area of about 230 m<sup>2</sup> will display the archaeological remains of the stone foundation of the former Central School.
4. To manifest the cultural characteristics of the area, the project will link up with and become part of the nearby Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail. Guided tours will be provided within the site for interpretation of the history of the former Central School.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)178**

Question Serial No.

3948

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 Programme (5), the Administration will in 2013-14 continue to promote the construction and related professional services and to pursue further market access in the Mainland with focus on effective implementation of pilot schemes for construction and related engineering professionals to register and practise there. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What are the numbers of participants in the above pilot schemes this year (i.e. 2012-13)? What are the occupations of the participants? How many of them have successfully practised and set up enterprises in the Guangdong Province through the schemes?
2. Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the schemes? If yes, what are the details?
3. Does the Administration have any plans to extend the schemes to regions beyond Guangdong Province? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

1. Commencing from 1 May 2012, the Guangdong pilot scheme allows progressively the Hong Kong professionals who have, through mutual recognition, acquired the relevant Mainland professional qualifications to register for practice as well as setting up enterprises in Guangdong. So far, a total of 224 Hong Kong Architects, 50 Structural Engineers and 228 Building Surveyors are qualified to register for practice and setting up enterprises in Guangdong. Two Building Surveyors have already registered for practice. Recently, three architectural services enterprises have applied for setting up their enterprises, involving a total of 13 Hong Kong Architects applying for registration for practice in Guangdong.

2. The above mentioned pilot scheme has only come into operation in two phases recently. Under the scheme, Hong Kong Architects and Structural Engineers are allowed effective from 1 May 2012 and Building Surveyors effective from 1 January 2013 to register for practice and set up their enterprises. The Development Bureau will continuously maintain close liaison with the Department of Housing And Urban-Rural Development of Guangdong Province for a review on the effectiveness of the scheme in due course.

3. The Development Bureau has proposed to the Mainland authority the extension of the scheme to other provinces in the Mainland. The authority concerned has to conduct a review on the implementation and effectiveness of this pilot scheme prior to giving consideration for extending the scheme beyond Guangdong Province. We will maintain close liaison with them with a view to implementing the arrangements for early extension of the scheme. Apart from the existing staff establishment with some of their times engaged in dealing with the above mentioned tasks, amongst other responsibilities, the Mainland Affairs Team (with three full-time staff members, comprising one Team Leader (Mainland Affairs), one Senior Executive Officer and one Executive Officer I) of the Works Branch is specially tasked to deal with services promotion to Mainland including the Guangdong pilot scheme. The total annual expenditure is estimated to be \$2.7 million.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)179**

Question Serial No.

4587

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

Programme:                      (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 under this programme, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the projected work plans and estimated expenditure for improving the connectivity and pedestrian linkages between Kowloon East and its neighbouring areas in 2013-14?
2. What are the progress and estimated completion dates of the short-term projects expected to be completed in 2013-14?
3. What are the detailed work plans, estimated completion dates, expenditure involved as well as details of consultation carried out regarding the face-lifting of waterfront along Hoi Bun Road, face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground and conversion of King Yip Street Nullah to Tsui Ping River?
4. What are the reasons for the over 120.7% increase in the estimate for Energizing Kowloon East initiative in 2013-14 as compared with last year?
5. The Works Branch will carry out strategic studies to release the potential of the government sites and a study on the industrial heritage of Kowloon East. What are the details of the studies? Please set out the estimated commencement dates, estimated expenditure and estimated completion dates of the studies, and the ways the Branch plans to make use of the findings.
6. In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Works Branch will also engage the community to review and refine the Conceptual Master Plan and maintain active dialogue with the local community. What activities does the Administration plan to organise to improve its communication with the community? Please list the estimated date, mode, budget and communication target of each of these activities.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. According to the Energizing Kowloon East Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) 2.0, three out of the ten major tasks specifically focus on enhancing the connectivity from the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong MTR Stations to the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong Business Areas.

We have commissioned consultants to undertake a feasibility study in February 2013 for completion in late 2014 to examine improvement required for the pedestrian environment at the Kowloon Bay Business Area. The study will cost about \$7 million and be administered by in-house resources of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO). The Study will identify short-term measures to improve the existing pedestrian environment for early implementation ahead of completion of the Study. For medium to long-term proposals, we will formulate an implementation plan with the relevant departments and carry out detailed assessment and design as necessary.

We have established an inter-departmental traffic focus group with the Transport Department and Highways Department to work out short-term road improvement measures, including enhancement to pedestrian environment in the Kwun Tong Business Area. Some of these measures, including improvement works to 41 existing road junctions and provision of 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, have been implemented by the departments. We will continue to push ahead with other improvement works to pedestrian linkages in the Kwun Tong Business Area, and to undertake technical studies and consult the Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) as necessary.

2. EKEO is currently taking forward various short term projects which could be classified into 3 groups: enhancing connectivity, improving environment and releasing development potential.

(a) Enhancing Connectivity

We have implemented 12 local traffic improvement works, converted 26 existing directional signs from “Kwun Tong Industrial Area” to “Kwun Tong Business Area”, provided 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, and reviewed 41 existing road junctions with improvement works done in Kowloon East (KE). In February 2013, we commissioned a feasibility study to improve the pedestrian environment at the Kowloon Bay Business Area, and the stage 1 findings on the proposed at-grade level improvement would be available in late 2013. We have also kick-started the preparation works for the enhancement of traffic/pedestrian environment at Shun Yip Street, Hang Yip Street and Yan Yip Street. We will continue pushing ahead other local traffic improvement works which are being rolled out progressively with the Transport Department and Highways Department in KE.

(b) Improving Environment

We have converted one of the unused sites underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass to an informal venue called “Fly the Flyover Operation 01” which has already been opened for public use since January 2013. We have proceeded to explore opportunities to provide suitable space for artists, art group and creative designers in the remaining plots of flyover sites for diversified activities. Drainage facilities blocking the pedestrian way and views along Hoi Bun Road are being removed in phases with the first phase completed in January 2013. Face-lifting of Lai Yip Street public toilet and face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground phase 1 are currently under construction. We have also commissioned the hydraulic performance analysis for the King Yip Street nullah to facilitate examination of its conversion to a landscaped Tsui Ping River and the result would be available later this year. 28 trees and 5 700 shrubs have been planted along Lai Yip Street, Hoi Bun Road and various locations in KE. More trees and shrubs will be planted under the greening master plan.

(c) Releasing Development Potential

We are working closely with concerned departments in relocating the existing facilities including the vehicle examination centre, waste recycling centre and driving test centre in the two Action Areas in KE such that the sites currently occupied by these facilities can be released for diversified uses and activities conducive towards transformation of KE. The pre-construction works for relocating these facilities are underway.

3. (a) Revitalisation of Kwun Tong Waterfront

EKEO has derived a comprehensive revitalisation strategy for the Kwun Tong waterfront. Apart from the Kwun Tong Promenade stage 2 project which has already started works in February 2013, we have converted one of the unused sites underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass to an informal venue called “Fly the Flyover Operation 01”. The area has already been opened for public use since January 2013. We have also started the preparation works for the realignment of Hoi Bun Road to convert it to a tree-lined boulevard. The project estimate and details of the works will be established when the project is included in the Public Works Programme at a later stage. We have consulted KTDC in January 2013 on the Hoi Bun Road greening works. We will continue to consult KTDC at various design stages.

(b) Face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground

We have consulted KTDC in September 2012 on the face-lifting scheme and obtained support from members. The face-lifting works will be implemented in two phases. The phase 1 works covering the removal of railings and renovation of the sitting out area have commenced in January 2013 and the phase 2 works for converting the remaining Tsun Yip Street Playground to an industrial heritage park is targeted for commencement in 2014-15. The whole project will be completed in 2016-17. Consultants have been employed to undertake the design and implementation of the phase 1 works.

(c) Conversion of King Yip Street Nullah

Our intention is to convert the King Yip Street nullah to a landscaped Tsui Ping River with environmental, ecological and landscaping upgrading without compromising the storm-water discharge function and capacity. The project estimate and details of the works will be established when the project is included in the Public Works Programme. We will also consult KTDC at the later design stage.

4. EKEO was set up in June 2012 to facilitate the transformation of KE into another core business district in accordance with the Energizing Kowloon East CMP. The increase in financial provision in 2013-14 as compared to the original estimate in 2012-13 is mainly due to the following-

- (a) expenditure items which have not been provided in the original estimate including civil service pay adjustment in 2012-13, public engagement activities and branding events;
- (b) increase in staff cost for filling of vacant posts;
- (c) consultancies including traffic and pedestrian studies as well as industry heritage studies and other planning studies; and
- (d) increase in other operating expenses.

5. (a) Studies to release the potential of the government sites

Two Action Areas, with clusters of existing facilities in KE, are identified to have potential for optimizing their development to facilitate the transformation of KE. They are now mainly occupied by waste recycling centre, vehicle examination centre and driving test centre. The EKEO is considering relocating these facilities and speeding up the release of these government sites for development of a diversity of uses and activities. Consultants will be commissioned to examine the feasibility of relocating these facilities and formulate master development plans for the comprehensive development of the sites. The consultancy studies scheduled for commencement in 2013-14 are estimated to cost about \$6 million and will take around two years to complete.

(b) Study on industrial heritage of KE

In December 2012, the EKEO commissioned a multi-disciplinary team of consultants comprising historians, architects, artists, planners and overseas experts to undertake a "Study on Industrial Heritage of Kowloon East and its Potential for Public Art and Urban Design". The Study will systematically collect and record the industrial development history of KE, translate the unique industrial heritage into urban design guidelines and potential for public art installations. To arouse public interest on the industrial heritage of the study area, public engagement activities will be undertaken during the course of the Study. The findings of the Study will provide guidance in the transformation process of KE into a core business district to enhance its urban culture and integrate the area's industrial legacy with the vision of future creative design. The estimated budget of the Study is approximately \$1.4 million funded under Head 159. The Study is expected to be completed in one to one and a half years.

6. The CMP for Energizing Kowloon East is a broad framework to guide EKEO in formulating its major action plans to facilitate the transformation process of KE. The CMP is a living and evolving document to be updated periodically to take on board public views received in the on-going public engagement process.

To facilitate the urban transformation process, EKEO is applying the “place-making” approach and has engaged various stakeholders, including professional institutions, property owners and District Councils of Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City to collect their views. More than 1,800 participants have participated in various public engagement activities including briefings, public workshop, artist workshop, place making forum, international seminars and international exhibitions organised by EKEO. EKEO will continue to engage different stakeholders, collect their valuable views and suggestions in pushing ahead with various area improvement projects.

EKEO has also organized a number of promotional activities including a weekly carnival ‘Playful Thursday’ with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and KTDC at Tsun Yip Street Playground from 25 October 2012 to 10 January 2013, Launching Ceremony of Face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground on 10 January 2013, Opening Ceremony of Fly the Flyover 01 on 20 January 2013, and “Sharing Memoirs and Extending Legacy in Transforming Kowloon East” campaign from 1 March to 31 May 2013. EKEO will continue to explore opportunities in promoting the initiative of Energizing Kowloon East.

Name in block letters:	C S Wai
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Date:	16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)180**

Question Serial No.

3544

Head: Capital Works Reserve                      Subhead (No. & title):  
Fund Heads 703, 704, 705, 706,  
707, 709 and 711

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;
- (c) the additional expenditure to be incurred for each of these projects due to deferral; and
- (d) 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 2013-14 Draft Estimates under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, there are eleven 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 required for tendering; (ii) more time required for tender assessment; (iii) extension of tendering periods as requested by tenderers; and (iv) re-tendering.

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

<b>Sub-head (Code)</b>	<b>Approved Projects</b>	<b>Latest estimated completion dates</b>
4104CD	Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island—western lower catchment works	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2013
4365DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 2C	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2014
6805TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Fanling Highway (MTR Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road)	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013
7271RS	Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories—Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2013

The other seven projects have already been completed.

- (c) Discounting the increase in construction price, no additional expenditure has been incurred for these projects as a result of deferral.
- (d) 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.

Name in block letters: C S Wai  
 Post Title: Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
 Date: 16 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)181**

Question Serial No.

4396

Head: 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead:

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 that the Administration will “plan and implement government facilities in Kai Tak, including the Cruise Terminal, government offices, schools and recreational facilities”. Will the Administration advise this Committee on the work progress of the government facilities in Kai Tak and their latest anticipated completion and commissioning dates?

Asked by: Hon. Fung Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

Of the 13 ArchSD's projects for government facilities at Kai Tak Development, the details are as follows:

Item	Project No.	Project title	Project Progress	Expected Project Completion Date	Expected Project Commissioning Date
1.	3007GA	Cruise terminal building and ancillary facilities for Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Development	Construction works in progress	May 2013	June 2013
2.	3172BF	Construction of fire station-cum-ambulance facility at Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	Construction works in progress	early June 2013	June 2013
3.	3443RO	Runway Park at Kai Tak, Kowloon City District – Phase 1	Construction works in progress	July 2013 (Section 1A), December 2013 (Section 1B)	September 2013 (Section 1A), March 2014 (Section 1B)
4.	3439RO	Kwun Tong promenade - Stage 2	Construction works in progress	December 2014	March 2015
5.	3109KA	Construction of Trade and Industry Tower in Kai Tak Development Area	Construction works in progress	December 2014	June 2015



Item	Project No.	Project title	Project Progress	Expected Project Completion Date	Expected Project Commissioning Date
6.	3349EP	A 30-classroom primary school at Site 1A-3, Kai Tak Development	Preparation of tender document in progress	Q3 2015	Q1 2016
7.	3350EP	A 30-classroom primary school at Site 1A-4, Kai Tak Development	Preparation of tender document in progress	Q3 2015	Q1 2016
8.	3436RO	Open space at Kai Tak Avenue Park, Kowloon City District	Design in progress	Q4 2015	Q1 2016
9.	3441RO	Open Space at Ma Tau Kok Waterfront, Kowloon City District	Design in progress	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
10.	3108ET	Two special schools at Site 5C-5, Kai Tak Development	Procurement of consultant in progress	under planning	under planning
11.	3271ES	A 30-classroom secondary school at Site 1A-2, Kai Tak Development	Technical Feasibility Statement completed	under planning	under planning
12.	8076MM	Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics	Tendering in progress	Q2 2017	Q2 2018
13.	3237LP	Kowloon East Police Regional Headquarters and Operational Base cum Ngau Tau Kok Divisional Police Station at 105 Concorde Road, Kai Tak	Pre-qualification of tenderers in progress	under planning	under planning

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 10.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)182**

Question Serial No.

4291

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:

It is mentioned under Programme (1) that the Administration will “promote roof greening and vertical greening, and enhance practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works”. In this regard, would the Administration provide the following information:

- (1) the respective number of government buildings in which roof greening and vertical greening projects have been completed;
- (2) the total greened area in government buildings and the percentage it represents in the gross area of government buildings;
- (3) classification details of technologies on roof greening and vertical greening, expenditures incurred by the above greening projects in 2012-13 as well as the number of greening projects expected to be implemented in 2013-14 and their expenditures; and
- (4) the method to be adopted by the Administration in 2013-14 to continue the promotion of roof greening and vertical greening projects in public and private buildings.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (1) From 2001 to March 2013, ArchSD completed roof greening on 127 new buildings and 89 existing buildings as well as vertical greening on 42 new buildings and three existing buildings.
- (2) As an on-going initiative, ArchSD has been enhancing greening through maximization of greenery coverage, and provision of roof greening and vertical greening. Although we have no statistics on the greened areas and the greening ratio for all our completed projects in the past, we have started compiling statistics since 2010 on site coverage of greening for new projects with a site area larger than 1 000 m<sup>2</sup>. From 2010 to 2012, there were 30 projects with a site area larger than 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> having achieved over 20% of site coverage of greenery.

- (3) Roof greening can broadly be classified into extensive type involving green roofs that are lightweight, have limited amount of suitable species and are geared for low maintenance, and intensive type involving green roofs that have deep soils, more variety of suitable plant and are geared for recreational use by human beings. Vertical greening is generally in the form of planting of self clinging climbers or modular systems on building facades. In 2012-13, ArchSD completed roof greening on new and existing buildings at an expenditure of \$31.7 million, and vertical greening on new and existing buildings at an expenditure of \$7.4 million. In 2013-14, ArchSD will complete roof greening on new buildings in nine projects and on existing buildings in ten projects, at an estimated expenditure of \$32.7 million, and will also complete vertical greening on new buildings in seven projects and on existing building in one project, at an estimated expenditure of \$5.6 million.
- (4) In 2013-14, ArchSD will continue to include roof greening where practicable in new government buildings 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.

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 of 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.

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 10.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)183**

Question Serial No.

4299

Head: 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead:

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the implementation of renewable energy works, would the Administration provide information relating to the works in the past five years (from 2008-09 to 2012-13) in the table below:

Year	Buildings/ facilities involved	Types of renewable energy	Amount of electricity generated	Amount of carbon emission reduced	Related expenditures

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Renewable energy works in the past five years (from 2008-09 to 2012-13) :

Year	Buildings/ Facilities Involved	Type of Renewable Energy Technologies	Electricity generated <sup>1</sup>	Reduction in carbon emission <sup>2</sup>	Installation Cost
2008-09	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2009-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sports facilities and open spaces</li> <li>- Education facilities</li> <li>- Quarters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar Water Heating System</li> <li>- Solar PV System</li> </ul>	About 19 000 kWh per annum	About 13 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$5.1 million
2010-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education facilities</li> <li>- Sports and mixed amenity facilities and open spaces</li> <li>- Correctional services facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar Water Heating System</li> <li>- Solar PV System</li> <li>- Wind Power System</li> <li>- Solar Lighting</li> </ul>	About 581 000 kWh per annum	About 407 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$20.2 million
2011-12 <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education facilities</li> <li>- Sports, cultural, mixed amenity facilities and open spaces</li> <li>- Medical facilities</li> <li>- Community halls</li> <li>- Government offices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar Water Heating System</li> <li>- Solar PV System</li> <li>- Wind Power System</li> </ul>	About 1 128 000 kWh per annum	About 790 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$42.3 million
2012-13 <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education facilities</li> <li>- Sports and mixed amenity facilities</li> <li>- Quarters</li> <li>- Government offices</li> <li>- Columbaria and crematoria</li> <li>- Medical facilities</li> <li>- Food supply facilities</li> <li>- Boundary facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar Water Heating System</li> <li>- Solar PV System</li> <li>- Solar Lighting</li> </ul>	About 323 000 kWh per annum	About 226 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$14.8 million

## Remarks

- 1 The amount of electricity generated is affected by various factors such as sunshine hours and wind speed.
- 2 The estimation of reduction in carbon emission is based on the territory-wide conversion factor of 0.7kg / kWh.
- 3 Types of renewable energy technologies (RET) and amount of electricity generated in each year depend on the number and nature of projects completed in that year as well as the site condition such as the availability of roof space, etc. Some projects with larger scale of RET adopted were completed in 2011-12, such as Swimming Pool Complex in Area 1, Tuen Mun (electricity generated by RET is about 380 000 kWh per annum) and Expansion of Tseung Kwan O Hospital – New Ambulatory Block (electricity generated by RET is about 217 000 kWh per annum).

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 10.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)184**

Question Serial No.

3443

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 list out by districts the number of trees felled and re-planted and the relevant expenditures during the slope maintenance work by the Government in the past financial year. How did the Government deal with the trees removed in the works and was there any additional expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Slope maintenance works, comprising mainly simple operations such as clearance of debris from drainage channels and repair of cracked surface covers to upkeep man-made slopes in good condition, are carried out by the respective slope maintenance departments including the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Architectural Services Department, Drainage Services Department, Lands Department, Highways Department, Housing Department and Water Supplies Department. According to information provided by the slope maintenance departments, no tree felling was required during the implementation of routine slope maintenance works in the last financial year.

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) carries out landslip prevention and mitigation works under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP). The numbers of trees felled and new trees planted in connection with landslip prevention and mitigation works carried out by the CEDD under the LPMitP in the past financial year are shown in the table below. We have not kept separate records for the expenditure for tree felling and planting, which is part of the landslip prevention and mitigation works.

Financial year	District	Number of trees felled due to tree health or to facilitate landslip prevention and mitigation works*	Number of new trees planted
2012-13 (up to end of February 2013)	Hong Kong Island	107	4 361
	Kowloon	137	4 950
	New Territories	38	157
	Outlying Islands	52	1 005
<b>Total</b>		<b>334</b>	<b>10 473</b>

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

The removed trees, which usually could not be transplanted, were either recycled into fertilizer or disposed of together with construction waste. No additional cost was involved.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 10 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)185**

Question Serial No.

3444

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:

1. Please provide the quantity of slope improvement works completed by way of shotcrete, soil nail or other means respectively last year (2012-2013), and the average expenditure of each type of works.
2. How many slopes with no immediate risks underwent improvement works by way of shotcrete last year? Also, how many slopes on which coloured shotcrete was applied as a mitigation measure after undergoing shotcrete works?
3. How many private slope owners implemented slope maintenance works by way of shotcrete last year? Has the Department allocated resources to encourage private slope owners to switch to other means for implementing slope maintenance works? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. In 2012-13, the Department has upgraded under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) a total of 151 man-made slopes with 120 slopes by soil nails and 31 slopes by other means such as rock stabilization measures. Among the 120 man-made slopes involving the use of soil nails, shotcrete was applied to 45 slopes as the principal means of surface protection where the application of vegetation cover is not feasible, such as on steep or rocky slopes. No shotcrete was used for the 31 slopes upgraded by other means. For slopes upgraded by the use of soil nails, the average cost of soil nailing is about \$2.4 million per slope. For slopes that involve the use of shotcrete as the principal means of surface protection, the average cost of provision of shotcrete slope cover is about \$0.3 million per slope.
2. All the 151 man-made slopes upgraded under the LPMitP in 2012-13 were of safety concern although they were not categorised as of immediate and obvious danger.

Among the 45 slopes with shotcrete as the principal means of surface protection, coloured shotcrete was applied to 32 slopes.

3. We have no statistics on the number of private slope owners implementing slope maintenance works by way of shotcrete. The Government has been making continuous efforts in improving the appearance of slopes in Hong Kong. The Buildings Department has issued Practice Notes for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers No. ADV23 “Improvement of Visual Appearance and Landscape Treatment for Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls” in 2004, encouraging professionals to consider green measures when implementing slope maintenance works. The Civil Engineering and Development Department has also produced a layman’s guide on landscape treatment for slopes for use by the public and carried out publicity activities to encourage private slope owners to improve the appearance of their slopes.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 10 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)186**

Question Serial No.

3445

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:

When will the government expect all the New Territories (NT) Greening Master Plans (GMPs) development work be completed and the NT GMPs be implemented? Please provide the details of the schedule of work and estimated expenditures.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Southeast NT (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and Northwest NT (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. The proposed GMPs were discussed by the relevant District Councils (DCs) in February and March 2013. The DCs consulted have indicated support to our proposed GMPs. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Northeast NT (covering Tai Po and North District) and Southwest NT (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. The draft GMPs are under preparation and expected to be available in the second half of 2013. The total estimated expenditure for the formulation of the NT GMPs is about \$70 million.

We will determine the timetable for implementing the recommended greening works after the GMPs are formulated. The construction works would normally take about 2 to 3 years. The estimated expenditure for the construction of the greening works will be worked out after the detailed design is completed.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)187**

Question Serial No.

3809

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:

Regarding the Brief Description, it mentions “The Department continued the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) to upgrade sub-standard government man-made slopes, mitigate landslide hazard arising from natural hillside catchments, and conduct safety-screening for private man-made slopes”, will the government inform this Committee: in 2011-12 and 2012-13, the quantity of trees felled, relocated and re-planted during the implementation of the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme and the LPMitP for slope improvement works (please specify according to the demarcation of district councils)?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Landslip Preventive Measures Programme (LPMP) was completed in 2010. Regarding the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme which has been launched to dovetail with the LPMP, the numbers of trees felled, transplanted and new trees planted in connection with slope engineering works carried out by the Civil Engineering and Development Department in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are shown in the table below. We do not have readily available information on their breakdown according to demarcation of district councils.

Financial year	District	Number of trees felled due to tree health or to facilitate slope engineering works*	Number of trees transplanted	Number of new trees planted
2011-12	Hong Kong Island	166	0	1 272
	Kowloon	29	0	229
	New Territories	57	0	1 914
	Outlying Islands	0	0	1 675
	Subtotal	252	0	5 090
2012-13 (up to end February 2013)	Hong Kong Island	107	0	4 361
	Kowloon	137	0	4 950
	New Territories	38	0	157
	Outlying Islands	52	0	1 005
	Subtotal	334	0	10 473
<b>Total</b>		<b>586</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15 563</b>

Note: \* None of the trees felled is old and valuable tree.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)188**

Question Serial No.

5477

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 impacts of reclamation on nature conservation, please advise:

(a) Whether consideration has been given about reclaiming away from areas of high ecological value; if yes, what are the details, including the estimated expenditures and staff establishment; and the project theme and conclusion (if any) of the study on this subject? If no, what are the reasons?

(b) Whether studies have been conducted on the social, economic and environmental costs of the proposed reclamation and associated infrastructural works (such as bridges and tunnels); and on the comparison with other options of increasing land supply? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

(a) The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) commenced a study in July 2011 on enhancing the land supply strategy by reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development. We conducted stage 1 public engagement (PE1) from November 2011 to March 2012. The results of PE1 showed a general support of the proposed site selection criteria for reclamation with importance attached to the impact on the environment (particularly marine ecology) and the local community. We conducted a territory-wide site search and broad technical assessment for the potential reclamation sites. Based on the site selection criteria, we have selected five near-shore reclamation sites and proposed to explore the feasibility of constructing artificial islands in the central waters between the Hong Kong Island and Lantau for stage 2 public engagement (PE2), which commenced on 21 March 2013. Areas of high ecological value have been avoided. The expenditure for the study in 2012-13 was about \$10.5 million. As the study covers both reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, we do not have a separate cost breakdown for the part of the study to address the impacts of reclamation on

ecology. On staff deployment, CEDD has deployed an average of two senior engineers and four engineers for the study in 2012-13.

(b) During PE1, we presented a six pronged approach of increasing land supply including rezoning land, redevelopment, land resumption, reclamation, rock cavern development, and reuse of ex-quarry sites. The limitations and challenges of the six options of increasing land supply were also spelt out. We also carried out broad technical assessment on the potential reclamation sites and considered aspects such as social harmony and benefits, environmental implications, economic efficiency and practicality to identify the potential reclamation sites for PE2. Upon completion of the PE2, we will seek funding to conduct detailed technical studies including impact assessments on the social, economic and environmental aspects of the proposed reclamation sites and associated infrastructure works. Whilst taking forward these reclamation proposals, the Administration will continue exploring other options for increasing land supply to meet the needs of Hong Kong.

Name in block letters:	C K HON
Post Title:	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Date:	10 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)189**

Question Serial No.

5456

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:

Upon the promotion of the “Environmentally Friendly Linkage System in Energizing Kowloon East”, there has been a public outcry about the sky-high construction cost. Will the Secretary for Development and Secretary for Transport and Housing provide detailed data on the estimated passenger flow, detailed estimates on the cost and operation of this project as well as the comparison with the costing and financial scheme of the other advanced railways around the world?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

According to the preliminary assessment in the feasibility study of the proposed Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS), the estimated average daily patronage is about 200 000 in 2031.

The preliminary estimated capital cost of the proposed EFLS in the form of a monorail system is in the order of \$12 billion at 2010 prices, including design fees, construction costs and project management costs. The preliminary assessment of the annual operating and maintenance expenses of the proposed EFLS could range from \$18 to \$23 million per kilometre of rail length at 2010 prices. The actual figures will depend on the final design and the operating situation.

There are quite a number of monorails in use in overseas cities. However, given the differences in topographical environment, social factor, local constraints and implementation framework, it would not be practical to compare the capital, operation and maintenance costs among the schemes. The proposed EFLS has many unique characteristics including the provision of a bridge directly connecting the end of former runway with Kwun Tong district, passenger interchange facilities with adjoining MTR stations, and the alignment through the existing highly congested urban areas. Moreover,



the EFLS will facilitate energizing Kowloon East to transform the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong districts into an alternative central business district.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)190**

Question Serial No.

4298

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:

**Regarding the development of the New Territories (NT) Greening Master Plans (GMPs), please give information on the present progress in various districts, including the number of GMPs completed and their distribution. And, what are the dates of completion of the public consultations, commencement of GMPs drafting, completion of GMPs drafting, commencement of works and completion of works respectively?**

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Southeast NT (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and Northwest NT (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) commenced in May 2011 for completion by end 2013. The proposed GMPs were discussed by the relevant District Councils (DCs) in February and March 2013. The DCs consulted have indicated support to our proposed GMPs. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for Northeast NT (covering Tai Po and North District) and Southwest NT (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid 2014. The draft GMPs are under preparation and expected to be available in the second half of 2013. We will determine the timetable for implementing the recommended greening works after the GMPs are formulated. The construction works would normally take about two to three years.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)191**

Question Serial No.

4596

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 enhancement of the cycle track network in Hong Kong under the Programme, please inform the Committee:

1. The progress, the expected completion date, the approved estimates and actual expenditures of the various projects tabulated below:

Project	Expected commencement and completion dates	Progress of works and details	Approved estimates	Will actual expenditures and estimates overrun and the reasons (if applicable)
Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories – Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section				
Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories –extension				
Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun				
Cycle Tracks connecting North				

West New Territories with North East New Territories – Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section				
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2. Apart from the above project, will any studies be conducted on the construction of more cycle tracks and bicycle parking space in urban areas (including Kai Tak Development areas, West Kowloon Cultural District and the promenade running along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island)? If yes, the details of the plans and the expenditure involved, etc.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. The progress, the expected completion date, the approved estimates and actual expenditures of the various projects are as follows: -

Project	Expected commencement and completion dates	Progress of works and details	Approved estimates	Will actual expenditures and estimates overrun and the reasons (if applicable)
Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories – Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section	Stage 1 Works – Construction works to commence in second quarter of 2013-14 for completion in end 2016	Stage 1 Works– works comprise 2.5 km new cycle tracks along Kam Tin River, Sheung Yue River and Shek Sheung River; 4.5 km cycle tracks improvement works in Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long; and associated works - Detailed design in progress.	NA	NA
	Remaining Works - programme to be determined	Remaining Works –works comprise 13.5 km new cycle tracks between Kam Tin River and Sheung Yue River; and associated works –		NA

		Detailed design in progress		
Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories—extension	Programme to be determined	Investigation/ preliminary design in progress	NA	NA
Cycle Tracks between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun	Programme of the construction works to be determined	<p>Advance Works –works comprise 2.3 km new cycle tracks between Tsing Tsuen Bridge and Bayview Garden - Detailed design and site investigation in progress.</p> <p>Stage 1 Works – works comprise 4.5 km new cycle tracks between Bayview Garden and Ting Kau - Detailed design in progress</p> <p>Stage 2 Works –works comprise 15.2 km new cycle tracks between Ting Kau and Tuen Mun - Alignment review in progress</p>	NA	NA

Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories – Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section	Construction works commenced in May 2010 for completion in end 2013	Construction in progress, with about 75% of the works completed	\$230.3 million	Approved Project Estimate not exceeded
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2. A cycle track network of total length about 6 km, aligned mainly along the waterfront of the former runway and south apron, has been planned for leisure and recreational use in the Kai Tak Development (KTD). In response to public aspirations, we are studying the feasibility of extending the cycle track network to enhance accessibility to major tourist and scenic spots in KTD, e.g. Lung Tsun Stone Bridge and Kai Tak River. The cost of the cycle track network will be determined when the detailed design is completed.

Separately, according to the current planning of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), cycle tracks are proposed in the park in WKCD for use by the public. The details and cost estimate of the proposed cycle tracks will be worked out during the detailed design of the park to be undertaken by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority.

In regard to Hong Kong Island, a study is being carried out on the technical feasibility of providing a boardwalk of about 2 km long underneath the Island Eastern Corridor extending from the future waterfront park under the Wan Chai Development Phase II project to Hoi Yu Street in Quarry Bay. The study will also investigate and make recommendations on the feasibility of incorporating cycle tracks and cycle parking spaces.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)192**

Question Serial No.

4929

Head: 705 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund : Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5750CL - Study on  
long-term strategy for  
cavern development

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the study on long-term strategy for cavern development, please advise:

- (A) Currently, how many locations have been included in the Study? How many caverns have greater potential for development?
- (B) Which caverns in the above locations have their planned future uses?
- (C) When is the expected completion date of the Study?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

- (A) & (B) The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) commenced a consultancy study on the long-term strategy for cavern development in September 2012. One of the main tasks of the study is to conduct a territory-wide review on locations suitable for cavern development with a view to reserving these areas for housing new facilities or relocation of suitable government facilities to rock caverns. The study is currently at the stage of methodology formulation. We will identify specific locations of cavern development and the planned future uses at a later stage.
- (C) The study is expected to be completed in end 2015.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)193**

Question Serial No.

4935

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund : New Towns and  
Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7685CL - Site formation  
of Areas 34 and 52 in  
Shui Chuen O and Area  
56A in Kau To, Sha Tin

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

(A) Regarding the site formation of Areas 34 and 52 in Shui Chuen O and Area 56A in Kau To, Sha Tin; what is the progress of the related land formation in view of the forthcoming completion and population intake of public housing in Shui Chuen O? In 2013-14, how much will be the expenditure on the related land formation?

(B) What are the estimated provisions and expenditures of the three Areas respectively? Please reply in the form of the following table.

Area	2013-14 Item Estimates	Accumulated Item Expenditures
Area 34 in Shui Chuen O		
Area 52 in Shui Chuen O		
Area 56A in Kau To		

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

(A) The site formation works at Areas 34 and 52 in Shui Chuen O and Area 56A in Kau To, Sha Tin were completed in 2010 and 2009 respectively. The land for public housing in Shui Chuen O was handed over to the Housing Department in 2010. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is about \$1.9 million for completing minor remaining works including geotechnical works and landscaping works.



(B) The 2013-14 estimates and accumulative expenditure are appended below.

Area	2013-14 Item Estimates	Accumulated Item Expenditures (up to 2012-13)*
Area 34 in Shui Chuen O	\$1.9 million	\$229.6 million
Area 52 in Shui Chuen O		
Area 56A in Kau To		

\* The site formation works were mainly carried out under two construction contracts both covering all three areas. We do not have separate breakdown of expenditures for individual areas.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)194**

Question Serial No.

4936

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund: New Towns and  
Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7718CL – Ma On Shan  
development – roads,  
drainage and sewerage  
works at Whitehead and  
Lok Wo Sha phase 1

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The government website states: “Drainage and sewerage works at Whitehead and Lok Wo Sha were substantially completed. Defects rectification are in progress.” Please advise what are the uses of the remaining \$80,000,000 in the estimated reserve fund?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The scope of the project mainly comprises formation of two sites of about 3 hectares, construction of roads with associated footpaths and cycle tracks, drainage and sewerage systems and landscaping works.

All the works under the project scope were substantially completed in January 2012 and the newly constructed roads, including the associated footpaths and cycle tracks, have been opened for public use since January 2012.

The cumulative project expenditure up to 31 March 2013 would be about \$148 million. The anticipated expenditure of \$3 million in 2013-14 and a further provision of \$4 million would be used for project finalisation. Subject to finalisation of the project account in early 2015, we expect that the total project cost would be about \$155 million and there would be a project saving of about \$65 million.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 10 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)195**

Question Serial No.

4937

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve  
Fund: 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 Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section of the North West New Territories and North East New Territories cycle tracks is divided into two sections: “the Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan cycle track” and “Entry/Exit Hubs in Sheung Shui and Sha Tin” respectively. What is the respective current progress of works of the two sections? What is the expected completion date for use by the public?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The works for the Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section of the cycle track and the two entry/exit hubs are about 75% and 80% completed respectively. The anticipated substantial completion dates of the respective works are end 2013 and mid 2013.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)196**

Question Serial No.

4327

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

During the announcement of the Budget, the Financial Secretary stated that \$4.5 billion will be allocated in the coming five years to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out the land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. What are the specific financial allocation arrangements and the number of staff members? As the government plans to reclaim outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, open up new development areas and develop caverns, what are the additional floor area, planned uses, development density and locations respectively? On the above subject, will the government conduct public consultations and what are their details and budgets?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The allocation of \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech will be made under Head 705 and Head 707 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, rock cavern development and new development areas (NDAs). Apart from minor feasibility studies, investigation and works chargeable to block allocations, funding approvals for major feasibility studies, detailed design and construction of individual projects will be sought from the Finance Committee in due course.

For reclamation and rock cavern development, we plan to conduct feasibility studies for five potential reclamation sites at Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay, Siu Ho Wan, Southwest Tsing Yi and Ma Liu Shui near the estuary of Shing Mun River; a strategic study of the potential of constructing artificial islands in the central waters (i.e. between Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island); and the feasibility studies of accommodating various facilities within rock caverns. We also plan to conduct a pilot study on underground space development in urban areas of Hong Kong. As these projects are at a preliminary stage and subject to further consultation, the manpower required for the studies, the additional floor area, planned uses and development density will be determined at later stages of the projects.

For NDAs, we have already proposed developing certain parts of the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu as new development areas. We have engaged consultants to undertake the above studies. The projects are at a preliminary stage subject to further investigation and refinement. The additional floor area, planned uses, development density and additional staff resources will be determined or confirmed upon further detailed assessments.

Public engagement (PE) is a vital part of our studies. For reclamation and rock cavern development, we launched the Stage 2 PE for Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development on 21 March 2013 to consult the public on the potential reclamation and rock cavern development sites. For NDAs, we will continue to conduct PE activities on respective projects at the appropriate stages and will take into account the public views in refining the development proposals. The costs of these PE activities are covered in the respective studies.

Name in block letters:	C K HON
Post Title:	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Date:	10 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)197**

Question Serial No.

3758

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the Budget Speech, paragraph 99 states that the government will allocate \$4.5 billion in the coming five years (from 2013-14 onwards) to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out the land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. In this connection, please provide information on:

- (a) the breakdown of the \$4.5 billion estimated expenditures
- (b) the locations and site area of the planned developments
- (c) the time table of the planned developments

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

The \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech is allocated for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

For reclamation and cavern development, we plan to conduct feasibility studies for five potential reclamation sites at Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay, Siu Ho Wan, Southwest Tsing Yi and Ma Liu Shui near the estuary of Shing Mun River; a strategic study of the potential of constructing artificial islands in the central waters (i.e. between Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island); and feasibility studies of accommodating various facilities within rock caverns. We launched the Stage 2 public engagement exercise for these projects on 21 March 2013. We also plan to conduct a pilot study on underground space development in urban areas of Hong Kong. As these projects are at a preliminary stage and subject to further consultation, the breakdown of the estimated expenditures, locations, site areas and timetable of planned developments will be determined at later stages of the projects.

For the NDAs, we have already proposed developing certain parts of the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu as new development areas, which are currently estimated to provide about 530 and over 400 hectares of developable land respectively. We have engaged consultants to undertake the above studies. We are continuing with the relevant studies and will take into account the public views in refining the development proposals. The estimated expenditures, staging of works and implementation timetable of individual projects will be determined during the detailed design stage.

Name in block letters: C K HON  
Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
Date: 10 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)198**

Question Serial No.

3548

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

According to paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech, the FS says he will allocate \$4.5 billion in the coming five years to carry out studies and design work and progressively roll out the land development projects relating to reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on an appropriate scale, opening up of new development areas and the development of caverns. In this regard, please provide the details of the study, including how the \$4.5 billion will be used, scope of the study, timetable of the study (i.e. a breakdown of study plan in each of the 5 years), and manpower to be deployed for the study.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The \$4.5 billion referred to in paragraph 99 of the Budget Speech is allocated for carrying out feasibility studies and detailed design and commencing construction works for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, cavern development and new development areas (NDAs).

For reclamation and rock cavern development, we plan to conduct feasibility studies for five potential reclamation sites at Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay, Siu Ho Wan, Southwest Tsing Yi and Ma Liu Shui near the estuary of Shing Mun River; a strategic study of the potential of constructing artificial islands in the central waters (i.e. between Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island); and feasibility studies of accommodating various facilities within rock caverns. The Stage 2 public engagement for these projects was launched on 21 March 2013. We also plan to conduct a pilot study on underground space development in urban areas of Hong Kong. As these projects are at a preliminary stage and subject to further consultation, the respective timetable, details of expenditure, and manpower to be deployed will be determined at the later stages of the projects.

For NDAs, we have already proposed developing certain parts of the North East New Territories and Hung Shui Kiu as new development areas. We have engaged consultants to undertake the above studies. We are continuing with the relevant studies and will take into



account the public views in refining the development proposals. Further staging of work, deployment of manpower and resources requirement will be determined during the detailed design stage.

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 10 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)199**

Question Serial  
No.

3447

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:

1. What is the progress of construction of the Happy Valley Underground Storage Scheme? What is the Drainage Services Department's anticipated completion percentage of construction by end of 2013?
2. Any complaints received since commencement of construction of the underground storage tank? Please provide number, details and follow up works of complaints.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The construction of the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme commenced in September 2012. The works progress is on schedule. We anticipate that about 25% of the works will be completed by end of 2013.
2. One complaint has been received since the commencement of the construction works in September 2012. It was about dark smoke emitted from two generators within the site in the Happy Valley Recreation Ground. The generators were subsequently replaced by the contractor with newer ones and no further complaint has been received since then.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 11 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)200**

Question Serial No.

3448

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 improvement works carried out by the Government for each of these flooding blackspots on Hong Kong Island. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

There are three flooding blackspots on Hong Kong Island. Details and estimated expenditure of the drainage improvement works to deal with these flooding blackspots are as follows:

Flooding Blackspot	Details and Estimated Expenditure of Drainage 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 and was completed in June 2009. The cost was \$5.9 million.  Further drainage improvement works for Pok Fu Lam Village are under planning.
(ii) Junction of Wong Chuk Hang Road and Nam Long Shan Road	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 and was completed in October 2010. The cost was \$7.5 million.  Further drainage improvement works for the junction under PWP Item No. 6056TR commenced in January 2013 for completion by

	2014. The estimated cost is \$6.0 million.
(iii) Junction of Morrison Hill Road and Lap Tak Lane	<p>PWP Item No. 4103CD involving the construction of a drainage tunnel from Tai Hang to Cyberport (Hong Kong West drainage tunnel) commenced in November 2007 and was completed in June 2012. The estimated cost is \$3,381.3 million.</p> <p>PWP Item No. 4104CD involving the construction of stormwater drains along Sung Tak Street and Morrison Hill Road commenced in May 2010 for completion by mid 2013. The estimated cost is \$6.5 million.</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>

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 11 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)201**

Question Serial No.

5389

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:

- (1) Please advise on the current work progress of the review studies of the drainage master plans for Kowloon, as well as the details of the estimated expenditure involved for 2013-14;
- (2) Please list all flooding blackspots in Kowloon and advise on the details of the resources allocation plan to improve these blackspots.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (1) There are two ongoing drainage master plan review studies in Kowloon, one for West Kowloon and the other for East Kowloon. Both studies commenced in January 2012 for completion by end 2014. Surveys to investigate the existing conditions of the drainage system have been completed and the hydraulic models are being updated. The total estimated expenditure of the two studies in 2013-14 is about \$4.3 million.
- (2) There is one flooding blackspot in Kowloon which is located at Chatham Road South between Granville Road and Austin Avenue. Drainage improvement works under PWP Item No. 4134CD – “Drainage improvement in East Kowloon – Package A” involving the construction of stormwater drains and gullies along Chatham Road South completed in August 2010 has partially alleviated the flooding problem. Further drainage improvement works for this flooding blackspot are under planning. The drainage master plan review study for East Kowloon will investigate and recommend a comprehensive solution to tackle the flooding problem at this location.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 11 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)202**

Question Serial No.

4604

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:

According to the *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14*, the Department will continue with the design and implementation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah in stages. What are the details of the work? Please list out the estimated expenditures and manpower involved, as well as the progress with dates of completion.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah are being implemented in stages under four projects. The details of the design and improvement works of each project are as follows:

- (i) The advance works of Kai Tak Nullah comprising the construction of a box culvert at Prince Edward Road East and widening of a section of Choi Hung Road commenced in August 2010 for completion by end 2013. The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is \$20 million.
- (ii) The improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah at the upstream reach from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road commenced in October 2011 for phased completion in 2017. The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is \$156.5 million.
- (iii) The improvement works to the Kai Tak Nullah at the downstream reach within the Kai Tak Development area commenced in January 2013 for phased completion in 2018. The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is \$159.4 million.
- (iv) The design of the midstream reach from Tung Kwong Road to Prince Edward Road East will be completed in mid 2013. We plan to commence the improvement works in late 2013 for completion in 2017. The expected expenditure for 2013-14 is \$9.3 million.

The overall manpower for the above four projects is about eight professional staff with support from engineering consultants.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 11 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)203**

Question Serial No.

4928

Head: 704 - Drainage    Subhead (No. & title): 4379DS – Feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns

Programme:                      (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer:        Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau:        Secretary for Development

Question:

Please advise on the progress of the feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STSTW) to caverns.

How many sites are identified for relocation in total?    What is the expenditure involved for site selection from all identified?

Regarding the consultancy study, how much is earmarked for public consultation? What is the target number of Expressions of Interest received?    How many consultation activities will be held?

Advertisements concerning the relocation of STSTW are seen on television and in MTR stations recently.    Is the expenditure involved drawn from Item 4379DS?

The development of the existing STSTW site will commence when the relocation to caverns completes.    Please advise on the expenditure involved for the preliminary planning of the vacated work site.

The stage 3 extension of the STSTW was completed last year.    Please advise on the estimated expenditures involved in relocating the STSTW and demolishing the additions provided in stage 3 extension.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

(a) The Drainage Services Department (DSD) commenced the feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STSTW) to caverns in May 2012 for completion in mid 2014.    The latest key progress of the study is as follows:

- the preliminary technical and impact assessments and ground investigation works for the study are in progress; and

- the Stage 1 Public Engagement (PE) exercise commenced in November 2012 and completed in end March 2013. Findings of the review of the relocation site and the study progress were reported to the Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council at its meeting on 7 March 2013.
- (b) One of the key tasks under the study is to conduct a review on the proposed site for relocation of the STSTW. A total of five potential relocation sites adjacent to STSTW, including Nui Po Shan of A Kung Kok, Shek Mun, Ma On Shan, Kau To Shan South and Kau To Shan North, have been reviewed. The results of the review indicate that Nui Po Shan of A Kung Kok is the most suitable site for relocation of STSTW. The whole study will be funded under PWP Item 4379DS, with an approved project estimate of \$57.9 million. We do not have separate cost breakdown for the review on the proposed relocation site.
  - (c) We have reserved \$3.1 million for the PE exercises (comprising two stages) with relevant stakeholders. During the Stage 1 PE (from November 2012 to March 2013), we have held roving exhibitions and collected 1318 questionnaires as at end March 2013. We have also held one focus group meeting with the professional bodies and green groups and three meetings for different community groups in Sha Tin areas, including the residents living in the vicinity of the existing STSTW and the proposed relocation site of A Kung Kok. The Stage 2 PE will tentatively commence in mid 2013 with details to be formulated in due course.
  - (d) As part of the Stage 1 PE, publicity video of the study is broadcast in various public media. The cost is covered in the project vote of 4379DS.
  - (e) Another key task of the study is to carry out a preliminary planning review with broad technical assessments of the future land use of the existing STSTW site for the purpose of establishing a business case for the relocation proposal. The cost for this preliminary planning review is also covered under the study. We do not have separate cost breakdown for it.
  - (f) The STSTW was commissioned in 1982 (stage 1) and then further expanded in 1986 (stage 2). The treatment facilities constructed under the stage 3 extension have been progressively put into operation since 2004. According to the preliminary programme of the relocation proposal, the whole relocation project would only be completed not earlier than 2027. By that time, the facilities of stages 1, 2 and 3 of STSTW would have been operated for over 45, 40 and 20 years respectively. The total cost for the relocation project including the cost for decommissioning the existing STSTW will be worked out at the later stage of the study.

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 11 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)204**

Question Serial No.

4213

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:

1. In view of the recent lift incident that caused a number of injuries, will the Government allocate additional resources to inspect lifts, especially those undertaken by contractors with lower ranking in the contractors' performance rating, or those with prolonged years of usage. If so, what are the work details and the additional expenditures involved?
2. Will the Government deploy resources in the coming year to study the improvements to the contractors' performance rating system, for example, apart from issuing warning letters to contractors with poor performance, imposing more stringent penalties on them?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has adopted a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts taking into account the age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD will carry out a critical review taking into account lessons learnt from the recent lift incident in North Point. EMSD will review the risk elements for sampling of lifts for audit inspection such that more inspections would be conducted for those installations maintained by contractors with low contractors' performance rating (CPR) or those having received warning letters, orders, complaints or involved in incidents. EMSD aims at strengthening enforcement against poor performers with a view to enhancing public safety.
2. The CPR is an administrative measure employed by EMSD to supplement the legislation enforcement works. Warning letters will be issued to contractors with non-conforming performance. EMSD will initiate prosecution and/or disciplinary actions against contractors concerned if sufficient evidences are found in contravention of any

provisions of the Ordinance. Furthermore, in the capacity of the Registrar under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services may suspend the registration of a registered contractor if he is satisfied that the contractor contravenes any provision of the Ordinance.

Name in block letters:	CHAN Fan
Post Title:	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date:	9.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)205**

Question Serial No.

4214

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:

The increase in provision under Programme (2) 2013-14 Estimate by \$91,700,000 as compared to the 2012-13 Revised Estimate is mainly for modernising existing lifts of government bureaux and departments, and creation of four new posts. Please advise:

(a) The work details of the lift modernized on works, including number of lifts to be modernized for government bureaux and departments, their locations, engineering content of the modernized on and estimated expenditures. What are the criteria for selecting the lifts to be modernized?

(b) The rank, duty and estimated expenditure of the four new posts to be created.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The provision under Programme (2) for 2013-14 Estimate is higher than the 2012-13 Revised Estimate. This is mainly due to increased provision for modernising existing lifts of government bureau and departments and the creation of four new posts.

(a) The existing lifts of government bureaux and departments were commissioned at different times in compliance with the standards prevailing at the time of installation. Many of the existing lifts are not yet up to the current design standards.

The modernisation works will upgrade the existing lifts to the current standards by installing one or more of the following additional safety features:-

(i) Double brake system;

- (ii) Unintended car movement protection device;
- (iii) Ascending car overspeed protection device;
- (iv) Advanced car door mechanical lock and door safety edge;
- (v) Intercom and closed circuit television system; and
- (vi) Obstruction switch to protect suspension rope.

The existing lifts without any of the above features are the targets of this organizations programme. In 2013-14, about 180 existing lifts of government bureaux and departments will be covered by the programme. These lifts are located at over 50 different government venues. The budgeted expenditure is \$88.4 million.

Modernisation of existing lifts of government bureaux and departments will not only demonstrate government's commitment on lift safety, but also set a good example for other public organizations and the private sector to follow.

- (b) Regarding the four new posts, their rank and duty are:

Rank	Duty
One Senior Engineer and One Engineer/Assistant Engineer	for monitoring and assessing the design, testing and commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project
One Senior Engineer and One Inspector	for preparing and administering the new voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops, and promoting the new requirements of the scheme as well as vetting of applications for the registration

The annual staff cost for the four posts is around \$3.4 million in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)206**

Question Serial No.

4047

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:

The number of technical staff in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) responsible for carrying out inspections to more than 60 000 lifts and 8 000 escalators in Hong Kong is around 20. Based on the existing manpower, around 10 000 lifts are inspected each year, which means each lift can only be re-inspected by EMSD staff at least six years on average. Due to the ageing problem of buildings in Hong Kong as well as their associated facilities, the Administration should strictly monitor the safety of lifts as they are directly related to public safety. Please advise:

1. EMSD is currently adopting the “one out of seven” inspection policy, and only around 10 000 lifts can be inspected each year. However, in view of the frequent occurrence of major lift incidents in recent years, will the Department change the “one out of seven” inspection policy, so as to step up the inspection on lifts and protect public safety? If yes, what is the target? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Administration provide increased resources and employ more technical staff to carry out more inspections on lifts, so as to protect public safety? If yes, what is the quantity? If no, what are the reasons?
3. EMSD introduced the contractors’ performance rating system in 2009, but there is no distinguished difference between pass or fail. Some contractors with consistently lower rating can still continue to do their business, leading to problems in their maintenance work quality, and hence unable to protect public safety. Will the Department review the system and increase penalties, so as to ensure the maintenance work quality of the contractors for protecting public safety? If yes, what are the changes? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

1. EMSD has adopted a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts and escalators taking into account the age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD will carry out a critical review taking into account lessons learnt from the recent lift incident in North Point. EMSD will review the risk elements for sampling of lifts and escalators for audit inspection such that more inspections would be conducted for those installations maintained by contractors with low contractors' performance rating (CPR) and those having received warning letters, orders, complaints or involved in incidents. EMSD aims at strengthening enforcement against poor performers with a view to enhancing public safety.
2. To enhance the regulation of escalator and lift safety, approval was granted in 2010 for EMSD to expand its establishment by creating one engineer and seven inspector posts. EMSD will deploy available resources to suit the above changes in its inspection approach.
3. The CPR is an administrative measure employed by EMSD to supplement the legislation enforcement works. Warning letters will be issued to contractors with non-conforming performance. EMSD will initiate prosecution and/or disciplinary actions against contractors concerned if sufficient evidences are found in contravention of any provisions of the Ordinance. Furthermore, in the capacity of the Registrar under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services may suspend the registration of a registered contractor if he is satisfied that the contractor contravenes any provision of the Ordinance.

Name in block letters:	CHAN Fan
Post Title:	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date:	9.4.2013



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

**DEVB(W)207**

Question Serial No.

4542

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:

Please list out in the table below the number of the lifts in Hong Kong with respect to their years of usage and the average number of days from the last examination.

Year of usage	Number of lifts	Average number of days from the last examination
0-9		
10-19		
20-29		
30-39		
40-49		
50 or above		

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The number of lifts in Hong Kong with respect to their years of usage and the average number of days from the last examination are tabulated below.

Years of usage	Approximate number of lifts	Average number of days from the last examination
0-9	13 200	194
10-19	18 100	193
20-29	13 700	190
30-39	9 400	193
40-49	5 000	191
50 or above	900	192

According to the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, each of these lifts are required to be thoroughly examined by a registered lift engineer at an interval not exceeding 12 months.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)208**

Question Serial No.

4490

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:

Please list out the numbers of prosecution and disciplinary actions taken by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department on lifts and escalators incidents for the past five years (i.e. 2008 – 2009, 2009 – 2010, 2010 – 2011, 2011 – 2012, and 2012 – 2013).

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The numbers of prosecution and disciplinary cases taken by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in the past five years (up to February 2013) are listed out in the following table.

Financial Year	Number of Prosecution Cases	Number of Disciplinary Cases
2012-13	1	0
2011-12	3	2
2010-11	9	0
2009-10	3	0
2008-09	0	0

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)209**

Question Serial No.

4491

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:

Please list out the Department's expenditures on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13). Please also list out the Department's estimated expenditure on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Department's expenditures on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in the past five years are listed in the table below:-

Financial Year	Expenditure (million)
2008-09	\$21.1
2009-10	\$28.1
2010-11	\$25.9
2011-12	\$25.4
2012-13	\$30.6 (estimated)

The Department's estimated expenditure on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in 2013-14 is \$31.5 million.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)210**

Question Serial No.

5362

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical  
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )

	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of workers working 6 days per week	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*

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.

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

2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
1 (-50%)

**(b) Contract sum and duration of services**

<b>Contract sum</b>	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of contracts</b>
Less than \$0.5 million	1 (-50%)
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	0 (-)
Over \$1 million	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1 (-50%)</b>

<b>Duration of services</b>	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of contracts</b>
6 months or less	0 (-100%)
Over 6 months to 1 year	0 (-)
Over 1 year to 2 years	1 (-)
Over 2 years	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1 (-50%)</b>

**(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**

	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
<b>Number of workers</b>	5 (-28.6%)

	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
<b>Job category of workers<sup>(Note)</sup></b>	<b>Number of workers</b>
Backend office support	5 (-28.6%)
Technical services	0 (-100%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5 (-28.6%)</b>

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**

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) since 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. As at 30.9.2012, the department engaged one contract and the minimum monthly wages specified in the contract 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 against the total staff in the Department**

2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
1.26%

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

2012-13 (up to 30.9.12)
0.34%

(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**

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of workers</b>
5 working days per week	5 (-28.6%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5 (-28.6%)</b>

Percentage in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12 except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013



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

**DEVB(W)211**

Question Serial No.

5363

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical  
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than 6,240	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Department uses outsourced services for cleansing and security. The requested information is provided below.

**(a) Number of outsourced service contracts**

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
2 (-)

**(b) Total expenditure of outsourced service contracts**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12) (\$M)
0.60 ( +6.43% )

**(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts**

Duration of service	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	0 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	0 (-)
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-)
Over 2 years	2 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	2 (-)

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
8 ( +14% )

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

Nature of service contracts	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	Number of workers
Cleansing	4 ( 0% )
Security	4 ( +33% )
<b>Total:</b>	8 ( +14% )

**(f) Salaries of outsourced workers**

After the implementation of Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were required to pay workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

**(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 against the total staff in the Department**

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
2.12%

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

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
0.33%

**(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**

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of workers</b>
5 working days per week	1 ( - )
6 working days per week	7 ( 0% )
<b>Total:</b>	8 ( +14% )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12 except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)212**

Question Serial No.

5392

Head: 42 - Electrical and Mechanical Services Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical 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 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than 6,240	( )
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )
Number of NCSC staff with application for paternity leave	( )

	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff with approval granted for paternity leave	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below.

**(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature**

<b>Job nature</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Professional	8 (+14.3%)
Technical and inspectorate	5 (+25%)
General administration	8 (+0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21 (+10.5%)</b>

**(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12) (\$M)
5.324 (+13%)

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

<b>Monthly salary</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
\$30,001 or above	8 (+33.3%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	8 (+0%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	5 (+0%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 ( - )
\$6,240 to \$6,500	0 ( - )
Less than \$6,240	0 ( - )
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21 (+10.5%)</b>

<b>Length of services</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
15 years or above	0 ( - )
10 years to less than 15 years	4 (+100%)
5 years to less than 10 years	5 (+25%)
3 years to less than 5 years	3 (-25%)
1 year to less than 3 years	6 (+50%)
Less than 1 year	3 (-40%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21 (+10.5%)</b>

**(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant<sup>(Note 1)</sup>**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
2 ( - )

Note 1: Including information on NCSC staff appointed as civil servant within the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

**(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant<sup>(Note 2)</sup>**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
2 ( - )

Note 2 : Including information on NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant within EMSD only.

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
5.3%

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

2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
2.95%

**(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break**

<b>Meal Break</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Paid meal break	19 (+0%)
Unpaid meal break	2 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21 (+10.5%)</b>

**(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days**

<b>Working days</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
5 working days per week	21 (+10.5%)
6 working days per week	0 (+0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21 (+10.5%)</b>

**(j) Number of NCSC staff with application for paternity leave** <sup>(Note 3)</sup>

<b>Paternity leave</b>	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Applied for paternity leave	0
Garnted approval for paternity leave	0

Note 3 : NCSC staff are elgibile for paternity leave with effect from 1 April 2012.

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12 except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan  
Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Date: 2.4.2013



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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)213**

Question Serial No.

5081

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

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding ‘the average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit (day)’, will the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

- a. the reasons for extension in average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit from 73 days in 2011 to 88 days in 2012, and
- b. will there be additional expenses incurred due to the extension? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The Highways Department assesses the appropriate duration for each excavation permit application based on the scope and extent of the proposed road excavation works involved before issuance of the permit. Our responses to the questions are as follows:

- a. In 2012, there was an increase in the amount of utility works which involved long trenches and deep excavation. Thus, the respective excavation permits were granted longer permit durations. As a result, the average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit was increased.
- b. The government will charge a fee to recover the administrative cost for issuing excavation permits and carrying out audit inspections in streets, according to the “user pays” principle. At present, the permit fee to be charged to the permittee is a lump sum fee of \$1,860 plus a daily fee of \$32 per day for the permit duration.

Name in block letters:

K K LAU

Post Title:

Director of Highways

ate:

8.4.2013

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

**DEVB(W)214**

Question Serial No.

5327

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title):  
Department

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13), maintenance and related conservation costs were incurred by the grading of historic buildings. Please provide a detailed breakdown of these conservation-related costs and state the expenditure involved. How many graded historic buildings were involved? What is the estimated expenditure on the conservation of graded buildings for the coming year? How many buildings will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Grading of historic buildings is an administrative system and exercise conducted by the Antiquities Advisory Board to indicate the heritage value of buildings. The grading exercise itself does not incur conservation and maintenance costs.

The Development Bureau has launched the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) since 2008 under which owners of privately-owned graded historic buildings can apply for financial assistance to repair and maintain their properties. Each approved application will be given a grant of not more than \$1 million with payment made on reimbursement basis.

The vote for the FAS is controlled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The expenditures for repair and maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings under the FAS in the past five years are as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$'000)
2008-2009	0
2009-2010	1,206
2010-2011	3,788
2011-2012	2,826
2012-2013	3,913

The estimated expenditure for providing financial assistance under this scheme in 2013-14 is around \$6 million.

Since launching the FAS in 2008, the Development Bureau has approved 27 applications for repair and maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings and it is anticipated that six further applications will be approved in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG  
Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)215**

Question Serial No.

4105

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title):  
Department

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What are the archaeological projects planned to be carried out and the estimated provision for these projects in the next five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The major archaeological surveys and excavations conducted in the past five years (2008-09 to 2012-13) were arranged in relation to infrastructural and development projects as required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) and the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap.131). The proponents of these projects carried out the archaeological surveys and excavations under the monitoring of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and absorbed the costs from within their projects. In the past five years, 16, 15, 16, 15 and 11 such surveys and excavations were conducted by project proponents respectively.

Apart from the above larger scale archaeological surveys and excavations, the AMO conducts smaller scale archaeological surveys arising from minor projects such as small house development in the New Territories. The expenditure incurred by AMO in this respect in the past five years is listed in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of archaeological surveys and excavations arising from small house development</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2008-09	12	\$547,400
2009-10	16	\$945,235
2010-11	10	\$772,484
2011-12	11	\$882,068
2012-13 (Estimated)	12	\$888,440

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)216**

Question Serial No.

4533

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title):  
Department

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please list the expenditures involved and the effectiveness of the archaeological surveys and excavations conducted in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13) and expected to be conducted in the coming year (i.e. 2013-14).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department conducts archaeological surveys and excavations necessitated by small-scale development projects such as small house development in the New Territories.

The number of archaeological surveys and excavations conducted and the expenditure incurred by the AMO in this regard in the past three years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of archaeological projects conducted</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2010-11	10	\$772,484
2011-12	11	\$882,068
2012-13 (Estimated)	12	\$888,440

It is anticipated that ten such archaeological projects will be arranged in 2013-14 at an estimated expenditure of \$750,000.

The archaeological surveys and excavations conducted by the AMO have successfully salvaged the archaeological heritage, if any, found at the sites affected by small-scale development projects.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)217**

Question Serial No.

4535

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title):  
Department

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the attendance of the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HKHDC), the number of users of the HKHDC Reference Library, the composition and number of items of the collection of the HKHDC Reference Library, the number of people using the lending services and the number of loans of the HKHDC Reference Library in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

1. The table below shows the attendance figures of the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HKHDC) from 2010-11 to 2012-13:

<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b> <b>(up to 28 February 2013)</b>
209 017	234 889	200 070

2. The table below shows the number of users of the HKHDC Reference Library from 2010-11 to 2012-13:

<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b> <b>(up to 28 February 2013)</b>
16 923	16 390	13 958



3. The table below shows the composition and number of items in the collection of the HKHDC Reference Library from 2010-11 to 2012-13:

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b> <b>(up to 28 February 2013)</b>
Books and periodicals in open shelves	6 812	7 103	7 196
Archival materials (i.e. research files/study reports/audio-visual materials) in closed stacks	2 468	2 745	2 821

4. The table below shows the number of people using the lending services and the number of loans of the HKHDC Reference Library from 2010-11 to 2012-13:

	<b>2010-11</b> <b>No. of users/loan items</b>	<b>2011-12</b> <b>No. of users/loan items</b>	<b>2012-13</b> <b>No. of users/loan items</b> <b>(up to 28 February 2013)</b>
Consultation of archival materials in closed stacks (Note)	82 users/ 256 items	90 users/ 498 items	56 users/ 158 items

Note: As registration is not required for retrieving books and periodicals in the open shelves, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department cannot provide separate figures on the number of users and loan items for these collection items. However, given the user statistics in paragraph 2 above (over 16 000 in 2010-11 and 2011-12), it is believed that the majority of the Reference Library users have made reference to the books and periodicals in open shelves.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)218**

Question Serial No.

3964

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Department Expenses

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What is the total expenditure for the Antiquities Advisory Board of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) is a statutory body established under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) to advise the Antiquities Authority (i.e. Secretary for Development) on matters relating to antiquities and monuments. Members of the AAB are not remunerated and the secretariat support to the AAB is provided by the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The AAB therefore does not incur expenditure on its own.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)219**

Question Serial No.

4825

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 planning and investigation study for a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O, please advise on the details including the progress, estimated date of announcement and expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The planning and investigation study of desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012. The scope of the planning and investigation study includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis. The study is currently at project inception and data collection stage. The study will be completed by end 2014 for comprehensive announcement of its findings. The provision for the study in 2013-14 is \$9 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)220**

Question Serial No.

4826

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:

Please advise on the number of water main burst and leakage cases in the past year (2012-13) by district in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils, the estimated total quantity of fresh water lost due to such incidents, as well as the expenditure for urgent repairs of these water mains.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in Hong Kong in 2012-13 (up to February 2013) in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils are tabulated below –

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of water main burst cases</b>	<b>Number of water main leakage cases</b>
Central and Western	6	641
Eastern	9	427
Islands	1	314
Kowloon City	24	615
Kwai Tsing	44	332
Kwun Tong	16	601
North	1	1 000
Sai Kung	13	977

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of water main burst cases</b>	<b>Number of water main leakage cases</b>
Sha Tin	25	435
Sham Shui Po	26	305
Southern	3	427
Tai Po	14	427
Tsuen Wan	4	357
Tuen Mun	7	656
Wan Chai	9	584
Wong Tai Sin	3	180
Yau Tsim Mong	18	528
Yuen Long	20	1 892
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>10 698</b>

The leakage rate of fresh water mains in 2012 was 18% and the water loss due to main bursts was less than 0.01% of the total water supplied. The expenditure on urgent repairs of the above-mentioned water main burst and leakage cases is estimated to be about \$120 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)221**

Question Serial No.

4827

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:

How many water wagons of the Water Supplies Department are there at present for providing fresh water and what are their capacities? What were the number of times of the use of water wagons in the past year (2012-13) and the relevant reasons? What is the expenditure for their maintenance? Has the Administration planned to procure new water wagons in the coming year? If yes, what are the expected number of and the estimated expenditure for water wagons to be procured?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has five water wagons each with eight cubic metre storage capacity. The water wagons provide temporary potable water supply to the public when there is emergency water suspension affecting certain area. In 2012-13 (up to end February 2013), WSD has 285 cases of deploying water wagons to serve temporary water supply. The yearly maintenance expenditure of the existing water wagons is around \$181,000.

WSD has arranged for supply of five additional water wagons at an estimated total cost of \$6.75 million. Three of these new water wagons will be delivered in April 2013 whilst the remaining two before end June 2013.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)222**

Question Serial No.

4828

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:

Please provide the details of the cases of arrears of water charges in each of the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) including:

- (1) The number of cases of arrears of water charges for 3 months, 6 months, 12 months or above and the amounts involved; and
- (2) The amounts of write-off.

In addition, what are the reasons and criteria for the Administration's decision of not recovering the arrears of water charges?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The number of cases and amounts of arrears of water charges for the financial years 2010-11 to 2012-13 are as follows-

Arrears of water charges	<u>2010-11</u> (as at 31.3.2011)		<u>2011-12</u> (as at 31.3.2012)		<u>2012-13</u> (as at 31.1.2013)	
	No.	\$m	No.	\$m	No.	\$m
Less than 3 months	3 581	0.9	2 630	0.8	3 639	0.9
Between 3 - 6 months	3 934	0.9	2 969	0.9	3 234	0.7
Between 6 - 12 months	7 308	1.5	6 423	1.2	5 715	0.9
Longer than 12 months	9 496	6.7	2 786	5.8	1 951	5.2
Total	24 319	10.0	14 808	8.7	14 539	7.7

The average amount of write-off for the past three financial years (2010-11 to 2012-13) was \$2.6 million per annum, which represented 0.1% of the water charges received. The arrears of water charges will be written off when all exhaustive actions taken to recover the

arrears have failed. The main reasons for the write-off are that the debtors were untraceable, deceased, bankrupt, or wound-up without adequate distributable dividends.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 9 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)223**

Question Serial No.

4829

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:

How many aged water meters did the Government replace in the past year (2012-13) and what was the expenditure involved? In addition, what is the work plan of the Water Supplies Department in this respect (including the expected number of water meters to be replaced and the estimated expenditure involved) for next year (2013-14)?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

We replaced around 210 000 aged water meters in 2012-13 whilst the expenditure on the cost of meter and the contractor's work was around \$41 million. In 2013-14, we plan to replace about 180 000 aged water meters at an estimated cost of \$39 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)224**

Question Serial No.

4912

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:

What are the expected number of persons served by and the estimated operating expenditure for the newly opened Water Resources Education Centre each year? Does the Government intend to relocate it to other district alongside with the Mongkok regional office? If yes, what are the details, estimated expenditure and cost of relocation?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The newly opened Water Resources Education Centre (the Centre) in Mongkok is targetted to receive around 6 000 students per year. The annual operation expenditure of the Centre is about \$0.73 million.

We plan to relocate the Centre alongside with the New Territories West Regional Office at Mongkok to Tin Shui Wai. We have earmarked a site in Tin Shui Wai for construction of a new government building for relocation of the Regional Office with the Centre. We have preliminarily assessed the technical feasibility of this new project and aim to complete the new building construction within four to five years. The expenditure for the new project and cost of relocation are being evaluated.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)225**

Question Serial No.

4540

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:

Please provide the locations and lengths of existing underground water mains with a service life of over thirty years in Hong Kong in the table below.

Location	Length (m)

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The lengths of the existing underground water mains with a service life of over thirty years in 18 districts of Hong Kong as at end February 2013 are set out in the table below.

Location (District)	Length (km)
Central & Western	169
Eastern	111
Islands	59
Kowloon City	160
Kwun Tong	103
Kwai Tsing	120
North	90
Southern	103

Sai Kung	80
Sham Shui Po	100
Sha Tin	80
Tuen Mun	99
Tai Po	56
Tsuen Wan	64
Wan Chai	125
Wong Tai Sin	55
Yuen Long	169
Yau Tsim Mong	124
Total	1 867

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)226**

Question Serial No.

4541

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:

Please provide in the table below the locations of underground water mains under the construction works of the “replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains” at present and in the next three years (starting from 2013 to 14), estimated total lengths of pipes to be replaced and rehabilitated, starting dates/expected starting dates of work, expected completion dates of work, lengths of completed pipes and percentages of completion.

Location	Estimated total length of pipe to be replaced and rehabilitated (metres)	Starting date/expected starting date of work	Expected completion date of work	Length of the completed pipe (metres)	Percentage of completion (%)

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

1. There are currently about 1 000 “replacement and rehabilitation of water mains” sites throughout the territories. These sites have different commencement and completion dates. The total length of water mains replaced or rehabilitated as at end February 2013 is 2 039 km (68% of the total works). The remaining 961 km are to be completed in stages in end 2015.

2. The latest position of the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains in 18 districts of Hong Kong as at end February 2013 is as follows: -

### **Hong Kong**

District	Estimated total length to be replaced or rehabilitated (km) (1)	Length of completed water mains (km) (2)	Percentage of completion (%) (2)/[(1)+(2)]
Central & Western	88	146	62
Wan Chai	82	62	43
Eastern	79	73	48
Southern	32	95	75

### **Kowloon**

District	Estimated total length to be replaced or rehabilitated (km) (1)	Length of completed water mains (km) (2)	Percentage of completion (%) (2)/[(1)+(2)]
Kwun Tong	61	92	60
Wong Tai Sin	22	75	77
Kowloon City	80	157	66
Yau Tsim Mong	72	145	67
Sham Shui Po	51	120	70

### **New Territories**

District	Estimated total length to be replaced or rehabilitated (km) (1)	Length of completed water mains (km) (2)	Percentage of completion (%) (2)/[(1)+(2)]
Sai Kung	26	82	76
Sha Tin	34	148	81
Tai Po	22	96	81
North	29	144	83
Yuen Long	51	323	86
Tuen Mun	68	112	62
Tsuen Wan	47	46	49
Kwai Tsing	69	62	47
Islands	48	61	56

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)227**

Question Serial No.

3482

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. 2010-2012), the number of meters to be replaced in 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. 2010-11 to 2012-13) and the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2013-14. 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 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, we have replaced 230 000, 190 000 and around 210 000 aged water meters respectively. The respective expenditure on the cost of meter and the contractor's work was \$42 million, \$35 million and around \$41 million. About 80% of the meter replacement works were carried out by 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 180 000 aged water meters in 2013-14 at an estimated cost of \$39 million.

With regular replacement of aged water meters, the overall meter accuracy level has been improving. The percentage of meters with accuracy level within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption has increased from 94.1% in 2009 to 95.7% in 2012. We will strive to sustain the improvement by continuing with the meter replacement programme and the projected overall meter accuracy level is 96.0% for 2013.

The number of complaints disputing the accuracy of the water meters received in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (up to end January 2013) were 538, 404 and 305 respectively. Amongst them, there were respectively 29, 9 and 6 cases which resulted in downward

adjustment of the water bills after the testing and follow-up investigations. The remaining cases did not involve inaccuracy of water meters requiring water bill adjustment.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 9 April 2013



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

**DEVB(W)228**

Question Serial No.

3810

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:

It is mentioned in the Aim that the Administration is “to plan and develop water resources and to design, construct, maintain and operate water supply systems in order to provide round-the-clock supplies throughout the year to meet the demands of the territory”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the proportion of the sources of fresh water supply in Hong Kong in 2011-12 and 2012-13, and the cost comparison among the latest locally collected rainwater, Dongjiang water imported and the production of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The proportion of the sources of the fresh water supply in Hong Kong from water collected locally and Dongjiang in the past two years are as follows:

	Water collected locally	Dongjiang water
2011-12	11.3%	88.7%
2012-13 (up to February 2013)	24.5%	75.5%

The production costs per cubic metre of fresh water supply from locally collected, Dongjiang and reclaimed water at 2012-13 price level are estimated to be about \$4.0, \$8.4 and \$10.4 respectively.

me in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)229**

Question Serial No.

3811

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:

It is mentioned in the Brief Description that the Administration will “assess salt water supply requirements; as well as plan, design and construct reliable and efficient salt water supply and distribution systems to meet such requirements in good time”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the progress of the study for harvesting rainwater via rainwater harvesting systems for purposes of toilet flushing and irrigation; the time when the rainwater harvesting systems will be officially introduced to harvest rainwater for different purposes such as flushing; and whether the Administration will set up regional rainwater recovery systems and secondary water supply systems for non-potable uses, so as to use rainwater resources more effectively.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

We have been implementing public projects with rainwater harvesting as an alternative water resource for non-potable uses such as flushing. Setting up of regional rainwater recovery systems and secondary water supply systems for non-potable uses would have to be subject to cost benefit analysis in comparison with other possible options. Meanwhile, supply of seawater for toilet flushing and raw water from our impounding reservoirs for irrigation and augmentation of flushing supply are current practices with proven cost-effectiveness.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)230**

Question Serial No.

3812

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:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 that the Administration will “continue to take forward the implementation of the total water management strategy for sustainable use of water resources with a focus on water conservation”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the details of the aforesaid work; the promotion work of the Administration on water conservation; and whether the Administration will consider mandatory participation and speeding up the implementation of Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme when promoting the use of water saving appliances, so as to facilitate the public to select water efficient appliances.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

To take forward the Total Water Management Strategy, in 2013-14, we will continue to enhance public education on water conservation; promote the use of water saving devices; press ahead with the water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme; enhance water leakage control through pressure management and active leakage control; and extend the salt water flushing supply system. On developing new water resources, we will continue to study the option of seawater desalination and water reclamation.

Activities being taken to promote water conservation in 2013-14 include:

1. Operating a temporary Water Resources Education Centre at the WSD Mong Kok Office for enhancing youngsters' knowledge of the importance of protecting water resources and water conservation.
2. Launching a pilot scheme on "Let's Save 10L Water" Campaign with a target of saving 10 litres of fresh water per capita per day. 1 000 primary school students and their

family members will be invited to take part in the pilot scheme. After evaluating the results of the pilot scheme, the campaign will then be extended to the community.

3. Reaching out to the community and strengthen public awareness of water conservation through roving exhibitions at shopping malls and housing estates.
4. Producing water saving tips and promotional leaflets in Chinese, English, Indonesian, Tagalog and Thai for distribution to domestic helpers via employment agencies.

For the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme, a “voluntary” approach is presently adopted. Participation in the scheme is satisfactory. We will review from time to time whether the scheme should be made mandatory.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)231**

Question Serial No.

3813

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:

Paragraph 97 of the Budget Speech says that “last year, we started a detailed planning and investigation study, including an assessment of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness, for the construction of a desalination plant on a reserved site in Tseung Kwan O, with a view to tapping sea water as a water source. Although the anticipated output capacity of the desalination plant will only account for five to ten per cent of Hong Kong’s total water consumption, we hope that as technology advances and costs go down in the future, seawater desalination can serve as another water supply source and help reduce our reliance on other water sources in the long term”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the latest progress of study for tapping seawater as a water source; the findings on the preliminary feasibility and cost-effectiveness; and the estimated completion date of desalination as a water source of the existing fresh water supply system.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The planning and investigation study of desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O commenced in December 2012 for completion by end of 2014. The scope of the planning and investigation study includes detailed feasibility study; preliminary design; site investigation; environmental, traffic and drainage impact assessments; cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis. The study is currently at project inception and data collection stage. Subject to the study, the earliest date for commissioning of the desalination plant is expected to be around 2020.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)232**

Question Serial No.

3814

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:

It is mentioned in the Brief Description that the Administration will “monitor closely the level of arrears of water charges; and cope with the growth in the number of consumer accounts”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the level of arrears of water charges including the number of cases, the amount and the irrecoverable water charges in the past three financial years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13); and the estimated growth in the number of consumer accounts in the next three financial years (i.e. starting from 2013-14).

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The level of arrears of water charges including the number of accounts and the total amount involved for the financial years 2010-11 to 2012-13 are provided below-

	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2012-13 (as at 31.1.2013)
Number of accounts	24 319	14 808	14 539
Total Amounts (\$)	10 million	8.7 million	7.7 million

The average amount of irrecoverable water charges for the past three financial years (2010-11 to 2012-13) was \$2.6 million per annum, which represented 0.1% of the water charges received.

It is estimated that there will be an annual increase of 38 000 new water accounts from 2013-14 to 2015-16.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)233**

Question Serial No.

3815

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 bursting or apparent leaking of water pipes, could the Administration advise this committee on: the number of cases of bursting or apparent leaking of fresh water pipes and salt water pipes by district in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils in the past two financial years (i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13); the main cause of bursting or apparent leaking after investigations; the longest and average hours of suspension of water supply affecting the general public as a result; and the longest and average time taken by the Department's staff for attending urgent repairs upon the outbreak of the incidents.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The numbers of fresh and salt water main burst and leakage cases in Hong Kong in 2011-12 and 2012-13 (up to February 2013) in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils are tabulated below –

(i) Numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in 2011-12 –

District	Numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in 2011-12			
	Fresh water main		Salt water main	
	Burst	Leakage	Burst	Leakage
Central and Western	14	511	5	242
Eastern	4	247	2	235
Islands	0	357	0	2
Kowloon City	19	307	7	242
Kwai Tsing	23	221	18	177
Kwun Tong	6	314	20	272



North	9	1 112	0	2
Sai Kung	4	1 140	5	58
Sha Tin	12	431	16	109
Sham Shui Po	15	232	22	140
Southern	3	388	3	80
Tai Po	3	422	5	66
Tsuen Wan	0	317	2	110
Tuen Mun	12	634	2	107
Wan Chai	3	414	2	181
Wong Tai Sin	5	80	14	94
Yau Tsim Mong	18	265	24	242
Yuen Long	20	2 365	0	1
Total	170	9 757	147	2 360

(ii) Numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in 2012-13 (up to February 2013) –

District	Numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in 2012-13 (up to February 2013)			
	Fresh water main		Salt water main	
	Burst	Leakage	Burst	Leakage
Central and Western	4	455	2	186
Eastern	3	253	6	174
Islands	1	313	0	1
Kowloon City	9	355	15	260
Kwai Tsing	31	211	13	121
Kwun Tong	5	358	11	243
North	0	999	1	1
Sai Kung	7	941	6	36
Sha Tin	10	339	15	96
Sham Shui Po	10	172	16	133
Southern	0	343	3	84
Tai Po	1	370	13	57
Tsuen Wan	2	254	2	103
Tuen Mun	3	554	4	102
Wan Chai	6	411	3	173
Wong Tai Sin	0	89	3	91
Yau Tsim Mong	4	281	14	247
Yuen Long	20	1 892	0	0
Total	116	8 590	127	2 108

Burst and leakage of water mains are commonly due to a confluence of various factors. The above-mentioned water main burst and leakage incidents were mainly caused by aged water mains, ground movements or external disturbances.

The average and longest time of fresh water supply suspension affecting the general public were 1.4 and 42.3 hours respectively. Corresponding amounts of time for salt water supply suspension affecting the general public were 6.6 and 70.5 hours respectively. The exceptional cases with much longer time of suspension of water supply were isolated cases due to such reasons as i) congested ground conditions with lots of underground pipes, conduits and cables of the utility companies, ii) repairs requiring breaking of large concrete blocks, iii) fabrication of special pipe fittings to suit site conditions, iv) time for locating leakage spots, and v) work affected by adverse weather conditions such as typhoon.

The average and longest time taken by the Department's staff for attending urgent repairs upon the outbreak of fresh water main bursts were 0.4 and 1.2 hours respectively. Corresponding amounts of time for attending urgent repair in the case of salt water main bursts were 0.4 and 1.6 hours respectively. The cases with longer time for attending urgent repairs were isolated cases due to such reasons as i) the emergency gangs concerned being engaged in dealing with other main burst incidents, and ii) remote location of burst main or busy traffic condition requiring longer travelling time for the emergency gang to reach the site.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)234**

Question Serial No.

3816

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:

It is mentioned in the Brief Description that the Administration will “improve efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with customer enquiries and complaints”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the number of cases the Water Supplies Department received in the past two years (i.e. 2011-2012 and 2012-13) from registered consumers querying the accuracy of water meters and requesting water meter tests; the number of bills requiring adjustments due to inaccuracy of water meters as confirmed in the follow-up investigation and the amount involved.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

In 2011-12 and 2012-13 (up to end January 2013), WSD issued 7.6 million and 6.4 million water bills respectively. Out of these bills, there were a total of 709 cases of dispute, 404 in 2011-12 and 305 in 2012-13 (up to end January 2013), over the accuracy of water meters wherein the registered consumers requested for meter testing. After testing and follow-up investigations, nine cases in 2011-12 and six cases in 2012-13 required downward adjustment of the bills due to inaccurate water meters, which amounted to \$46,462 and \$93,376 respectively.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)235**

Question Serial No.

3817

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:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 that the Administration will “continue to implement the water meter replacement programme to replace aged water meters in order to improve the overall meter accuracy”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the latest progress of the water meter replacement programme; the progress of and expenditure on aged meter replacement in the past three years (i.e. 2010-2011 to 2012-2013); and the estimated completion date of replacing all aged meters.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

In 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, we replaced 230 000, 190 000 and around 210 000 aged water meters respectively. The respective expenditure on the cost of meter and the contractor's work was \$42 million, \$35 million and around \$41 million. In 2013-14, we will continue to replace about 180 000 aged water meters at an estimated cost of \$39 million. The aged meter replacement work is a recurrent exercise aiming for timely replacement of meters meeting replacement criteria.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)236**

Question Serial No.

3818

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

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution, (2) Water Quality Control, (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Could the Administration advise this Committee on: the number of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed by the Water Supplies Department in the past three years (i.e. 2010-2011 and 2012-13); the number of NCSC staff with over 3 years and 5 years of service and their percentage share of the total; and whether the Administration will conduct review on the continuous employment of these NCSC staff and consider converting these posts to civil service posts, so as to meet long-term service needs.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The number of full-time NCSC staff employed in the past three years and the number of NCSC staff with over 3 years and 5 years of service are provided below –

**(a) Number of full-time NCSC staff in the past three years**

	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
Number of NCSC Staff:	118	123	100

**(b) Number of NCSC staff with years of service over 3 years or above**

Length of services	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
	Number of NCSC staff (Percentage against total number of NCSC Staff)		
Over 5 years	43 (36.4%)	45 (36.6%)	51 (51%)
Over 3 years to 5 years	11 (9.3%)	6 (4.9%)	7 (7%)

We are conscious of the need to ensure that the engagement of NCSC staff fits the ambit of the NCSC Staff Scheme and will review from time to time whether the service needs should better be met by other means. Should a permanent service need be established, we will seek to replace NCSC positions by civil service posts. Up to 31 December 2012, there have been 14 NCSC staff appointed as civil servants within the Water Supplies Department in 2012-13.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)237**

Question Serial No.

3671

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department      Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012-13) :

- (a) Please provide information on the number and ranks of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- (b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal :

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention :

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Year that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

- (d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS :

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Year that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Information on the departmental records management work undertaken by the Water Supplies Department over the past three years (up to 2012-13) is provided below –

- (a) Number and rank of designated officers:

There is one Confidential Assistant designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

- (b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal :

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme Records	1991-2012	No.: 4 713 (153 linear metres)	These records have yet to be appraised by GRS, hence the approved retention period is not yet known	No
Administrative records	2005-2012	No.: 1 703 (58 linear metres)	3 - 5 years after action completed	No



(c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of record	Years covered by the record	Number and linear metres of records	Year that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1992-2012	No.: 969 (42 linear metres)	2012	10 years after records have become inactive	No

(d) Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Year that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1997-2012	No.: 1 740 (97 linear metres)	The records were kept by the department until destruction	3 - 20 years after the records have become inactive	No

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
QUESTION**

**DEVB(W)238**

Question Serial No.

4632

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department    Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the past two years (2011 and 2012), the number of projects under construction remained at 39. What is the progress of the relevant projects? The projects have been implemented for a period of time. The estimated expenditure should have reduced slowly. Why do the estimates of the 39 projects increase but not decrease in the coming year? Please advise on the breakdown of the estimates of these projects.

Asked by: Hon. Dennis KWOK

Reply:

We introduce new projects every year to improve our services. Whilst the number of projects under construction in 2011 and 2012 is the same, there are projects completed and new projects commenced within the years. The estimated expenditure will increase with the water mains rehabilitation and replacement projects getting into full swing.

The cost estimate breakdown of the projects under construction in 2013 is provided as follows:-

<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Estimates (\$ million)</b>
Construction of new water supply systems	246
Uprating/Improvement of existing water supply systems	176
Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains	2,493
Improvement to water treatment works	422
Minor improvement works	560
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,897</b>

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)239**

Question Serial No.

4633

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:

The Administration said that it would strive to improve the problem of water main leakage to prevent wastage of fresh water. However, the leakage rate of water mains only reduced slightly by 1% in each of the past two years. Please advise on:

- (a) The quantity of fresh water lost due to leakage of water mains in the past two years (2011-12, 2012-13).
- (b) The measures which the Administration has taken to reduce water main leakage, the manpower and expenditure involved in the implementation of the measures and the effectiveness of such measures.
- (c) The reason for the slow progress of reducing water main leakage, the measures which the Administration can take to greatly improve water main leakage and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

- (a) The water main leakage rates of 2011 and 2012 were 19% and 18% respectively.

With service reservoirs located at high altitude for water supply to premises at different levels, water mains at lower altitudes are operating under a relatively high water pressure which renders them more susceptible to leakage. Therefore, water main leakage is considered more an operational constraint rather than a loss.

- (b) We have been taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle the water main leakage problem including leakage detection, pressure management and replacement and rehabilitation of water mains. In 2012-13, the expenditure on implementing these

measures is estimated to be \$2,256 million, of which \$333 million is for the employment of consultants including site staff for supervision of the implementation of these measures. The measures taken have demonstrated to be very effective and the leakage rate has been reduced from 25% in 2001 to 18% in 2012.

- (c) In implementing the above measures notably the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, we have endeavoured to fast-track the works programmes while striking a balance between expedited improvement to the distribution network to reduce leakage and the need to minimise disruption to road traffic and the local environment. We will however keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and advance the works of those water mains in need of earlier maintenance, replacement or rehabilitation. We consider that the approach adopted has effectively reduced the leakage rate and we will press ahead with the above-mentioned measures in 2013-14 involving an estimated expenditure of \$2,480 million.

Name in block letters: L T MA  
Post Title: Director of Water Supplies  
Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)240**

Question Serial No.

4634

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:

The Administration said that it would continue to implement the Total Water Management Strategy with a focus on water conservation. Please advise on:

- (a) The measures on water conservation taken at present apart from rehabilitation of leaking water mains to reduce wastage of fresh water, the expenditure items involved in the implementation of the measures and the relevant amounts.
- (b) The estimated quantity of water conserved each year by implementing such measures and the amount of water charges involved.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

- (a) To take forward the Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy, apart from the water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme, we continue to a) enhance public education on water conservation; b) promote the use of and retrofitting government buildings and schools with water saving devices; c) enhance water leakage control; and d) extend the salt water flushing supply system. The total expenditure of these measures in 2012-13 was \$388 million.
- (b) With the successful implementation of the long-term TWM Strategy, we expect that 236 million cubic metres of fresh water could be saved annually by 2030, involving an estimated water charges of about \$640 million calculated at existing water tariff.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)241**

Question Serial No.

4655

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:

According to Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 under Programme (1), the Administration will continue with the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme (R&R programme) of water mains. Could the Administration advise on:

1. The progress of the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains in 2012-13, the districts of the construction locations in details, the lengths in kilometres of water mains replaced or rehabilitated, and the expenditure and manpower involved in the construction.
2. The target of the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains in the coming year, the districts of the construction locations in details, the expected lengths in kilometres of water mains replaced or rehabilitated.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

1. In 2012-13 (up to February 2013), the length of water mains replaced or rehabilitated under stage 3 and stage 4 of the R&R programme is 488 km (61% of the stage 3 works) and 219 km (26% of the stage 4 works) respectively. The sites of water mains works are mainly located in Kwun Tong, Kowloon City, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long districts. The expenditure for stage 3 and stage 4 works in 2012-13 is \$2,038 million of which \$290 million is for the employment of consultants including site staff for supervision of the construction works.

2. There are currently about 1 000 “replacement and rehabilitation of water mains” sites throughout the whole territory. A total of about 340 km of water mains is planned to be replaced or rehabilitated in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)242**

Question Serial No.

5356

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department      Subhead (No. & title): 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 (the latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• less than \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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	( )



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.

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

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
8 (-20.0%)

**(b) Contract sums and duration of services**

<b>Contract sum</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of contracts</b>
Less than \$0.5 million	1 (-)
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	1 (-66.7%)
Over \$1 million	6 (-14.3%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8 (-20.0%)</b>

<b>Duration of services</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of contracts</b>
6 months or less	0 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	8 (-11.1%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-100%)
Over 2 years	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8 (-20.0%)</b>

**(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**

	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
<b>Number of workers</b>	69 (-32.4%)

	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
<b>Job categories of workers <sup>Note</sup></b>	<b>Number of workers</b>
Backend office support	2 (-93.5%)
Technical services	67 (-5.6%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>69 (-32.4%)</b>

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**

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) since 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 2011 to September 2012, 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 <sup>Note</sup> against the total number of staff in the Department**

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
1.3%

Note: For full-time workers only.

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

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
0.8%

**(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** Note

<b>Working days</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 30.9.12)
	<b>Number of workers</b>
5 working days per week	59 (-36.6%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>59 (-36.6%)</b>

Note: For full-time workers only.

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12, except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)243**

Question Serial No.

5357

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
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	(   )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	(   )
• less than 6,240	(   )
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	(   )
• 10 - 15 years	(   )
• 5 - 10 years	(   )
• 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	(   )

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as cleansing and security, information technology support, etc. The requested information is provided below.

**(a) Number of outsourced service contracts**

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
35 (-27.1%)

**(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers**

<b>2012-13</b> (up to 31.12.12) (\$M)
47.8 (+3.0%)

**(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts**

<b>Duration of service</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of contracts</b>
6 months or less	0 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	18 (+12.5%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	13 (-51.9%)
Over 2 years	4 (-20%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>35 (-27.1%)</b>

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

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
264 (-1.1%)

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

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

<b>Nature of service contracts</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of workers</b>
Security	107 (-)
Cleansing	54 (-11.5%)
Information Technology	15 (+7.1%)
Drivers	80 (+3.9%)
Logistics (Store support)	8 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>264 (-1.1%)</b>

**(f) Salaries of outsourced workers**

After the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, contractors are required to pay their 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 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**

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
5.8%

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

<b>2012-13</b> (up to 31.12.12)
4.3%

(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**

<b>Working days</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of workers</b>
5 working days per week	143 (+15.3%)
6 working days per week	121 (-15.4%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>264 (-1.1%)</b>

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12, except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)244**

Question Serial No.

5358

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department      Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
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	(    )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	(    )
• less than 6,240	(    )
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• 15 years or above	(    )
• 10 - 15 years	(    )
• 5 - 10 years	(    )
• 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	(    )
Number of NCSC staff with application for paternity leave	(    )



	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff with approval granted for paternity leave	( )

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below.

**(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature**

<b>Job nature</b>	<b>2012 – 13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
Professional	6 (-40.0%)
Technical & inspectorate	20 (-23.1%)
General administration	92 (-6.1%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>118 (-11.9%)</b>

**(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff**

2012-13 (up to 31.12.12) (\$M)
21.1 (-)

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

<b>Monthly salary</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
\$30,001 or above	16 (-11.1%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	30 (-)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	72 (-16.3%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)
\$6,240 to \$6,500	0 (-)
Less than \$6,240	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>118 (-11.9%)</b>

<b>Length of services</b>	<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
	<b>Number of NCSC staff</b>
15 years or above	0 (-)
10 years to less than 15 years	27 (-10.0%)
5 years to less than 10 years	16 (-15.8%)
3 years to less than 5 years	11 (+83.3%)
1 year to less than 3 years	50 (+117.4%)
Less than 1 year	14 (-75.0%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>118 (-11.9%)</b>

**(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant <sup>(Note1)</sup>**

<b>2012-13</b> (up to 31.12.12)
14 (-12.5%)

Note 1: Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within WSD only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil servant through an open fair and competitive process.

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

<b>2012-13</b> (up to 31.12.12)
No record

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

<b>2012-13</b> (as at 31.12.12)
2.6%

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

<b>2012-13</b> (up to 31.12.12)
1.9%

**(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break**

Meal break	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	Number of NCSC staff
Paid meal break	102 (-5.6%)
Unpaid meal break	16 (-38.5%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>118 (-11.9%)</b>

**(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days per week** <sup>(Note 2)</sup>

Working days	2012-13 (as at 31.12.12)
	Number of NCSC staff
5 working days per week <sup>(Note)</sup>	118 (-11.9%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>118 (-11.9%)</b>

Note 2: Including staff who are rostered to work shift for 5 days or less in a week.

**(j) Number of NCSC staff relating to paternity leave** <sup>(Note 3)</sup>

	2012-13 (up to 31.12.12)
	Number of NCSC staff
Application for paternity leave	0
Approval for paternity leave application	0

Note 3: NCSC staff are eligible for paternity leave with effect from 1 April 2012.

*Percentages in ( ) denote comparison with 2011-12, except where the relevant figure in 2011-12 is zero.*

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**DEVB(W)245**

Question Serial No.

4603

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 maintenance of water mains and the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains, please advise this Committee on:

1. The number of water main burst incidents in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13) with a breakdown by 18 districts over the territory.
2. The number of aforesaid incidents involving water mains which has completed the programme and the number of such water mains involved in one or more than one incident with a breakdown by the relevant information including dates of the incidents and locations.
3. The completion date of the entire programme; and the manpower and expenditure involved in the programme in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13) and coming year (2013-14).

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. The numbers of water main burst cases in Hong Kong in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (up to February 2013) with a breakdown by 18 districts are tabulated below -

District	Number of water main burst cases		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (up to February 2013)
Central and Western	19	19	6

Eastern	16	6	9
Islands	0	0	1
Kowloon City	53	26	24
Kwai Tsing	33	41	44
Kwun Tong	100	26	16
North	11	9	1
Sai Kung	16	9	13
Sha Tin	62	28	25
Sham Shui Po	68	37	26
Southern	46	6	3
Tai Po	22	8	14
Tsuen Wan	7	2	4
Tuen Mun	26	14	7
Wan Chai	18	5	9
Wong Tai Sin	14	19	3
Yau Tsim Mong	78	42	18
Yuen Long	21	20	20
Total	610	317	243

2. Of the above water main burst incidents, 12 (about 1%) involved water mains which were replaced or rehabilitated under the water mains replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme. All 12 incidents were isolated cases with water mains bursting caused by ground movement or latent defects. There was no recurrence of water burst in these sites. The dates and locations of the occurrence of the 12 water main burst incidents are as follows:

Date

Location

26 June 2010

Shek Kip Mei Street, Sham Shui Po

10 August 2010

Nga Tsin Long Road, Kowloon City

28 August 2010	Yip Kan Street, Southern
27 September 2010	Nam Kok Road, Kowloon City
16 January 2011	Norfolk Road, Kowloon City
20 January 2011	Tung Choi Street, Yau Tsim Mong
29 April 2011	Cheung Wing Road, Kwai Tsing
26 December 2011	Maple Street, Sham Shui Po
29 February 2012	Ki Lung Street, Sham Shui Po
5 June 2012	Changsha Street, Yau Tsim Mong
11 October 2012	Beacon Hill Road, Kowloon City
22 October 2012	Tai Pak Tin Street, Kwai Tsing

3. The current R&R programme for replacement and rehabilitations of 3 000 km water mains is planned to be completed in end 2015. In 2010-11 and 2011-12, the expenditure on the R&R programme were \$2,204 million and \$1,977 million respectively while the expenditure in 2012-13 is estimated to be \$2,187 million. Out of the above expenditures, \$284 million, \$267 million and \$317million were for the employment of consultants including site staff for supervision of the construction works in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively.

In 2013-14, we target to spend \$2,335million on the R&R programme of which \$339 million is for the employment of consultants including site staff for supervision of the construction works.

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 9 April 2013