

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)038

Question Serial No.

1235

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Under the "Personal Emoluments-Allowances" (Subhead 000 Operational expenses), the "Revised Estimate" for 2002-03 has increased 62.6% to \$7,915,000 from \$4,868,000 (the "Original Estimate" for 2002-03). And the 2003-04 Estimate also reaches the level of the "Revised Estimate" for 2002-03. In this respect, will the Government advise this Council:

- (a) the nature or purpose of the expenses under the item "Allowances";
- (b) the breakdown of the expenses for 2002-03 and 2003-04 in terms of their nature or purpose;
- (c) the reasons for the increase in the "Revised Estimate" over the "Original Estimate" for 2002-03.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

The allowances under Personal Emoluments include overtime allowance, typhoon allowance and acting allowance. They are payable to eligible officers who have performed overtime work, have been on duty during tropical cyclone warning signal no.8 or above, or have undertaken acting appointments in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Regulations.

The breakdown of the allowances in 2002-03 and 2003-04 is as follows:-

	2002-03 Original Estimate	2002-03 Revised Estimate	2003-04 Estimate
Overtime work	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Typhoon duty	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Acting appointment	\$4,350,000	\$7,397,000	\$7,377,000
Total	\$4,868,000	\$7,915,000	\$7,895,000

The increase in the "Revised Estimate" over the "Original Estimate" for allowances in 2002-03 is mainly due to the need to pay acting allowance to 86 staff occupying time-limited supervisory posts, which were created to supervise 490 contract staff and 27 consultants employed to improve the safety of existing buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Marco WU

Post Title

Director of Buildings

Date

21.3.2003