

Revised

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)103

Question Serial No.

0240

Head : 118 Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Territorial Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Planning Department has entrusted a number of planning studies and surveys to consultants. Could the government inform this Council:

- (a) Do the planning studies and surveys entrusted to consultants in 2005 include those mentioned in the Draft Estimates, namely, Planning for Pedestrians, Survey on Shopping Habits, Review of the Harbour Plan, and Area Improvement Studies for Tsim Sha Tsui and for Mongkok?
- (b) Do the planning studies and surveys entrusted to consultants in 2005 include any other study and survey programmes?
- (c) If answer to the above question is affirmative, what are the respective topics and goals of such planning studies and surveys? Why are they entrusted to consultants? Is it possible for the Planning Department or other government department(s) to take them up?
- (d) What are the respective consultancy fees required for these entrusted planning studies and surveys?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

(a) & (b) In addition to the five planning and development studies undertaken by consultants mentioned in sub-paragraph 3 of paragraph 6 of the Draft Estimates, the Planning Department also plans to appoint consultants to undertake two surveys, namely "2005 Cross-Boundary Travel Survey" and "Survey on Propensity to use Private Cars to cross the Boundary", as mentioned in sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 6.

(c) The objectives of the two surveys mentioned above are :

2005 Cross-Boundary Travel Survey

The survey is intended to collect information on the socio-economic characteristics of the makers of passenger and vehicular trips across the boundary between Hong Kong and the Mainland, as well as their travelling behaviour including trip purposes, origins and destinations, and transportation arrangements. This is the fourth of such surveys undertaken biennially since 1999, basically to monitor and establish the cross-boundary travel trends. The survey will be undertaken at all cross-boundary control points.

Survey on Propensity to use Private Cars to cross the Boundary

Cross-boundary travel by private cars is currently controlled by a quota system jointly administered by the HKSAR and Guangdong authorities. With the anticipated completion of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor in 2006 and the planned Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the public aspiration to make cross-boundary trips by private vehicles is expected to increase. The survey is intended to collect information on factors affecting the choice of trip makers using private cars to cross the boundary, their socio-economic characteristics as well as trip characteristics. The survey will focus on Hong Kong private vehicle owners and the information collected will contribute to the review of the private car quota system.

The surveys have to be undertaken within a short time frame and with a statistically sound sample size. There is no in-house resource available in Planning Department and in other concerned Government departments to carry out the above-mentioned surveys and thus they have to be undertaken by survey firms.

- (d) The consultancy fees proposed for the studies mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2 & 3 of paragraph 6 are as follows :

	Fees (\$ million)
Study on Planning for Pedestrians	3.46
Survey on Shopping Habits	1.22
Harbour Plan Review	1.28 *
Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui	3.98
Area Improvement Study for Mong Kok	5.13
2005 Cross-Boundary Travel Survey	3.31
Survey on Propensity to use Private Cars to cross the Boundary	1.26

* For the Kowloon Central Waterfront Study (Hung Hom) only. Studies on other districts will be undertaken in subsequent years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

_____ B C K FUNG _____

Post Title

_____ Director of Planning _____

Date

_____ 12 April 2005 _____