

**Replies to questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Draft
Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**

[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food]

[Session No. : 8]

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Bureau Serial No.

EFB001

Question Serial No.

1071

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Would the Administration have sufficient provision in the coming year for increase of manpower in response to the spread of foot and mouth disease to monitor? Would the additional manpower be sufficient for monitoring whether pig farmers' have disposed of pigs died of the disease?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

There is no indication that the disease is becoming more serious.

We deploy one Senior Veterinary Officer and 2 Veterinary Officers to monitor and prevent in particular foot and mouth disease, among other livestock diseases. The veterinary officers are supported by 22 laboratory and 11 field personnel. Some \$3.3 million has also been earmarked for materials and reagents required for the purpose. We will step up farm inspections to improve disease surveillance and monitor the situation closely.

FEHD is responsible for the collection of pig carcasses. There are 78 designated collection points for pig farmers to dispose of dead carcasses. We will continue to publicize the locations of these collection points.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB002

Question Serial No.

1003

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The annual throughput at Government Wholesale Food Markets dropped from 649,000 tonnes in 1999 to 598,000 tonnes in 2000, and the estimate for 2001 drops further to 481,000 tonnes. What are the reasons behind? Does it reflect that the industry is facing difficulties? Has the Government reserved any provision for offering assistance?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee

Reply :

The throughput figures for 1999 and 2000 comprise the Western Wholesale Food Market, the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market Phase 1 and the North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products. The decrease in total throughput for these 3 markets in 2000 was due largely to the general economic slowdown in the year. In 2001, the estimate excludes throughput figures (about 117,000 tonnes) of the North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products, as a private firm has taken over its management and operation since 1 December 2000.

We believe that the wholesale throughput will stabilize in 2001 as the economy improves. The Administration has not earmarked funds to assist the wholesale trade.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : As to designating additional marine parks, could the Administration inform this Council:

- (a) on what criteria some areas are designated marine parks?
- (b) of the parks added in 2001-02 and their number?
- (c) of the expenditure and its breakdown?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- a) In selecting areas for designation as marine parks, we take into consideration the conservation value of the area including its biotic and physical diversity, the presence of unique species or ecological systems, the scientific and educational significance of the area, the recreation value of the area, and the possible impact upon existing users including the fishermen.
- b) In 2001-02, we will designate one marine park in the waters around Ping Chau, Mirs Bay. We plan to designate two more marine parks in 2002 in the waters around Southwest Lantau and the waters around the Soko Islands.
- c) The existing staff managing Hoi Ha and Yan Chau Tong Marine Parks will have the additional responsibility of managing the proposed Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (Ping Chau, Mirs Bay). In addition, a provision of \$0.72 million will be required for hiring contract staff (\$0.52 million) and meeting other departmental expenses (\$0.2 million). These will be met by redeployment of existing resources and increase in productivity.

As regards the two proposed marine parks at Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands, we have included in the draft estimates a provision of \$2.01 million for the planning and management of the two marine parks. From 2002-03 onwards, full provision of \$3.62 million would be made. The expenditure would comprise staff cost (\$0.82 million) and departmental expenses (\$2.8 million, of which \$1.85 million would be for employment of contract staff, and \$0.95 million for meeting other departmental expenditure.)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding the ecological monitoring programme for the Ramsar site at Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay, could the Government inform this Council:

- a) of the concrete contents of this monitoring programme?
- b) of the expenditure for the programme and its breakdown?
- c) whether this monitoring programme would be conducted jointly with other green groups and if so, the details?
- d) whether any resources would be reserved for the follow-up work?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) An ecological monitoring programme for the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site will be implemented in order to meet Hong Kong's obligation under the Ramsar Convention to observe any change in the ecological character of the Site as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. The programme will comprise monitoring of mudflat sediment, benthic fauna, bird population, vegetation and habitat conditions. The data obtained will provide information for the effective management of the Ramsar Site.

(b) The estimated expenditure for the monitoring programme is \$1.6M and the breakdown is as below:

		\$M
1) Consultant's Staff Cost :	field surveys	0.5
	analysis of data and reporting	0.4
2) Laboratory Analysis Cost		0.6
3) Contingency		0.1
		<hr/> Total : 1.6

(c) The data collection and data analysis of the proposed monitoring programme will be tendered out to individual experts, university researchers, consultancy firms or non-governmental organizations in accordance with government tendering procedures. Green groups are free to participate in the tender exercise.

(d) Any additional resources, if required, for the follow-up work would be requested through the usual resources allocation exercise.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	15 MARCH 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding stepping up inspection in local farms to prevent diseases, could the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the estimated number of inspection of farms in 2001-02 and the increase in the number of inspections as compared with that of last year?
- (b) of the expenditure for stepping up inspection and its breakdown?
- (c) whether additional manpower is required for stepping up inspection and if so, the details?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) In 2000-2001 we conducted 5121 visits to local livestock farms. We anticipate increasing farm visits by 5% in 2001-02 to 5370.

(b) & (c) The increase in farm inspections will be absorbed from existing resources through improved resource utilization.

Signature	
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	15 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB006

Question Serial No.

1200

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In 2001-02, the number of claims assessed for capture fisheries ex-gratia payment increases from 885 in the preceding year to 2700, could the Government inform this Council

(a) of the reasons for the sharp rise?

(b) of the expenditure arising from the increased claims and its breakdown?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) The expected increase in the number of claims to be assessed in 2001-02 is due to a registration exercise for fishing vessels longer than 15 metres that is planned to be conducted in the year. Such registration, which is conducted once every few years, is a pre-requisite for the consideration of the ex-gratia payment.

(b) There is no additional resource earmarked for assessing the anticipated increase in the number of claims. The additional caseload will be met through internal deployment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB007

Question Serial No.

1004

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In recent years, the Government actively promotes "healthy sports", and hiking is popular among the people of Hong Kong. In this regard, how much resources would the Government allocate for improvement and regular maintenance of hiking trails in country parks to make them safer?

Asked by : Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

There is a total length of about 650 km of trails in country parks. We allocate about \$6.5 million each year to maintain these trails. We inspect, repair, upgrade and carry out grass cutting along trails on a regular basis to ensure that they are safe for hikers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB008

Question Serial No.

1005

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources would the Government allocate to speed up construction works of the various facilities in country parks to facilitate their use by members of the public?

Asked by : Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

A provision of \$10.2 million has been included in the draft estimates for the provision of various facilities including shelters, trails, information boards and mobile toilets in country parks. We will monitor closely our works programme to ensure that the facilities will be completed as soon as possible.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB009

Question Serial No.

0403

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Market

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : There is a 15.8% increase in the estimates for 2001-02 as compared with the revised estimates for the preceding year, involving increases in capital expenditure. Please state in details what the expenditure is all about?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The increase in 2001-02 to the financial provision of Government Wholesale Food Markets over the revised estimates of 2000-01 is mainly due to the provision for capital expenditure to replace the electrical and ventilation equipment in wholesale markets (\$6.2 million).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB010

Question Serial No.

0416

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The number of seedlings planted by AFCD stood at 666,000 and 648,000 in 1999 and 2000 respectively, whereas the number of seedlings estimated to be planted in 2001 is 780,000. What are the reasons for such a hefty rise? Has manpower been increased?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The increase in the number of trees to be planted in 2001-02 is part of the administration's effort to accelerate the greening of Hong Kong. There is an increase of \$2.8 million in departmental expenditure for contracting out the planting, but there is no increase in staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB011

Question Serial No.

0417

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Country parks and special areas managed by AFCD in 1999 and 2000 remained at 41582 hectares whereas the areas planned to be managed next year increase to 43966 hectares. What is the reason for this increase? In which district are the additional areas managed mainly located and what is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The increase of 2 384 hectares in the total area of country parks is due to the planned designation of Lantau North Extension Country Park. The proposed country park is located in the north of Lantau Island extending from Sze Pak Wan to Sham Shek Tsuen.

The management of the proposed Lantau North Extension Country Park will require \$1.6 million each year, comprising \$1.1 million for staff cost and \$0.5 million for development of hiking trails, recreational facilities and tree planting. The required resources will be absorbed by the department through internal redeployment and increase in staff productivity.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB012

Question Serial No.

0418

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With the total number of marine fish farms adopting environmentally friendly practices ever rising, what is the present number of AFCD staff devoted to the monitoring of such farms to ensure that they meet the environmental standards? Has manpower in this area been increased in the past three years? If so, what is the percentage of increase?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Since January 2000, we have deployed six staff for the development, promotion and monitoring of fish farms in adopting environmentally friendly aquaculture practices and good husbandry techniques. This manpower deployment is doubled that of three staff in 1998 and 1999.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB013

Question Serial No.

1006

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : 844 Minor conservation projects and studies

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : 1. Concerning the estimated expenditure of \$6,470,000, what are the concrete contents of the projects and studies and their numbers?
2. How would such projects and studies be awarded?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

1. With the provision of \$6.47 million, the conservation, education and management projects and studies which we plan to carry out in 2001-02 are detailed in the Annex.

2. The conservation projects and studies will be tendered out to individual experts, university researchers, consultancy firms or non-governmental organizations in accordance with government tendering procedures.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	15 MARCH 2001

Projects & Studies	Estimated No. of Projects	Estimated cost (\$'000)
a) To carry out baseline monitoring of the ecological conditions and establish an ecological database for the Ramsar Site so as to observe changes, if any, and the trend of changes	1	1,600
b) To conduct targeted monitoring programmes to evaluate changes associated with specific problems or management work in the Ramsar Site	1	1,220
c) To implement public education programmes and promote wise use of wetlands in the Ramsar Site	2	700
d) To carry out conservation, management and recovery programmes for animals, plants and habitats	9	1,250
e) To carry out marine mammal conservation programme through monitoring, investigating into stranding cases, pursuing further scientific studies and promoting public awareness.	5	1,700
Total:	18	6,470

Bureau Serial No.

EFB014

Question Serial No.

0740

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list out by industry, the allocation of provision under Programme (1) to agriculture, poultry farming, capture fisheries and aquaculture. What are the reasons for increase in estimated expenditures in the coming year?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

The provision for agriculture and fisheries services for 2001-02 is \$146.1 million, of which \$27.96 million is for crop farming, \$31.8 million for livestock rearing, \$57.6 million for capture fisheries and \$28.76 million for aquaculture.

The provision for 2001-02 is \$17.1 million (13.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000-01. This is mainly due to increases in capital expenditure for the deployment of artificial reefs in Hong Kong waters, and salary increments for existing staff, full-year provision for filling of vacancies and posts created in 2000-01, partly offset by the deletion of four posts in 2001-02 under the Enhanced Productivity Programme and 13 time-limited posts upon completion of capital projects.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB015

Question Serial No.

0741

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much provision has the Administration reserved for assisting livestock farmers in prevention of the various livestock diseases? Please provide a breakdown of the number of local livestock died of the various diseases in the recent 3 years.

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

We deploy one Senior Veterinary Officer and 2 Veterinary Officers to monitor and prevent livestock diseases. The veterinary officers are supported by 22 laboratory and 11 field personnel. Some \$3.3 million has also been earmarked for materials and reagents required for the purpose.

We do not keep complete statistics on the cause of death for all animals on each livestock farm as farmers are not required to report all mortality cases to us.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB016

Question Serial No.

0483

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources would the Administration reserve for large-scale green work in Hong Kong in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2001-02, we will plant 780 000 trees covering about 150 hectares of land in country parks with a provision of \$9.8 million. We will also continue the Corporate Afforestation Scheme in which corporates will plant about 140 000 trees over some 30 hectares of land at their own expense.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB017

Question Serial No.

0485

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How many additional marine parks will the Administration designate in the coming year? How much resources would be required?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We will designate one marine park in the waters around Ping Chau, Mirs Bay in 2001 and plan to designate two marine parks at Southwest Lantau and the Soko Islands in 2002.

The existing staff managing Hoi Ha and Yan Chau Tong Marine Parks will have the additional responsibility of managing the proposed Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (Ping Chau, Mirs Bay). In addition, a provision of \$0.72 million will be required for hiring contract staff and meeting departmental expenses. These will be met by redeployment of existing provisions and increase in productivity.

For the management of the two proposed marine parks at Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands, additional resources of \$2.01 million (half year) in 2001-02 and \$3.62 million (full year) from 2002-03 onwards would be required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB018

Question Serial No.

0487

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why does the Administration estimate that in 2001 the number of licences issued to livestock farms would be 170 only, less than that of 267 in 2000?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

AFCD issues licences to livestock keepers who have installed appropriate livestock waste treatment facilities. Licences are valid for 3 years. In the year 2000, we issued 188 licences to existing livestock keepers who had not been licensed previously. The remaining 79 were renewals of licences issued in 1997. In 2001, we estimate that we will issue only 43 new licences as most livestock farms have been licensed. The remaining 127 licences to be issued in the year will be renewals for licences issued in 1998.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB019

Question Serial No.

0488

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources would the Administration reserve for inspection of local farms, surveillance of drug residues in food animals and regulating the feeding of chemicals to food animals respectively?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We have included in the draft estimates a provision of \$3.87 million for inspection of local livestock farms, of which \$1.94 million will be for regulating the feeding of chemicals to food animals. In addition, we have included a provision of \$7.68 million for surveillance testing for drug residues in food animals. This testing covers both imported and local food animals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Has the Government conducted any large-scale surveys on marine ecology? If so, when were the surveys conducted and the amount of resources spent? Will the Government conduct a large-scale survey on marine ecology in the coming year to master information on marine ecology and to facilitate conservation? If so, what are the estimated expenditures and specific plans? If no, why not?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We have conducted the following marine ecological studies in the last five years -

Study	Cost	Commencement Date	Completion Date
1. Implementation of Multi-disciplinary Research Programme on the Chinese White Dolphin	HK\$4M	April 1996	April 1998
2. Consultancy Study on the Conservation Biology of Finless Porpoise in Hong Kong	HK\$7.63M	July 1998	January 2001
3. Consultancy Study on Fisheries Resources and Fishing Operations in Hong Kong Waters	HK\$14.37M	February 1996	March 1998

We will conduct the following marine ecological studies in the years 2001 and 2002 -

Study	Estimated cost	Commencement Date	Completion Date
1. Consultancy Study on Marine Benthic Communities in Hong Kong	HK\$4.14M	March 2001	November 2002
2. Monitoring of Chinese White Dolphin in Hong Kong waters	HK\$0.87M	April 2001	March 2002

In addition, we will continue to collaborate with Reef Check Foundation to conduct annual Reef Check to monitor the conditions of coral communities in Hong Kong.

Signature _____
Name in block letters MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND CONSERVATION
Date 15 MARCH 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB021

Question Serial No.

0490

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Does the Government have any plans to develop eco-tourism in Hong Kong? How much resources would be involved?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

All country parks are open for compatible recreational use. In the past years, over 10 million people visited country parks annually. We have been promoting hiking in the past two years and will continue to do so. In particular, we plan to launch an international hiking event in December 2001 as a means to promote eco-tourism. The resources required will be absorbed by the existing provisions.

We have also worked closely with the Hong Kong Tourist Association to complement their efforts in promoting Hong Kong's green countryside to appeal to a wider audience in overseas markets. We provide support for guided nature walks for visiting tour groups. Such work will continue.

The Administration is proceeding with the construction of a wetland park at Tin Shui Wai. Not only will this help publicise the richness and diversity of Hong Kong's wetland ecosystems and highlight the need to conserve them, it will also be an education and recreation facility for local residents and overseas visitors. The capital cost of the project is estimated to be about \$500 million. Phase I of the project with a visitor center has already been open to the public. Design for Phase 2 is in progress and the target for opening in 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTIONHead: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead : -Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries ServicesControlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
1. Why does the Administration estimate that the production of vegetables and poultry would decrease from 42500 tonnes and 60963 tonnes in 2000 to 37000 tonnes and 57000 tonnes in 2001 respectively?
 2. In 2001-2002, what are the estimated expenditures and specific plans for (a) assisting farmers in the development of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production; (b) assisting local fishermen in the development of an offshore fishing industry; (c) enhancing and conserving local fisheries resources; and (d) strengthening the efforts in aquaculture research and assisting fish farmers in introduction of high value-added fish species?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kanReply :

(1) Based on the trend of the past few years, crop production is expected to drop around 15%. Due to continued low market prices in preceding years, it is anticipated that livestock farmers will scale down their production by about 5%.

(2)(a) The estimated expenditure in 2001-02 for local development of organic cultivation is \$2 million and another \$2 million for intensive greenhouse production. We will implement a pilot scheme to help local farmers to convert to organic farming and to formulate a voluntary certification scheme for the produce. In intensive greenhouse production, we will evaluate and adapt different designs of greenhouses for local cultivation of premium vegetables.

(b) As the "Consultancy Study on the Feasibility of Developing an Offshore Fishing Industry for Hong Kong" is still in progress, no additional resources have been allocated in 2001-02 for assisting local fishermen in the development of an offshore fishing industry.

(c) A provision of \$37.5 million has been allocated for enhancing and conserving fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters. Apart from the recurrent expenditure for enforcing the Fisheries Protection Ordinance and other planning and management activities, this amount includes a capital sum of \$25.5 million for the deployment of artificial reefs.

(d) A provision of \$11.9 million has been allocated in 2001-02 for strengthening the efforts in aquaculture research and related extension work. Details are as follows :

Research/extension activities	Allocation in 2001-02 (\$million)
Fish fry production	3.12
Fish health management	4.95
Culture of new fish species	1.08
Use of pellet feeds and other good husbandry practices	2.74

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS LESSIE WEI

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND CONSERVATION

15 MARCH 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the ranks and job responsibilities of the five proposed additional permanent posts? Are the same job responsibilities previously undertaken by others? If yes, how many such posts are there?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2001-02, the following non-directorate posts will be created to provide laboratory support for conducting tests for biotoxins and viruses in shellfish under the food surveillance programme –

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number of post</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	1
Senior Medical Technologist	1
Medical Technologist	1
Medical <u>Laboratory Technician I</u>	2
	5

At present, there is no establishment for systematic surveillance of shellfish and biotoxins. However, examination for viruses in shellfish had been done on a need basis.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB024

Question Serial No.

0264

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

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

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Analysis of financial provision shows that there is an increase of \$78.5M in provision for 2001-2002 over the revised estimate for 2000-2001. The increase is mainly for the operation of new plants, requirement for additional sewers and maintenance of aging pipes. In this respect, please state the percentage of each of these items in the increased financial provision.

Asked by : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai

Reply : The increases for operation of new plants, requirement for taking care of newly completed sewers and maintenance of aging pipes account for 89%, 2% and 7% of the increased financial provision (\$78.5M) respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB025

Question Serial No.

0942

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 - EMSD

Subhead : 700- General other non-recurrent

Programme : 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With respect to Item 694, what is the progress of the consultancy study on quantitative risk assessment of LPG vehicles through tunnels in Hong Kong? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The consultancy study on quantitative risk assessment of LPG vehicles through tunnels commenced in early 2000. The consultant is analyzing data it has collected from tunnel operators. We expect that the study will be completed in mid-2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB026

Question Serial No.

09

43

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 42 - EMSD Subhead(No. & title) : 700- General other non-recurrent

Programme : 3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With respect to Item 713, what are the details regarding the transport energy consumption survey for selected vehicle groups? When will it begin and when will it be finished?.

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : The main objective of the Transport Energy Consumption Survey (TECS) is to collect up-to-date energy consumption data for selected vehicle groups in Hong Kong. Such data will be used by the Energy Efficiency Office of EMSD for updating the data in the Hong Kong Energy End-use Database, and also by other relevant parties for policy analysis use. The proposed survey will cover selected types of goods vehicles (i.e. heavy goods vehicles, medium goods vehicles and container trucks) and buses (i.e. public franchise/non-franchise buses, private buses and private/public light buses), both of which are important energy consumers in the Transport Sector. The survey methods will be in forms of travel diaries, intercept interviews, mailed questionnaires etc. Energy intensity figures and also other useful indices would be obtained through the survey.

The survey is scheduled to be commissioned in late 2001 and it will take about 12 months to complete. The estimated cost is about \$1.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB027

Question Serial No.

0944

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 - EMSD

Subhead : 700 – General other non-recurrent

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With respect to Item 715, what are the details regarding the consultancy study on the feasibility of introducing LPG light vans and light goods vehicles in Hong Kong? When will it begin and when will it be finished?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : The objective of the study is to look into the details of the technical feasibility of providing adequate LPG filling capacity, the security of LPG supply and the supporting infrastructure required for the introduction of LPG light vans and LPG light goods vehicles into Hong Kong. The study commenced in February, 2001 and will take about 6 months to complete.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB028

Question Serial No.

0945

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 – EMSD

Subhead:

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: The target working days for approval of construction of LPG filling stations and maintenance workshops are 40 but the actual working days for 1999 and 2000 were 34. In 1999 and 2000, the actual processing time is 34 days. Will the government consider having the target working days reduced from 40 to 34 so that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department can achieve a better performance?

Asked by: Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply: We will consider the target processing time for construction approvals of LPG filling stations and maintenance workshops to 34 working days as soon as practical. We always aim to process applications for construction of LPG filling stations and LPG vehicle maintenance workshops as quickly as practicable. In the last two years, we were able to complete processing such applications ahead of our target. We will consider the need for revising the target.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB029

Question Serial No.

0946

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 - EMSD

Subhead :

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : One of the matters requiring special attention in 2001-02 is to develop more dedicated LPG filling station sites as well as strategic sites to support the whole scheme of conversion of LPG taxis and public light buses as part of the environmental protection initiatives. Has the Government already decided to implement the converted LPG light bus scheme?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The trial of alternative-fuel light buses was completed in January 2001. The feasibility of replacing the existing diesel light buses with alternative-fuel light buses, including LPG ones, is being examined by the Administration in consultation with the transport trade. No decision has been made on whether an LPG light bus scheme should be implemented at this stage. We will take into account the infrastructure requirements in considering the way forward for the alternative-fuel light bus programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 16 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB030

Question Serial No.

0326

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 42 - EMSD Subhead (No. & title) : 700 - General other non-recurrent

Programme : 3-Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
- (a) "(To) carry out the indoor air quality survey on about 40% of major government buildings" is one of the matters requiring special attention in 2001-02. Will the Government inform this Committee what criteria are used to select these 40% of buildings? Will more resources be allocated for conducting the survey on all government buildings?

 - (b) What are the concrete findings of the indoor air quality survey conducted on the 70 buildings and completed by the end of 2000? Will the Government, with regard to the findings of the survey, initially allocate resources for implementing indoor air quality improvement measures? What are the details?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply : (a) The indoor air quality survey of 70 (10%) government buildings has been largely completed. Resources have been earmarked in 2001-02 to survey another 40% of major government buildings at an estimated cost of \$25 million, and funding approval from Finance Committee will be sought in due course. When selecting buildings for the survey, we try to include as many types of buildings as possible. We will also have regard to the occupants' operations and the maintenance schedule of the air-conditioning systems of the buildings so as to minimise any inconvenience that the survey work may cause to the occupants and to ensure that reliable data will be collected. We will draw up our plan to survey the remaining government buildings in due course.

(b) The survey work has been substantially completed. We are analysing the findings of the survey. Based on our preliminary analysis, the majority of the buildings surveyed meet Level 2 of the draft Indoor Air Quality Objectives. Buildings meeting Level 2 are considered to provide adequate protection to the health of the public at large including children and the aged. In the light of the findings of the surveys, we will take steps to improve the indoor air quality of those buildings that are unable to meet Level 2 Objectives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB031

Question Serial No.

0477

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 42 - EMSD Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : 3-Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the contents of the study on implementation of water-cooled air conditioning system in Wanchai and Causeway Bay? When will the study begin and when will it end?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The study will cover the following area of works –

- a). determine the appropriate mix of different water-cooled air conditioning system technologies and prioritise its implementation;
- b). evaluate the impact on water supply and sewage infrastructure;
- c). formulate an implementation programme;
- d). examine the associated technical requirements, environmental impacts and financial implications to implement the prioritised water cooled air conditioning system; and
- e). examine and select an appropriate contract strategy for implementing the prioritised water cooled air conditioning system and assist in preparing the tender document.

We plan to start the implementation study for Wanchai and Causeway Bay in late 2001 and to complete the study in 12 months' time. The estimated cost for the consultancy study is about \$9M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB032

Question Serial No.

0478

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 42 - EMSD Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : 3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the contents regarding the installation of innovative energy efficient equipment in Government buildings

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The following energy-efficient equipment and building services systems that can readily be retrofitted to existing government properties, without causing major disruption to the users of the buildings, are proposed to be used for this programme:

Lighting

1. Electronic Ballast for High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lamp - for park lighting and street lighting.
2. High Output T5 Fluorescent Lamp - for high bay discharge lighting in indoor game halls.
3. Light Emitting Diode (LED) Lamps and Sulphur Lamps - new light sources for general and specialised lighting.

Air-conditioning

4. Automatic Condenser Tube Cleaning and Water Treatment - clean the water-cooled condenser tubes by circulating rubber balls inside the tubes continuously.
5. Evaporative Cooling for Air-cooled Condenser - to evaporate the condensate water to supplement cooling of air-cooled condensers.

Power

6. Power Quality Improvement Equipment and Harmonic Filters - to reduce harmonic distortion and power losses in the power distribution system of buildings.

The estimated cost of the programme is about \$3 million and it is scheduled for

commencement in mid 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB033

Question Serial No.

0479

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 42-EMSD

Subhead : 700- General other non-recurrent

Programme : 3-Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the contents of the consultancy study relating to the formulation of the performance based Building Energy Code? When will the study begin and when will it end?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The existing codes of practice on building energy efficiency are mainly prescriptive in nature. While they may help users to stipulate requirements, they lack flexibility in system design. Thus, designers may not have the incentive to design systems that go beyond the requirements specified in the Code. Through the new performance approach, much more design flexibility on options of different compliance paths is provided to designers and higher energy efficiency can be achieved with increase in control level.

The content of consultancy study will include the following :-

- a). To compare the pros and cons of adopting a scheme with prescriptive requirement and a scheme of performance-based approach;
- b). To study its implementation framework in Hong Kong; and
- c). To develop a performance-based code of practice for controlling building energy efficiency.

The consultancy study will be commissioned in December 2001 and completed in

June 2002 tentatively. The estimated cost is about \$3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 16 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB034

Question Serial No.

1048

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) : 101CX –
Civil engineering works, studies and
investigations for items in Category
D of the Public Works Programme

Programme : (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : As regards the study on the long-term arrangements to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials and dredged mud, what are the estimated expenditure and programme of this study?

Asked by : Hon LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The Government has reserved \$6.8 million for the study. The study will commence in April 2001 and will be completed by mid-2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB035

Question Serial No.

1049

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 101CX –
Civil engineering works, studies and
investigations for items in Category D of
the Public Works Programme

Programme : (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : 1. It is stipulated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention that a study on the long-term arrangements to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials and dredged mud will soon commence. Please advise the scope of the study and the expenditure involved. Will the Government consider to use incineration in handling those materials?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : 1. The study will examine options for the long-term arrangements to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials and dredged mud. It will include a site search, and will also examine the engineering feasibility and environmental aspects of possible options as well as their impacts on the marine ecology and the fishery industry. The study will commence in April 2001 and will be completed by mid 2002. The Government has reserved \$6.8M for the study. Incineration has not been considered because the inert construction and demolition materials and dredged mud are non-combustible.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : A total of 1956 enquiries were handled in 2000 through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service, and it is estimated that 2,000 enquiries will be handled in 2001. Please specify the types of enquiries handled. What were the most common enquiries concerning waste reduction and recycling? How long does it take for an enquiry to be handled completely?

Asked by : Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : Of the 1956 enquiries, more than 50% were requests for contact details of waste recyclers who can collect recyclable materials. About 20% of the enquiries sought technical advice on waste reduction and recycling, such as how to set up waste separation and recycling programmes at their premises. The remaining enquiries related to the government's policy on waste reduction, facts and statistics on waste recycling and possible visits to local recycling facilities.

About 95% of the enquiries were answered immediately while the rest were handled within one or two working days. The Environmental Protection Department's Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline is manned during office hours from Monday to Friday and voicemail is available outside office hours.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The number of green groups, schools and community groups taking part in environmental awareness and education programmes dropped from 2,630 in 1999 to 1,923 in 2000. It is estimated that the number will stand at 1,900 in 2001. Please explain the drop bearing in mind the fact that more money is to be reserved for community relations - the financial provision for community relations for 2001-02 is estimated to increase by 19.9 per cent over the 2000-01 revised estimate. Why are fewer groups interested in the activities?

Asked by : Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : The number of groups involved varies from year to year depending on the nature of the programmes being carried out. For the year 2000 and for the year 2001 the numbers are roughly the same and represent the normal level of activity. The number for 1999 was unusually high and was due to a special one year programme launched jointly by the Environmental Protection Department with the Social Welfare Department and the Social Service Council under the Healthy Living Campaign. This programme was called the Environmental Protection Volunteer programme and involved a very large number of community groups. Therefore, the drop in such an indicator does not imply that fewer groups are interested in environmental activities.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the estimated operating cost of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2001?
- (b) Does the Environmental Protection Department have any plans to improve the utilization rate of the Centre so as to maximize the use of the facility?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (a) The estimated operating cost of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) for 2001-02 is \$465.7 million.
- (b) The general decrease in the amount of waste going to the CWTC in recent years is due to a combination of the adoption of waste minimisation practices and in-house treatment by some major chemical waste producers together with the overall change in Hong Kong's economic structure which has resulted in fewer manufacturing activities within Hong Kong. To enhance the utilization rate of the CWTC, the Government is negotiating with the contractor to improve cost effectiveness and reduce unit costs. The contract negotiation is on-going and we are hoping to come to a conclusion by the end of this year.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :Programme : (1) Waste FacilitiesControlling Officer : Director of Environmental ProtectionBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the annual handling capacity of the existing refuse transfer stations? What are the actual figures of tonnage of waste handled by these facilities in the last two years? What are their percentages in relation to the total capacity? (Please provide breakdown for individual refuse transfer stations) What is the total revenue to the government as a result of the handling fees charged?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yukReply :

A breakdown of the maximum handling capacity and actual waste intake at individual refuse transfer stations in the past two years is as follows:

Refuse Transfer Station (RTS)	Maximum Handling Capacity (tonnes per annum)	Actual Waste Intake (tonnes per annum) [percentage of the maximum capacity]	
		1999	2000
Kowloon Bay RTS	0.657M	0.405M [62%]	0.391M [60%]
Island East RTS	0.438M	0.305M [70%]	0.318M [73%]
Shatin RTS	0.365M	0.355M [97%]	0.347M [95%]
Island West RTS	0.365M	0.162 M [44%]	0.173M [47%]
West Kowloon RTS	0.913M	0.564M [62%]	0.566M [62%]
North Lantau RTS	0.237M	0.0335M [14%]	0.037M [16%]
Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities	0.147M (1999) 0.183M (2000)*	0.0445M [30%]	0.042M [23%]

* The increased capacity is due to the commissioning of the Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan transfer facilities in May 2000.

The design capacity of all refuse transfer stations allows for an increase in waste intake as a result of future development. Hence the utilization rate of some of these facilities is still building up. The total revenue received from the handling of privately collected waste through the refuse transfer station charging scheme was about \$3.7 million and \$4.3 million in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 respectively.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB040

Question Serial No.

0443

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Grants were given by the government to encourage the replacement of diesel taxis with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis, and financial assistance was provided by the government to retrofit pre-Euro light diesel vehicles with particulate reduction devices. Would the government tell me what are the respective total numbers of vehicles that have been successful in their applications and what are the respective percentages in relation to such types of vehicles?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : As at 28.2.2001, grants were paid to the owners of 5,896 diesel taxis for replacement with LPG taxis. This number represents about 33% of the entire taxi fleet. Also, payment was made for 10,057 pre-Euro light duty diesel vehicles to be installed with particulate traps or diesel oxidation catalysts. This number represents about 25% of all the pre-Euro light duty diesel vehicles.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB041

Question Serial No.

0444

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In the 2001-02 estimates, what is the establishment for the handling of noise complaints and what percentage of resources is involved in relation to that of the noise programme?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Noise pollution complaints are handled by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) pollution control staff as an integral part of their broad range of enforcement duties. These staff are organized on a geographical basis to carry out multi-functional enforcement work, covering noise pollution, air pollution, water pollution and illegal waste disposal. It is not possible, therefore, to quote a precise resource allocation to the handling of noise complaints.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For the publicity and education of waste separation and recovery, what are the concrete plans for the coming year? What is the expenditure involved and its percentage in this Programme?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : To further enhance the community's awareness in waste reduction and waste separation and recovery, in the coming year the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to deliver talks, hold workshops and help individual organizations to set up their own waste reduction and recovery programmes. It is estimated that about \$4.3 million (15.2%) of the expenditure in Programme 7 will be spent on publicity and education relating to waste reduction and waste recycling in 2001-02. In addition to the expenditure in Programme 7, the EPD will also spend \$3.2 million under Capital Account expenditure for implementing a 2-year publicity and educational programme to promote waste reduction.

With secretarial and technical support from the EPD, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) will also continue to organize waste separation and recycling campaigns in housing estates, schools and tertiary institutes in 2001-02. EPD and ECC will work closely with public and private groups, District Councils, NGOs, schools and businesses to promote waste recovery. More training and support will be given to the School Environmental Protection Ambassadors (SEPAs) to promote education and action on waste reduction through schools. Workshops and action programmes will be carried out in tertiary and vocational institutes to develop their waste reduction and recovery programmes. Joint projects will be developed with District Councils and neighbourhood groups, and pilot waste recovery projects will be supported. Specific targets are:

- The number of housing estates covered by the waste recycling campaign will be increased by 40% to 1,000 in 2001-02
- The number of schools and educational institutions joining waste recycling schemes will be doubled to 800

As the ECC activities are funded from the Environment and Conservation Fund, there are no additional financial implications for these activities in the Estimates.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide the breakdown figures by types of the tonnage of waste treated or to be treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in the past two years and the coming year respectively. What is the amount of government subsidy for each type of wastes? What is the total amount of subsidy?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The breakdown of waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 1999-00 and 2000-01 is as follows :

Waste Type	1999 (tonnes)	2000 (tonnes)
etchants	12,800	21,100
acids	2,300	2,900
alkalis	2,200	1,500
toxic metal solutions	1,600	1,900
solvents	3,700	4,500
waste oil	7,400	7,000
MARPOL oil	15,200	14,000
MARPOL wastewater	16,200	9,300
others	800	600
Total	62,200	62,800

The total waste intake in 2001 is estimated to be similar to that in 2000.

The treatment costs and subsidies vary depending on the chemical composition and treatment system used and these variables can change with each consignment of waste. The overall subsidy for the treatment of chemical waste in 2000-01 is estimated to be about \$180 million.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the plans of the EPD to assist other government departments to draft EIA reports for major infrastructure projects? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Under the current statutory EIA system, it is the responsibility of project proponents to prepare EIA reports in accordance with study briefs issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and in accordance with the Technical Memorandum on the EIA Process issued under the EIA Ordinance (EIAO). It is not the responsibility of the EPD to assist directly in the preparation of the reports. The EPD's role is to act as the statutory authority to ensure the EIAs comply with the EIAO. Nonetheless, the EPD does provide general advice to assist project proponents and has put in place a number of arrangements to help them comply with the EIAO requirements as follows:

1. Upon the request of project proponents, an Environmental Study Management Group (ESMG) will be convened by the EPD at an early stage in the EIA process for a particular project to provide a forum for discussing aspects of the EIA work as it progresses. The ESGM is chaired by a directorate grade officer of the EPD and its membership includes the project proponent, his consultants and staff of other relevant government departments. ESGMs may be convened for both private sector and public sector projects and, since 1998, the EPD has convened over 80 ESGMs;
2. A dedicated web site has been set up for the EIAO work which contains, among other things, over 350 documents providing examples of EIAs, guidance material and other references for proponents and their consultants to use;
3. A number of guidebooks, guidance notes and examples of good practice have also been prepared and distributed to proponents and their consultants. Up to now, over 5000 copies of these publications have been distributed. In 2001-02, additional guidance notes will be prepared and placed on the web site; and
4. Since mid 2000, the EPD has also initiated four liaison groups designed to enhance communication with project proponents and promote better understanding of the EIAO requirements. One of these liaison groups is specifically for government departments.

These services are provided through existing in-house resources as an integral part of the EPD's overall effort in implementing and enforcing the EIAO. It is not possible, therefore, to give a precise resource allocation for these services.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB045

Question Serial No.

0830

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the plans of the EPD to assist the private sector to publish their environmental reports ? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2001, the EPD plans to produce an environmental performance report guidance manual, hold workshops, and share local and international experience and examples of good environmental performance reporting to assist the private sector to publish their own reports. The work will be handled by 1 professional officer and 1 technical officer.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the concrete plans of the Environmental Protection Department to promote the separation and recovery of household wastes? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : To further enhance the community's awareness in waste reduction and waste separation and recovery, in the coming year the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to deliver talks, hold workshops and help individual organizations to set up their own waste reduction and recovery programmes. It is estimated that about \$4.3 million (15.2%) of the expenditure in Programme 7 will be spent on publicity and education relating to waste reduction and waste recycling in 2001-02. In addition to the expenditure in Programme 7, the EPD will also spend \$3.2 million under Capital Account expenditure for implementing a 2-year publicity and educational programme to promote waste reduction.

With secretarial and technical support from the EPD, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) will also continue to organize waste separation and recycling campaigns in housing estates, schools and tertiary institutes in 2001-02.

At present, 711 housing estates have joined the waste recycling campaign. To educate the public about waste recycling, ECC and EPD will organize roving educational programmes in housing estates and work with community groups and District Councils. It is planned to extend the scheme to 1,000 housing estates in 2001-02.

As the ECC activities are funded from the Environment and Conservation Fund, there are no additional financial implications for these activities in the Estimates.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB047

Question Serial No.

0003

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 700 - General other non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Under Subhead 700, the commitments for items 556, 558, 559, 560 and 561 are totally unspent. Does it mean the Government has not even commenced the work?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

Yes, the Government has not yet commenced the work on the said Subhead 700 Items 556, 558, 559, 560 and 561 because they are in respect of new commitments for which provisions are now being sought.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB048

Question Serial No.

0004

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Under the Indicators of Programme 7, why does the no. of green groups, schools and community groups involved in environmental awareness and education programmes decline year by year?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

The number of groups involved varies from year to year depending on the nature of the programmes being carried out. For the year 2000 and for the year 2001 the numbers are roughly the same and represent the normal level of activity. The number for 1999 was unusually high and was due to a special one year programme launched jointly by the Environmental Protection Department with the Social Welfare Department and the Social Service Council under the Healthy Living Campaign. This programme was called the Environmental Protection Volunteer programme and involved a very large number of community groups.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Under the Indicators of Programme 5, why does the no. of licences granted decline while the no. of licences renewed increases significantly?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

The number of licences granted refers to licences granted under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance to new dischargers or to existing dischargers applying for a new licence as a result of changes in the nature of their operation or ownership. Since the declaration of the last phase of the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone on 1.4.96, all existing dischargers have been brought under licensing control. The number of new licences granted since then is therefore on a downward trend as most licences have already been issued and the number of new dischargers is not very significant.

Each licence has a specified validity period and the licence holder is required to renew his/her licence before expiry. Starting from 1.6.96, the Water Pollution Control Ordinance licence validity period has been changed from 2 years to 5 years so as not to unnecessarily burden the industry. The anticipated increase in the number of renewed licences in 2001 is mainly due to the large number of licences issued in 1996 for dischargers in the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone which will be due for renewal in 2001.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB050

Question Serial No.

0011

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In the analysis of financial provision, the provision for 2001-02 is \$28.0 million higher than the revised estimate for 2000-01 mainly due to additional provision for contract payments to waste facility operators to reflect a general increase in waste quantities. Can you provide the detailed breakdown for this additional provision?

Asked by : Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

Of the estimated increase of \$28.0 million, \$4.9 million is mainly for Personal Emoluments including the full year provision for posts created in 2000-01 and salary increments for existing staff and \$23.1 million is the additional provision for contract payments to waste facility operators. The latter is mainly due to (a) operation of the North West New Territories Refuse Transfer Station to be commissioned in October 2001 (around \$9.5 million); (b) projected increase in waste collected by the private sector going to the refuse transfer stations (around \$3.0 million); (c) full year operation of the Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan Transfer Facilities commissioned in May 2000 (around \$1.0 million); and (d) about 1% price fluctuation adjustment (around \$9.0 million).

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB051

Question Serial No.

0051

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With regard to the analysis of financial provision, the provision for 2001-02 is \$1.1 million higher than the revised estimate for 2000-01, which is due to the filling of two posts to facilitate land and housing supply. What are the respective ranks and titles of these two posts ? In addition, the expenditure is partly offset by the deletion of one post under the Enhanced Productivity Programme. What are the rank and title of this post?

Asked by : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai

Reply : The respective ranks and titles of these two posts are Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Housing) and Environmental Protection Inspector (Housing). The post that is to be deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme is an assistant clerical officer post.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With regard to promoting the adoption of environmental reporting in the private sector, will the Government tell this Council:

- a) Has the Government ever reviewed the effectiveness of previous work? If yes, what are the results? If no, what are the reasons?
- b) What is the expenditure for 2001-02? What is the specific breakdown of various uses?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in conjunction with the Business Environment Council (formerly known as the Centre of Environmental Technology (CET)) has been promoting the adoption of environmental reporting in the private sector. The first guidance book on corporate environmental reporting was jointly issued in 1998 and a number of seminars on corporate environmental reporting have been held over the past few years. As environmental reporting is a relatively new concept for the private sector, more time is required for promotion work. It is therefore premature to review the effectiveness of this work at this stage.

The expenditure in 2001-02 for promoting the adoption of environmental reporting in the private sector is HK \$1.15 million, which is primarily for staff costs for in-house staffing resources to prepare guidance materials, give talks and organise seminars.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With regard to promoting greater public participation in the statutory EIA process, will the Government tell this Council:

- a) What are the concrete plans?
- b) What is the expenditure for 2001-02? What is the specific breakdown of various uses?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) To promote greater public participation in the statutory EIA process, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in 1998 set up a dedicated public access website for Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) work. This website provides information for the public on all projects subject to statutory control under the EIAO. In addition, since 1999 the EPD has directly notified District Councils of any designated projects in their districts and since 2000 has accepted public comments on EIAs submitted by e-mail. In 2001-02, we will set up a web-based database to facilitate public access to project environmental performance information.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for setting up a web-based database on project environmental performance for public access in 2001-02 is \$1.7 million. The breakdown of the budget is:
 1. Implementation services (including web-site design, program development, installation, training, documentation etc) \$1.3 million
 2. Software (design and programming) \$0.4 million

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With regard to raising the environmental awareness of the public, can the Government tell this Council:

- a) What are the concrete plans?
- b) What is the expenditure for 2001-02? What is the specific breakdown of various uses?
- c) What is the estimated number of additional Environmental Resources Centres to be provided in the coming year?
- d) Whether any review and assessment of the previous work have ever been conducted? If yes, what are the findings? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The Administration has initiated a very large number of activities aimed at raising the environmental awareness of the public. Some of these are carried out directly by staff of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), and some are carried out in collaboration with the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC), Green Groups or other community groups.

In 2001-02, the EPD will continue a 3-year publicity programme to publicize the government's environmental work and to raise the environmental awareness of the public. It will also launch a two-year programme to improve environmental awareness at the district level by providing training for different kinds of stakeholders. The EPD and ECC will continue to organize a number of environmental campaign activities, including World Environment Day in June, the Environmental Protection Festival towards the end of the year, the Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards, the Green School Award scheme, the Student Environmental Protection Ambassadors Scheme, waste recycling campaigns for housing estates, schools, tertiary/vocational institutes, and various environmental protection ambassador schemes for different community groups.

- (b) The major responsibility of the Community Relations Programme is to raise the environmental awareness of the public. The total expenditure for this programme for Year 2001-02 is \$28.3 million. It is estimated that about 15% of the expenditure will be spent on education activities relating to waste reduction and waste recycling; 15% on air pollution issues; 5% on noise issues; 10% on water pollution issues; 10% on environmental assessment and planning matters; and 45% on other general environmental aspects. This does not include the expenditure on environmental campaign activities organized by the ECC, which are supported separately by the Environment and Conservation Fund.
- (c) The Mobile Environmental Resource Centre (ERC) will come into operation in 2001. An additional ERC is planned to be established in Fanling and is scheduled for opening in 2002.
- (d) The EPD and the ECC have reviewed and assessed the benefits gained from previous work by conducting public opinion surveys from time to time. The findings of the surveys are summarized below:
 - In a survey from 543 schools, 80% of the schools responded that the environmental student ambassador programmes are effective; and 82% of the school responded that the environmental training camps are effective.
 - From a telephone survey involving 2,057 people, 70% said that programmes like exhibitions, carnivals, competitions and other environmental activities would enhance their environmental awareness in waste recycling; and 46.6% of people said that they will use recycling bins at least once a week.
 - From feedback from 65 organizations which have visited the ERCs in 2000, 100% said that they could get what they want from the visits and about 97% indicated that the visits could raise their environmental awareness.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- 1a: For 2001-02, what are the plans of the Environmental Protection Department to reduce vehicle emissions?
- 1b: As there will be a net increase of four posts for the implementation of measures to reduce vehicle emissions, what are the ranking and duties of these posts?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply :

- (a) We will continue to implement various on-going programmes in 2001-02 to reduce motor vehicle emissions. In addition, we plan to:
- extend the Euro III emission requirements to all newly registered vehicles;
 - make a proposal on introducing alternative-fuelled light buses;
 - complete the trial of diesel oxidation catalysts for large diesel vehicles and get prepared for a retrofit programme for pre-Euro large diesel vehicles;
 - consult on making the installation of a particulate removal device a requirement for renewing the licence of a pre-Euro diesel light vehicle;
 - promote switching off engines while idling;
 - complete the trial of biodiesel;
 - conduct seminars to promote eco-driving;
 - train more smoky vehicle spotters;
 - work to introduce an inspection and maintenance programme for petrol vehicles and a certification programme for vehicle emission reduction catalysts.
- (b) In terms of man-power, our plan is to create 9 posts for reducing motor vehicle emissions and, at the same time, delete 5 posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme. Thus, there will be a net increase of 4 posts. The 4 posts comprise 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer, 1 Environmental Protection Officer and 2 Senior Environmental Protection Inspectors. They are to prepare for an inspection and maintenance programme for petrol vehicles and a certification system for vehicle emission reduction catalysts.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : During 2001-02, the Environmental Protection Department will update the vehicle noise standard to tie in with the latest international standard. When was the vehicle noise standard drawn up last time? Was that standard the most up-to-date international standard at that time? During the period from the last formulation of vehicle noise standard up to the present, have there been any international standards newly drawn up?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : The current noise standards for new vehicles were introduced through the Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation in 1996. These standards were in line with the then current standards existing in Europe and Japan, from where we traditionally have imported the majority of our motor vehicles. In recent years, vehicle noise standards have progressively been tightened in both Europe and Japan. The emission standards for passenger cars and lorries above 3.5 tonnes have been tightened by 3 and 4 dB(A) respectively, and the present proposal is to bring our standards in Hong Kong into line with these new standards.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 700 – General Other Non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For Subhead 700 Item 553 - " one-off grant to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel light vehicles to retrofit their vehicles with particulate traps", the balance for this item is more than half of its approved commitment. Does the Environmental Protection Department have any plan to encourage the eligible owners to retrofit their vehicles with particulate traps before the deadline? And will the deadline be extended so as to fully utilize the provision?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : Up to the end of February 2001, over 10,000 pre-Euro light diesel vehicles have been retrofitted with particulate traps or diesel oxidation catalysts. The progress is considered reasonable. We plan to step-up the publicity of the installation programme among eligible vehicle owners as well as asking the contractors to shorten the waiting time so that eligible owners can get their vehicles retrofitted more quickly. This should attract more owners to retrofit their vehicles. We do not see the need to extend the deadline at this stage.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB058

Question Serial No.

0951

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For Subhead 700 Item 554 - "one-off grant to encourage diesel taxi owners to replace their vehicles with liquefied petroleum gas taxis", does the Environmental Protection Department have any plan to encourage the diesel taxi owners to switch to LPG taxis so as to fully utilize the provision?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The LPG taxi programme is progressing well. In recent months, diesel taxis have been replaced by LPG taxis at a rate of about 800 to 1,000 vehicles per month. The provision of additional LPG filling facilities in the coming months will make LPG refilling more convenient. The plan of the Administration is to provide, within 2001, sufficient LPG filling capacity to support the entire taxi fleet. This will encourage more diesel taxi owners to replace their taxis with LPG taxis.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB059

Question Serial No.

0751

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : When will the Administration complete the review on the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme and formulate a plan for the next stage? Does the Administration have a more detailed time schedule and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The International Review Panel (IRP) completed its review of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (now called the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, HATS) and released a report on their findings on 30 November 2000. The IRP has recommended that a number of environmental and engineering feasibility studies should be carried out into four potential options for completing the HATS. The Administration has responded positively to this IRP recommendation in a public document released on 1 March 2001. Subject to funding approval from the Legislative Council, we will commence the recommended studies and trials before the end of this year. The studies will take about 2 years to complete.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : As the Environmental Protection Department is going to propose measures to control emissions from dry cleaning operations, what is the expenditure to be involved for the implementation of such measures? Will the "Polluters Pay Principle" be adopted so that the amount of provision could be reduced by asking the industry to assume its responsibility?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat

Reply : There is no specific government expenditure associated with the proposed control on dry-cleaning operations. Although the proposal, if becomes law, will lead to a slight increase in law enforcement work, our intention is to absorb the additional workload within existing resources. Any costs involved in complying with the proposed law would have to be met by the industry.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

1. Among the matters requiring special attention in 2001-02, what are the concrete details of the development of materials recovery and recycling programmes?
2. What are the financial implications?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2001-02, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will carry out a number of pilot schemes and detailed feasibility study (FS) for the setting up of recovery facilities for specific wastes types, such as tyres, and electrical and electronic equipment, including computers. The first trial collection of plastic bottles from housing estates (requiring about 0.6 million) will start shortly in April 2001 and the feasibility studies (requiring about \$2.6 million) are scheduled to commence in late 2001.

In parallel, the Government will continue to allocate sites exclusively to waste recyclers under short term tenancy (STT) arrangements for waste recovery and recycling activities. So far, seven sites with a total area of over 5 hectares have been allocated since 1998. More STT sites will be processed for allocation in 2001. The Government is also examining the possibility of providing long term land for the future development of materials recycling and recovery.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 297 – Fees for operation of waste facilities

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

1. What are the financial expenditures in respect of refuse transfer stations and landfills under the Subhead 297 - Fees for operation of waste facilities?
2. Were these fees paid by the two Municipal Councils before their abolition by the Government?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

1. The estimated fees for the operation of refuse transfer stations and landfills in 2001-02 under Subhead 297 are \$404 million and \$421 million respectively.
2. No, these fees are charged under the Environmental Protection Department's Subhead 297 - Fees for operation of waste facilities.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02", it is mentioned that the EPD will "promote the consideration of key environmental implications of major policies or strategies at the earliest possible stage". Would the Government tell this Council what are the concrete plans of the Department to meet the target? How many resources will be put in?
- (b) In 2000, the EPD operated a help-desk to facilitate controlling officers and government-owned organisations to prepare their environmental performance reports. Would the Government tell this Council how many cases have been received since the operation of the help-desk? Apart from operating the help-desk, are there any other measures to help the controlling officers and persons-in-charge of government-owned organisations to have a better understanding of environmental impact assessment (EIA) work? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

- (a) To promote the consideration of environmental implications of major policies or strategies at the earliest possible stage, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to participate in major policy or strategy formulation work. EPD will also continue to review the findings of related environmental studies and to assist the Environment and Food Bureau in vetting the environmental implication sections of Executive Council papers. In particular, we will manage and review the strategic environmental assessment for "Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy" to facilitate an early consideration of major environmental issues in the long-term strategic planning process. In 2001-02, a team comprising 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer and 2 Environmental Protection Officers will be deployed to deal with this work.
- (b) Since the establishment of the help-desk to assist controlling officers and government-owned organisations in preparing their environmental performance reports, we have received 108 requests for assistance. In addition, to help government departments and government-owned organizations to have a better understanding of environmental impact assessment (EIA) work, which is quite different from environmental performance reporting, we have, since 1998:
1. been involved in organising 13 seminars or conferences on EIA work for over 1300 participants from the public and private sectors;
 2. delivered over 140 talks or presentations to over 5300 participants;
 3. distributed about 5000 pamphlets and guidebooks, and in 2000-01, handled about 600 general enquiries on EIAs;
 4. set up a dedicated web site for the EIA Ordinance with over 350 documents available through the site; and
 5. initiated 4 liaison groups to provide special forums for discussing EIA work for government departments and government-owned organisations, private corporations, consultants and contractors.

In addition to these general services, we have also convened over 80 Environmental Study Management Group meetings to assist proponents to understand and fulfil the EIA Ordinance requirements for individual projects.

The promotion of a better understanding of EIA work forms an integral part of the overall EPD effort in implementing and enforcing the EIA Ordinance. It is not possible, therefore, to give a precise resource allocation to this function.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With regard to the continual development of treatment facilities for clinical waste, can the details be provided? How many resources are to be put in?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply : In 1999, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) consulted the Legislative Council's Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Health Services on a proposal to modify the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre to treat clinical waste. In response to the Panels' concern as to whether incineration is the most appropriate way to treat clinical waste, the EPD has undertaken to carry out a review on the alternative technologies for the treatment and disposal of clinical waste. The review is now completed and we will further consult the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Health Services on the findings of the review later this year. At that time, we will be in a better position to estimate the resources required to develop and operate the preferred treatment facility.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : As regards the assessment on the effectiveness of the waste recovery programme by the Environmental Protection Department, how many resources have been put into the programme since its implementation? What are the economic benefits of materials recycling? What is the Department's further programme on waste recovery?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply : Since November 1998, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has deployed two teams comprising 2 Senior Environmental Protection Officers, 7 Environmental Protection Officers and 6 technical grade staff to implement waste recovery initiatives.

The economic benefits of material recovery and recycling include conservation of natural resources, avoidance of waste collection and disposal costs, and extension of landfill life. Materials recovery and recycling activities also directly generate economic benefits in their own right. Several thousand people are employed in waste recovery and recycling businesses in Hong Kong and the export of recovered material earned Hong Kong over \$2.7 billion in 1999.

EPD in conjunction with other departments, the Environmental Campaign Committee and the Waste Reduction Committee will continue to promote waste reduction and recovery. The immediate focus is to educate the public on the importance of waste reduction and to increase the recovery of recyclable materials from the domestic waste stream. Support will also be provided to public and private groups, including District Councils, NGOs and the business sector to take action on waste reduction. It is estimated that about \$4.3 million of the expenditure in programme 7 will be for publicity and education related to waste reduction and recycling in 2001-02. In addition, EPD will spend \$3.2 million under Capital Account expenditure to implement a 2 year publicity and educational programme to promote waste reduction.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Environmental Protection Department is going to develop a plan to set the direction for waste management for the next 20 years. How many resources will have to be allocated every year for this purpose? What are the anticipated targets to be achieved? What is the time schedule of this plan and what are the details of its progress?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is deploying a team comprising 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer, 2 Environmental Protection Officers and 1 technical officer to develop the Waste Management Plan (WMP). In addition, about \$2.5 million have been used so far to conduct studies on waste forecasting and waste management technologies. These studies were completed in early 2001 and the results will be used in the drafting of the WMP.

The WMP will address the improvements that should be made in developing a sustainable waste management system for Hong Kong for the next 20 years. It is anticipated that a draft WMP will be ready by the end of 2001. Consequential resource requirements will be addressed after the WMP is available.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For many years, there has not been any improvement to the water quality of inland waters. In the past two years, 17 inland water sampling points are classified as "bad and very bad", i.e. 17%, while the Administration is conducting a review on the way forward for the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme. As such, has the Environmental Protection Department ever studied the ways to improve local water quality? If yes, what are the results? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply : The figure quoted refers to the quality of some of our inland waters. Although there has been little improvement over the past three years, the gains are more obvious when viewed over a longer time frame. In 1988, 52% of the river sampling stations fell in the "bad" or "very bad" categories compared with only 17% in 2000.

The main reasons that prevent us from achieving further improvement in some of our inland waters are the continuous discharge of sewage from unsewered villages, and pollution from livestock farms.

To tackle the problems, we are rolling out a programme of provision of mains sewerage to unsewered areas. In the past 8 years we have spent about \$270M on such programmes and we have plan to spend approximately \$500 million over the next 5 years.

Pollution from livestock farms is more difficult to deal with. The pollution loading from the livestock industry has been reduced from a population equivalent of 1,665,000 persons to that of 48,000 persons since the implementation of the livestock waste control scheme. However, the present loading is still too much for our streams and rivers to absorb. This is mainly due to unscrupulous farmers discharging polluting effluent at nighttime and through concealed discharge points which are extremely difficult to detect. We are examining options for further reducing pollution from such sources. In the meantime, we will continue to enforce existing legislation vigorously to keep the pollution loading to a minimum.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : During 2001-02, the Environmental Protection Department is going to update the vehicle noise emission standards to the latest international standards. Has the Department ever examined the economic effectiveness of the plan? What is the difference between the existing vehicle noise emission standards and the latest international standards? How much resources will be required after the standards are updated? What is the detailed timetable for the plan?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply : The proposal applies only to new vehicles to be imported into Hong Kong and is simply to keep Hong Kong's noise emission standards for new vehicles in line with the latest statutory standards in Europe and Japan, from where most of our vehicles have been traditionally imported. Existing vehicles in use in Hong Kong would not be affected by the proposal. There should be no additional significant economic impact associated with the proposal as vehicle manufacturers in Europe and Japan already have to comply with these standards.

The difference between the existing noise emission standards and the latest international standards for passenger cars and lorries above 3.5 tonnes are 3 and 4 dB(A) respectively. There will be no change to the current procedures for vehicle registration and hence no additional resources will be required. We plan to introduce the proposal to the Legislative Council later this year.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Has there been any improvement to the air quality of those districts which have implemented the pedestrianization plan? Has the Environmental Protection Department ever conducted any studies on this plan such as to find out: the difference in Air Pollution Indexes (APIs) before and after the implementation of pedestrianization; the APIs of other non-pedestrianized districts in the vicinity after traffic diversion; as well as any differences in the data for temperature, humidity and air pollutants before and after the implementation of the plan?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has measured the levels of respirable suspended particulates for pedestrianisation schemes at Lee Garden Road in Causeway Bay and Sai Yeung Choi Street South in Mong Kok. The results showed that in the streets directly concerned, the levels dropped by 8% to 14% after motor vehicles were not allowed to enter. It is therefore clear that the air quality within pedestrian precincts would generally improve after the schemes are implemented.

Temperature and relative humidity were not measured as they are affected mainly by weather.

The Air Pollution Index (API) is an indicator of overall air quality for a larger district. We have not observed any significant effects in the API as a result of pedestrianisation schemes. Although traffic will be diverted away from the streets being pedestrianised, the total numbers of motor vehicles travelling in a larger district would be about the same. Hence the overall air pollution level of the district is not expected to differ significantly. The main air quality benefit of pedestrianisation schemes comes from separating pedestrians from road vehicles in the most congested areas. This improves the air quality in the streets concerned as well as protecting people from the direct impacts of traffic fumes.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Department will implement specific materials recovery and recycling programmes in the coming year, and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will also increase the number of waste separation and recycling bins in the coming year. In this connection, will the "tonnage of waste recovered" and "tonnage of waste recycled" be added by the Department as indicators of value-for-money? If no, what are the reasons and how could the Members and the public know about the progress and effectiveness of the above programmes?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Most recovery of useful material from the waste stream occurs before municipal waste reaches EPD's waste transfer and disposal system. Most recycling is carried out by the private sector. It would therefore be inappropriate for EPD to include these measures in its own indicators of value for money. However, EPD does carry out an annual exercise to assess the amount of material that is being collected and exported for recycling, and will be reviewing the data being obtained from the waste separation programme to see if further performance indicators can be developed. EPD also conducts an annual exercise to analyse the types of waste materials being sent to landfills, and from this has identified particular types of material for targeting waste avoidance or recovery measures.

Information on waste management and recovery measures is provided in EPD's annual reports and on its web-site. The Waste Reduction Committee also publishes an annual report and regular newsletters. The latest report is being submitted to ACE on 26th March and will thereafter be circulated to the Legislative Council and made available to the public.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the measures of the Administration to publicize the Government's environmental work and to enhance the environmental awareness of the public? How many resources are involved?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Administration has initiated a very large number of activities aimed at publicising the government's environmental work and to enhance the environmental awareness of the public. Some of these are carried out directly by staff of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), but many are carried out with the assistance of Green Groups or other community groups and under the auspices of the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC).

The Community Relations Unit of the EPD has 25 staff who deal with public environmental education activities and service the work of the ECC. In addition, many other EPD staff contribute part-time to this work by giving talks or lectures to schools and a variety of community groups.

To illustrate the range of activities covered, in order to educate relevant sections of the public about the Government's clean air initiatives, the EPD has provided training for garage operators and has familiarized heavy duty diesel vehicle drivers with the new dynamometer smoke test by providing free tests over a promotional three month period. In addition, in 2001, the EPD will launch education programmes for the general public to raise the community's understanding of the Government's clean air and clean harbour initiatives and to promote waste reduction. A video introducing the work of EPD will also be produced.

Funds of \$12.4 million have been set aside under the Capital Account to support such work.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB072

Question Serial No.

0500

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why does the Department estimate that the number of licences renewed with respect to the enforcement of the WPCO will increase significantly from 104 in 2000 to 2 300 in 2001?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Each licence granted under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) has a specified validity period and the licence holder is required to renew his/her licence before expiry. Starting from 1.6.96, the WPCO licence validity period has been changed from 2 years to 5 years so as not to unnecessarily burden the industry. The anticipated increase in the number of renewed licences from 104 in 2000 to 2300 in 2001 is mainly due to the large number of licences issued in 1996 for dischargers in Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone which will be due for renewal in 2001.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB073

Question Serial No.

0501

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why does the Administration estimate that the number of prosecutions for illegal deposit of waste offences for the coming year will be less than that of this year?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Due to the increasing incidence of flytipping detected in 1999, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) instituted, in 2000, a series of blitzes and generally stepped up enforcement activity against this form of pollution. This resulted in the increased prosecution statistics for the year 2000. This increased level of enforcement activity also resulted in a marked improvement in the situation, with a reduction of flytipping incidents at well known flytipping blackspots. It is therefore anticipated that the number of offences detected in 2001 will be considerably less than in the year 2000.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB074

Question Serial No.

0502

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will resources be reserved by the Administration to study how livestock wastes can be recycled for use?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Livestock waste is currently being recycled into compost at the Sha Ling Composting Plant located in the North District. In order to enhance the existing operation, we have reserved \$0.75 million in 2001-02 to conduct trials to explore new composting techniques and to improve the quality of the compost. In addition, the Administration has called for expressions of interest locally and internationally for the establishment of new plants capable of recycling general organic materials, which may include livestock waste. When we have evaluated the expressions of interest we will consider whether to seek funding for establishing new plants.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

1. How many resources will the Administration reserve to develop materials recovery and recycling programmes?
2. How many resources will the Administration reserve to commission a study for the treatment of animal carcasses?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

1. In 2001-02, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will carry out a number of pilot schemes and detailed feasibility studies for the setting up of materials recovery facilities for specific waste types, such as tyres, and electrical and electronic equipment, including computers. The first trial collection of plastic bottles from housing estates (requiring about \$0.6 million) will start shortly in April 2001 and the feasibility studies (requiring about \$2.6 million) are scheduled to commence in late 2001.

In parallel, the Government will continue to allocate sites exclusively to waste recyclers under short term tenancy (STT) arrangements for waste recovery and recycling activities. So far, seven sites with a total area of over 5 hectares have been allocated since 1998. More STT sites will be processed for allocation in 2001. The Government is also examining the possibility of providing long term land for the future development of materials recycling and recovery.

2. In mid 2001, the EPD will commence a feasibility study for the provision of animal carcass treatment facilities, which will include environmental impact assessment, site investigations and an outline design of the facilities. It is estimated that about \$0.75 million will be spent in 2001-02 on the study.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 700 – General Other Non-recurrent

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list out the contents of the Item 561 on "Development of a Biological Indicator System for monitoring marine pollution". When will it begin work? and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The objective of this work is to develop a biological indicator system for the long-term monitoring of the effects of pollutants on the ecological health of the marine environment. When in place, this will supplement EPD's current marine monitoring programme which is mainly based on physico-chemical measurements of water and sediments.

The work will include:

- * reviewing existing information on Hong Kong's marine communities, i.e. the flora and fauna;
- * identifying linkages between pollution sources, water quality and marine communities;
- * establishing a biological monitoring database;
- * developing a set of indicators or indices for measuring the effects of pollution and
- * formulating a strategy to monitor the ecological health of the marine environment.

The work is scheduled to commence in August 2001 and is expected to be completed by May 2003.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB077

Question Serial No.

0505

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 700 – General Other Non-recurrent

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list out the contents of the Item 559 on "Development of a Pearl River Estuary Model for water quality management". When will it begin work? and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The purpose of the study is to develop a computer model for the simulation of water quality and current flow conditions of the Pearl River Estuary. This would be the first step towards the ultimate goal of formulating a management plan to improve the water quality of the estuary. Initial discussion between EPD and Guangdong authorities and institutes on the details of the work began in late 2000. Subject to finalising arrangements with the Guangdong authorities, it is hoped that the study can commence towards the end of this year. The study is planned to last two and a half years.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 - Environmental Protection Department Subhead : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list out the contents of the Item 558 on "Public awareness on waste reduction". When will it begin work? and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Item 558 "public awareness on waste reduction" under Subhead 700 is a two year publicity programme to be launched by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in 2001-02 and 2002-03. The programme aims to enhance public awareness on the need for waste reduction by avoiding the generation of waste in the first place, using fewer disposable items and actively participating in the separation and recovery of recyclable materials.

The publicity programme includes Announcements of Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio, electronic advertisements, press supplements, information leaflets, posters and other publicity measures. The production of the publicity materials including APIs, leaflets and posters will commence in the first quarter of 2001-02. The total expenditure of the publicity programme is \$2.6 million. The estimated expenditure is \$1.5 million in 2001-02 and \$1.1 million in 2002-03.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory

Programme : 1 – Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : Regarding the current consultation on the labelling of genetically modified (GM) food, would the Government inform us of:
(a) the expenditure for conducting GM food tests with a breakdown of detailed expenses;
(b) the additional manpower required for the above; and
(c) the estimated number of GM food tests in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure for the analytical examination of genetically modified (GM) food amounts to \$3.758M, including:
- (i) \$0.671M for the creation of 1 Science Laboratory Technologist and 1 Science Laboratory Technician I;
 - (ii) \$1.360M for the employment of non-civil service contract staff to assist in the analytical examination of GM food and development of examination methods;
 - (iii) \$1.45M for procurement of a Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction System; and
 - (iv) \$0.277M for General Departmental Expenses.
- (b) As mentioned above, the additional manpower resources include two permanent posts of 1 Science Laboratory Technologist and 1 Science Laboratory Technician I. In order to cater for the increase in demand of analytical services, provision has been made for the employment of non-civil service contract staff of 2 Chemical Analysts, 2 Laboratory Technician Assistants and 1 Laboratory Cleaner.
- (c) The estimated number of analytical examinations of GM food, having regard to the testing methodology and capacity, is 100 per month in 2001-02.

Signature:

Name : Dr D G Clarke

Rank: Government Chemist

Date: 13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory

Programme : 1 – Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : Please set out in detail the titles, ranks and duties of the 2 posts to be created under Programme (1).

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

There is a net increase of 1 Science Laboratory Technologist and 1 Science Laboratory Technician I posts. These two staff will assist the chemists in carrying out analytical examinations of genetically modified (GM) food, training and coaching junior technical staff, drafting examination reports and developing GM food examination methods.

Signature: _____

Name : Dr D G Clarke

Rank: Government Chemist

Date: 13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory

Programme : 1 – Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : How many resources will be reserved for the handling of genetically modified food?

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

Proposed additional resources for Government Laboratory:

The expenditure for the analytical examination of genetically modified (GM) food amounts to \$3.758M, including:

- (i) \$0.671M for the creation of 1 Science Laboratory Technologist and 1 Science Laboratory Technician I;
- (ii) \$1.360M for the employment of non-civil service contract staff to assist in the analytical examination of GM food and development of examination methods;
- (iii) \$1.45M for procurement of a Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction System; and
- (iv) \$0.277M for General Departmental Expenses.

Signature:

Name : Dr D G Clarke

Rank: Government Chemist

Date: 13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory
Programme : 1 – Statutory Testing
Controlling Officer : Government Chemist
Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Environment & Food
Question : Please specify the scope of analysis in food testing.
Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan
Reply :

The scope of analytical examination of food samples covers food composition and labelling, food additives, heavy metals, pesticide residues, contaminants and veterinary drug residues.

Signature: _____

Name : Dr D G Clarke

Rank: Government Chemist

Date: 13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory

Programme : 2 – Advisory and Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : Please spell out the title, rank and duties of the one post created under Programme (2).

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

Post Title/Rank: Chemist

Duties:

- (i) Undertake the protracted and complicated method development work involved in the determination of prohibited chemicals at ultra trace levels.
- (ii) Support the subsequent analyses of these chemicals using the methods developed.
- (iii) Oversee the operation of developed procedures and ensure their full compliance with the requirements of the Laboratory's quality assurance programme.
- (iv) Supervise the technical staff of his team.

Signature:

Name :

Dr D G Clarke

Rank:

Government Chemist

Date:

13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory

Programme : 2 – Advisory and Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : Why did the number of air samples tested decrease from 156,594 in 2000 to 132,000 in 2001?

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2000, a total of 156,594 determinations of air samples was conducted. This figure was higher than normal, exceeding the previous year's output by about 29,200 determinations. The increase in output was mainly due to an increase of ad-hoc samples submitted under various ad-hoc projects initiated by the Environmental Protection Department for the analysis of a wide variety of toxic air pollutants including volatile organic compounds, dioxins and polyaromatic hydrocarbons. For 2001, an expected level of 132,000 determinations of air samples was pledged based on the figures of about 111,000 determinations as quoted in the forecast prepared by EPD and the expected continuation of some of the existing ad-hoc projects.

Signature: _____

Name : Dr D G Clarke

Rank: Government Chemist

Date: 13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory

Programme : 2 – Advisory and Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : How much resources will be reserved for analysing animal tissues and feed-stocks for veterinary drug residues for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? How many working days will it take to complete such an analysis?

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

Additional provision of \$2 M per annum and non-recurrent provision of \$4.2 M have been reserved for analysing veterinary drugs in animal feed and their residues in food animals. The sample turnaround time is estimated to be 10 days on average.

Signature:

Name : Dr D G Clarke

Rank: Government Chemist

Date: 13.3.2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In respect of the labelling of pre-packaged food for sale, will the Government inform this Council of the following for the year 2000-01 :

- a) What is the number of cases of irregularities?
- b) Please list out the reasons for such irregularities by type.
- c) What is the number of prosecutions for the irregularities committed?
- d) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for enlarging the application of the labelling system?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- a) In 2000, 326 pre-packaged food products were found to have contravened the labelling requirements under the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance Cap.132.
- b) The irregularities fall into the following categories –
 - (i) the name or designation of the food products were not labelled properly;
 - (ii) the ingredients were not listed out as specified;
 - (iii) unclear indication of “best before” or “use by” date or sale of food beyond the “use by date”;
 - (iv) conditions for storage or instructions for use were not stated as required;
 - (v) full information on the name and address of manufacturer or packer were not provided as required;

- (vi) the count, weight or volume were not properly indicated; and
 - (vii) labels were not in the appropriate language.
- c) There were 87 prosecutions for contravention of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations.
- d) The Government has put forward legislative proposals to expand the coverage of food labelling requirements. We have included provision for implementing the proposal to impose additional labelling requirements on food additives, food allergens and strengthening the labelling requirements for alcoholic drinks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU _____

Director of Food and

Post Title _____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 087

Question Serial No.

1072

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding sanitary nuisances abatement, as the problems of dripping air-conditioners and water seepage are still serious, does the Government earmark any provision to implement measures for strengthening control in this respect? If yes, what are the specific measures? If no, what are the reasons? What is the number of prosecutions in the past? Has the Government considered increasing manpower to inspect the blackspots in various districts and stepping up prosecution?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

To tackle the problem of dripping air-conditioners and water seepage cases, we have streamlined the procedures in investigating and handling these complaints. The work is done within existing resources. We understand that the Buildings Department is preparing a consultancy study in 2001 on the technical issues relating to the investigation of water seepage, in order to explore and develop effective testing methods with a view to identifying the cause and source of water seepage.

In 2000, we issued 755 statutory notices (626 for air-conditioner drippings and 129 for water seepage nuisances). No prosecution had been instituted since the statutory notices were complied with and the nuisances abated. We will continue to monitor the situation and take enforcement action within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In regard to the provision of more waste separation bins in 2001-02 to promote waste separation in the community, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- (a) The number of waste separation bins;
- (b) The location and distribution of these bins;
- (c) What is the breakdown of recovered waste paper, plastic bottles and aluminum cans in terms of tonnage in 2000-01?
- (d) How frequent are these bins cleared?
- (e) Have the authorities concerned monitored the delivery of all the recyclable wastes to recyclable waste collectors for recycling?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a)&(b) As part of Government's plan to provide more waste separation bins to promote waste separation for recycling, we have placed 203 sets of waste separation bins at over 180 public locations. An additional 400 sets of bins will be provided in 2001-02. They will be placed at conveniently located public points, including : MTR exits, KCR exits, bus termini, ferry piers and refuse collection points.
- (c) In 2000-01 (up to end February 2001), we have collected some 66 tonnes of waste paper, 5 tonnes of aluminum cans and 16 tonnes of plastic bottles from the bins under our purview.
- (d) We require our contractors to collect the recyclables at least once a week and will adjust the collection frequency to ensure timely collection.
- (e) We require contractors to submit documents to prove the delivery of the collected recyclables to the recyclers. We also carry out spot checks at collection and disposal points to ensure that recyclables are properly collected and disposed.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 089

Question Serial No.

1489

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards the controlling and containing of on-street hawking activities as well as the problems caused by shop extensions in 2000-01, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- (a) The manpower for regulatory work in different districts;
- (b) The number of prosecutions;
- (c) The expenditure involved;
- (d) How many illegal hawkers were arrested last year?
- (e) How many illegal hawkers were successfully prosecuted?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The control of on-street hawking activities at district level is enforced by Hawker Control Teams (HCTs), operating under the direct supervision of a Chief Hawker Control Officer/Senior Health Inspector. The average number of HCTs in a district is 10, but may vary according to the size of the districts and the extent of the hawker problems.

- (b) The number of prosecutions in 2000 was 39 194.

(c) The revised estimated expenditure for 2000-01 is \$1,024 million.

(d)&(e) In 2000, 14 217 arrests for hawking without a licence were made. Of this number, 14 199 (99.9%) were successfully prosecuted.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 090

Question Serial No.

1490

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What is the current distribution of licensed itinerant hawkers in different districts? What were the reasons for the cancellation of 359 hawker licences in 2000? Please give a breakdown of the cancelled licences.

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Being itinerant in nature, we do not have a breakdown of licensed itinerant hawkers on a district-by-district basis. As at 31.12.2000, there were 594 and 553 itinerant hawker licence (IHL) holders who may operate in the urban area and the New Territories respectively. The 359 hawker licences cancelled in 2000 consisted of 238 fixed pitch hawker licences and 121 IHLs. Of these, 300 licences were either not renewed by the licencees or cancelled after the licencees had been resited into public markets. The remaining 59 licences were surrendered voluntarily by licencees after receipt of an ex-gratia payment.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB091

Question Serial No.

0814

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

A working group was set up by the FEHD last July to review the mechanism for market stall rental adjustment and matters relating to tenancy agreement and letting arrangements etc. Please inform this Council of the following:

- (1) The establishment and expenditure of the working group;
- (2) Expected completion date of the review report.

Asked by : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

Reply :

- (1) Members of the working group are drawn from the existing establishments of the Bureaux/Departments concerned. No additional expenditure is thus required. The working group is convened by FEHD, and attended by representatives of Environment and Food Bureau, Finance Bureau, Housing Department, Rating and Valuation Department and Department of Justice.
- (2) Our target is to complete the review before July 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB092

Question Serial No.

0999

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In "matters requiring special attention in 2001-02", the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department states that the number of waste separation bins will be increased in order to promote waste separation. What is the total number of existing waste separation bins? How many additional waste separation bins will be provided and what is the expenditure to be committed? Does the Government have any other supporting measures to encourage the public to participate in waste separation and recycling?

Asked by : Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

As part of Government's plan to provide waste separation bins to promote waste separation for recycling, we have placed 203 sets of waste separation bins at over 180 public locations, including : MTR exits, KCR exits, bus termini, ferry piers and refuse collection points. The separated waste collected are paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. In 2001-02, we plan to increase the number of waste separation bins to cover an additional 400 conveniently located points for use by the public at an estimated cost of \$3.9 million.

Over the last three years, extensive publicity and community campaigns have been undertaken to raise awareness of the need to avoid waste and promote separation and recovery. The Government is currently preparing a package of further measures to promote waste separation and recycling. Apart from placing waste separation bins in public venues, the Government will also work closely with district councils, community bodies, schools, green groups and the business sector on different recycling projects. Details of the package will be announced soon.

Signature _____

Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

EFB093

Question Serial No.

0718

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN / SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the promotion of the Hygiene Manager Scheme, will the Government inform this Council of the following :

- (a) On what basis has the Department formulated its plan to organize 40 courses and seminars for promotion of the Scheme? Is the number of these courses and seminars sufficient?
- (b) Apart from these courses and seminars, are there any other plans to introduce the Scheme to the industry and to implement the arrangements? If yes, please give the details of the expenditure. If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Government consider providing financial assistance to the industry to help small or family-run food premises implement the Scheme? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons? Will non-financial aid be considered?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) In arriving at the estimation of 40 courses, we have taken reference of the free food hygiene training sessions that we are providing to applicants applying for food business licences. We have also taken into account our existing training resources. We will consider providing more training programme to the trade in response to demand for such courses.
- (b) We intend to promote the Hygiene Manager Scheme through our normal liaison channels with the trade, regular inspections and at the Restaurant Licensing Resource Centre for food business licences. We will also publicize the scheme on our home-page and at our licensing offices. These work will be carried out within our existing resources.
- (c) It is not our policy to provide any direct financial assistance to the trade. However free Hygiene Supervisor courses to be provided by FEHD would help small business operators greatly in meeting the relevant requirement under the proposed Hygiene Manager Scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and Environmental
Hygiene

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No

EFB094

Question Serial No

0721

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the proposal on mandatory food recall, will the Government inform this Council of the following :

- a) What are the reasons for putting forward the proposal?
- b) Will consultation be conducted in respect of the proposal? If yes, what is the timetable for the consultation? If no, what are the reasons?
- c) What is the expenditure required for the implementation of the proposal? Please give a breakdown of the expenditure.

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

Recall of food products which are found to be injurious or pose a potential risk to human health is needed for the protection of public health. Relying on voluntary surrender may not be effective. We have therefore proposed to mandate the recall in circumstances of need. Details are being finalized for consultation in latter half of 2001. Subject to policy approval and the enactment of the proposed legislative provision, we have reserved a financial provision of \$668,000 for the proposal in 2001-02. The provision is for the creation of two Health Inspectorate posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU _____

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 14 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB095

Question Serial No.

0722

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards the review on the construction and management of public markets, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- a) the scope of the review;
- b) the schedule of the review;
- c) the expenditure required and a breakdown of the expenditure; and
- d) whether consultations will be conducted on the results of the review so as to ensure that public opinions will be fully reflected. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The review will concentrate on identifying ways and means to improve the management and viability of public markets.
- (b) We intend to complete the review in 2001.
- (c) The budget for the review has yet to be worked out.
- (d) We will consult all parties concerned and draw up a consultation plan nearer the time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB096

Question Serial No.

0723

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Will the Government inform this Council of the following :

- (a) When will the survey be conducted to assess public awareness of the Clean Hong Kong messages and activities?
- (b) What is the expenditure incurred?
- (c) Have any resources been reserved for the follow-up work upon completion of the survey? If yes, what is the breakdown of the expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?
- (d) What is the expenditure of a multi-media publicity package to promote Clean Hong Kong?
- (e) What is the timetable of the publicity programme and what is the effect likely to be achieved?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) We shall conduct a survey to assess the awareness of Clean Hong Kong messages and activities in second half of 2001.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for the survey is \$200,000.
- (c) We will follow up the findings of the survey as necessary and will absorb any expenses required using our existing resources.
- (d) We have set aside \$3 million for a multi-media programme to promote the Clean Hong Kong programme.
- (e) The Clean Hong Kong programme will last for three years and at the end of it we will conduct a review. Through the programme, we aim to bring noticeable improvements to the environmental hygiene conditions of Hong Kong, and to raise public awareness of as well as rally community support in keeping Hong Kong clean, thereby making Hong Kong a better place to live in.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and

Post Title Environmental Hygiene

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB097

Question Serial No.

0726

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards the setting up of a reference information system for nutrient values of various food items, will the Government inform this Council of the following :

- (a) What information will be included in the reference information system for nutrient values of various food items?
- (b) What are the estimated expenditure and the additional human resources required for setting up the system?
- (c) What is the target date for implementing this proposal?
- (d) When the system is established, what promotions will be carried out to enhance public knowledge of nutrient values of food? What are the details of the promotions?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will set up a reference information system on the nutrient values of some 1 000 commonly consumed food items in 2001. Major nutrients will include protein, carbohydrate and cholesterol. The information will be uploaded onto our homepage and will also be available in other printed form for public access in late 2001. Appropriate publicity arrangements will be made to publicize the availability of such information. No additional financial provision is required as the work will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and
Post Title _____ Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY
TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

With regard to raids conducted against illegal slaughtering of livestock, will the Government inform the Committee:

- a) Why will there be a decrease rather an increase in the number of raids to be conducted by the Department in 2001-02? Please state the reasons in detail.
- b) Besides conducting surprise raids, what other measures will the Department take to crack down illegal slaughtering of livestock in order to safeguard public health? Please give specific details of the estimated expenditure.
- c) How much public resources will be saved as a result of the decrease in the number of raids to be conducted? How will the saved resources be allocated.

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- a) With the success of our intensive and successive blitz operations mounted since October 2000, illegal slaughtering activities have subsided. Accordingly, we have adjusted slightly the number of raiding actions required.
- b) and (c) To reinforce our efforts to combat illegal slaughtering, district health inspectors will continue to include in their routine inspections of retail outlets checks on the source of meat. We will also call on the public not to patronize dubious suppliers through our various public education and publicity channels. In addition, we have recently introduced a bill to this Council to expedite the closure of unlicensed food premises and illegal slaughtering activity is one of our targets under the Bill. Taking enforcement actions, conducting inspections and public education are part of our on-going responsibilities. No additional expenditure is required. The slight reduction in the number of raidings would not result in saving of resources and the staff concerned are still required to perform other duties e.g. licensing control of food premises and other environmental hygiene services.

Signature

Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 099

Question Serial No.

0728

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY
TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

According to the results of a recent survey conducted by a political party, members of the public are not very satisfied with the cleanliness of public areas and public toilets. Will the Government inform this Council of the following :

- (a) What is the expenditure incurred for improving the overall cleanliness of public areas and public toilets by the department in 2001-02? What is the breakdown of the expenditure? What standard of cleanliness does the department expect to achieve?
- (b) On what basis is the number of public toilets with daytime attendant service set at 60%? Has the department considered further increasing this percentage? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the department consider conducting regular questionnaire surveys with the users of public toilets to find out their degree of satisfaction towards the cleanliness of public toilets. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) In addition to the resources allocated for the provision and maintenance of cleansing service, a provision of \$70 million has been included in 2001-02 for further improving the overall cleanliness of public areas and public toilets under this Programme. The additional provision will be used for the following : enhancing the service quality and cleanliness of public toilets and evening street cleansing; stepping up cleansing work along roadsides, in unallocated government land, ungazetted beaches; and cleaning up backlanes and blackspots. Through these and our regular public cleansing services (including street sweeping, washing and litter collection), and with the support and co-operation of the public mustered through our

public education and publicity efforts and reinforced by the deterrent of enforcement actions, we aim to keep our public streets litter-free as far as possible, and to prevent accumulation of refuse in notorious litter blackspots, backlanes, ungazetted beaches etc. We also aim to keep our public toilets in reasonably good, dry and odour-free conditions.

- (b) In 2001-02, we plan to provide toilet attendant service to all public toilets with an average daily usage rate of over 300 persons. As a result, 176 out of a total of 293 public toilets (60%) will be provided with such service. Toilets with a lower usage rate, though not provided with full-time attendants, are serviced by roving cleaners. We will review the need for such service for the remaining toilets, taking into account resource constraints, cost-effectiveness and public expectation.

- (c) Surveys will be conducted from time to time to gauge public opinion on the cleanliness of our facilities. We have commissioned an exit survey covering 70 public toilets and 30 aqua privies recently. The findings will be available around May 2001.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 100

Question Serial No.

0729

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The Department indicates that in the coming year it will strengthen the control of unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards to the public. Will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) Why will the number of inspections to food premises be decreased by 107 to 485 000 in 2001-02?
What are the details of strengthening control? What is the estimated expenditure and
- (b) additional manpower resources required for this purpose?
- (c) Please give details of the expenditure required for the implementation of the revised inspection system to food premises. Will additional manpower resources be required to tie in with this? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon YIP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The number of inspections for 2001 will be maintained at about the same level as that of 2000. For the purpose of the 2001 (Estimate), we have presented the figure to the nearest thousand.

- (b) We have proposed to amend the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132) to expedite the closure of unlicensed food establishments and to empower the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to close unhygienic food establishments posing immediate health hazards without recourse to the court. To take enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food establishments for the protection of public health is a key part of our on-going responsibilities. Any additional work in this regard will be absorbed through appropriate staff redeployment.

- (c) We are conducting a public consultation exercise on our proposals to introduce a more focused inspection system. We will assess the related staffing requirements in light of the outcome of the consultation exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
_____ Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB101

Question Serial No.

0732

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The Clean Hong Kong campaign has been implemented for over a decade, but the result still falls short of our expectations. The Government now intends to step up the enforcement action to deter littering. Will the Government inform this Council :

- (a) whether there is, in addition to increasing the penalty, any other "good idea" to achieve a better result for the Clean Hong Kong campaign;
- (b) if yes, please provide a specific breakdown of the expenditure by items; if no, please give the reasons.

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) Apart from the introduction of a fixed penalty system against three common public cleanliness offences, we would seek to promote a greater sense of civic mindedness through public education / publicity programmes and to rally the support of our community through involvement programmes jointly organized with the District Councils and other community organizations. In addition, we would enhance our cleansing efforts and launch both territory-wide and district-based cleansing operations to improve the environmental hygiene conditions.
- (b) For 2001-02, we have earmarked \$76.3 million to step up our cleansing work for the Clean Hong Kong programme. In addition, \$7 million has been reserved for public education and publicity.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

_____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

_____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB102

Question Serial No.

0386

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The department states that its aim is to provide quality, efficient and effective public cleansing services. In 2000, however, only 45% of the public toilets were provided with toilet attendant service during day time and the service is to be extended to 60% of the public toilets in 2001. In other words, 40% of the public toilets are left unattended during the day time. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Within the given resources, our present policy is to give priorities to public toilets with a high usage rate. Of the 293 public toilets managed by this Department, 144 (49%) toilets with an average daily usage rate of over 400 persons are already provided with attendants. In 2001/02, this service will be extended to another 32 toilets which have a daily usage rate of over 300 persons. Toilets used by less than 300 persons a day, though without full-time attendants, are thoroughly cleansed by roving cleaners twice to five times a day.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 603 Minor Plant, vehicle and equipment (block vote)

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The estimated expenditure in the Capital Account for the acquisition of plant, vehicles and equipment has jumped from \$9,000 in the revised estimate in 2000-01 to \$5,625,000 this year.

- (a) What are the reasons?
- (b) Please list the plant, vehicles and equipment to be acquired; and
- (c) For what Programmes will these plant, vehicles and equipment be commissioned?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

- (a) The reasons are as following :

\$3.6 million was included in the 2000-01 Estimates for the procurement of on-board vehicle monitoring and weighing devices (capital account item no. 004). \$9,000 was paid in 2000-01 and \$3 million will be paid upon delivery of equipment in 2001-02. A further provision of \$2.625 million is required for Phase II of the procurement programme (capital account item no. 005).

- (b) The equipment to be acquired include the following :

Item 004 - 6 on-board weighing devices

200 on-board monitoring devices

Item 005 - 200 on-board monitoring devices

- (c) The on-board monitoring and weighing devices will be installed in refuse collection and mechanized cleansing vehicles to ensure better management of the vehicle fleet and to monitor the loading of vehicles. The vehicles are deployed to deliver services under Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU

	Director of Food and
Post Title	Environmental Hygiene

Date	17 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- a. Did the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) contract out its services to the private sector? If so –
 - b. Which services were contracted out to the private sector?
 - c. What was the total number of outsourced contracts by types of services and what was the total contract value in 2000-01?
 - d. How many senior, middle and junior level # civil service posts had been cut in 2000-01 through outsourcing services? What was the expenditure required for salaries and allowances?
- # Junior level posts : equivalent to posts at Master Pay Scale (MPS) Point 9 or below;
Middle level posts : equivalent to posts between MPS Point 10 and Point 33;
Senior level posts : equivalent to posts at MPS Point 34 or above.

Asked by : The Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- a.&b. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's (FEHD) contracted out services include street cleansing, market cleansing, waste collection and toilet cleansing.
- c. Including those contracts which were awarded by the two former Provisional Municipal Councils before 1.1.2000 and are still in force, FEHD is now managing 144 contracts with total contract value of \$1,066 million. A breakdown is as follows -

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>No. of Contracts</u>	<u>Total Contract Value</u> (\$ million)
Street Cleansing	22	541
Market Cleansing	39	183
Waste Collection	11	172
Toilet Cleansing	9	82
Security	18	41
Office/Complex Cleansing	32	18
Others	13	29
Total	144	1,066

- d. The number of posts deleted arising from new contracting-out programmes in 2000-01 is : 14 posts with Notional Annual Mid-point Salary (NAMS) at MPS 10-33 and 302 posts with NAMS at MPS 9 or below. The annual salaries and allowances of these posts amount to \$36.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB105

Question Serial No.

0968

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Was the expenditure under this Programme fully met by the two former Municipal Councils before they were disbanded? Compared with the situation before the dissolution of the two former Municipal Councils (a comparison of the estimates for the whole financial year of 1999-2000 and of 2001-02), what is the overall increase or decrease in expenditure under this Programme? What is the change in expenditure after deducting the savings arising from the Enhanced Productivity Programme?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The expenditure under this Programme was fully met by the two former Municipal Councils (PMCs) before they were disbanded.

It is not possible to provide a direct comparison of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)'s financial provision for 2001-02 with the expenditure estimates under the two former Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) in 1999-2000, major reasons being :

- (a) As the PMCs were financially autonomous, the two municipal services departments operated under a financial and accounting system different from that of other Government departments. With the reorganisation of municipal services, we have followed the Government's standard practice in accounting for this Programme of services. Some expenditure in support of this Programme previously chargeable to the ex-PMCs is now charged to other heads of expenditure e.g. building maintenance is now funded under Head 25 (Architectural Services Department).
- (b) the PMCs did not classify expenditure in the same way as FEHD's programme areas. Expenditure was classified under different select committees (14 in Provisional Urban Council (PUC) and 5 in Provisional Regional Council (Pro RC)) by the two former PMCs while expenditure is now grouped under different programme areas by FEHD. For example, FEHD's expenditure under this Programme includes administrative expenses but such expenses were grouped under the Administration Select Committee and Finance Select Committee by the PUC and Finance and Administration Select Committee by the Pro RC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 106

Question Serial No.

0969

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The Department indicates increasing the number of waste separation bins as one of the matters requiring special attention in the coming year. What are the details of the plan?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

As part of Government's plan to provide more waste separation bins to promote waste separation for recycling, we have placed 203 sets of waste separation bins at over 180 public locations, including : MTR exits, KCR exits, bus termini, ferry piers and refuse collection points. The separated wastes collected are paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. In the coming year, we plan to increase the number of waste separation bins to cover an additional 400 conveniently located points for use by the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB107

Question Serial No.

0100

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the expenditure required for the creation of 19 posts?
(b) Please state the distribution of these 19 posts?

Asked by : Hon LI Fung-ying,

Reply :

- (a) A provision of \$5.6 million has been included in the 2001-02 draft Estimates for the 19 posts.
(b) The distribution of these posts is as follows.

Risk Assessment and Communication Division	Senior Medical and Health Officer	1
	Senior Health Inspector	1
	Health Inspector I/II	2
	Senior Chemist	1
	Science Laboratory Technician I	3
Food Surveillance and Control Division	Senior Health Inspector	1
	Health Inspector I/II	6
	Field Officer I	4
Total		19

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs. Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 10 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB108

Question Serial No.

0101

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head :49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please give an account of the deletion of 22 posts and the savings to be achieved.

Asked by : Hon LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The 22 posts to be deleted are all in the Assistant Hawker Control Officer rank. Deletion will be achieved through natural wastage, no redundancy will thus arise. The savings achieved will be \$4,249,080.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB109

Question Serial No.

0193

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

According to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the procedures for handling water seepage complaints have been streamlined since June 2000. How have these procedures been streamlined? How many water seepage complaints have been received since last June, and how many of them have been satisfactorily resolved? If some of the complaints are unresolved, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

Since June 2000, we have streamlined our complaint handling procedures to ensure that water samples collected are promptly sent to the Government Laboratory for analysis. We have also established new and standard procedure to provide complainants with information on the procedures and time-frame for the handling of such complaints.

Between 1 June 2000 and February 2001, we received 5 584 complaints about water seepage. Following initial investigation, we referred 3 742 cases which were not caused by defective drainage system to the Buildings Department, Water Supplies Department and Housing Department for action. The remaining 1 842 cases were further investigated by this Department. Of these cases, about 1 400 cases have been resolved and the nuisances abated. The remaining cases are dealt with under one of the following action categories: (a) pending compliance with abatement notice; (b) pending collection of samples from colour water test; (c) pending laboratory results and (d) new cases under investigation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 110

Question Serial No.

0194

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

For the implementation of intensive district-based cleansing operations, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has indicated its goal in "achieving comprehensive and visible improvements in environmental hygiene". What are the standards by which the extent of improvement in environmental hygiene is measured? Besides, what are the specific methods of improving the overall standard of cleanliness in public areas and public toilets?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

To assess the effectiveness of the Clean Hong Kong Programme and our intensive district-based cleansing operations, we intend to conduct surveys relating to the environmental hygiene conditions of Hong Kong. Details are still to be worked out. The results of these surveys will not only provide us with general feedback on how effective are our services, but also point us to areas where our services need to be stepped up. Specific measures to improve the standard of cleanliness of public places include introduction of a fixed penalty system for three common public cleanliness offences, conducting major clean-up operations at territory-wide and district levels, organizing public education and publicity programme to raise public concerns about keeping Hong Kong clean, and promoting community involvement in maintaining a high standard of environmental hygiene. As for public toilets, of the 293 public toilets managed by this Department, 144 toilets of high usage rates are already provided with attendants. In 2001-02, this service will be extended to another 32 toilets.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB111

Question Serial No.

0195

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards cremation service, the number of skeletal cremations estimated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is 5 200 in 2001-02, representing an increase of 199 as compared with 5 001 in 2000-01. On what grounds has this been worked out?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

Human remains buried in public cemeteries and in some private cemeteries are required to be exhumed after a period of not less than 6 years of burial. The remains exhumed may either be disposed of by cremation or by urn burial. Drawing reference from past trends and adopting a skeletal cremation rate of 85%, we estimate that out of the 6 100 exhumations which are due in 2001, some 5 200 skeletal cremation services will be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB112

Question Serial No.

0196

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please give details of the provision of more waste separation bins to promote waste separation in the community.

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

As part of the Government's plan to provide more waste separation bins to promote waste separation for recycling, we have placed waste separation bins at over 180 public locations, including: MTR exits, KCR exits, bus termini, ferry piers and refuse collection points. The separated wastes collected are paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. In the coming year, we will increase the number of waste separation bins to cover an additional 400 conveniently located points for use by the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB113

Question Serial No.

0197

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please state the actual and revised estimated expenditure for hawker control in the last three years as well as the estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2001-02.

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

The actual and revised estimated expenditure relating to hawker control in the last three years and the estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2001-02 are as follows :

1998-99 Actual \$ million	1999 Actual (April to December) \$ million	2000 Actual (January to March) \$ million	2000-01 Revised Estimates \$ million	2001-02 Draft Estimates \$ million
1,177	862	273	1,024	1,045

The figures for 1998-99 and 1999 (April to December) represented expenditure recorded in the accounts of the two former Provisional Municipal Councils.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB114

Question Serial No.

0198

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards hawker blackspots, the number of hawker blackspots as indicated in the 2001-02 estimates is 80, being 3 less than the number in 2000-01. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

Our target plan is to eliminate three notorious hawker blackspots in 2001. So far we have completed two, one in Sheung Wan and another in Tung Chung. We expect to complete the remaining one in Chai Wan in second quarter of 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 115

Question Serial No.

0199

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department indicates the stepping up of enforcement actions against littering offences as one of the matters requiring special attention in 2001-02. In this connection, how many prosecutions had been instituted in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively? How many of them were unsuccessful and what were the main reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions? Did the Government provide training to departmental staff in this respect? If so, what is the estimated expenditure for providing training in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

Prior to 1.1.2000, prosecutions against litter offenders were undertaken by the two municipal departments. The number of prosecutions and unsuccessful prosecutions recorded in the two calendar years of 1999 and 2000 are given below –

	Total Prosecutions	Unsuccessful Prosecutions
1999	23 328	276
2000	20 342	235

The unsuccessful prosecutions were attributed to :

- (a) withdrawal of case due to unsuccessful service of warrant;
- (b) withdrawal of case or offering no evidence following scrutiny of case; and
- (c) the court giving the benefit of the doubt to the defendant.

In 2001-02, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has included a provision of \$1.9 million for providing the relevant training to departmental staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB116

Question Serial No.

0200

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the revamp of the Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, what were the reasons for the revamp and how much funds were committed? What was the operating expenditure of the Centre for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively? How many people/organizations visited the Centre in these two years?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

With the re-organisation of municipal services and the establishment of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), there is a need to revamp the exhibits to reflect the duties of the new department. In addition, since the Centre was set up in mid-May 1997 and with the passage of time, many exhibits have become worn out and have to be replaced.

The cost of the project was \$1.3 million.

The operating expenditure of the Centre for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are as follows:-

Financial Year	1999-2000		2000 - 01 (Apr - Mar)
	Apr - Dec	Jan - Mar	
Operating Cost	\$8.09 million	\$2.82 million	\$10.98 million

The figures for 1999 (April to December) represented expenditure recorded in the accounts of the two former Provisional Municipal Councils.

The total number of visitors for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as follows:

1999-2000	2000 - 01
176 952	104 903

The figure for 2000/2001 is lower because the Centre was closed for four months for renovation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU _____

Post Title Director of Food and
_____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 15 March, 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No

EFB117

Question Serial No

0114

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In the light of the outbreak of various diseases in the farms of Europe, such as mad cow disease and the recent foot-and-mouth disease, will the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department set aside part of its provision to step up inspections of imported meat from Europe? Will the same inspection process be imposed on imported meat from the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

Reply :

Importation of meat into Hong Kong regardless from which country or places is subject to stringent import control. Financial provision has already been included under the Food Safety and Public Health Programme to enable the Department to conduct verification of health documents and inspection of imported meat at control points.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 12 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 118

Question Serial No.

1068

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) How many complaints on pest control matters did the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department receive in the previous year? Has the Department compared and assessed the number of such complaints for the past three years? Has pest infestation tended to worsen? If yes, will the Department increase resources to deal with the problem?
- (b) In 2001-02, what is the expenditure incurred on poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks, trapping of rodents and elimination of mosquito and fly breeding places? Will the Department step up its efforts in those areas of work? If no. what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The number of pest control enquiries including requests for services and pest control information and complaints, for the past three years is as follows-

	1998	1999	2000
No. of enquiries	6 196	6 802	7 032

The surge in the number of enquiries in 1999 was attributable to the launching of a large-scale anti-mosquito and rodent campaign and greater public awareness. There is no evidence to suggest that pest infestation situation in the territory has deteriorated.

- (b) \$160.6 million has been included under FEHD 2001-02 Draft Estimates for the provision of pest control services. We will sustain our services and step up publicity through the media, the distribution of a publicity video on mosquito prevention to mutual area committees and rural committees, and showing the video at the venues of Housing Department, Leisure and

Cultural Services Department, Labour Department etc. We will also arrange talks to the management of buildings and supervisors of construction sites.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

EFB 119

Question Serial No.

1069

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Regarding the implementation of the intensive district-based operations in 2001-02, what are the working plans of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department? What is the estimated expenditure to be committed?
- (b) At present, how many waste separation bins have been provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department? How many additional waste separation bins will be provided in 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure to be committed? Where will these newly acquired bins be placed?
- (c) What plans has the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department put in place to reduce the amount of plastic waste in 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure to be committed?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) To supplement our existing public cleansing services, we plan to step up cleansing and clean-up work in unallocated government land and ungazetted beaches, backlanes and environmental blackspots and enhance service quality and cleanliness of public toilets and evening street cleansing. A provision of \$70 million is allocated for these additional operations.
- (b) & (c) As part of Government's plan to provide more waste separation bins to promote waste separation for recycling, we have placed 203 sets of waste separation bins at over 180 public locations. The separated waste collected are paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. In 2001-02, additional sets of bins will be provided at 400 conveniently located points, including: MTR exits, KCR exits, bus termini, ferry piers and refuse collection points. The provision of these bins and the collection service is estimated to cost \$3.9 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No

EFB 120

Question Serial No

0738

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The estimated expenditure for programme (1) in the coming financial year will be increased by 7.2%. This expenditure covers the strengthening of food surveillance for chemical contaminants, biotoxins and viruses in food. I would like to know :

1. Why are this year's estimated figures for 'the number of food samples taken for testing' and 'the number of vehicles carrying poultry inspected at Man Kam To' lower than the actual figures in 2000.
2. What is the timetable for the introduction of 'labelling of food additives and allergic food ingredients' and 'mandatory food recall system' and what are the manpower and resources required?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

1. The downward adjustment is to reflect the downward trend in the number of cross border poultry vehicles recorded in the past few years.

The number of food samples taken for testing each year varies and is adjusted to take account of general food safety trends and new developments. Generally, we aim to maintain a food sampling rate of 8 samples per 1 000 population per annum. The world standard is 3 samples per 1 000 population per annum.

2. Legislative amendments to impose labelling requirements on details of food additives and allergens will be introduced to the Legislative Council in 2001. A financial provision of \$548,000 has been included in the 2001-02 Estimates for the creation of 2 additional posts.

The proposal for a mandatory food recall system is being finalized and will be put forward for consultation towards the latter part of 2001. In 2001-02, a financial provision of \$668,000 has been included for the creation of 2 posts to implement the proposal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU _____

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 15 March 2001 _____

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title) :Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental HygieneBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and FoodQuestion :

- (1) When established in 2000, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department indicated that a computerized food database would be set up within 6 to 12 months in order to trace the origin of foods imported into Hong Kong by air, land and sea. Has the database been set up by now? Please provide the food categories and number of records currently stored in the database. What is the cost involved in setting up the database?
- (2) During the past financial year, how many items of "high risk foods" and/or "frequently consumed foods" were taken by the Department to conduct examination and prepare reports? What are the dates of publication of reports and the cost involved? In what ways were the reports released to the public?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tongReply :

- (1) As undertaken, we have set up a computerized database on imported high-risk food including game, meat, poultry, frozen confections, milk and milk beverages. The database contains information on country of origin, quantity of import, product descriptions and details of importers, etc. About 37 000 record items have been stored for the aforesaid food categories in the database.

The expenditure for setting up and operating the above database is approximately \$0.17m in 2000-01.

- (2) As part of our on-going responsibilities, we regularly conducts risk assessment on food products to provide a scientific basis for effective management of food safety. In addition to the general programme, targeted risk assessment studies are carried out on high-risk or frequently consumed food items. Results of these studies are disseminated regularly through various channels including press conference, food safety bulletins, talks, exhibitions and the Department's homepage. In 2000, targeted risk assessment studies on Chinese New Year Food, sushi and sashimi, mooncakes and sandwiches were conducted and the results were publicised in January, April, September and December respectively. Expenses for the targeted risk assessment studies were already included in the general provision for the overall risk assessment programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 16 March 2001

EFB122

Question Serial No.

0492

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In line with the promotion of Clean Hong Kong activities, the Government should devote more resources to publicity and education. However, the financial provision under this programme will be increased by only 0.8% in the coming year. How will the Government push ahead with the publicity and educational efforts to promote Clean Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has reserved about \$7 million in 2001-02 for the promotion of Clean Hong Kong (CHK) programme. We intend to promote the programme through various channels and means, which include the production of a multi-media programme and organization of public education projects and community involvement activities. We will also work with schools and non-government organizations to promote CHK among young people. In addition to devoting Government resources, we will also aim to tap support from the community through co-organizing events and seeking sponsorship, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU _____

Director of Food and

Post Title _____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 123

Question Serial No.

0493

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What is the present staffing establishment in respect of the licensing work of food premises and places of public entertainment etc.? Will there be any plans or any increase in manpower in the coming year to improve this area of work? How much resources will be committed?

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

Work relating to the granting of food business licences and places of public entertainment licences is being handled by 52 Health Inspectorate officers and 64 General Grades supporting staff. We have streamlined the procedures and shortened the time for the issue of restaurant licences with effect from 1.6.2000. No additional resources are required. In the coming year, we will consider whether our licensing service for other non-restaurant food businesses could be further improved and we are conducting a review on the matter.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 16 March 2001

EFB 124

Question Serial No.

0494

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What is the present staffing establishment for the surveillance of outsourced cleansing services?
What is the staff complement for cleansing duties currently undertaken by the Food and
Environmental Hygiene Department? How many cleansing projects under the jurisdiction of the
Department have been outsourced so far?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Public cleansing service, including street cleansing, collection of household waste and maintenance of public cleansing facilities, is supervised by some 60 district Health Inspectors/Senior Health Inspectors (Cleansing). They are supported by some 960 supervisory grade staff in ensuring performance targets and service standards are met. Supervision and compliance checking of the performance of contractors are also an integral part of their work. Including contracts awarded by the two municipal councils before 1.1.2000 and which are still in force, the percentage of services already contracted out in respect of street cleansing, waste collection and public toilet services are 37.7%, 18.7% and 97.8% respectively. Some 6 200 FEHD staff including gangers, workmen and drivers, are engaged in the provision of various cleansing services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB125

Question Serial No.

0495

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

(3) How much resources will be earmarked for conducting surprise raids against illegal slaughtering of livestock and illegal food manufacturing premises? How many staff will be involved?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Raiding and taking enforcement actions against illegal slaughtering and illegal food factories are part of our on-going responsibilities. Suitable staff deployments will be made at both headquarters and district level to deal with these illegal activities within our existing resources. It is not possible to provide a separate breakdown of resources deployed for these activities as staff concerned are also responsible for other duties e.g. licensing control of food premises and other environmental hygiene services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No

EFB126

Question Serial No

0496

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please specify the work involved for the setting up of a reference information system for the nutrient values of various food items. What is the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

As a first step, we will conduct a research on readily available food nutrient data which have been developed by food authorities in other territories. We will select and compile a database of 1 000 commonly consumed food items which are of relevance and interest to our local community. Major nutrients will include protein, carbohydrate and cholesterol. Our plan is to upload the nutrient information onto our homepage for internet users. The information will also be available in other printed form. No additional financial provision is required as the work will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB127

Question Serial No.

0497

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

How much resources will be/have been committed to the pest control work for the coming year and the last three years?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department took over the work of pest control from the two former Provisional Municipal Councils on 1.1.2000. As the Councils did not keep separate accounts of expenditure on pest control services, expenditure prior to 1.1.2000 is unavailable.
2. The actual expenditure for January to March 2000, revised estimates for 2000-01 and draft estimates for 2001-02 for pest control under Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are as follows:

January to March 2000	2000-01 Revised Estimates	2001-02 Draft Estimates
\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
39.5	157.2	160.6

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB128

Question Serial No.

0498

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

How much resources will be reserved for testing of avian influenza H5 on blood samples taken from poultry and on testing of beta-agonists on pig urine samples respectively? For the testing of beta-agonists on pig urine samples, what is the ratio between local live pigs and Mainland live pigs?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The resources allocated for the administration of blood tests for H5 avian influenza in imported poultry is \$8.4m and that for the urine tests for beta-agonists in pigs is \$8.5m.

The sampling ratio for testing beta-agonists in imported pigs is 1 sample per consignment (ranging from 50 to 180 pigs) and that for local ones is 1 sample per 15 pigs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB129

Question Serial No.

0795

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 603 Minor plant, vehicle and equipment (block vote)

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The approved commitment in Item 004 "On-board monitoring and weighing devices for refuse collection and mechanized cleansing vehicles" is \$3,600,000. But the revised estimated expenditure for 2000-01 is only \$9,000. On the other hand, the approved commitment in Item 005 "On-board monitoring and weighing devices for special purpose vehicles – Phase II" is \$2,625,000, which has not been spent yet. What is the reason for the delay in the progress of the installation programme? What is the purpose of the sum of \$9,000 that has been spent?

Asked by : Hon Henry WU King-cheong

Reply :

Under Item 004, \$3,600,000 was approved for the Department to procure 6 units of on-board weighing devices for refuse collection vehicles and 200 units of on-board monitoring device for special purpose vehicles in 2000-01. As this is the first tender of its sort, more time was taken to prepare for the tender specification and to complete the tender exercise. These units will be delivered and installed in May 2001 and thus the financial provision of \$3,600,000 will be spent in 2001-02. As for Item 005, the sum of \$2,625,000 was approved for procuring the second batch of 200 units of on-board monitoring devices and will be spent upon delivery of the equipment in 2001-02. The sum of \$9,000 incurred in 2000-01 was paid to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund for providing technical advice in the procurement of these devices.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 130

ESB 012

Question Serial No.

0516

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

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

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food (for question (a))

Secretary for Economic Services (for question (b))

Question : (a) When will the task of identifying sites for the establishment of new marine refuse collection points be completed? What is the expenditure in this respect?

(b) In regard to the establishment of control measures for emission of black smoke from vessels and the setting up of a certification system for vessel traffic regulators, when will these two projects be implemented? What is the respective expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

(a) Currently, there are three Marine Refuse Collection Points (MRCPs) in operation. They are located at Cha Kwo Ling, Causeway Bay and Aberdeen. A new MRCP in West Kowloon is under construction and will be put into service by the end of this year. A site in Tuen Mun Area 44 has been identified for another new MRCP with a tentative schedule of 2004. Site search is also being carried out to look for suitable locations to establish MRCPs in Tai Po and Sai Kung areas.

Identifying suitable sites which are accepted by the local communities is the critical factor for successful completion of the task. We hope suitable sites can be identified in Tai Po and Sai Kung as soon as possible.

The cost for establishing a MRCP mainly depends on the size of the area and the physical characteristics of the location, such as whether associated road pavement or seawall reinforcement work is required or not. The expenditure for the site establishment of the new MRCP in West Kowloon is approximately HK\$3.8 million.

(b) We proposed to strengthen the control measures for emission of black smoke from vessels by amending the legislation to use the Ringleman Chart, which is used in Air Pollution Control Ordinance, as a reference for measuring the extent of black smoke. The legislative process is planned to be completed in 2002. Enforcement of the new regulations will be carried out by existing staff. There is therefore no resource implications.

As regards the setting up of a certification system for vessel traffic regulators, the International Maritime Organization has set the necessary requirements that all vessel traffic services operators and supervisors should obtain a certificate from an accredited training institute. The Marine Department is developing the training programme. An independent body will be employed to audit the training programme prior to the accreditation by the Director of Marine. The quality assurance process will be completed early next year. The recurrent cost of about HK\$3.6 million in running the Training Centre will be met by redeployment of resources within the department.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Post Title

Date

S. Y. TSUI

Director of Marine

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB132

Question Serial No.

0657

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please state the specific incentive measures in support of a switch to LPG taxis and light buses, and the provision earmarked for such measures this year.

Asked by : Hon Chan Kam-lam

Reply :

The Finance Committee has approved \$725,520,000 for providing one-off grants to encourage diesel taxi owners to replace their vehicles with taxis that run on liquefied petroleum gas. A grant of \$40,000 is being provided for each diesel taxi replaced.

We estimate that there will be 9,750 applications for the grant and that \$390 million will be disbursed during Financial Year 2001-02.

The trial of alternative-fuel light buses was completed in February 2001. The feasibility of replacing the existing diesel light buses with alternative-fuel light buses is being examined by the Administration in consultation with the transport trade. The resource implications will be taken into account.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Lily Yam

Secretary for the Environment and Food

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 133

Question Serial No.

0816

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :002

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

A provision of \$3,364,000 is allocated for standard allowances and overtime allowance for Chauffeur grade for the coming year. Will the Bureau inform us of:

- (i) the items and amounts of the standard allowances;
- (ii) the number of posts of the Chauffeur grade, the estimated number of overtime hours and the amount of allowances per month.

Asked by : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

Reply :

- (i) Standard allowances cover acting allowance and overtime allowance (excluding the Chauffeur grade). The estimated expenditure for standard allowances is about \$ 3,272,000 for 2001-02;
- (ii) Non-standard allowance covers consolidated overtime allowance for the only Chauffeur in the bureau. According to the rates for consolidated overtime allowance for Chauffeur grade, he will be paid an allowance of \$7,145 for the first 1-100 hours overtime per month. Overtime performed in excess of 100 hours will be compensated at 1 % of the monthly rate per hour. The estimated non-standard allowance for the Chauffeur for 2001-02 is \$92,000, representing a monthly average of about \$7,660.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB134

Question Serial No.

0831

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :(3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

For the management of construction wastes, is there any plan for the government to facilitate the recovery of such wastes for re-use in 2001? How much resources are involved? What is the percentage in relation to the programme?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Measures to facilitate the recovery of useful materials from construction waste are as follows:

- Two sorting facilities are currently available, one at the Southeast New Territories Landfill and one at Tseung Kwan O. A third one will be set up in Tuen Mun in 2001;
- Recycling facilities are being planned;
- The Government is experimenting with the use of recycled aggregates, and specifications for public works projects have been amended to allow the use of these aggregates;
- Public works contractors are required to implement waste management plans and to sort and recover useful materials;
- Short-term tenancy sites will continue to be made available for recyclers, including recyclers of construction and demolition materials; and
- Publicity and training on waste reduction and recovery in the construction industry will continue.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 135

Question Serial No.

0103

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :001

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

With the creation of 1 additional post in the establishment of EFB in 2001-02, why has the increase in expenditure on salaries amounted to about \$4m?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

The estimated provision for the new post to be created in 2001-02 is \$920,000 and only accounts for about 25% of the increase of \$4m under Subhead 001 Salaries. As for the remaining 75% of the increased expenditure, it is mainly due to salary increments for existing staff and full year provision for posts created in 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 136

Question Serial No.

0783

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

(Heads : 22,39,42,43,44,48,49,100 ,106)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by the departments/services under your Bureau,

(1) Was there any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2000-01? If yes, please reply with the following details:

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan/in progress/finished)

(2) Will there be any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2001-02? If yes, please reply with the following details:

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan/in progress/finished)

Asked by: Hon HO Sau-lan

Reply :

(1) Financial provision was allocated for commissioning the following consultancy studies in 2000-01 for policy making and assessment by the departments/services under our bureau:

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees (Total) \$'000	Status of consultancy studies (in plan/in progress/finished)
Camp Dresser and McKee International Inc.	4,600	In progress
Parsons Brinckhoff (Asia) Ltd.	9,000	In progress
Ove Arup and Partners HK Ltd.	5,000	In progress
Camp Dresser and McKee International Inc.	4,900	In progress
Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hong Kong	3,850	In progress

(2) No provision will be allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2001-02 for policy making and assessment by the departments/services under our Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB137

Question Serial No.

0730

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the implementation of greening work, what new initiatives on greening will be considered? What is the required expenditure? What is the specific breakdown of the expenditure? What results are expected to be achieved by the new initiatives?

Asked by : Hon Ip Kwok-him

Reply :

We are reviewing current greening efforts with a view to improving departmental coordination, bringing about further visible improvements on the ground especially in urban built-up areas, and promoting the concept of greening in the community. As our review is still underway, it is not possible to quantify the resources involved or the results to be achieved at this stage.

In the meantime, we are pressing ahead with on-going greening efforts. For example, Civil Engineering Department intends to spend up to \$60 million to upgrade and landscape about 250 slopes under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme. Leisure and Cultural Services Department is also undertaking a project at an estimated cost of \$10 million to beautify the North Lantau Highway by planting 5 000 flowering trees and 100 000 flowering shrubs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Lily Yam

Secretary for the Environment and Food

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB138

Question Serial No.

0731

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What are the concrete measures in mitigating construction and road traffic noises? The expenditure involved? And the implementation timetable?

Asked by : Hon Ip Kwok-him

Reply :

Under the Noise Control Ordinance, the Secretary for the Environment and Food may establish "Designated Areas" which will be subject to tighter construction noise control. These are generally more densely populated areas. In the new Financial Year, we plan to increase the number of Designated Areas to include newly built-up areas to reduce the nuisance caused by construction noise to residents. Moreover, we intend to re-introduce a legislative proposal to increase the deterrent effect of the Noise Control Ordinance by holding the management of a body corporate liable for a noise offence committed by the body corporate. We will also review the strategy for controlling noisy construction equipment through a labelling system and the need for tightening the control of daytime construction noise. The work will be carried out within Environmental Protection Department's existing resources and no additional expenditure is expected.

To implement the new policy to address the noise impact of existing roads on residents, we have identified 29 road sections for retrofitting of noise barriers and/or enclosures, and 72 road sections for resurfacing with low noise material. We aim to retrofit the road sections with barriers/enclosures in stages over 10 years and complete the resurfacing works over 3 years. The indicative cost for the works is \$2.4 billion at 1999 price level.

Signature

Name in block
letters

Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB139

Question Serial No.

1187

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

During 2001-02, EFB will co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts to achieve the target of reducing total emissions of respirable suspended particulates from vehicles by 80% and nitrogen oxides by 30% by end of 2005. Has the Bureau drawn up long-term plan to achieve these targets?

Asked by : Hon Miriam Lau Kin-ye

Reply :

In order to achieve the target of reducing the emissions of respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides by the existing motor vehicle fleet by about 80% and 30% respectively by end 2005, we will need to implement the following measures –

- (a) replace all diesel taxis with LPG taxis;
- (b) introduce Euro III emission standards for newly registered vehicles and tighten the fuel standards to meet Euro III requirements;
- (c) replace all diesel light buses with environmentally cleaner alternatives;
- (d) retrofit all pre-Euro diesel vehicles with particulate reduction devices.

On (a), as at end-February 2001, 5,869 diesel taxis have been replaced by LPG ones. This represents 33% of the entire taxi fleet. We expect that the trend of 800 to 1,000 diesel taxis being replaced every month would continue. The addition of LPG filling stations in the coming months will make LPG refilling more convenient and encourage more replacements. Our target is to provide sufficient LPG filling capacity to support the entire taxi fleet within 2001.

On (b), the new regulation to require all newly registered light vehicles that have a design weight of 2.5 tonnes or less to meet Euro III emission standards came into force on 1 January 2001, and the fuel standards for motor diesel was tightened to meet Euro III requirements at the same time. We plan to require newly registered vehicles that have a design weight exceeding 2.5 tonnes to meet Euro III emission standards from October 2001 in parallel with the European Union.

On (c), the trial on LPG and electric light buses has just been completed. The Monitoring Committee is preparing the final report. Upon receipt of the report, we will determine the way forward and will consult the transport trade in the process.

On (d), financial assistance has been provided to light diesel vehicle owners to retrofit particulate reduction devices on their vehicles since September 2000. As at end-February 2001, 10,057 such vehicles have been retrofitted. That represents about 25% of the fleet. For heavy diesel vehicles, a trial on suitable catalytic converters is under way.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Lily Yam _____
Post Title	Secretary for the Environment and Food _____
Date	March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB140

Question Serial No.

1188

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

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

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What are the details regarding the Green Research and Testing Programme (Item 010) under Subhead 700 – General other non-recurrent?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply :

The Green Research and Testing Programme is a one-year programme under which the Consumer Council will be appointed to conduct research and testing on consumer products, with emphasis on the environmental issues involved. Research reports and testing results will be published in the CHOICE magazine. The Programme will commence on 1 April 2001 and will be completed on 31 March 2002.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Lily Yam

Secretary for the Environment and Food

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB141

Question Serial No.

1360

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In 2001-02 estimates, how much funding has been allocated for implementing the proposals to mitigate road traffic noises from existing roads? Under which expenditure heading?

Asked by : Hon Fred Li Wah-ming

Reply :

In the 2001-02 estimates, \$5 million has been allocated for conducting an initial planning and design study for retrofitting 29 existing road sections with noise barriers/enclosures. In addition, \$9 million has been allocated for resurfacing 8 existing road sections with low noise material and conducting feasibility studies for resurfacing 36 road sections. The above works will be funded under Head 706 Subhead 6100TX.

Signature

Mrs Lily Yam

Name in block letters

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Post Title

Date

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB142

Question Serial No.

1358

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please set out the necessary resources, purpose, direction and timetable of the review of the construction and management policy of public markets to be conducted by the Environment and Food Bureau in 2001-02.

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The purpose of the review is to improve the management and viability of public markets. Details regarding the scope and resources are still being worked out. We aim to complete the review in 2001.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Lily Yam

Secretary for the Environment and Food

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB143

Question Serial No.

1359

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please set out the necessary resources, purpose, specific measures and timetable of the mandatory food recall mechanism to be proposed by the Environment and Food Bureau in 2001-02.

Asked by : Hon Tam Yiu-chung

Reply :

The purpose of setting up a framework for mandatory food recall is to enable the Government to mandate the recall of food that poses a potential risk or is injurious to human health in cases where voluntary surrender is not effective. The details are being finalized for consultation in the latter half of 2001. A financial provision of \$668,000 for the creation of two Health Inspectorate posts has been reserved in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for the proposal in 2001-02.

Signature

Mrs Lily Yam

Name in block letters

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Post Title

March 2001

Date

Bureau Serial No.

EFB144

Question Serial No.

0739

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The Administration has indicated that “noticeable improvements” will be made in environmental hygiene conditions through the “Clean Hong Kong” programme. In what way will the Bureau assess whether the programme has brought about “noticeable improvements”? How can Members and the public be informed of the progress and effect of the improvement work?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

To assess the effectiveness of the Clean Hong Kong (CHK) programme and our intensive district-based cleansing operations, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department intends to conduct surveys relating to the environmental hygiene conditions of Hong Kong. Details are still to be worked out. The Department will also obtain the views of District Councils. The results of these surveys will not only provide us with general feedback on how effective are our services, but also point us to areas where our services need to be stepped up.

We will publicise these findings and make them available on the Clean Hong Kong Homepage and report progress of our cleaning work to the Legislative Council and the District Councils and listen to their views and feedback.

Signature

Mrs Lily Yam

Name in block letters

Post Title

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB145

Question Serial No.

1184

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Last year, the Secretary for Health and Welfare replied in response to my question (Bureau Serial No. HWB140; Question Serial No. 0799) that the Health and Welfare Bureau was sharing the existing resources with your Bureau in assessing the effect of the "Healthy Living Campaign". What are the results of the assessment? What corresponding amendments will be made in the use of resources when the new programme is launched?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

We conducted an initial assessment of the Campaign together with the Health and Welfare Bureau in mid-2000. Our conclusion was that the Campaign had brought together both the public and private sectors in promoting public awareness of personal, food and environmental hygiene and established a stronger base for taking forward health promotion across all sectors of society. We also noted that more should be done to raise public awareness of the need for regular physical exercise and to keep Hong Kong clean.

In accordance with the above findings, the Campaign's focus is on promoting regular physical activities for all members of the public in 2000-01. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Department of Health and the Information Services Department have spent about \$9.68 million in organizing a "Healthy Exercise for All" Campaign. A Clean Hong Kong programme has also been launched separately to ensure a more focused and dedicated approach in cleaning up Hong Kong.

The three-year Campaign will officially come to an end in May this year and we will carry out a full

assessment then.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Lily Yam
Post Title	Secretary for the Environment and Food
Date	March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB146

Question Serial No.

1185

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What is the amount of provision reserved in the coming year for the implementation of the outstanding projects of the two former municipal councils? What projects are involved?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

We have earmarked a total of \$160,618,000 in 2001-02 for 31 projects that involve environmental hygiene facilities of the two former Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) to which we are contractually committed, or which have received funding approval from the former PMCs but have not yet been contracted out. Out of this, \$156,013,000 will be used for the completion of nine projects that are still under construction; \$4,605,000 will be used for 22 projects that have been completed with outstanding accounts. These 31 projects include two vehicle depots, seven market complexes, 10 markets / cooked food centres, 10 public toilets / refuse collection points, one project on upgrading of slopes and retaining walls, and one for the renovation of the Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre in Kowloon Park. In addition, one project to construct an off-street refuse collection point cum public toilet at \$14.5 million will proceed in 2001-02.

Signature

Mrs Lily Yam

Name in block letters

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Post Title

Date

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB147

Question Serial No.

1186

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

When will the Bureau's review on the construction and management policy of public markets be completed? What will be the impact of the review on the progress of the former municipal councils' projects?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

We aim to complete the review in 2001. It is too early to assess its impact on the progress of the projects of the former Provisional Municipal Councils.

Signature

Mrs Lily Yam

Name in block letters

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Post Title

Date

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB148

Question Serial No.

0507

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

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

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please set out the contents of the proposed Green Research and Testing Programme. What are the expected commencement and completion dates of the Programme?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Green Research and Testing Programme is a one-year programme under which the Consumer Council will be appointed to conduct researches and testing on consumer products, with emphasis on the environmental issues involved. Research reports and testing results will be published in the CHOICE magazine. The Programme will commence on 1 April 2001 and will be completed on 31 March 2002.

Signature

Mrs Lily Yam

Name in block letters

Secretary for the Environment and Food

Post Title

Date

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB149

Question Serial No.

0277

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 704 - Drainage

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

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

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : In 2001, DSD will continue with the detailed design work of 23 sewerage projects. The details of these projects are listed below :-

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost in September 2000 Prices(\$M)	Brief Description
4052DS	Ting Kau Development sewerage and sewage treatment works including submarine outfall	early 2005	62	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage in Ting Kau area
4061DR	Northeast New Territories village sewerage, phase II	mid 2004	85	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Northeast New Territories villages
4061DS	North West New Territories development – trunk sewers, sewage pumping stations and rising mains – stage III	end 2004	85	To provide trunk sewers, sewage pumping station and rising main at Yuen Long South
4125DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas	mid 2013	681	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in Tai Po and Sha Tin
4126DS	Sham Tseng sewerage, stage 3	early 2005	31	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau areas
4143DS	Central, Western and Wan Chai West sewerage, stage II works	end 2006	750	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Central, Western and Wan Chai West
4157DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage II	end 2006	152	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage along Yuen Long – Tuen Mun Corridor
4160DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage I	mid 2005	47	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4171DS	North and South Kowloon sewerage, stage II	end 2007	233	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in To Kwa Wan, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin districts

/

4203DS	North District sewerage	end 2009	705	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in North District
4204DS	Wan Chai East and North Point sewerage, remaining works	end 2006	270	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in North Point
4205DS	Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam sewerage, stage 2	early 2006	100	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pokfulam districts
4208DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 1	mid 2007	275	To provide sewerage facilities for Yung Shue Wan (Lamma Island) and Ngong Ping
4211DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 2	end 2006	153	To provide sewerage facilities for Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan
4214DS	Tseung Kwan O sewerage for villages	early 2006	34	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tseung Kwan O areas
4215DS	Yuen Long & Kam Tin sewerage & sewage disposal	end 2008	1221	To provide trunk sewerage to Yuen Long and Kam Tin
4222DS	Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works – stage V	end 2010	771	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works
4223DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage treatment upgrade – (upgrade of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works)	early 2008	1080	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works
4226DS	Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works phase II upgrading	mid 2007	307	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works
4272DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2	end 2007	174	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Tai Chung Hau, Pak Sha Wan, Tai Po Tsai, Wong Chuk Wan, Mang Kung Uk in Sai Kung district
4273DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3	end 2009	276	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Ho Chung, Tseng Lan Shue and Area 4 in Sai Kung
4274DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage III	end 2008	275	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage to Yuen Long and Yuen Long fringe areas
4326DS	Central and East Kowloon sewerage, sewage treatment and disposal – advance housing related works	mid 2006	61	To provide sewers to serve new housing sites in East Kowloon

Signature _____
Name in block letters J. Collier
Post Title Director of Drainage Services
Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB150*

Question Serial No.

0177a

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 705 – Civil Engineering Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For Head 705, under the revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of "Projects Completed, Cancelled or Curtailed", what are the details for each project, such as its title, provision involved, the amount of curtailment, etc.? What are the reasons for cancellation or curtailment of each project?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Five projects are under the purview of the Director of Environmental Protection and all of them have been completed. There is no cancelled or curtailed project. The revised estimates for 2000-01 for the five projects are listed below:

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Revised Estimate</u> <u>2000-01</u> <u>\$M</u>
1	Update on cumulative water quality and hydrological effect of coastal developments and upgrading of assessment tool	2.452
2	Kowloon Bay Refuse Transfer Station	0.800
3	Centralized incineration facilities for special waste - consultancy study	0.240
4	Restoration of Urban landfills - consultants' fees and investigations	0.170
5	Outlying Islands Refuse Transfer Facilities - stage I, part I	51.001
	Total	54.663

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

* Please refer to the following for a full reply to this question – EFB150 and PLB084.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB151

Question Serial No.

0980

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 705 - Civil Engineering Subhead : 5087DR Waste reduction study phase II –
feasibility study on building
waste-to-energy incinerators

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Government intends to allocate \$4,818,000 to conduct a feasibility study on the construction of waste-to-energy incinerators. What is the progress of this study and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The studies are ongoing and commenced in September 1997 as part of an overall evaluation of options for future waste management facilities. The studies involve looking at the general engineering feasibility of introducing energy recovery facilities in Hong Kong and their potential environmental impacts. It is expected that the studies will be completed in 2001-02. The public will be consulted on the findings and on the overall waste management strategy.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EFB152

Question Serial No.

0271

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 705 - Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title) : 101CX –

**Civil engineering works, studies and
investigations for items in Category D of the
Public Works Programme**

Programme : (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Civil Engineering Department would commence the study on the long-term arrangements to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials and dredged mud. Please provide information on:

- (a) the scope of the study;
- (b) date of commencement and completion; and
- (c) funding required

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) The study will examine options for the long-term arrangements to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials and dredged mud. It will include a site search, and will also examine the engineering feasibility and environmental aspects of possible options and their impacts on the marine ecology and the fisheries industry.

(b) The study will commence in April 2001 and will be completed by mid-2002.

(c) The Government has reserved \$6.8 million for the study.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

15 March 2001