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

Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer :
Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Session No. : 13

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Bureau Serial No.

ITBB001

Question Serial No.

0871

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : How much financial provision is needed for the implementation of the first phase of the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme? Was the overall establishment affected after the implementation of the Scheme? If so, how was it affected?

Asked by : The Honourable CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The provision of $123.2m was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in December 1998 for the Government to implement the first phase of the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme.

As it takes time for members of the public to get used to and be familiar with electronic delivery of public services, the Government does not intend to do away with existing means of public service delivery (e.g. counter services) at the early stage of the implementation of the Scheme. Therefore, the overall establishment of the Government has not been immediately affected by the implementation of the Scheme. However, as the ESD scheme can improve efficiency and streamline operations, providing more efficient and better quality services, we anticipate that the cost of public service delivery can be reduced in the long run. We have undertaken to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council that the operation of the ESD scheme will be reviewed 3 years after its implementation to see whether the scale of some conventional forms of public service delivery can be reduced and to study the impact of the Scheme on the allocation of internal resources.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB002

Question Serial No.

0872

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (3) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The provision for the coming year is $30.3m (119.8%) higher than the revised estimate for last year, does it include the additional provision for engaging consultancy services for the licensing of third generation mobile services? What are the details of additional provision so required?

Asked by : The Honourable CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The increase in provision for Programme (3) Telecommunications under Head 55-Government Secretariat: Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau for 2001-02 is due to the expenditure required for engaging consultancy services for the licensing of third generation mobile services.

The creation of a non-recurrent commitment of $55m was approved by the Finance Committee in December last year; it is estimated that the expenditure for 2000-01 was $8m while that for 2001-02 will be the remaining $47m. The increase in provision for 2001-02 is due to the fact that the work of the consultant will mainly be undertaken in 2001-02 to meet our objective of issuing licences in mid-2001. As the expenditure of $8.4m for “International Telecommunication Union TELECOM Asia 2000” held last year was of non-recurrent nature, and $8m of the expenditure for last year was made to meet consultancy fees, therefore, the actual increase for 2001-02 is $30.3m.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB003

Question Serial No.

1079

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Government on one hand co-operates with the Hong Kong Tourist Association to attract overseas film-makers to come to Hong Kong for location shooting and on the other hand cut (relevant) resources, how can we have adequate support to facilitate the location shooting of world-class films in Hong Kong?

Asked by : The Honourable Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee

Reply : One of the Government's policy objectives in film services is to enhance Hong Kong's position as a film production centre. Although the estimated expenditure for Programme (1) Broadcasting and Film Services in 2001-02 is 5.2% lower than the revised estimate for 2000-01 (mainly due to a reduction in operating expenses achieved under the Enhanced Productivity Programme), this only refers to the resources of the Government on formulating broadcasting and film services policies, while the actual work of attracting overseas film-makers to come to Hong Kong for location shooting is done by the Film Services Office (FSO) under the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority. As a matter of fact, the FSO has been adopting various means to attract overseas film-makers to come to Hong Kong for location shooting and to provide necessary assistance. The Government has not cut resources for these tasks. The budget for the FSO in carrying out its work relating to film services in 2001-02, after deducting the estimated provision for the Film Development Fund, is $10m, which is more or less the same as the revised provision for 2000-01.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB004

Question Serial No.

0102

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : - 001 Salaries

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Why will there still be a decrease of nearly $1m in salary expenses in face of an increase in the establishment?

Asked by : The Honourable Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : The estimated provision of $42,934,000 for salaries in 2001-02 represents a decrease of $998,000 against the revised estimate of $43,932,000 for 2000-01. The decrease is mainly because the revised estimate covers the salary payment for 5 posts (including Personal Secretary II and Office Assistant posts) which were temporarily created for supporting the staging of the "International Telecommunication Union TELECOM Asia 2000". These posts were deleted after this international telecommunications exhibition cum conference was held in December 2000.

Name in block letters : Mrs Carrie Yau

Post title : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Date : 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB005

Question Serial No.

0774

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau
47 - Information Technology Services Department
160 - Radio Television Hong Kong
180 - Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by the departments/services under the Information Technology and Broadcasting 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 : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply: The details for the financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2000-01 are as follows :-

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees $	Subject / Status of Consultancy Studies
1. PriceWaterhouse Coopers (Head 55)	784,000	To review the Digital 21 IT Strategy (in progress)
2. Rothschild, Allen & Overy, and Quotient (Head 55)	8,000,000	To assist and advise the Government on the licensing of the third generation mobile services (in progress)
3. Jones Lang Lasalle (Head 55)	200,000	To study the rents being charged for high-tech parks outside Hong Kong (in progress)

The details for the financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2001-02 are as follows :-

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees $	Subject / Status of Consultancy Studies
1. Rothschild, Allen & Overy, and Quotient (Head 55)	47,000,000	To assist and advise the Government on the licensing of the third generation mobile services (in progress)
2. - (Head 180)	500,000	Study on the competitiveness of Hong Kong as a broadcasting hub (under planning)

Name in block letters : Mrs Carrie Yau

Post title : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Date : 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB006

Question Serial No.

1271

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : When the Government introduced the first phase of the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme, the disabled such as the blind and the visually impaired were unable to use the ESD services because their needs have been neglected in the design of the Scheme. In this connection, would the Government tell the Committee :

(a) whether the aforementioned issue will be reviewed in the further implementation of the Scheme in 2001-02?
(b) whether additional resources will be allocated to help improve the facilities concerned so as to meet the needs of the disabled?

Asked by : The Honourable SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) Scheme operator has in various aspects considered the needs of the disabled in designing and implementing the Scheme. As regards design, the ESD web site is designed in conformity with international standard, and provides text only version for use by the blind and the visually impaired. The interface and navigation path of the web site have also passed the Bobby Test to ensure its conformity with the internationally recognized "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines". Regarding the provision of facilities, community cyber points have been set up at different locations to provide public computers for the community to obtain free-of-charge ESD services and other information over the Internet. The design of these facilities has already taken into consideration the needs of wheelchair-bound persons. In addition, computers at some community

cyber points are provided with special facilities (i.e. enlarged display software, audio analogue software and braille for the blind) for use by the blind and the visually impaired. Touch screen installations have also been provided at ESD public kiosks for input of data by the physically handicapped (such as the wheelchair-bound). In the second quarter of this year, the public kiosks will also be provided with enlarged display software for use by the visually impaired. The ESD operator has also produced braille promotional flyers and audio tapes to introduce the ESD scheme to the blind and the visually impaired.

(a) In the further implementation of the Scheme in 2001-02, the Government will continue to supervise the operator in the implementation of improvement measures to be made on the design of the web site and other ancillary facilities. We will also consult representative bodies of the blind and the visually impaired with a view to further improving the Scheme and allowing all members of the community to have the opportunity to use information technology and obtain ESD services.

(b) As it is the ESD operator which is responsible for the development and provision of the ESD web site and other ancillary facilities as well as the implementation of improvement measures, there is no need for the Government to make any additional provision for the facilities of the Scheme.

Name in block letters : Mrs Carrie Yau

Post title : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Date : 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB007

Question Serial No.

1272

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : How many promotional activities were organized under the "IT Hong Kong" campaign in 2000-01? What is the expenditure for the whole campaign?

Asked by : The Honourable SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The "IT Hong Kong" campaign is co-organized by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau, the Information Technology Services Department and the Home Affairs Department. The campaign includes various promotional activities such as the IT Awareness Programme, "IT Pioneers" scheme, district IT promotional activities and television programmes. The expenditure for the campaign is around $6.2m.

IT Awareness Programme

The objective of the the IT Awareness Programme is to introduce to the public, particularly those who have less opportunity to use IT in their daily lives, basic IT knowledge such as the basic operations of a personal computer, browsing the Internet, sending and receiving electronic mails, etc. The Programme consists of three categories, namely the District IT Awareness Programme (targets of which are housewives, new arrivals and the general public), the IT Awareness Programme for People with Disabilities and the IT Awareness Programme for Senior Citizens. A total of about 17 300 places have been offered by the three categories of IT Awareness Programmes and the breakdown is as follows –

(a) a total of some 9 100 places have been offered by the District IT Awareness Programme;
(b) a total of some 3 200 places have been offered by the IT Awareness Programme for People with Disabilities;
(c) a total of some 5 000 places have been offered by the IT Awareness Programme for Senior Citizens.
The total expenditure for the IT Awareness Programme is $3.4m.

"IT Pioneers" scheme

The objective of the "IT Pioneers" scheme is to arouse the interest of the public in IT and to encourage them to learn and use IT in their daily lives. Members of the "IT Pioneers" belong to different age groups and come from all walks of life but having a common interest in IT. For example, there are "IT Daddy", "IT Mummy" and "IT Senior", etc. Since September last year, we have altogether recruited over 10 000 "IT Pioneers", of whom around 4 500 made their registration through the "IT Hong Kong" web site. The expenditure for the "IT Pioneers" scheme is around $1.3m, which covers the costs for setting up the web site, producing souvenirs and carrying out promotional activities.

Television Programmes

We organised a television highlight show "IT Hong Kong Night" in December 2000. The theme of the show was to promote the use of IT among the elderly, the disabled and housewives. Moreover, we have also produced a series of episodes on IT for broadcast on television to introduce the "IT Hong Kong" campaign, "Digital 21" IT strategy, the Electronic Service Delivery scheme as well as the usage of IT by the elderly, the disabled and housewives, with a view to promoting the use of IT in the community. The expenditure is around $1.5m, which has not included the cost of production of 12 episodes of "IT Files" by Radio Television Hong Kong to tie in with the IT awareness activities.

District IT promotional activities

Various IT promotional activities, including seminars, courses, competitions, exhibitions and fun days, etc., have been held in all 18 districts in Hong Kong, with the expenditure met by the district offices concerned.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB008

Question Serial No.

1273

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the details of the Government's plans to promote wider use of information technology in the community?

Asked by : The Honourable SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

In the coming year, we will continue with promotional activities to encourage the business community, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to adopt information technology (IT) and develop electronic commerce. Promotional activities planned to be carried out include -

(a) working with industrial support bodies in organizing seminars for different business sectors to meet their specific needs in developing electronic commerce;

(b) promoting to the business community the knowledge and application of digital certificates, and introducing the importance and means of ensuring security in electronic transactions;

(c) producing information material on IT and electronic commerce for distribution free-of-charge; working with industrial support bodies in organizing large-scale exhibitions, and producing booklets to introduce the latest development of electronic commerce to enterprises and members of the public.

At the community level, we have organized a series of promotional activities including seminars, talks, exhibitions, broadcast of publicity materials on television and radio, competitions, production and distribution of promotional CD-ROMs and flyers, etc. to raise public awareness of IT.

We also launched the "IT Hong Kong" campaign in September last year. It is a community-based IT promotional project which includes IT Awareness Programmes, recruitment of IT Pioneers scheme, district IT promotional activities and a television highlight show to promote the wider use of IT among members of the public.

We also implemented the community cyber points programme under which 2 250 computers have been installed at places like district offices, community halls, post offices and public libraries, etc. for free use by the public so as to enhance their accessibility to IT. Moreover, special computer facilities designed for use by the blind and visually impaired were installed at particular locations for their convenience. We will further implement this programme and increase the number of public computers to nearly 3 200 by the end of this year. Furthermore, we also established a "Super Cyber Centre" at Canton Road Government Offices to offer over 100 computers for public use. Apart from being an IT resources centre, it can also be used by organizations for training purpose to further promote wider use of IT.

The Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme which was fully launched in January this year also allows members of the public to obtain various public services through different electronic means anytime and anywhere. We will on an on-going basis expand the Scheme and include more new services to encourage and facilitate the public to use IT in transactions with the Government and other parties.

To further encourage the use of IT among grass-roots women, a Central Co-ordination Committee for the Promotion of IT Usage Among Women was set up by the Home Affairs Department at the end of last year. It is responsible for encouraging Government departments, non-Government organizations and the private sector to organize relevant training programmes and activities and to co-ordinate their implementation. The Committee comprises Members of the Legislative Council and representatives of non-Government organizations, women's associations as well as Government departments and bureaux concerned. The Committee will develop a series of initiatives in due course to increase IT awareness among women.

We will continue to organize various kinds of IT promotional and awareness programmes to encourage and facilitate members of the public to make wider use of IT in their daily lives.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB009

Question Serial No.

1274

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : To ensure adequate supply of information technology (IT) manpower in Hong Kong, will the Government conduct any study on this subject ? If so, when will the study and its report be completed, and how much funding is required?

Asked by : The Honourable SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB) set up a Task Force on IT Manpower in November 2000 to examine initiatives to increase IT manpower supply. The Task Force is chaired by the Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting with members comprising representatives of the IT industry, major chambers of commerce, professional bodies, training and educational institutions.

The preliminary recommendations of the Task Force mainly cover 3 major areas : admission of overseas and Mainland IT professionals, stepping up training of the new generation in their IT capabilities and examining with tertiary institutions the long-term measures to strengthen IT training of tertiary students. The Task Force is now consulting various sectors and bodies, including IT trade organisations, major chambers of commerce and the academia, etc. and expects to provide a report in the third quarter of this year.

After formulating the proposed measures, the ITBB will work with relevant bodies such as the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Education Department, the Security Bureau, the Immigration Department, Vocational Training Council, Employees Retraining Board, Hong Kong Computer Society and various tertiary institutions to implement the measures. We will make an assessment of the costs required to ensure that the plans could be implemented. In principle, departments and institutions involved are encouraged to take forward the proposals as soon as possible by deploying their existing resources.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB010

Question Serial No.

0759

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : (1) Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau will initiate programmes in the coming year to encourage the private sector especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), to engage in electronic commerce. Please provide details of the programmes as well as the resources and manpower involved.

(2) How much additional provision is required in 2001-02 for the implementation of the first phase of the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme? What are the specific uses of the provision?

Asked by : The Honourable Kenneth TING Woo-shou

Reply (1) We will in the coming year continue with our efforts to promote the wide adoption of electronic commerce by the business community, especially SMEs. The estimated expenditure for promotional activities in 2001-02 amounts to about $6m. The details of expenditure and manpower required for various activities are as follows :

(a) To work with industrial support bodies in organizing seminars targetting at different business sectors. The expenditure involved is estimated to be $0.11m, and the co-organization of 6 seminars with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Information Technology Federation and Hong Kong Productivity Council will be undertaken by 4 Systems Managers and

Analysts/Programmers of the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD);

(b) To join hands with the Hong Kong Post Certification Authority in making visits and telephone calls to enhance the knowledge of enterprises and promote the use of digital certificates for conducting secure electronic transactions. The estimated expenditure is $0.24m and 4 customer services officers of the Hong Kong Post Certification Authority will be required to undertake the work;

(c) To prepare information materials on information technology (IT) and electronic commerce for distribution free-of-charge; to produce and distribute CD-ROMs and materials on the application of IT specially catering for the needs of individual sectors. The estimated expenditure is $0.8m and about 4 to 5 Systems Managers and Analysts/Programmers of the ITSD will be required to undertake the work;

(d) To work with industrial support bodies in organizing large-scale exhibitions and produce leaflets to introduce the latest development of electronic commerce to enterprises and members of the public. The estimated expenditure totals $4.2m and the work will be undertaken by about 8 Systems Managers and Analysts/Programmers of the ITSD; and

(e) Other promotional activities include the production of publicity materials for broadcast on television and radio, and the estimated expenditure is $0.65m. Support from staff of the Information Services Department and ITSD will be required.

The aforesaid work will be undertaken by existing staff and does not involve the creation of new posts.

(2) The provision of $123.2m was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in December 1998 for the Government to implement the first phase of the ESD scheme. We launched the Internet ESD service in December 2000 and the public kiosk service in January 2001. We have reserved for 2001-02 $10m from the approved provision for making improvements to the security and monitoring functions of the departmental backend systems which are linked to the ESD system. This will complete the first phase of the Scheme and no additional provision is therefore required. In 2001-02, we will introduce a series of new ESD services, including booking of sports and leisure facilities, online sale of government publications, registration to sit for public examinations, booking of marriage dates and access to real-time traffic video, etc. The funding for these projects will be met by Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX New Administrative Computer Systems (Block Allocation).

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB011

Question Serial No.

1080

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Two of the policies under this programme that require special attention in the coming year are :

(a) providing more government services on-line through the further implementation of the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme;

(b) examining means to ensure sufficient and stable supply of suitable and quality information technology (IT) manpower in Hong Kong.

How will the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau take forward the policies concerned, and how much manpower resources will be employed ?

Asked by : The Honourable Kenneth TING Woo-shou

Reply :

(a) The Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB) will in the coming year continue to coordinate various Government departments in putting suitable public services online in the further implementation of the ESD scheme.

At present, a Principal Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Secretary of the Bureau are directly responsible for such work. They are at the same time also responsible for the enhancement of the IT infrastructure of Hong Kong and the policies relating to the promotion of electronic transactions within the Government and the development of electronic commerce. Meanwhile, the Secretary and a Deputy Secretary of the Bureau also participate in the formulation of policies of the ESD scheme.

(b) The ITBB has set up a Task Force on IT Manpower to examine initiatives for increasing IT manpower supply. The preliminary recommendations of the Task Force mainly cover 3 major areas: admission of overseas and Mainland IT professionals, stepping up training of the next generation in their IT capabilities and co-operating with tertiary institutions to examine the long-term measures for strengthening IT training of tertiary students. The Task Force is now consulting the community and various bodies on its recommendations.

After formulating the proposed measures, the ITBB will work with relevant institutions to carry out the plans.

At present, a Principal Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Secretary of the Bureau are directly responsible for such work. They are at the same time also responsible for the policies in relation to the promotion of the development of Internet and the promotion of the wider use of IT within the community. Meanwhile, the Secretary and a Deputy Secretary of the Bureau also participate in the formulation of policies for increasing IT manpower supply.

We will from time to time review the manpower resources allocated for the aforesaid work to ensure that the policies concerned could be smoothly implemented.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB012

Question Serial No.

0138

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Apart from continuing with the monitoring and review of "the new system governing the use of dangerous goods in the production of special effects" as well as the introduction of legislative amendments to implement the proposals arising from the 2000 Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, will there be any other plans in 2001 to enhance Hong Kong's position as a broadcasting and film production centre? What is the estimated expenditure? Has the Administration assessed whether those two plans will be able to provide adequate protection for the development of the film industry in Hong Kong?

Asked by : The Honourable YEUNG Yiu -chung

Reply : To enhance Hong Kong's position as a broadcasting and film production centre, apart from the 2 tasks mentioned in your question, we will in 2001 implement other plans which include examining in detail the submissions received during the consultation period for digital terrestrial broadcasting with a view to formulating the policy framework for digital broadcasting services in Hong Kong, and standardising the licence conditions for the new categories of licences under the Broadcasting Ordinance. The expenditure for these plans in the 2001-02 financial year will be met from the estimated provision of $21.8m under Programme (1). The implementation of these plans will mainly be undertaken by our executive department, that is the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA). For details of the actual implementation of the plans and the estimated expenditure of the executive department, please refer to the sections on Programme (1)

Broadcast Monitoring and Regulation and Programme (2) Film Services in the Controlling Officer's Report of TELA.

As regards the 2 tasks mentioned in your question, they are only matters that, in our view, require special attention in 2001-02. In the coming year, we will continue with a series of measures to promote the sustained and healthy development of the local film industry. For example, TELA will continue to facilitate the industry in location shooting, organize activities to promote Hong Kong films, provide funding support through the Film Development Fund for projects which are conducive to the long-term and healthy development of the local film industry and assist in the development of training programmes to improve the technical and technological know-how of the film industry workforce. For details, please refer to the section on Programme (2) Film Services in the Controlling Officer's Report of TELA.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB013

Question Serial No.

0139

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding the building of e-government as included in the Budget, what are the specific plans? How much funds are expected to be provided? How far has the government gone electronic up till now?

Asked by : The Honourable YEUNG Yiu -chung

Reply : We are committed to developing e-government through various information technology (IT) initiatives. Regarding the provision of services to the public, the Government will continue to develop the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) scheme to provide the public with a wide range of electronic public services in a one-stop-shop manner. In 2001-02, we will introduce a series of new ESD services, including booking of sports and leisure facilities, online sale of government publications, registration to sit for public examinations, booking of marriage dates and access to real-time traffic video, etc. We will also introduce electronic government forms to allow the public to fill in such forms electronically and submit them via the internet. As for internal transactions, the Government will implement a phased programme for adopting inter-departmental and intra-departmental electronic transactions. In addition, departments will, according to their operational needs, continue to implement different computerization projects to improve operational efficiency and quality of service delivery.

The estimated expenditure for implementing the aforementioned projects will be met under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization. The total estimated expenditure for 2001-02 is $1,568,387,000.

The Government has over the past years established an excellent and common internal IT infrastructure and implemented computerization projects to facilitate departmental operations. All departments now have their own web sites and e-mail addresses to provide public access to information and to facilitate communication between the Government and the public, and provide departmental electronic services to varying extent. With the introduction of the ESD scheme, the Government further provides the public with diversified electronic public services through a one-stop-shop interface.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB014

Question Serial No.

0140

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What effectiveness has the Government achieved last year in its efforts to actively encourage small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to engage in electronic commerce? What is the estimated expenditure for continuing to give assistance to the development programmes of SMEs in 2001?

Asked by : The Honourable YEUNG Yiu -chung

Reply : With our continuous promotional efforts, we have increased the awareness of electronic commerce among the SMEs in Hong Kong. The findings of our survey showed that the application of information technology (IT) by SMEs had also increased. In 1999, the expenditure of enterprises spent on the Internet exceeded $800m, representing an increase of over 50% against that in 1998. Moreover, in 1999, more than half of the enterprises interviewed had adopted electronic commerce. Over the past 2 years, electronic commerce has developed rapidly in Hong Kong, and there has been progress in the adoption of IT and electronic commerce by enterprises.

Looking ahead the coming year, we will continue to promote electronic commerce among the SMEs. In 2001-02, we expect that the expenditure on promotional activities in this regard is around $6m. The items to be included are –

(a) working with industrial support bodies in organizing seminars targetting at different business sectors to meet their specific needs in developing electronic commerce;

(b) promoting to the business community the knowledge and application of digital certificates, and introducing the importance and means of ensuring security in electronic transactions;

(c) producing informative materials on IT and electronic commerce for distribution free-of-charge; and

(d) working with industrial support bodies in organizing large-scale exhibitions and producing leaflets to introduce the latest development of electronic commerce to enterprises and members of the public.

Name in block letters :	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post title :	Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date :	14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB015

Question Serial No.

1059

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the 83 posts to be transferred to other departments? What are the ranks and duties of these posts?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The 83 posts include:

(a) 1 Senior Systems Manager post to be transferred to the Social Welfare Department;

(b) 1 Senior Systems Manager and 1 Systems Manager posts to be transferred to the Judiciary (2 posts in total);

(c) 2 Senior Systems Manager, 6 Systems Manager, 22 Analyst/Programmer I, 15 Analyst/Programmer II, 2 Clerical Assistant and 1 Workman II posts to be transferred to the Immigration Department (48 posts in total); and

(d) 1 Senior Systems Manager, 5 Systems Manager, 14 Analyst/Programmer I, 10 Analyst/Programmer II and 2 Clerical Assistant posts to be transferred to the Inland Revenue Department (32 posts in total).

The main duties of these posts are to assist the respective departments in managing and supporting the IT systems and in using IT.

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB016
Question Serial No.
1060

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the 5 posts to be deleted? What are the ranks and duties of these posts?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The 5 posts to be deleted are non-permanent posts. They include 2 Senior Systems Manager and 3 Systems Manager posts. The primary duties of these posts are to design, develop and support information systems. As the development of the systems managed by the aforesaid posts will be completed in 2001-02, these posts will also be deleted.

Name in block letters LAU KAM HUNG

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB017
Question Serial No.
0826

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Will the Government increase the financial provision or manpower to promote the awareness of IT in the community?

Asked by : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting

Reply :

In 2001-02, the estimated financial provision of ITSD for the promotion of the awareness and use of IT in the community is $28.6m, which is $2.4 m lower than the revised estimate for 2000-01. This is mainly due to the redeployment of resources to strengthen support to the development of IT infrastructure. Apart from the aforesaid provision, an allocation of $8m will be provided under Head 55-Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau in 2001-02 to promote the wider use of the Internet and to organise and participate in IT exhibitions. As such, the Government has deployed the necessary resources to promote IT awareness in the community.

Name in block letters LAU KAM HUNG

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB018

Question Serial No.

1061

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Good promotion opportunity is needed to attract quality people to join the civil service. However, about 10% of the posts in Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) will be transferred to other departments in 2001-02. Will the Administration inform this council:

(a) whether the promotion opportunity of these officers will be affected due to the transfer; and

(b) what the ranks of these officers are at the time of transfer?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

(a) ITSD plans to transfer 83 established posts to other departments to strengthen their capability to manage and support the IT systems, and to use IT. As it does not involve the transfer of the incumbents of the posts to other grades, their promotion prospect will not be affected.

(b) The 83 posts to be transferred to other departments include 5 Senior Systems Manager, 12 Systems Manager, 36 Analyst/Programmer I, 25 Analyst/ Programmer II, 4 Clerical Assistant and 1 Workman II posts.

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB019
Question Serial No.
1062

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the estimated number of staff of the various grades in Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) in 2001-02? What is the total amount of remuneration for these staff?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

In 2001-02, the establishment and the estimated total expenditure on remuneration of ITSD are:

		Number		Estimated expenditure on remuneration ($'000)
Directorate grade officer		17		21,418
Non-directorate grade officer		802		343,225
Systems Manager	*155*		*115,167*	
Analyst/Programmer	*350*		*146,002*	
Computer Operator	*138*		*37,279*	
Data Processor	*38*		*6,538*	
Management Services Officer	*18*		*11,563*	
Other Administrative and Supporting Staff	*103*		*26,676*	
Total		819		364,643
		===		======

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB020
Question Serial No.
1063

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What is the estimated number of contract IT staff to be employed in 2001-02? What is the total remuneration for employing such staff?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

In 2001-02, it is expected that a total of 19 non-civil service contract IT staff will be employed. They include 6 contract IT officers and 13 contract computer operators. The total remuneration is about $6m. It is also estimated that about $90m will be required for the acquisition of IT manpower contract services.

Name in block letters LAU KAM HUNG

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB021
Question Serial No.
1064

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What is the number of departments with Government Office Automation (GOA) facilities at present? When will the whole project be completed?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Government Office Automation Programme was completed in November 2000. At present, all bureaux and departments are equipped with office automation facilities. In 2001-02, the Government will further expand this programme by increasing substantially the number of officers equipped with office automation facilities in all bureaux and departments. It is expected that the expansion programme will be completed in 2003.

Name in block letters LAU KAM HUNG

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB022
Question Serial No.
1065

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Government will facilitate the set up of the link connecting Hong Kong to the Internet2 network in 2001-02. What are the details of this project? When will the project be completed and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Government has been in discussion with the Joint Universities Computer Centre (JUCC)[1] regarding the project, and the progress is as follows:

- In September 2000, JUCC entered into a memorandum of understanding with the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID)[2] in preparation for setting up the link for Hong Kong to connect to the Internet2 network.

- To implement the project of setting up the Internet2 network, JUCC has adopted the usual practice of UCAID by seeking sponsorship of the operating expenses from the business sector and the IT industry. So far, a company of the IT industry has undertaken to provide a high-speed link of 155 Mbps connecting Hong Kong and USA for the research and development of Internet2. It is expected that the high-speed link will be commissioned within 2001.

- It is estimated by JUCC that, apart from the expenditure on operating the link, about $2m will be required for the acquisition of other network facilities. The

required expenses will be provided through the funding allocation of the University Grants Committee to the universities.

- The Government is in consultation with JUCC for the establishment of a working group to advise on the development of Internet2 network in Hong Kong and to undertake related implementation work: for example, continue to seek sponsorship from the business sector and the IT industry, set up of the link as soon as possible, launch publicity and promotional activities, and consider ways to achieve the maximum utilization of the link for the wider adoption of Internet2. The membership of the working group will comprise representatives from the academia, IT industry and Government.

- In the development project of Internet2 network, the Government will assume a co-ordination and facilitation role. The manpower resources required to implement the project will be met by internal redeployment.

[1] The Joint Universities Computer Centre (JUCC) is formed by the Computer Centres of the eight tertiary institutions in Hong Kong.

[2] The University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID) is a non-profit consortium led by 180 US university members working in partnership with corporate and affiliate members to provide leadership and direction for advanced networking development within the university community.

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB023
Question Serial No.
1066

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What is the estimated expenditure in 2001-02 for conducting the annual household survey on the use of IT? How many households will be selected in the survey?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Government has been conducting an annual household survey on the use and penetration of IT in the community since 2000. The survey for 2001 will be conducted in the period from April to June. The estimated expenditure for the 2001 survey is about $1.5m, which is mainly for engaging an external contractor to conduct the survey. The number of households to be selected in the 2001 survey is 10 000, which is the same as that in the survey conducted last year.

Name in block letters LAU KAM HUNG

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB024

Question Serial No.

0559

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What is the estimated expenditure on the promotion of information technology (IT) in 2001-02? What is the breakdown of the estimate in this respect?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2001-02, the estimated expenditure of ITSD on the promotion of IT is $28.6m, of which $17.7m is for staff emoluments and $10.9m is for hire of services and professional fees and general departmental expenses.

The estimated expenditure is mainly attributable to the following areas of work under this Programme: conducting seminars and exhibitions to promote the use of electronic commerce; organising IT awareness programmes; organising IT quiz and contest in the academic sector; conducting surveys on the use of IT in households and the business sector so as to assess the usage of IT in the community; and organising tripartite forums on commercialisation of IT research results to foster academia-industry collaboration, etc.

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB025
Question Serial No.
0710

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding the set up of the link connecting to the Internet2 network, what specific measures will be taken to help promote research and development work on the Internet? What is the estimated expenditure for the implementation of these measures?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Government has been in discussion with the Joint Universities Computer Centre (JUCC)[1] regarding the project,and the progress is as follows:

- In September 2000, JUCC entered into a memorandum of understanding with the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID)[2] in preparation for setting up the link for Hong Kong to connect to the Internet 2 network.

- To implement the project of setting up the Internet2 network, JUCC has adopted the usual practice of UCAID by seeking sponsorship of the operating expenses from the business sector and the IT industry. So far, a company of the IT industry has undertaken to provide a high-speed link of 155 Mbps connecting Hong Kong and USA for the research and development of Internet2. It is expected that the high-speed link will be commissioned within 2001.

- It is estimated by JUCC that, apart from the expenditure on operating the link, about $2m will be required for the acquisition of other network facilities. The

required expenses will be provided through the funding allocation of the University Grants Committee to the universities.

- The Government is in consultation with JUCC for the establishment of a working group to advise on the development of Internet2 in Hong Kong and to undertake related implementation work: for example, continue to seek sponsorship from the business sector and the IT industry, set up of the link as soon as possible, launch publicity and promotional activities, and consider ways to achieve the maximum utilization of the link for the wider adoption of Internet2. The membership of the working group will comprise representatives from the academia, IT industry and Government.

- In the development project of Internet2 network, the Government will assume a co-ordination and facilitation role. The manpower resources required to implement the project will be met by internal redeployment.

[1] The Joint Universities Computer Centre (JUCC) is formed by the Computer Centres of the eight tertiary institutions in Hong Kong.

[2] The University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID) is a non-profit consortium led by 180 US university members working in partnership with corporate and affiliate members to provide leadership and direction for advanced networking development within the university community.

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB026

Question Serial No.

0711

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What measures will be taken to enhance the IT infrastructure of the Government to support the wider use of electronic commerce in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

We have implemented various measures to support the adoption of electronic transactions within Government. These include the enactment of Electronic Transactions Ordinance, use of digital certificates issued by the recognised certification authority to conduct secure electronic communication and transaction, launch of the Electronic Service Delivery Scheme, as well as adoption and promotion of the of ISO 10646 coding standard and "Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set" as the common Chinese language interface for electronic communication and transaction.

To support the wider adoption of electronic transactions within Government, the following measures will be taken to enhance the Government IT infrastructure:

1. to enhance the capacity of the Government electronic mail system, Government Backbone Network and Central Internet Gateway;
2. to expand the Government Office Automation Programme;
3. to implement the Confidential Mail Programme within Government;
4. to automate the internal operation of the Government through the Central Cyber Government Office Programme; and

5. to deliver more public services electronically through the Electronic Service Delivery Scheme.

Name in block letters	LAU KAM HUNG
Post Title	Director of Information Technology Services
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB027

Question Serial No.

0596

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 47 Information Technology Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Information Technology in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02, it is stated that the department will continue to implement programmes to encourage the private sector to engage in electronic commerce.

- What are these programmes ?
- What is the provision for 2001-02 for implementing these programmes ?
- Have any targets been set to measure the effectiveness of these programmes ?

Asked by : Hon Howard YOUNG

Reply :

- In 2001-02, the department will continue to implement programmes to encourage the private sector to engage in electronic commerce. These programmes include roving shows and exhibitions; e-commerce seminars; and publication of booklets and VCDs on e-commerce success stories.

- In 2001-02, a provision of around $4.5m is budgetted for the above programmes, of which $4m will be met by the provision of the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau under Head 55.

- The effectiveness of these programmes can be measured by the IT usage and penetration rates in the community. In 2000, we started an annual IT benchmarking survey. The 2001 survey results will reflect the effectiveness of the promotional programmes we have undertaken in encouraging the private sector to engage in electronic commerce. Based on the survey results, we will consider whether suitable targets can be set for measuring the effectiveness of future efforts.

Name in block letters LAU KAM HUNG

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB028
Question Serial No.
1364

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Has the Government made a comparison of the hourly channel production cost between RTHK and commercial stations? If yes, what were the findings? If not, what were the reasons for not conducting such a comparison?

Asked by : The Honourable Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : The channel production costs of the commercial stations are commercially sensitive information. RTHK does not have such information for comparison with its hourly channel production cost.

Name in block letters : CHU Pui-hing

Post Title : Director of Broadcasting

Date : 19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB029
Question Serial No.
1365

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio
(2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : As regards the number of complaints received, Radio Division received 58 complaints in both 1999-2000 and 2000-01, and the same number has been estimated for 2001-02. Similarly, TV Division received 10 complaints in both 1999-2000 and 2000-01, and the same number estimated for 2001-02. Has RTHK made any review over the possible reasons for receiving an invariable number of complaints every year? Please provide a breakdown of the 58 and 10 complaints received by Radio and TV Divisions respectively in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 according to their nature.

Asked by : The Honourable Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : It is a coincidence that Radio (58 nos.) and TV (10 nos.) Divisions received the same number of complaints in 1999 and 2000. In 1998, Radio Division received 66 complaints and TV Division 12.

A breakdown of complaints for the past two years is as follows:

Complaints received by Radio division

Categories	**1999**	**2000**
Radio 1	35	24
Radio 2	12	20
Radio 3	3	3
Radio 4	4	2
Radio 5	4	5
Radio 6	-	3
Radio 7	-	1
Total	**58**	**58**

Complaints received by TV division

Categories	**1999**	**2000**
Current Affairs	6	3
Documentary	2	2
Servicing	-	-
Drama	1	3
Adult/ General Education	1	2
Youth & Children	-	-
Total	**10**	**10**

Generally speaking, the above complaints may be categorised into the following nature –

- contents of programmes
- performance of presenters and their views
- listeners' requests not being met
- opinion about government policies
- technical problems such as poor reception

Name in block letters : CHU Pui-hing

Post Title : Director of Broadcasting

Date : 19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB030
Question Serial No.
1366

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : RTHK has indicated its intention to further develop its multi-media service in 2001/02. What are the relevant details and projected expenses?

Asked by : The Honourable Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : RTHK was allocated with $4.29m and $7.23m in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively for further development of the "RTHK on Internet" services. Additionally, a New Media Unit was set up in October 2000 through internal re-deployment of existing resources to better focus RTHK's efforts on this front.

In 2001-02, $8.03m (representing an increase of 11% than 2000-01) will be allocated for further development of and improvement to new media activities. A major forthcoming project, "E-Learning", which is developed in cooperation with the City University of Hong Kong, is planned to be launched on 26 March 2001.

Apart from continuously improving the RTHK website, the New Media Unit is exploring the feasibility of partnership with outside parties to develop RTHK's programme archives.

Name in block letters : CHU Pui-hing

Post Title : Director of Broadcasting

Date : 19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB031
Question Serial No.
1367

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio
(2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : According to Subhead 102 Technical Services Agreement, an estimated sum of over $84m is to be paid to Hong Kong Telecom International Ltd (HKTIL) in 2001/02. What are the details of the Technical Services Agreement? Was the service provider required to bid in a tendering process before securing its present agreement? If not, what were the reasons? Has HKTIL been the service provider all along?

Asked by : The Honourable Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply by: The PCCW-HKT International Limited (formerly known as Cable and Wireless HKT International Limited) has been providing telecommunications and electronic services to government departments for more than 30 years. The Technical Services Agreement (TSA) was awarded to Cable & Wireless HKT International Limited through negotiation. The current TSA was renewed on 21 December 1987 and took effect from 1 January 1988. It shall remain in force up to and including 30 September 2006.

Under the TSA, RTHK receives maintenance and engineering support regarding its transmission and technical facilities. The services also cover planning and installation of broadcasting facilities, manning of production studios and outside broadcasting requirements.

Following a recent review, the Government has decided that the TSA should not be renewed upon its expiry in September 2006. RTHK is studying with departments concerned to explore the most effective means to phase out the current arrangement.

Name in block letters :	CHU Pui-hing
Post Title :	Director of Broadcasting
Date :	19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB032
Question Serial No.
0662

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

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question :

(a) Will the Government advise how RTHK can maintain the quality of radio programmes while cutting the production cost and retaining the same level of listeners (2.8m at present)?

(b) It is stated in the Estimates that RTHK will extend the scope of commissioning projects to outside producers. Please explain the impacts of commissioning on the deployment of manpower in RTHK. Will there be deletion of posts? If so, please elaborate.

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

(a) RTHK has been reviewing its production process with a view to cutting costs and maximizing cost-effectiveness while maintaining service standards. The Enhanced Productivity Programme has also provided impetus for launching new programmes to meet audience's needs.

(b) The commissioning of RTHK projects to outside contractors can be divided into two categories:

(i) Programme production: Under a specified programme theme, the producer is responsible for all aspects of programme production, including programme ideas, presentation format and production process, etc. RTHK will monitor the production quality. As this type of commissioning output is less than 0.1% of the total radio programme output, there is no implication on the number of permanent radio staff being employed.

(ii) Technical contract: The contractor is responsible for certain technical aspects of programme production, such as the outside broadcasts for the relay of sports activities or church services. This type of work has all along been provided by outside contractors. Thus the commissioning of this category of work has no implication on the number of permanent radio staff being employed.

Name in block letters :	CHU Pui-hing
Post Title :	Director of Broadcasting
Date :	19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB033
Question Serial No.
0327

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

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : As stated under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02", RTHK will "extend the scope of commissioning projects to outside producers in sports relays, church services, sports programmes and drama." Will the Government advise the estimated savings quoted from commissioning the above programmes production to outside contractors? Will RTHK consider the continuing expansion of commissioning to other types of programmes? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Professor the Honourable NG Ching-fai

Reply : The commissioning of RTHK projects to outside contractors can be divided into two categories:

(a) Programme production: Under a specified programme theme, the producer is responsible for all aspects of programme production, including programme ideas, presentation format and production process, etc. RTHK will monitor their production quality. The main purpose of this type of commissioning is to offer more diversified choices of content and format for RTHK programmes. The cost difference between commissioning and RTHK's in-house production is marginal.

(b) Technical contract: The contractor is responsible for certain technical aspects of programme production, such as the technical/engineering requirements for outside broadcasts. The aim of this type of commissioning is to achieve better cost effectiveness through competitive tendering exercises. Relays of sports programmes, which belong to the second category in 2001-02, will result in an estimated saving of $113,000 in engineering and technical costs, representing a 26% reduction in the production budget. Tenders for church service relays, which also fall under the second category, will be invited again in view of the unsatisfactory tender response last year.

Having regard to the effectiveness of the commissioning projects in the coming financial year, RTHK will consider whether the scope of commissioning should be extended to other types of programmes.

Name in block letters :	CHU Pui-hing
Post Title :	Director of Broadcasting
Date :	19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB034
Question Serial No.
1363

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The application of multi-media on the Internet is developing rapidly and Webcasting service has also become more popular and important. Will the Government increase the provisions for RTHK to further develop its Webcasting service?

Asked by : The Honourable SIN Chung-kai

Reply : RTHK was allocated with $4.29m and $7.23m in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively for further development of the "RTHK on Internet" services. The significant increase in the provisions in 2000-01 reflects the commitment and focus of RTHK on the development in the new media arena. Additionally, a New Media Unit was set up in October 2000 through internal re-deployment of existing resources to better focus RTHK's efforts on this front.

In 2001-02, $8.03m (representing an increase of 11% than 2000-01) will be allocated for the further development of and improvement to the new media services. A major forthcoming project, "E-Learning", which is developed in cooperation with the City University of Hong Kong is planned to be launched on 26 March 2001.

Apart from continuously improving the RTHK website, the New Media Unit is exploring the feasibility of partnership with outside parties to develop RTHK's programme archives.

Name in block letters : CHU Pui-hing

Post Title : Director of Broadcasting

Date : 19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB035

Question Serial No.

0262

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

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (1) Radio

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : RTHK plans to extend the scope of commissioning to outside contractors for its coverage of sports relays, church services, etc. in the coming financial year. Would the department's programme production costs be reduced as a result? If so, what would be the size of reduction?

Asked by : The Honourable YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The commissioning of RTHK projects to outside contractors can be divided into two categories:

(a) Programme production: Under a specified programme theme, the producer is responsible for all aspects of programme production, including programme ideas, presentation format and production process, etc. RTHK will monitor their production quality. The main purpose of this type of commissioning is to offer more diversified choices of content and format for RTHK programmes. The cost difference between commissioning and RTHK's in-house production is marginal.

(b) Technical contract: The contractor is responsible for certain technical aspects of programme production, such as the technical/engineering requirements for outside broadcasts. The aim of this type of commissioning is to achieve better cost-effectiveness through competitive tendering exercises. Relays of sports programmes, which belong to the second category in 2001-02, this type of commissioning will result in an estimated saving of $113,000 in engineering and technical costs, representing a 26% reduction in the production budget. Tenders for church service relays, which also fall under the second category, will be invited again in view of the unsatisfactory tender response last year.

Name in block letters :	CHU Pui-hing
Post Title :	Director of Broadcasting
Date :	19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB036

Question Serial No.

1475

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Administration has proposed to create 17 posts to step up publicity and enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. Please specify the respective ranks and scopes of responsibilities of the posts to be created.

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The 17 posts to be created in 2001-02 to enhance the publicity and enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance are 2 Senior Executive Officers, 1 Government Counsel, 3 Executive Officers I, 2 Senior Overseers, 8 Overseers and 1 Clerical Officer. In response to the grave concern expressed by the community over the protection of young people from obscene and indecent materials and the public demand for the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) to step up control of obscene and indecent materials and carry out more publicity and education work, TELA plans to establish additional inspection teams and Senior Overseer posts in 2001-02 to strengthen its inspection, monitoring and enforcement capabilities. We also plan to create Senior Executive Officer and Executive Officer posts to enhance publicity activities, organise additional educational activities for schools and parents, maintain closer liaison with Internet Service Providers to encourage self-regulation, improve management structure and deal with more complicated enforcement work. One Government Counsel post will also be created to cope with the additional litigation as a result of stepped-up enforcement.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB037
Question Serial No.
1476

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Administration has indicated that due mainly to a higher cash flow requirement for projects financed by the Film Development Fund, the provision for the coming year will be $9.6m (47.1%) higher than the revised estimate for the past year. Please provide details of the higher cash flow requirement.

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The additional provision of $9.6m is mainly to meet the cash flow requirement for the 15 projects of the Fund approved in previous years and the estimated cash flow required for other new projects in 2001-02.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB038
Question Serial No.
0021

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

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : With regard to the applications for Film Development Fund submitted in 2000-01, how many were approved and how many were rejected? What are the titles of the projects and who are the applicants? What is the approved funding for each of the approved projects?

Asked by : The Hon. Andrew CHEUNG Kar-foo

Reply : A total of 16 applications for funding from the Film Development Fund were received in 2000-01. Of them, 11 were approved, 2 were rejected, 1 was withdrawn by the applicant, and 2 are presently being processed. Particulars of the 16 applications are as follows:

(1) Approved applications

Project	Receiving Organization	Approved Funding ('000)
(1) Film Production Workshop	Hong Kong Directors' Guild	550
(2) Public Opinion Survey on Movie-goers' Habits	Film Services Office	700
(3) Participation in the 45th Asia Pacific Film Festival	The Federation of Motion Film Producers of Hong Kong Ltd.	300
(4) Promotion of Hong Kong Films at the Cannes Film Festival	Film Services Office	4,725
(5) Seminar and Workshop for professional animators by Mr. Richard Williams	Hong Kong Productivity Council	800

(6)-(7) Sponsoring 2 films to participate in the Rotterdam International Film Festival held in 2001	Nicetop Independent Ltd.	140
(8)-(11) Sponsoring 4 films to participate in the Berlin International Film Festival held in 2001	One Hundred Years of Film Co. Ltd.	240

(2) Rejected applications

Project	Applicant
(1) Production of a film about the life of Hong Kong stuntmen	Tai Seng Media (Asia) Limited
(2) Advance Motion Picture Dolly Seminar	Salon Films (H.K.) Ltd.

(3) Withdrawn application

Project	Applicant
Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Project 2001	Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum Co. Ltd.

(4) Applications being processed

Project	Applicant
(1) The 20th Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony – A New Century	Hong Kong Film Awards Association Ltd.
(2) Sponsoring a film to participate in the 73rd Annual Academy Awards (Oscar) to be held in 2001	Edko Films Ltd.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB039

Question Serial No.

0022

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Government has planned to organise a large-scale publicity event at the Cannes Film Festival in 2001-02 to promote Hong Kong films. Please specify the content of the event and the expenditure required.

Asked by : The Hon. Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply: The Television & Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) will organise a large scale publicity event to promote Hong Kong films at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2001. The event will be held from 9 to 19 May 2001 for a duration of 11 days. Activities will include a Hong Kong Night, a large scale exhibition at the International Village to promote Hong Kong as an ideal location for film shooting, film screening, distribution of film directories and information packs, advertisements in world famous movie magazines, as well as posting of banners/posters at venues and staging of performances with a unique Hong Kong flavour at the the Hong Kong Night and the International Village to attract overseas film buyers.

Expenses for the project will be equally shared between TELA and TDC. The Projects Vetting Committee of the Film Development Fund has approved a grant of about $4.73m to TELA after careful and thorough scrutiny of TELA's funding application.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB040

Question Serial No.

0023

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the titles and scopes of responsibilities of the 17 posts to be created for carrying out duties in relation to 'Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles' in 2001-02? Which 2 posts are to be deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme?

Asked by : The Hon. Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : The 17 posts to be created in 2001-02 to enhance the publicity and enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance are 2 Senior Executive Officers, 1 Government Counsel, 3 Executive Officers I, 2 Senior Overseers, 8 Overseers and 1 Clerical Officer. In response to the grave concern expressed the community over the protection of young people from obscene and indecent materials and the public demand for the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) to step up control of obscene and indecent materials and carry out more publicity and education work, TELA plans to establish additional inspection teams and Senior Overseer posts in 2001-02 to strengthen its inspection, monitoring and enforcement capabilities. We also plan to create Senior Executive Officer and Executive Officer posts in order to enhance publicity activities, organise additional educational activities for schools and parents, maintain closer liaison with Internet Service Providers to encourage self-regulation, improve management structure and deal with more complicated enforcement work. One Government Counsel post will also be created to cope with the additional litigation as a result of stepped-up enforcement.

The 2 posts to be deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme are Office Assistant and Typist .

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB041
Question Serial No.
0424

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please specify the distribution of the 17 posts to be created and the 2 posts to be deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Asked by : The Hon LI Fung-ying, JP

Reply : The 17 posts to be created in 2001-02 to step up the control of obscene and indecent articles will include 2 Senior Executive Officers, 1 Government Counsel, 3 Executive Officers I, 2 Senior Overseer, 8 Overseer and 1 Clerical Officer.

The 2 posts to be deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme are Office Assistant and Typist .

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB042
Question Serial No.
0469

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : How much will the 17 posts to be created take up the estimated expenditure for 2001-02 which is going to be increased by 64.1%? What is the estimated expenditure for the publicity and enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance?

Asked by : The Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP

Reply : In 2001-02, a provision of $5.72m has been earmarked for the creation of 17 posts, which is about 13% of the estimated expenditure under Programme (3). The estimated expenditure in connection with the publicity and enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance is some $34m.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB043
Question Serial No.
1473

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : (a) Why did the number of Film Development Fund (FDF) applications handled by the Government drop from 60 in 1999 to only 12 in 2000? Do these figures include the applications that do not meet the funding criteria? If not, please provide the relevant figures.

(b) What measures has the Government taken to enhance the film industry's understanding of the FDF and would there be any relaxation of the funding criteria to ensure that funding support could be provided to projects which are beneficial to the long term development of the Hong Kong film industry?

Asked by : The Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : (a) The FDF was established in 1999. During its early stage of operation, the local film industry was not entirely familiar with the funding criteria. Of the 60 applications received in 1999, only 10 were approved. The remaining 50 applications were rejected because they did not meet the funding criteria, such as the projects serving the interests of individual private companies and not the entire film industry; involving commercial activities and being profit making by nature; overlapping with activities being carried out by other organisations; or involving recurrent expenditures and could not be self financing after a period of time. After a year of operation, the industry had a better understanding of the scope of the FDF and the vetting criteria. As a result, 8 out of the 12 applications received in 2000 were successful.

(b) When FDF was first set up in 1999, the Government had carried out a series of promotional activities, such as providing briefings for the industry, printing and distributing posters, releasing information on the disbursements of funds as well as issuing letters to encourage the submission of applications from the industry. To enhance the industry's understanding of the FDF, we formulated a series of promotional initiatives in 2000 such as designing a special FDF logo and producing a new Announcement in the Public Interest which will soon be broadcast on the television and screened in cinemas. In addition, we have printed newly designed posters and promotional pamphlets for distribution to film industry organisations to enhance their understanding of the FDF. We hope that these will help encourage the industry to come up with moreprojects that would be beneficial to the development of the Hong Kong film industry.

We are also constantly reviewing the scope of the FDF. The Projects Vetting Committee of FDF, for example, decided late last year to provide financial assistance for those films which had been invited to participate in or nominated for awards at international film festivals so as to promote local films in overseas market. So far, FDF has already received a total of 6 applications of this nature.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB044

Question Serial No.

0147

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Administration has stated in the Estimates that it aims to maintain effective monitoring of the publication and public display of obscene and indecent articles and the estimated number of inspections will be doubled to 45 000. Please advise the reason for such a big increase. Is it an indication that activities of this nature are still rampant ? How much was spent last year in combating such activities and what was the result achieved? Also, what is the expenditure in this regard in 2001 ?

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In response to the grave concern expressed by the community over the protection of young people from obscene and indecent materials and to meet the public demand for the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) to step up control of such materials, TELA plans to strengthen inspection by setting up additional inspection teams in 2001.

Expenditure on inspection and monitoring of the publication and display of indecent and obscene materials was some $8.9m last year. A total of 14 617 articles were monitored, 497 articles were referred to the Obscene Articles Tribunal for classification and 229 persons were summonsed for contravening the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. Apart from carrying out 99 enforcement operations on its own, TELA has also conducted 21 joint operations with the Police and the Customs, resulting in the seizure of some 2 million articles.

The expenditure in inspection and monitoring of obscene and indecent materials will amount to some $17.5m in 2001.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB045
Question Serial No.
0148

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology & Broadcasting

Question : The revised estimated expenditure for Programme (2) Film Services in 1999-2000, as shown in the 2000-01 Estimates, is $27.4m. However, the actual expenditure in 1999-2000 shown in the 2001-02 Estimates only amounts to $14.6m. Why is there such a vast disparity between the 1999-2000 revised estimated expenditure prepared last year and the 1999-2000 actual expenditure recorded? How did TELA achieve the saving of some $12m?

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The revised estimated expenditure of $27.4m for Programme (2) in 1999-2000, as shown in the 2000-01 Estimates, included an estimated cash flow of $20m for the non-recurrent item "Film Development Fund". However, as actual disbursements from the Fund in 1999-2000 only came to some $8m, the actual expenditure for Programme (2) was some $12m less than the revised estimated expenditure.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB046
Question Serial No.
0149

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Has the Film Services Office ever considered using its own resources, instead of applying for $1m from the Film Development Fund, to carry out the 'Consultancy Study on the Financing of the Hong Kong Film Industry' in 1999 so as to avoid depleting the resources available to the industry?

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The objective of the Film Development Fund (FDF) is to provide financial assistance to projects that will be beneficial to the healthy and long term development of local film industry. The Film Services Office (FSO) had consulted the industry on the scope of research projects to be financed by the FDF. The industry, in response, unanimously considered that there was a need to conduct a study on film financing in Hong Kong. The Film Services Advisory Committee also supported this suggestion. It advised that FSO should make an application to the FDF for funding support of the consultancy study after further consultation with the industry on project details. No FDF application was ever refused owing to resource constraint.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB047
Question Serial No.
0150

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) : (2) Film Services

Programme :
Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please list the projects approved by the Film Development Fund in 2000 as well as the approved funding for and content of each of the approved projects. Please also advise the current balance of the Fund.

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Of the applications for funding from the Film Development Fund received in 2000, 8 projects have been approved. The approved funding for and content of each of the approved projects are as follows:

Project	**Approved Funding ($'000)**
(1) "Special Effects Operators Training Course": to provide training to local special effects operators so as to raise their professional standard, to ensure the safe production of entertainment special effects, and to enhance the standard of the special effect scenes in Hong Kong films.	2,000
(2) "Film Production Workshop": to train up new talent for film production and to enhance the level of competence and professionalism of the industry by providing practical training on operation of various equipment, post-production work and film shooting.	550
(3) "Public Opinion Survey on Movie-goers' Habits": to collect data on movie-going habits so that the industry can use the data to formulate business strategies and attract more movie-goers. The Survey will help to promote the long-term development of the local film industry.	700

Project	Amount Granted ($'000)
(4) "Participation in the 45th Asia-Pacific Film Festival": subsidies were granted to 5 motion pictures and 3 short films for participation in the Festival held in Vietnam. The aim is to promote Hong Kong films, which will help expand the overseas market for Hong Kong films.	300
(5) "Promotion of Hong Kong films at the Cannes Film Festival": a major publicity campaign to be jointly organised by the Film Services Office and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Cannes in May 2001. The project aims to enhance the international status of Hong Kong films, expand overseas market and promote Hong Kong as an ideal place for filming. Publicity events include a "Hong Kong Night", screening of films and setting up of exhibition booths in the International Village.	4,725
(6) "Seminar and workshop for professional animators by Mr Richard Williams" with the world famous animator Richard Williams as speaker. The project aims to stimulate the creativity of local professional animators by sharing with Mr Williams' his experience in animation production in Hollywood.	800
(7)-(8) Sponsoring two films to participate in the 2001 Rotterdam International Film Festival.	140

As at 28 February 2001, the balance of uncommitted funds under the Film Development Fund was $74 million.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.
ITBB048
Question Serial No.
0216

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Of the 142 cases of 'Complicated Applications for Location Shooting' received in 2000, how many were successfully handled with requests met? What is the number of requests from local film companies and how many were successfully handled with requests met?

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Film Services Office (FSO) under the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority dealt with a total of 142 cases of 'Complicated Applications for Location Shooting' in 2000. Of them, 139 cases, i.e. 98%, were successfully handled. There were 98 requests from local film companies, taking up 69% of the applications, out of which FSO had successfully handled 96 cases, i.e. a success rate of 98%.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

ITBB049

Question Serial No.

0217

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding TELA's initiative to provide information and statistics on the local film industry on its web page in 2001-02, will this plan overlap with the Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories Motion Picture Industry Association's 1999 project with approved funding of $1.2 m from the Film Development Fund to set up a web site? What is TELA's monthly expenditure on content maintenance, production and equipment for its web page?

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The information and statistics on the local film industry which TELA has committed to provide are made available through the web site of the Film Services Office (FSO) under TELA. The web site, officially launched in November 1999, makes available to the film industry as well as the public information on film development and location shooting including an introduction to the Film Development Fund, a location library on choices of sites, regulations relating to location shooting, application procedures, a directory of film industry organisations and a guide to filming in Hong Kong. Funded by the Film Development Fund, the Hong Kong Film Industry Information and Copyright Database to be set up by the Hong Kong , Kowloon and New Territories Motion Picture Industry Association, on the other hand, will provide information on the registered copyright of local films, an image database on the designs of VCDs and DVDs of films and box office receipts of local films. The contents of the two web sites, therefore, will not overlap.

The cost of setting up the FSO web site is approximately $140,000, mainly used on the design and set up of the site by consultants and purchase of hardware. The annual operating cost of the site is about $30,000 and is funded by TELA's Film Services provision.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 13 March 2001