

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

**[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport]
[Session No. : 6]**

Bureau Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Member	Head	Programme
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S-TB002	–	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	153	–
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Bureau Serial No.

S-TB001

Question Serial No.

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : How much resource has the Administration provided to support the operation of the Transport Advisory Committee?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The Administration provides secretariat support to the operation of the Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Transport Complaints Unit (TCU). The TAC Secretariat is headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary. He is supported by 19 staff, including a Senior Administrative Officer, a Chief Executive Officer, a Senior Executive Officer and four Executive Officers. The TAC Secretariat is also responsible for assisting the Committee in conducting research on specific transport issues.

Over the past two years, \$350,000 was spent on computerising the TCU complaints handling and processing system to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Unit. Separately, \$53,000 was spent on providing training courses to 12 staff of the TAC Secretariat to improve their skills and efficiency in handling complaints. In 2001-02, about \$300,000 is earmarked for publicizing the work of the TAC and the TCU.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

S-TB002

Question Serial No.

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many meetings of the Cross-Boundary Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) have been held since 1 July 1997?

Asked by : Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai

Reply : The ICC, which succeeded the former Sino-British Coordinating Committee on Major Cross-Border Infrastructure between Hong Kong and the Mainland, was inaugurated on 16 October 1997 and under its purview there were four Panels and one Expert Group, namely the Roads and Bridges Panel, the Railway Panel, the Air Traffic Control Panel, the Panel on Marine Channels and the Expert Group on Huanggang - Lok Ma Chau Passenger Crossing.

Under the ICC, the implementation of the cross-boundary infrastructural development programmes has been followed up by the relevant Panels and Expert Group.

The meeting schedule of the Panels and Expert Group pertaining to land transport since July 1997 is appended below:

<u>Panel / Expert Group</u>	<u>No. of Meetings held since 1 July 1997</u>
Roads and Bridges Panel	2
Technical Group under the Roads and Bridges Panel	9 (of which 4 were informal meetings)

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S-TB002

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Panel / Expert Group

No. of Meetings held
since 1 July 1997

Expert Group on Huanggang – Lok
Ma Chau Passenger Crossing

4

Joint Working Group on
Huanggang – Lok Ma Chau
Passenger Crossing (set up under the
aegis of the Expert Group on
Huanggang – Lok Ma Chau
Passenger Crossing)

6

(the first two were preparatory
meetings)

Signature _____

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date 26 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

S-TB003

Question Serial No.

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

Head 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many applications by franchised bus operators for introduction of new bus routes on Hong Kong Island were rejected in the past year?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply : Under the Public Bus Services Ordinance, a franchised bus operator is required to submit a Route Development Programme (RDP) which includes proposals for new routes to the Transport Department for approval. In examining proposals for new bus routes, we will consider carefully the service need for these routes as well as the need to ensure efficient use of existing bus resources and limited road space and avoid unnecessary duplication.

At present, a total of 196 bus routes are operating on Hong Kong Island. With regard to the RDP for 2000-01, we received applications from the franchised bus operators to introduce 11 new routes on Hong Kong Island. After discussion with the concerned operators and taking into account the outcome of consultations with the relevant District Councils, we approved one new bus route for introduction in 2000-01. The other applications were not approved because of a number of reasons, which include –

- (a) the demand does not justify the provision of the proposed new routes;
- (b) the demand can be served by the existing and committed public transport services in the areas concerned;
- (c) the need to avoid routing through the congested corridors; and

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(d) the need to minimize duplication with the existing public transport services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

S-TB004

Question Serial No.

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

Head 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many people are now living in NT small houses? What is the existing policy on the provision of emergency vehicular access (EVA) for small houses? Does the Administration have any plans to improve the EVA arrangements for NT small houses?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : According to information provided by the Planning and Lands Bureau, it is estimated that at present about 400,000 people are living in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEH), which include small houses granted to indigenous villagers.

The requirement of emergency vehicular access (EVA) applies to NTEH. The existing policy is that for ten or more NTEH developments in a cluster, there should be an EVA to allow emergency vehicles to reach within 30 metres from any building. Such EVA should not be less than 4.5 metres in width with a headroom clearance of 4.5 metres and should be capable of withstanding the loading of 16 tonne fire appliances. Standard pedestal type fire hydrants should be provided along the EVA at 100m intervals.

For a development fewer than ten houses in a cluster, whether or not to impose the EVA requirement will depend on local circumstances and development potentials. The relevant District Lands Office, in consultation with the Fire Services Department, will carefully consider each application on its own merits.

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S-TB004

Question Serial No.

The requirements of EVA have been in force since 1997. The Administration will continue to monitor its implementation and review the arrangements if necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date 26 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

S-TB005

Question Serial No.

S053

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

Head 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau
(Heads : 60, 91, 100, 118, 186)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the contents of the two consultancy studies referred to in your reply of TB005 – 0778?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : The study contents of the two consultancies in 2000-01 are as follows :

<u>Name of consultant</u>	Study content
Hong Kong Productivity Council	Consultancy on the implementation of quality management system in the Highways Department
Crow Maunsell Management Consultants Ltd	Consultancy study on productivity standards in the Regional Offices of Highways Department

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2001