

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

**[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food]
[Session No. : 16] [File name: EFB-e1.doc]**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB030

Question Serial No.

0347

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
- (1) Please advise on the title and responsibility of consultative committee and statutory committee established under this Programme, the number of meetings held during the last 3 years, and the remuneration if any received by the chairman and members of the committees.
 - (2) To support the functioning of the above committees, what was/will be the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the last and coming financial year?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

- Reply :
- (1) Under this Programme, there is neither consultative committee nor statutory committee established.
 - (2) Not applicable as no consultative committee nor statutory committee has been set up for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB139

Question Serial No.

0284

Head : CWRP Head 704 - Drainage Subhead (No. & title): 4135DS,
4301DS & 4314DS

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment & Food

Question : What is the progress of the following PWP projects? How would the allocated funds for these projects for financial year 2002-03 be used?

- 4135DS : East Kowloon sewerage improvements and pollution control,
stage I, phase I
- 4301DS : East Kowloon sewerage : stage II works
- 4314DS : East Kowloon sewerage, stage I phase II – rehabilitation of Kwun
Tong Road sewers

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : **4135DS :**
All the works were completed in December 1995. Funds allocated for financial year 2002-03 of \$4.75M are reserved for settling outstanding claims from the contractor.

4301DS :
Works were substantially completed in October 2001. Funds allocated for financial year 2002-03 of \$24.19M are for completing the remaining reinstatement works and settling outstanding contractual payments.

4314DS :
Works were substantially completed in April 2001. Funds allocated for financial year 2002-03 of \$1.65M are for settling outstanding contractual payments.

Signature	
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB037

Question Serial No.

0182

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list the details of the environmental impact assessment study for the fill bank in Tuen Mun Area 38. When did the study start? When was it completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : We are now preparing the project profile for the fill bank in Tuen Mun Area 38 for the Director of Environmental Protection to determine the environmental issues to be addressed in the environmental impact assessment study. It is expected that the study will start in September 2002 for completion in March 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 18 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB028

Question Serial No.

0350

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

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What effect do the sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge concessions as mentioned in the Estimates have on the recurrent account under this programme? What measures will be taken by the department to cut down recurrent expenditure so as to minimize the effect of the concession measures on the recurrent account under this programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The effect of the sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge concessions in the 2002-03 Budget is the reduction in government's general revenue. It does not directly affect the recurrent expenditure estimates of the sewage services programme. As compared to the revised estimate 2001-02, the draft Revenue Estimate for 2002-03 will decrease by approximately 50% and 25% for sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge respectively.

We will continue to closely monitor and control our recurrent expenditure so as to deliver cost effective services to the public. To achieve this, various cost saving measures have been adopted such as :-

- (a) optimising the utilisation of existing in-house staff to conduct regular preventive maintenance of plants and equipment so as to reduce the expenditure on hiring of maintenance services;
- (b) reducing the operating expenditure of sewage treatment plants through optimisation of treatment process; and
- (c) enhancing the efficiency of the maintenance through better planning and scheduling of works with the aid of computerised system.

Signature	
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : According to my understanding, as there are lesser number of reclamation projects nowadays, it is difficult to find outlets for accommodating inert construction and demolition (C&D) materials. Under the circumstances, it may have to make use of municipal landfills for the purpose; the handling cost would increase substantially. Accordingly, would the Government please advise this Committee on the following :

- (a) What is the cost of handling inert C&D materials in reclamation areas and landfills respectively? When are the existing reclamation areas expected to be filled up so it becomes necessary to make use of municipal landfills for the purpose?
- (b) To avoid the wastage of resources, has the Environment and Food Bureau discussed with the Planning and Lands Bureau and the Territory Development Department to advance some reclamation projects to satisfy the need for accommodating inert C&D materials?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply :
- (a) The costs (including capital and operation costs) of handling inert C&D materials in reclamation areas and landfills are about \$50 per tonne and \$125 per tonne respectively. The existing reclamation areas are expected to be filled up by late 2002. To avoid C&D materials going to landfills, we will set up fill banks to stockpile inert C&D materials until new reclamation projects are available.
 - (b) The Environment and Food Bureau has been discussing with other bureaux/departments the feasibility of advancing reclamation projects, such as Penny's Bay Reclamation Stage 2 and South East Kowloon Development reclamation projects.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB035

Question Serial No.

0820

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : “Examine the need for recycling facilities and a temporary barging point at Kai Tak” was mentioned in the Matter Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03. What are (a) the detail and objective of the investigation? (b) its date of commencement and target date of completion?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : (a) The study on the proposed recycling facility at Kai Tak aims to assess the engineering, economic and financial viability of setting up a short-term inert construction and demolition materials recycling facility to reduce the reliance on reclamation as the only means of accommodating the inert construction and demolition materials. The study on the temporary barging point focuses on the traffic impact of the temporary barging point to receive inert construction and demolition materials generated in Kowloon East and New Territories East Regions.

(b) The study on the Kai Tak recycling facility commenced in March 2001 and would be completed in April 2002. The traffic impact assessment for the temporary barging point commenced in January 2002 and would be completed in April 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB043

Question Serial No.

0049

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the amount involved in the contract payment for the operation of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2002? How does it compare with that in 2001?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: In 2001-02, the operation fee for the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre was \$420 million. As no major changes are expected in 2002-03, the expenditure is estimated to remain at about \$420 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB044

Question Serial No.

0050

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

(a) The Department has been actively promoting waste reduction initiatives in recent years. However, why does the tonnage of waste to be received in the strategic landfills in 2002 (6 100 000 tonnes) only decrease by less than one percentage point (0.6%) as compared to 2001 (6 138 340 tonnes)?

(b) The mass relocation of Hong Kong factories to the Mainland in recent years has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of industrial discharge. As such, why does the tonnage of special wastes to be treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2002 (62 000 tonnes) only decrease by 1.5 percentage points (%) as compared to 2001 (63 000 tonnes)?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

(a) The amount of waste disposed of at landfills is governed by factors such as population growth, economic development, waste generation patterns as well as the effect of waste reduction measures. We have taken into account the trend in the past years and the likely scenarios of the governing factors in estimating the amount for 2002.

The waste disposed of at landfills is mainly municipal solid waste and construction and demolition waste. The total amount of municipal solid waste disposed of at landfills was 3.383, 3.407 and 3.395 million tonnes in 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively. This indicated an increase of 0.7% from 1999 to 2000 and a decrease of 0.3% from 2000 to 2001. Based on this trend and taking into account enhanced waste reduction efforts since 2001 against population increase and waste growth, it is anticipated that there will be a net decrease of municipal solid waste in the order of about 1% from 2001 to 2002.

On the other hand, the amount of construction and demolition waste requiring disposal at landfills depends on construction activities as well as the availability of public filling areas for inert construction and demolition materials. In general, the level of construction activities in 2002 is likely to be similar to 2001 but we would see an increase of construction and demolition waste disposed of at landfills in 2002 as a result of closure of some public filling areas. However it is not possible to estimate this amount at this stage.

Hence in overall terms, we have only projected a waste intake of 6.1 million tonnes at landfills in 2002 which is about 0.6% decrease from that in 2001.

(b) There has been a general decrease in the amount of waste going to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in recent years as chemical waste producers adopted waste minimisation practices and in-house treatment, and many industries moved out of Hong Kong. The waste intake at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2001 was about the same as that in 2000 because the decrease from land-based waste producers was largely offset by an increase of oily waste from ocean-going vessels visiting Hong Kong. In the current economic situation, we expect the 2002 total to be slightly less than 2001.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>M. J. STOKOE</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Environmental Protection</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2002</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB063

Question Serial No.

0032

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: Regarding Programme (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning, provision for 2002-03 is \$7.6 m higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to the creation of 21 posts for strengthening the professional support services and the enforcement work for the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and salary increments for staff. What are the respective titles and numbers of the posts to be created?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply: The respective titles and number of posts to be created are as follows:

- (1) for enhancing professional and technical support services on matters relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance:

4 Environmental Protection Officers

- (2) for strengthening the enforcement of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance:

1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer
6 Environmental Protection Officers
1 Chief Environmental Protection Inspector
3 Senior Environmental Protection Inspectors
6 Environmental Protection Inspectors

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB075

Question Serial No.

0163

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why the respective targets (i.e. 100%) for the two indicators "percentage of time with all monitoring stations complying with short-term Air Quality Objectives" and the "percentage of monitoring stations complying with long-term Air Quality Objectives" could not be achieved? The percentage for the latter indicator to be achieved in 2002 will remain at the same level as last year (i.e. 64%). Do these indicate that there will be no improvement in the air quality of Hong Kong in future?

Asked by: Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply:

The short-term (hourly or daily averages) Air Quality Objectives would be exceeded occasionally when the weather is very calm resulting in building up of pollutants. These exceedances correspond to the peak concentrations of air pollution. Because of the implementation of the air pollution control programmes, we expect these peak values will decrease over the coming years, and result in higher compliance rate.

The long-term (annual average) Air Quality Objectives refer to the average concentrations over a full year. These objectives are not met mainly at urban areas. The air pollution control programmes will reduce also the annual average readings. However, when compared to the reduction in peak values the magnitude of reduction averaged over a year would be smaller. We expect the compliance rate to improve in a more gradual manner and hence have adopted the compliance rate of 64% in 2001 as the best estimate for 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB080

Question Serial No.

0192

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give details of the "Study of dioxins emission by sampling". When will the study commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: The purpose of the study is to check that the dioxin emissions from potential sources are at an acceptable level. Analysis of dioxins will be done by taking samples of the atmospheric emissions from various sources such as incinerators and crematoria. We are preparing the tendering exercise and the plan is to start taking samples around October this year and complete the study by March 2005. The budget for the project is \$7.2M over a 3-year period until 2004-05. The expected spending in 2002-03 is about \$2.4M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB081

Question Serial No.

0214

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give details of the "Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong". When will the study commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The study will look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local health data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on the well-being of people.

We plan to commence the study by the end of this year. The study is expected to be completed in two years.

The budget for the study is \$3.5 million and the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 is \$0.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB082

Question Serial No.

0215

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: Please give details of the "Study to evaluate the environmental implications of traffic management measures". When will the study commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The study will evaluate the noise implications of the five proposed trial traffic management schemes before and during the trial period. The noise evaluation will cover those road sections that will be subject to the trial schemes and the nearby roads where the traffic will be diverted.

The study will tie in with the trial schemes. The study is to commence in May 2002 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2002.

The estimated expenditure in 2002-03 for the study is \$1.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB083

Question Serial No.

0216

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give details of the "Review the eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers"?
When will the review commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The review will look into those existing road sections that may have potential for inclusion into the existing programme for retrofitting barriers under the current government policy to address the noise impact of the existing roads on nearby residents. It will examine recent land use changes or other changes in circumstances that may enable certain existing road sections to meet the technical feasibility criteria for retrofitting barriers.

The review is scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2002 and is expected to be completed in early 2004.

The budget for this work is \$3 million and the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 is \$0.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
- (1) In 2002-03, Civil Engineering Department will enhance the scrutiny of public works projects to reduce the generation of public fill. What will be the resources involved in this respect? What are the details?
 - (2) Provision for 2002-03 is higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. One of the reasons is due to creation of four posts for management of construction and demolition materials. Are there any relationship between these posts and the duty mentioned in Question (1) above? What are the titles of the posts?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

- Reply :
- (1) To enhance the scrutiny of public works projects to reduce the generation of public fill, Civil Engineering Department will deploy resources of 1/8 Chief Engineer, 1/3 Senior Engineer and 1 Engineer in 2002-03.
 - (2) The new posts to be created include 1 Senior Engineer, 2 Engineers and 1 Inspector of Works. They are responsible for management of construction and demolition materials in the following specific areas :
 - (i) To formulate strategy and plan for construction and demolition materials sorting facilities;
 - (ii) To formulate strategy and plan for construction and demolition materials recycling facilities; and
 - (iii) To plan and manage the operation of temporary fill banks.

The above duties are independent of that mentioned in Question (1). Nevertheless, both are crucial components of the work in construction and demolition materials management.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB138

Question Serial No.

0781

Head : CWRP Head 704 - Drainage Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme is a major project worth some 10 billion dollars. It involves public expenditure and a huge sum of sewage charges to be born by the industrial and commercial sectors. Regarding this, can the Government inform this Council:

- (a) the progress of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme so far and the works scheduled to be carried out and completed in the coming financial year? Can the details be provided?
- (b) Innovative sewage treatment methods, which are both environmental-friendly and cost-effective, have been adopted by many places in the world including the Mainland. Has the Department sought after new technologies from experts concerned all over the world and on the Mainland so that, together with our existing sewerage facilities, the amount of investment and recurrent expenditure of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme can be reduced? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply :
- (a) Stage I of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS), formerly known as the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS), has been fully completed and successfully commissioned in December 2001. It is now treating about 70% of the sewage flows from the metropolitan area around the Victoria Harbour and removing about 600 tonnes of highly polluted sludge that used to go into the harbour everyday. Since its commissioning, it has already brought about a very substantial improvement to water quality in the eastern harbour. In the coming year, the Government will proceed with a series of studies and trials in relation to the way forward of the subsequent stages of the scheme as detailed in part (b) of this reply.
 - (b) In 2000, we commissioned an International Review Panel (IRP) comprising local, Mainland and overseas experts to review the way forward of the HATS. In May 2001, the Government obtained funding approval from the Finance Committee to pursue studies and trials, including trials of compact sewage treatment technologies with well proven track record of large-scale application, to assess the environmental, financial and engineering viability of the options recommended by the IRP in end 2000. The technologies on trial were selected by means of an open process during which prospective local and non-local vendors and contractors were invited to express interest. We commenced the major studies and trials in November 2001 and January 2002 respectively. They are expected to be complete by end 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB097

Question Serial No.

0318

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

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

How is the deletion of the 1 130 posts under the above Programme achieved? What is the proportion between the posts deleted by voluntary retirement and redeployment?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

Deletion of all the 1 130 posts will be achieved through the release of staff under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Redeployment involves transferring posts and staff from one work unit to another to ensure continued provision of services. No deletion of post would therefore result from redeployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita Lau

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB105

Question Serial No.

0219

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Regarding the indicators under Programme (2), there is a decrease of 81 699 in the number of inspections to food premises in 2001-02 compared with that in 2000-01, i.e. a decrease of 16.8%. What are the reasons for the decrease?
- (b) Regarding the indicators under Programme (2), there is a decrease of 1 083 and 2 093 in the number of prosecutions against licensed food premises and unlicensed food premises respectively in 2001-02 compared with that in 2000-01, i.e. a decrease of 19.7% and 42.6%. Is there any relation between the decrease in the number of prosecutions and the number of inspections to food premises? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Please provide the number of prosecutions successfully instituted against food premises in 2000/01 and 2001/02 and the general reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The reduction in the number of inspections to food premise by 81 699 is based on the comparison of inspection figures for calendar year 2000 and 2001. The reasons for the drop are –
 - (i) The alignment of the 3-category inspection frequency for licensed food premises based on their compliance record to “8, 4, 2” weeks for all districts from “8, 4, 2” weeks for urban districts and “8, 3, 1” week(s) for New Territories districts; and
 - (ii) The redeployment of Health Inspectors from general inspection work to handle urgent food safety incidents such as the outbreak of Cholera cases and avian flu.

We would wish to emphasize that food safety for the public was in no way compromised by the reduction in the number of inspections carried out.

- (b) The decrease in prosecutions against licensed food premises was mainly due to the trade displaying overall a higher level of compliance with the food regulations in force.

The decrease in prosecution against unlicensed food premises was due to: (a) the shorter time taken for operators to get a provisional licence to operate their business legally; and (b) the fact that FEHD has since 2001 changed tactics in enforcement by seizing all the food and paraphernalia used in the unlicensed activities. This measure has proved very effective in reducing the re-opening of unlicensed food business.

- (c) The numbers of successful prosecutions (i.e. convictions) for both licensed and unlicensed food premises in 2000-01 and 2001-02 are 9 631 and 6 446 respectively. There was one unsuccessful prosecution case in 2000-01, the defendant was acquitted due to the benefit of doubt.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB109

Question Serial No.

0223

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene

Subhead (No. & title) : 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards *Subhead 603 plant, vehicles and equipment*, the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 is \$4.54 m, representing an increase of 318% as compared with the revised estimate in 2001-02. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The provision under Subhead 603 is for the installation of 400 units of On-board Electronic Vehicle Monitoring Devices (OEVMD) on special purpose vehicles, such as refuse collection vehicles and street washing vehicles. In 2001-02, \$5.625 M has been earmarked for the project. However, due to delay in the installation of OEVMD, only \$1.085 M was spent. The provision of \$4.540 M is the estimated cashflow requirement in 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB116

Question Serial No.

0511

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environmental and Food

Question :

Please give an account of the vacant stalls in all markets managed by FEHD. Please provide figures in terms of the number and area of these stalls and their respective percentage in the total number and area of market stalls.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

As at 31.1.2002, of the 15 801 market stalls managed by FEHD, 2 968 stalls (18.8%) are vacant. The distribution of these vacant stalls by markets is at Annex I. Their total area is 16 618 m², or 17.7% of the total area of market stalls, detailed distribution is at Annex II.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 21 March 2002

***FEHD Public Market
Vacancy Position (By
Stall No.)***

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total No. of Stalls Provided</i>	<i>Total No. of Let-out Stalls</i>	<i>Total No. of Vacant Stalls</i>	<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stalls No.(%)</i>
1	BRIDGES STREET MARKET	35	20	15	42.86
2	CENTRAL MARKET	263	153	110	41.83
3	CAUSEWAY BAY MARKET	55	44	11	20.00
4	ELECTRIC ROAD MARKET	118	71	47	39.83
5	JAVA ROAD MARKET	199	173	26	13.07
6	NORTH POINT MARKET	42	42	0	0.00
7	SAI WAN HO MARKET	292	230	62	21.23
8	SHAU KEI WAN MARKET	90	61	29	32.22

9	QUARRY BAY MARKET	119	81	38	31.93
10	YUE WAN MARKET	432	342	90	20.83
11	CHAI WAN MARKET	178	147	31	17.42
12	KUT SHING STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	11	10	1	9.09
13	CHEUNG CHAU COOKED FOOD MARKET	17	14	3	17.65
14	CHEUNG CHAU MARKET	240	230	10	4.17
15	MUI WO COOKED FOOD MARKET	20	20	0	0.00
16	MUI WO MARKET	35	35	0	0.00
17	PENG CHAU MARKET	43	23	20	46.51
18	TAI O MARKET	26	17	9	34.62
19	ABERDEEN MARKET	344	290	54	15.70
20	AP LEI CHAU MARKET	61	60	1	1.64

21	TIN WAN MARKET	189	157	32	16.93
22	YUE KWONG ROAD MARKET	199	171	28	14.07
23	STANLEY TEMPORARY MARKET	24	16	8	33.33
24	NAM LONG SHAN ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	28	25	3	10.71
25	BOWRINGTON ROAD MARKET	311	272	39	12.54
26	LOCKHART ROAD MARKET (COMPLEX)	171	148	23	13.45
27	TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET	62	40	22	35.48
28	WAN CHAI MARKET	137	130	7	5.11
29	WONG NAI CHUNG MARKET	71	59	12	16.90
30	CENTRE STREET MARKET	51	45	6	11.76
31	SHEK TONG SHUI MARKET	153	111	42	27.45
32	SHEUNG WAN MARKET	226	193	33	14.60

33	SMITHFIELD MARKET	218	208	10	4.59
34	SAI YING PUN MARKET	102	97	5	4.90
35	HUNG HOM MARKET	229	225	4	1.75
36	KOWLOON CITY MARKET	631	493	138	21.87
37	TO KWA WAN MARKET	286	250	36	12.59
38	ON CHING ROAD FLOWER MARKET	13	6	7	53.85
39	CHA KWO LING MARKET	9	5	4	44.44
40	KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE COOKED FOOD MARKET	29	26	3	10.34
41	NGAU TAU KOK MARKET COMPLEX	473	431	42	8.88
42	SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX	308	272	36	11.69
43	SZE SHAN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	17	15	2	11.76
44	TSUN YIP COOKED FOOD MARKET	56	51	5	8.93

45	TUNG YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	8	8	0	0.00
46	YEE ON STREET MARKET	65	49	16	24.62
47	SAM KA TSUEN MARKET	20	18	2	10.00
48	BOUNDARY STREET MARKET	32	26	6	18.75
49	FA YUEN STREET MARKET	192	184	8	4.17
50	MONG KOK MARKET	146	65	81	55.48
51	SOY STREET TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD MARKET	19	15	4	21.05
52	TAI KOK TSUI TEMPORARY MARKET	194	136	58	29.90
53	CHEUNG SHA WAN COOKED FOOD MARKET	28	12	16	57.14
54	LAI WAN MARKET	42	41	1	2.38
55	PEI HO STREET MARKET	235	231	4	1.70
56	PO ON ROAD MARKET COMPLEX	731	432	299	40.90

57	TUNG CHAU STREET TEMPORARY MARKET	359	122	237	66.02
58	NGAU CHI WAN MARKET	420	369	51	12.14
59	CHOI HUNG ROAD MARKET	122	97	25	20.49
60	SHEUNG FUNG STREET MARKET	79	76	3	3.80
61	TAI SHING STREET MARKET	498	451	47	9.44
62	HAIIPHONG ROAD TEMPORARY MARKET	145	81	64	44.14
63	KIMBERLEY STREET MARKET	19	19	0	0.00
64	KWUN CHUNG MARKET	219	168	51	23.29
65	YAU MA TEI MARKET	150	116	34	22.67
66	CHEUNG TAT ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	12	10	2	16.67
67	KA TING COOKED FOOD MARKET	17	13	4	23.53
68	KWAI SHUN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	12	12	0	0.00

69	NORTH KWAI CHUNG MARKET	228	216	12	5.26
70	TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	20	7	13	65.00
71	WING FONG STREET MARKET	119	112	7	5.88
72	WO YI HOP ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	18	13	5	27.78
73	TSING YI MARKET	76	70	6	7.89
74	KWU TUNG MARKET SHOPPING CENTRE	98	94	4	4.08
75	SHA TAU KOK MARKET	66	64	2	3.03
76	SHEK WU HUI MARKET	393	387	6	1.53
77	SAI KUNG MARKET	217	164	53	24.42
78	TUI MIN HOI MARKET	34	23	11	32.35
79	FO TAN (EAST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	24	20	4	16.67
80	FO TAN (WEST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	15	8	7	46.67

81	SHA TIN MARKET	179	174	5	2.79
82	TAI WAI MARKET	202	194	8	3.96
83	PLOVER COVE ROAD MARKET	263	188	75	28.52
84	TAI PO TEMPORARY MARKET	414	321	93	22.46
85	HEUNG CHE STREET MARKET	227	213	14	6.17
86	SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET	37	29	8	21.62
87	TSUEN KING CIRCUIT MARKET	248	148	100	40.32
88	TSUEN WAN MARKET	403	387	16	3.97
89	YEUNG UK ROAD MARKET	334	328	6	1.80
90	CHAI WAN KOK COOKED FOOD MARKET	32	32	0	0.00
91	HUNG CHEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	11	9	2	18.18
92	KIN WING COOKED FOOD MARKET	20	13	7	35.00

93	KWONG CHOI MARKET	84	51	33	39.29
94	LAM TEI MARKET	16	10	6	37.50
95	SAN HUI MARKET	333	289	44	13.21
96	TSING YEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	18	16	2	11.11
97	YAN OI MARKET	108	99	9	8.33
98	HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET	224	202	22	9.82
99	KAM TIN MARKET	43	38	5	11.63
100	KIK YEUNG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	14	14	0	0.00
101	KIN YIP STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	14	14	0	0.00
102	LAU FAU SHAN MARKET	25	23	2	8.00
103	TAI KIU MARKET	395	309	86	21.77
104	TAI TONG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	18	18	0	0.00

105	TUNG YICK MARKET	454	276	178	39.21
	<i>Total</i>	<i>15801</i>	<i>12833</i>	<i>2968</i>	<i>18.78</i>

Xcel : FEHD
Public Market
Vacancy
Position By Stall
No.

***FEHD Public Market
Vacancy Position (By
Stall Area)***

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total Stall Area (sq.m.) Provided</i>	<i>Total Let-out Stall Area (sq.m.)</i>	<i>Total Vacant Stall Area (sq. m.)</i>	<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
1	BRIDGES STREET MARKET	470	239	231	49.15
2	CENTRAL MARKET	2628	1566	1062	40.41
3	CAUSEWAY BAY MARKET	263	230	33	12.55
4	ELECTRIC ROAD MARKET	553	384	169	30.56
5	JAVA ROAD MARKET	1032	937	95	9.21
6	NORTH POINT MARKET	208	208	0	0.00
7	SAI WAN HO MARKET	1447	1160	287	19.83
8	SHAU KEI WAN MARKET	533	349	184	34.52

9	QUARRY BAY MARKET	639	508	131	20.50
10	YUE WAN MARKET	2084	1638	446	21.40
11	CHAI WAN MARKET	875	774	101	11.54
12	KUT SHING STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	165	150	15	9.09
13	CHEUNG CHAU COOKED FOOD MARKET	228	210	18	7.89
14	CHEUNG CHAU MARKET	1209	1206	3	0.25
15	MUI WO COOKED FOOD MARKET	252	252	0	0.00
16	MUI WO MARKET	251	251	0	0.00
17	PENG CHAU MARKET	339	239	100	29.50
18	TAI O MARKET	238	139	99	41.60
19	ABERDEEN MARKET	1658	1405	253	15.26
20	AP LEI CHAU MARKET	539	536	3	0.56

21	TIN WAN MARKET	897	649	248	27.65
22	YUE KWONG ROAD MARKET	1061	932	129	12.16
23	STANLEY TEMPORARY MARKET	217	137	80	36.87
24	NAM LONG SHAN ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	408	363	45	11.03
25	BOWRINGTON ROAD MARKET	1518	1336	182	11.99
26	LOCKHART ROAD MARKET (COMPLEX)	1063	903	160	15.05
27	TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET	559	389	170	30.41
28	WAN CHAI MARKET	757	704	53	7.00
29	WONG NAI CHUNG MARKET	409	365	44	10.76
30	CENTRE STREET MARKET	201	159	42	20.90
31	SHEK TONG SHUI MARKET	827	672	155	18.74
32	SHEUNG WAN MARKET	1638	1294	344	21.00

33	SMITHFIELD MARKET	1252	1181	71	5.67
34	SAI YING PUN MARKET	797	749	48	6.02
35	HUNG HOM MARKET	1485	1473	12	0.81
36	KOWLOON CITY MARKET	2776	2265	511	18.41
37	TO KWA WAN MARKET	1402	1282	120	8.56
38	ON CHING ROAD FLOWER MARKET	39	18	21	53.85
39	CHA KWO LING MARKET	92	47	45	48.91
40	KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE COOKED FOOD MARKET	435	390	45	10.34
41	NGAU TAU KOK MARKET COMPLEX	2235	2053	182	8.14
42	SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX	1386	1215	171	12.34
43	SZE SHAN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	255	225	30	11.76
44	TSUN YIP COOKED FOOD MARKET	840	765	75	8.93

45	TUNG YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	120	120	0	0.00
46	YEE ON STREET MARKET	325	245	80	24.62
47	SAM KA TSUEN MARKET	139	133	6	4.32
48	BOUNDARY STREET MARKET	290	225	65	22.41
49	FA YUEN STREET MARKET	778	596	182	23.39
50	MONG KOK MARKET	1012	467	545	53.85
51	SOY STREET TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD MARKET	285	225	60	21.05
52	TAI KOK TSUI TEMPORARY MARKET	778	596	182	23.39
53	CHEUNG SHA WAN COOKED FOOD MARKET	420	180	240	57.14
54	LAI WAN MARKET	249	246	3	1.20
55	PEI HO STREET MARKET	1482	1434	48	3.24
56	PO ON ROAD MARKET COMPLEX	3308	2024	1284	38.81

57	TUNG CHAU STREET TEMPORARY MARKET	1600	710	890	55.63
58	NGAU CHI WAN MARKET	2183	1794	389	17.82
59	CHOI HUNG ROAD MARKET	875	691	184	21.03
60	SHEUNG FUNG STREET MARKET	484	458	26	5.37
61	TAI SHING STREET MARKET	2952	2583	369	12.50
62	HAIIPHONG ROAD TEMPORARY MARKET	743	486	257	34.59
63	KIMBERLEY STREET MARKET	177	177	0	0.00
64	KWUN CHUNG MARKET	1401	992	409	29.19
65	YAU MA TEI MARKET	1573	1217	356	22.63
66	CHEUNG TAT ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	180	150	30	16.67
67	KA TING COOKED FOOD MARKET	255	195	60	23.53
68	KWAI SHUN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	180	180	0	0.00

69	NORTH KWAI CHUNG MARKET	967	906	61	6.31
70	TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	270	105	165	61.11
71	WING FONG STREET MARKET	619	581	38	6.14
72	WO YI HOP ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	210	135	75	35.71
73	TSING YI MARKET	440	380	60	13.64
74	KWU TUNG MARKET SHOPPING CENTRE	567	535	32	5.64
75	SHA TAU KOK MARKET	584	553	31	5.31
76	SHEK WU HUI MARKET	2267	2229	38	1.68
77	SAI KUNG MARKET	1231	1032	199	16.17
78	TUI MIN HOI MARKET	183	150	33	18.03
79	FO TAN (EAST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	360	300	60	16.67
80	FO TAN (WEST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	225	120	105	46.67

81	SHA TIN MARKET	989	958	31	3.13
82	TAI WAI MARKET	1126	1060	66	5.86
83	PLOVER COVE ROAD MARKET	1289	831	458	35.53
84	TAI PO TEMPORARY MARKET	3330	2733	597	17.93
85	HEUNG CHE STREET MARKET	2284	2226	58	2.54
86	SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET	288	199	89	30.90
87	TSUEN KING CIRCUIT MARKET	1167	707	460	39.42
88	TSUEN WAN MARKET	1805	1727	78	4.32
89	YEUNG UK ROAD MARKET	2274	2216	58	2.55
90	CHAI WAN KOK COOKED FOOD MARKET	480	480	0	0.00
91	HUNG CHEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	165	135	30	18.18
92	KIN WING COOKED FOOD MARKET	300	195	105	35.00

93	KWONG CHOI MARKET	480	316	164	34.17
94	LAM TEI MARKET	176	110	66	37.50
95	SAN HUI MARKET	1690	1518	172	10.18
96	TSING YEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	240	210	30	12.50
97	YAN OI MARKET	584	557	27	4.62
98	HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET	1329	1188	141	10.61
99	KAM TIN MARKET	493	438	55	11.16
100	KIK YEUNG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	246	246	0	0.00
101	KIN YIP STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	186	186	0	0.00
102	LAU FAU SHAN MARKET	275	253	22	8.00
103	TAI KIU MARKET	1969	1655	314	15.95
104	TAI TONG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	246	246	0	0.00

105	TUNG YICK MARKET	2544	1722	822	32.31
	Total	93827	77209	16618	17.71

Note :
Calculations
based on
average stall
size

Xcel : FEHD
Public Market
Vacancy
Position By
stall area

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB104

Question Serial No.

0218

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Regarding the indicators under Programme (1), the number of food samples taken for testing in 2001-02 is reduced by 2 085 compared with that in 2000-01. What are the reasons for such reduction?
- (b) Regarding the indicators under Programme (1), the number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 in 2001-02 is 235 528, a reduction of 53 012 or 18.3% compared with that in 2000-01. What are the reasons for such reduction?
- (c) Regarding the indicators under Programme (1), the number of rodent trappings in 2001-02 is 3 247, compared with 4 230 in 2000-01. What are the reasons for such reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The number of food samples taken for testing in 2001-02 is in line with our target sampling rate of 8 samples per 1 000 population per annum. The actual number of samples taken will vary from year to year as the sampling size and the type of food samples taken are regularly reviewed to take account of general food safety trends and the needs of the time.
- (b) The decrease in the number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 is mainly due to reduced live poultry supply. Arising from the 2001 avian influenza outbreak, supply of live poultry to Hong Kong was temporarily suspended between 18 May to 14 June 2001.
- (c) Depending on the actual field conditions, trapping or poisoning is used to control rodent problems. The decrease in the number of trappings in 2001 was offset by an increase in the number of poison treatments employed from 44 802 in 2000 to 58 724 in 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

21 March 2002

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

Reply Serial No.

EFB115

Question Serial No.

0415

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Provision for 2002-03 has increased by \$36.4 m mainly due to the full-year provision of posts created and non-civil service contract staff employed. Why are 18 posts created after 73 have been deleted? Can these posts be made available through internal redeployment?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The 73 posts were deleted as a result of the contracting out of some of the malaria prevention service. The 18 posts are required for (i) setting up a Mainland farm inspection team; (ii) enhancing ante-mortem inspection of food animals and detection of food animal diseases in the slaughterhouse; and (iii) reviewing existing food labelling legislation and studying the feasibility of introducing nutrition labelling for pre-packaged food. The services to be provided are either new or enhanced services. Internal redeployment is not possible as existing staffing resources have been fully deployed.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB120

Question Serial No.

0515

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Environment and Food

Question :

It is expected that the number of courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors to be organised by FEHD in the coming year will be increased tremendously to 240. What will be the additional manpower and expenditure required? How many employees in the food industry are expected to be trained?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The additional manpower required is one Chief Health Inspector, two Senior Health Inspectors and one clerk. The additional expenditure required is \$3.1M. The courses are designed with capacity to train up to 10 000 employees in the food industry per year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB029

Question Serial No.

0852

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead : 700 General other non-
Department recurrent

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

How much provision is intended to be set aside for the “Study on feasibility of replacing diesel light vehicles with LPG ones” in 2002-03? What is the progress of the study? Has the Government reserved any resources to subsidize the replacement of diesel light vehicles with LPG models?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply: In 2002-03, the financial provision for the consultancy study on the feasibility of introducing LPG light vans and light goods vehicles is \$65,000. This is the final payment and will be paid to the consultant after the completion of the final report. The report is now at the drafting stage.

The government has made no financial provision in 2002-03 for subsidizing owners of diesel light goods vehicles to replace their vehicles with LPG ones. The Government will take into account the findings of the feasibility study before formulating the way forward.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mr. Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 20 March, 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

Reply Serial No.

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

EFB014

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 700 General other non-recurrent

0162

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the specific plan of the consultancy study on wetland compensation, the expenditure required and the breakdown in terms of uses? Why is the progress of this plan slower than expected and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

- A. The main objectives of the Consultancy Study are :
- a) to study the overall impact of development on wetland resources and identify practicable means of mitigation including compensation for the impact on wetlands, particularly in Ramsar Site and its surroundings; and
 - b) to recommend a strategy on wetland compensation for continual and cumulative loss of wetlands as a result of development, thereby ensuring that impacts to ecological resources in important wetland areas, particularly in north and northwest New Territories areas, can be avoided or minimized.

The total approved commitment is \$50M and the breakdown by the main tasks of the Study are as follows:

- 1) Desktop study including literature review, search and analysis of information, assessment of impacts, review of existing practices, consultation with stakeholders, and formulation of a strategy for wetland compensation. (Total estimate : \$6.57M)
- 2) Field surveys, and classification, mapping and analysis of the field data on wetlands in Hong Kong. (Total estimate : \$6.43M)
- 3) Planning and implementation of a 12-month field trial on practicable mitigation measures for enhancement and management of wetland sites viz. 16 ponds at Shenzhen River, 8 ponds at

Shan Pui River, a section of Kam Tin Main Drainage Channel, a section of Lam Tsuen River Channel, and 2 ponds at Ma On Kong. The main tasks include design and development of field trial models, supervision and progress reporting, landscape and management works, ecological monitoring works, supporting services, and assessment and analysis of results. (Total estimate : \$22.12M)

- 4) Setting up a Geographic Information System (including equipment) to keep an inventory of wetlands in Hong Kong. (Total estimate : \$0.62M)
- 5) Consideration for follow-up on the findings of the consultancy study upon acceptance (Total estimate: \$14.26M)

B. The original schedule was to complete the Study in 2001. It is behind schedule because the consultants require a longer time than envisaged to conduct the field works and the subsequent mapping, due to the unexpectedly high number of wetland sites and their extensive coverage in the SAR (some 4 750 sites, about 10 000 ha. of 12 different types were identified). Due to the complexity of the design works required, the field trial also needs to take more time. The first part of the Study on developing a wetland compensation strategy is expected to be completed in 2002. The second part of the Study, i.e. the field trial, has started in December 2001 and will be completed towards the end of 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2002

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

EFB022

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0198

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for the inspection of marine parks and marine reserves? What measures will be taken to prevent outside vessels from entering these parks and reserves so as to protect local marine resources?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A sum of \$8.8 million in staff cost and \$6.0 million in recurrent expenses have been earmarked for the management and protection of marine parks and marine reserves in 2002-03.

To protect marine parks and reserves from unauthorised fishing and entry, we will patrol the parks and reserves on a daily basis including night patrols and take enforcement action under the Marine Parks Ordinance and its Regulation. Where necessary we will also conduct joint operations with the Marine Police.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2002

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

EFB023

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0199

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Under Subhead 603, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department applies for \$8 m and \$3 m for the purchase of a patrol launch and a speed boat respectively for the protection and management of the proposed marine parks. When will the Department make the purchase and when will the marine parks be established?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We have already started the procurement process for the patrol launch and the speed boat. The two marine parks at southwest Lantau and Soko Islands are expected to be designated in late 2002 or early 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2002

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

EFB024

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0200

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide details about the "feasibility studies of potential marine parks" (Subhead 700, Item 565). When will the studies start? When will they be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The study aims at identifying suitable areas for designation as marine parks. It will cover the coastal areas from Tai Long Wan to Bluff Island, and the waters around North and South Ninepin. Baseline data on the marine resources, information about the physical environment and fishing activities in these places will be collected, and recommendations on the need for protection under the Marine Parks Ordinance will be made. A sum of \$1.6 million has been earmarked for this study in 2002-03.

The study is expected to commence in June 2002 and to be completed in September 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB136

Head : 154 – Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

0565

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Have there been any funds reserved for the study of the feasibility of central slaughtering of live chickens?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The Administration is examining long-term solution(s) to the avian influenza problem. As the exercise has not been completed, we do not know at this stage whether centralized slaughtering will be introduced. For this reason, no specific resources have been reserved for a study of the feasibility of centralized slaughtering.

Furthermore, following the outbreak of avian influenza in local farms in February 2002, an Investigation Team has been appointed to establish the cause(s) of the outbreak and to recommend measures to reduce the likelihood of such incidents in future. We will take into account the recommendations of the Investigation Team in determining the way forward.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ March 2002 _____

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

EFB005

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0046

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : (a) Why does the estimated number of seedlings produced in 2002 (650 000) decrease significantly by more than 20% as compared with the actual number produced in 2001 (827 000)? Will the number of staff be reduced accordingly?

(b) In the plan for 2002-03, does it cover any actions to be taken for the removal of Mikania micrantha in country parks? If yes, what are the manpower and expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

(a) From 2002 onwards, AFCD will concentrate on producing native tree seedlings and procure the rest in the open market for the tree planting programme. As such, the estimated number of seedlings produced by AFCD in 2002 will be lower than that for 2001. As the process of producing tree seedlings takes on average two to three years' lead time, AFCD has already scaled down production in 2000 to meet the above initiative and deleted 10 posts (1 Field Assistant, 3 Artisan, 4 Workmen I and 2 Workmen II) with a total saving of \$1.4 million.

(b) In the coming year, we will step up patrols and clearance of Mikania micrantha in country parks and organise volunteers to help with its clearance. These will all form part of our regular vegetation management programme in country parks and additional resources are not required.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Thomas C Y Chan

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2002

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

EFB007

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0352

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Government inform this Council if extra efforts are made to protect extremely old and rare trees on the land managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? If yes, what are the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in protecting them in the coming year? If no, how does the Government conserve these trees of high ecological and heritage value?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

This Department is responsible for the management of country parks and special areas. All trees within these areas are taken care of and protected by our staff. In the coming year, we have assigned our professional officers (60 man days) and field staff (600 man days) to conduct a comprehensive survey of rare and unusual trees within country parks and the countryside. The findings will be included into a Register for the purpose of better protection and identification. No other departmental expenditure is required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB008

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0353

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Government inform this Council of the names and functions of advisory and statutory committees under this Programme; the number of meetings these committees held in the past 3 years; and the honoraria (if any) payable to the chairmen and members of these committees? For the support services provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to them, what expenses and manpower were involved last year and will be involved in the coming year respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The names, functions and number of meetings held in the past three years by the advisory and statutory committees under Programme (2) are as attached.

No honorarium has been paid to the chairmen and members of these committees.

To support the operation of these committees, the recurrent expenditure and manpower involved are as below :

Year	Recurrent Expenditure	Manpower involved	
01-02	\$0.59M	Executive Officer I	100%
		Assistant Clerical Officer	25%
		Clerical Assistant	30%
02-03	\$0.61M	Executive Officer I	100%
		Assistant Clerical Officer	25%
		Clerical Assistant	30%

Signature

Name in block letters

Thomas C Y Chan

Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

Name of Advisory and Statutory Committees	Functions	No. of meetings in the past three years
Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)	To act as a consultative body to advise the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority), i.e. the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC), on any matter referred to it by the Authority, and to advise the Authority on the policy and programmes prepared by the Authority in respect of existing and proposed country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve.	12
Country Parks Committee under CMPB	To consider and to advise on proposed areas for designation as country parks or special areas and to advise the Authority on the development and management programmes of country parks and special areas.	8
Marine Parks Committee under CMPB	To consider and to advise on proposed areas for designation as marine parks or marine reserve and to advise the Authority on the development and management programmes of marine parks and marine reserve.	11
Public Relations Committee under CMPB	To advise the Authority on publicity and educational programmes of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve.	10
Marine Mammal Conservation Working Group	To advise DAFC on matters related to the conservation of marine mammals in Hong Kong, in particular on the protection of the Chinese White Dolphin (<i>Sousa chinensis</i>) and Finless Porpoise (<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>).	8
Endangered Species Advisory Committee (ESAC)	To advise DAFC upon any question which he may refer to it in connection with the administration of the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, Cap. 187.	5
Wetland Advisory Committee (WAC)	To advise DAFC on matters concerning the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) in Hong Kong; the management of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance); and any other matters on wetland conservation referred to it by the Director.	6
Scientific Sub-Committee under WAC	To advise DAFC on any scientific and technical matters related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.	6
Management Sub-Committee under WAC	To advise DAFC on any matters related to the management of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.	3

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

EFB009

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0368

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Government inform this Council if the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has any special plans, services and new facilities to promote eco-tourism in Hong Kong, taking into account the fact that this year has been designated as the International Year of Eco-tourism by the United Nations? What are the expenditure items in this area? What manpower is involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In relation to the International Year of Eco-tourism (IYE) 2002, we organised a 8-week "hiking for fun" programme earlier this year and 25 000 people have participated and trekked through trails in 8 country parks. For the remainder of the year, we will organise more wetland eco-tours for the public, and a hiking festival in November. To promote public awareness on eco-tourism, we will recruit and train volunteers as helpers and tour guides for local wetland. We will also organise a publicity drive to promote eco-tourism at Tung Ping Chau and Sai Kung; issue weekly eco-diary publicizing interesting wildlife; and publish books on natural features of the rural areas. In addition, we will build a new Nature Trail through Pokfulam and Lung Fu Shan country parks, and provide more interpretative signs in country parks to assist both local and overseas tourists in the appreciation of nature.

We have assigned 2 Field Officer II and 70 part-time staff, and earmarked some \$2.5 million in departmental expense to implement these programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB010

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0369

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Government inform this Council of the manpower and expenditure required for handling applications and studies involving ecological impact assessment? Will the expenditure be fully recovered by means of imposing fees on applicants?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for providing the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) with advice on ecological matters arising from applications submitted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). About 19 professional staff in the nature conservation and marine conservation divisions of AFCD take part in this work in addition to their other duties. The fees for applications under the EIAO currently recover about 90% of the estimated expenditure required for processing the applications, including the cost of the service AFCD provides to EPD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB012

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0747

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please answer the following questions about Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks:

- (a) In 2000 and 2001, the total area of country parks and special areas managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) was 41 582 hectares. The figure for 2002 in regard to these parks and areas is estimated to be 43 942 hectares, representing an increase of about 5.6%. Will more manpower be deployed as a result of this increase? What is the amount of expenditure involved?
- (b) The total area of marine parks and marine reserves managed by the AFCD will increase from 2 430 hectares in 2001 to a planned figure of 4 377 hectares in 2002, representing an increase of about 80%. What are the additional manpower and expenditure involved?
- (c) In 2002-03, the AFCD will give emphasis to the implementation of an ecological monitoring programme for the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar sites. Will this task be handled by departmental staff or will it be contracted out? What is the amount of expenditure for this programme?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

- (a) The increase of 2 360 hectares of country parks is due to the designation of the proposed North Lantau Extension Country Park. Managing the additional area requires \$1.6 million each year, comprising \$1.1 million in staff cost and \$0.5 million in departmental expenditure. The required resources will be absorbed by the department through internal redeployment and enhanced productivity. No additional resources will be required.
- (b) The resources earmarked for the management of new marine parks include a sum of \$0.822 million for the creation of 3 civil service posts and a sum of \$2.8 million for employing 11 contract staff and other recurrent expenses. Another \$11 million has also been earmarked for purchasing two patrol vessels.
- (c) The ecological monitoring programme for Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site will be

contracted out. The estimated cost is about 1.3 million in 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Thomas C Y Chan</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>22 March 2002</u>

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

EFB015

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

1165

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) In the financial year 2002-03, under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the estimated subventions to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific, the World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong) and to conservation and management of Ramsar site amount to \$4.79 m. Please state what functions the subventions will serve.
- (b) On what criteria has the estimate been made?

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

- (a) The subvention for the conservation and management of the Ramsar site is for engaging non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to work in partnership with Government in wetland conservation, management and education relating to the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.

The subvention to the World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong) is for engaging the organisation to run a nature conservation education programme at the Island House Conservation Studies Centre for schools. The programme aims at enhancing students' understanding and awareness of the importance of nature conservation.

The Hong Kong Government contributes US\$10,000 annually to be a member of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific (NACA). Through participation in NACA, we can keep abreast of aquaculture development in the region and obtain up-to-date information on aquaculture techniques.

The subvention to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is to cover its work on stray animal control, enforcement activities relating to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, rehoming of animals and public education to promote responsible pet ownership.

- (b) The subventions are made to meet part of the recurrent operational expense of these organisations in implementing the programmes mentioned above. The estimates are based on

the specific tasks that they will accomplish in the financial year and the past years' experience. The contribution to NACA is the lowest level of contribution applicable to city states or urban governments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB017

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0193

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for the inspection of animals and plants imported into the territory, the inspection of local farms, the monitoring of drug residues in food animals, and the regulation of feeding food animals with chemicals?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We have included in the draft estimates a provision of \$15.08 million for the inspection of imported animals (excluding live poultry from the mainland) and \$1.22 million for the inspection of imported plants into the territory. A total of \$8.97 million will be allocated for inspection of local livestock farms, of which \$4.48 million will be for regulating the feeding of chemicals to food animals. In addition, we have included a provision of \$10.13 million for surveillance testing for drug residues in food animals. This testing covers both imported and local animals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB021

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0197

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why does the number of seedlings produced by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department decrease significantly from 827 000 in 2001 to 650 000 in 2002?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

From 2002 onwards, AFCD will concentrate on producing native tree seedlings and procure the rest in the open market for the tree planting programme. As such, the estimated number of seedlings produced by AFCD in 2002 will be lower than that for 2001.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB027

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0203

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for providing vocational training to fishermen? What are the details of such vocational training?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A provision of \$1.2 million (mainly staff cost) has been allocated in 2002-03 for providing vocational training to fishermen. The vocational training programme will include training for coxswains and engineers to operate various types of fishing vessels and the skills to operate telecommunication and navigation equipment.

Local fishermen may also apply to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund for funding to undergo training courses. An injection of \$0.5 million will be made to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund from the surplus of the Fish Marketing Organisation for the year 2002-03 to cater for increasing demand for training of fishermen.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB041

Question Serial No.

0047

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Department will conduct the study on the treatment of animal carcasses in 2002-03. What are the details and the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: The study on animal carcass treatment facilities includes site investigations, feasibility study, environmental impact assessment, outline design, preparation of tender documents and tendering. The approved funding of the study is \$6.4 million and to date, about \$2.2 million has been spent. The study commenced in May 2001 and the environmental impact assessment will be completed by end 2002. Following public consultation, tenders will be invited in mid 2004 and the whole study will be completed when contract is awarded in mid 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB042

Question Serial No.

0048

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: What is the present progress regarding the use of landfill gas? Is there any provision for a study in this area in 2002-03?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The landfill gas generated from the three strategic landfills in Nim Wan, Tseung Kwan O and Ta Kwu Ling is currently collected on-site. About 53% of the total gas generated is being used for heating and electricity generation for on-site facilities such as site offices, pumping station and leachate treatment plant. The remaining landfill gas is flared for safety to prevent its emission into the atmosphere.

For the closed restored landfills, landfill gas is also collected of which about 35% is used either on-site or off-site for leachate treatment, electricity generation or industrial use while the remaining portion is flared.

To increase the utilisation of landfill gas for other beneficial uses, the government is actively exploring with the landfill contractors and utility companies (such as power and gas companies) to identify viable schemes to further utilise the landfill gas at both the strategic landfills and restored landfills. There is no funding reserved for landfill gas utilisation in 2002-03 as the landfill contractors would undertake the necessary studies themselves.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB045

Question Serial No.

0377

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air & (4) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Would the government inform this Council:

The names and functions of the consultative/statutory committees set up under Programmes 2 and 4, the number of meetings held over the past three years and the honorarium (if any) for the committee chairmen and members. What was and will be the expenditure involved and the staff employed by the Department in supporting such committees in the past year and in the coming year respectively?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

1. Programme (2) - Air

Under Programme (2) - Air, there is an Asbestos Administration Committee set up under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance for:

- (i) assisting the Director of Environmental Protection in processing applications for registration as asbestos professionals;
- (ii) hearing complaints of a disciplinary nature against registered asbestos professionals;
- (iii) carrying out other functions and duties relating to asbestos delegated by the Director of Environmental Protection.

An Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is appointed as the chairman and there are 10 members representing relevant government departments and professional bodies. There is no honorarium for the chairman and members. In the last three financial years, 12 committee/sub-committee meetings were held.

The operation support needed for this committee is small and absorbed by the man-power resources of EPD. The total man-power spent in the supportive work in 2001 was less than 0.1 professional officer and 0.1 inspectorate officer. A sum of \$40,450 was paid for hiring legal advisor and court reporter during a disciplinary hearing. It is expected similar manpower resources will be required in the next financial year.

2. Programme (4) - Waste

There is no consultative/statutory committee set up under Programme (4) - Waste.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB047

Question Serial No.

0524

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Would the Government inform this Council:

Items 556 and 564 under this Subhead both involve the study of the noise impact on living quality and public health. What are the scope of the two studies? Is there any overlapping between them? Why didn't the government consider the inclusion of the study of adverse noise impact on public health when designing the study scope of Item 556 but to create a new Item of 564 instead? Would this result in any unnecessary use of additional resources? Please explain.

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The work under Subhead 700 Item 556 "Environmental noise problem, its effect on living quality and how it is tackled in Hong Kong" is to prepare an educational package to promote community understanding of environmental noise and how the community can help to minimize noise disturbance. The educational package will be distributed to schools and will be made available through the Environmental Protection Department web site and the District Offices.

The study under Subhead 700 Item 564 "Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong" is to look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local health data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on the well-being of people.

There is therefore no overlap in the scope of the above two items and it would not result in unnecessary use of additional resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB048

Question Serial No.

0525

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Would the Government advise this Council:

The breakdown by types of chemical waste treated or to be treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi in the past two years and in the coming year respectively? How much do they account for the annual total handling capacity of the whole Centre? What is the amount of Government subsidy for each type of wastes treated (please give the breakdown)?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The breakdown of waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in the past two years and the projection for the coming year is as follows:

Waste Type	2000 (tonnes)	2001 (tonnes)	2002 (tonnes)
etchants	21,100	9,200	8,800
acids	2,900	2,900	2,800
alkalis	1,500	1,700	1,700
toxic metal solutions	1,900	1,500	1,400
solvents	4,500	3,300	3,200
waste oil	7,000	6,700	6,400
MARPOL oil	9,400	15,000	15,000
MARPOL wastewater	14,100	22,300	22,300
others	600	400	400
Total	63,000	63,000	62,000

As the design capacity of the CWTC is 100,000 tonnes per year, the chemical waste intake for the past two years was about 63% of the design capacity.

It is not possible to give a breakdown of the subsidies for the different types of chemical waste because the costs and subsidies vary depending on the chemical composition and treatment system used and these variables can change with each consignment of waste. The overall subsidy for the treatment of chemical waste in 2001-02 was about \$165 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB050

Question Serial No.

0527

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Would the government inform this Council:

- (a) What is the specific plan of the government for the study on land contamination in the coming year? How much resources will be involved?
- (b) What is the area of land in Hong Kong that have been assessed as contaminated at present? What are the solutions and how much resources will be required ?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

(a) We have an on-going study to establish a new system for the assessment of contaminated land in Hong Kong. We have studied systems adopted by other countries. Based on overseas experience, we have developed a risk-based assessment framework and we are now developing specific standards that suit the local condition. We plan to consult the planners, consultants, land developers, academics, professional bodies and other concerned stakeholders when the framework and the standards are ready later in the year. This work will be undertaken by EPD staff at an estimated cost of \$360,000.

(b) Through the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, a number of government and private sites were found to be contaminated to different degree. These sites include the old Kai Tak Airport, the Cheoy Lee Shipyard, the old Kwai Chung and Kennedy Town incinerator sites, the North Tsing Yi shipyards, the industrial lots at Yau Tong Bay. The total site area amounts to around 210 ha. The most common contaminants found are heavy metals and petroleum hydrocarbons. The cleanup methods most commonly adopted are: cement solidification to stabilise the heavy metals, and soil venting or bioremediation for hydrocarbon-contaminated soil. The cost of cleanup depends on the nature and extent of contamination and is project specific.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB056

Question Serial No.

0640

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: In 2002-03, the Government will involve the business community more in waste prevention and recovery through producer responsibility schemes. In this respect, would the Administration advise this Council on the ways to involve the business community and the expenditures required for the schemes?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Following a round table discussion session chaired by the Director of Environmental Protection with the relevant business community in November 2001, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to liaise further with individual trade sectors in 2002-03 to develop producer or product responsibility schemes. Follow up meetings with the mobile phones industry, vehicle tyres association and computers industry have been held with a view to examining overseas experience of successful product responsibility schemes that are applicable to Hong Kong. The goal is to work out arrangements that can be implemented on a voluntary basis as far as possible before mandatory schemes are considered.

Good progress has been made with the mobile phones industry and a voluntary scheme to recycle mobile phone batteries will be launched by mid April 2002. This pilot scheme is funded through cost sharing by the participating companies. The detailed arrangements are being finalised and an announcement will be made soon. This will be the first example of a successful industry-wide product responsibility scheme in Hong Kong. A sum of \$13 million will be made available in 2002-03 for the Environmental Protection Department to implement the various product responsibility programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB059

Question Serial No.

1019

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In 2002-03, the Government plans to commence a study into the effect of environmental noise on people and their health. Would the Administration inform this Council the details of the study, including its purpose, scope, time schedule and estimated expenditure etc.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The study will look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local health data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on the well-being of people.

We plan to commence the study by the end of this year. The study is expected to be completed in two years.

The budget for the study is \$3.5 million and the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 is \$0.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB060

Question Serial No.

1071

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: With regard to Subhead 700 Item 565 involving the study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures, would the Administration inform this Council the details of the study, including its purpose, scope and time schedule etc ?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The study will evaluate the noise implications of the five proposed trial traffic management schemes before and during the trial period. The noise evaluation will cover those road sections that will be subject to the trial schemes and the nearby roads where the traffic will be diverted.

The study will tie in with the trial schemes. The study is to commence in May 2002 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2002.

The estimated expenditure in 2002-03 for the study is \$1.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB062

Question Serial No.

0031

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : It is estimated that the Environmental Protection Department will create 18 non-directorate posts in 2002-03. What is the breakdown of these 18 posts by programme?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply: The breakdown of the net increase of 18 non-directorate posts by programme is as follows:

Programme No.	Programme Name	Net increase/ (decrease) in post
		(Number)
1	Waste Facilities	5
2	Air	(1)
4	Waste	(5)
5	Water	(3)
6	Environmental Assessment and Planning	19
7	Community Relations	3
	Net total	18

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB066

Question Serial No.

1326

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03", it is mentioned that the Department will commence a study into the effect of environmental noise on people and their health. Would the Government inform this Council:

- (a) What is the expenditure involved in the study? When will it commence and how long will it take?
- (b) What is the number of noise or environmental noise complaints received in the past three years and how many of them have been proved to exceed the statutory level? What are the specific plans to promote better community understanding of environmental noise and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) The study will look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local health data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on the well-being of people. We plan to commence the study by the end of this year. The study is expected to be completed in two years. The budget for the study is \$3.5 million and the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 is \$0.8 million.
- (b) The environmental noise complaints handled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) were 4977, 4744 and 5468 in 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively. Most of these complaints were related to complaint against noise from construction activities or commercial/industrial activities.

For road traffic noise and day-time general construction noise, there are no statutory levels applicable under the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO).

For cases relating to construction activities during the restricted hours (i.e. between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. or at any time on a general holiday), there were 278, 404 and 273 prosecutions under the NCO in 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively.

For commercial and industrial noise, many complaints on commercial/industrial noise were resolved promptly through advice given by the EPD during site investigations. The EPD would serve noise abatement notices for those cases that were found to exceed the statutory levels, requiring the abatement of the noise within a period of time. 231, 237 and 167 notices were issued in 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively. There were 75, 65 and 54 prosecutions in 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively due to failure to comply with the requirements in the notices within the specified time period.

We plan to launch a programme in 2002 to promote community understanding of environmental noise and how the community can help to minimize noise disturbance. We are preparing an educational package on environmental noise in Hong Kong for distribution to schools. This educational package will also be made available through the EPD web site and the District Offices. Briefing sessions on the educational package will be arranged for teachers. The estimated expenditure for the programme is \$0.5 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>M. J. STOKOE</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Environmental Protection</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2002</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB079

Question Serial No.

1072

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03, it is mentioned that the Government will "commence a study into the effect of environmental noise on people and their health". Please give a brief account of the specific content of the study, as well as the estimated time for commencement and completion.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The study will look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local health data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on the well-being of people.

We plan to commence the study by the end of this year. The study is expected to be completed in two years.

The budget for the study is \$3.5 million and the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 is \$0.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB085

Question Serial No.

0038

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower required for the control of hawker bazaars?
(b) What are the manpower and expenditure on salary required for taking law enforcement action in respect of market management and hawker control?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

- (a)& (b) There is no dedicated resources for the control of hawker bazaars alone. Control of hawker bazaars forms part of the duties of hawker control staff. The number of officers engaged in hawker control and enforcement duties is 2 406 and the total salary is \$546M. In respect of markets, some 341 officers are engaged in enforcement duties and their total salary is \$71M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

22 March 2002

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB099

Question Serial No.

0928

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide the number and details of prosecutions instituted against farms for unauthorized disposal of animal carcasses during the past year.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Illegal dumping of pig carcasses normally takes place in remote spots during the small hours of the day. As such, it has not been easy to catch offenders red-handed. This notwithstanding, staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department had in the past year succeeded in taking out two prosecutions. In both cases, the offenders were found depositing pig carcasses at an open space near their pig farm. One culprit was convicted and fined \$1,000. The other was acquitted due to the benefit of doubt given to him by court.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB108

Question Serial No.

0222

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) With regard to the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision under Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health, how does the Government deal with the civil servants affected by contracting out some of the pest control services? What is the estimated expenditure that will be saved by contracting out such services?
- (b) With regard to the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision under Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services, how does the Government deal with the civil servants affected by contracting out some of the cleansing services? What is the estimated expenditure that will be saved by contracting out such services?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Civil servants affected by contracting out of services would be redeployed to other work units or released under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Estimated annual expenditure that can be saved on contracting out is as follows:

	\$ million
(a) pest control services	2.0
(b) cleansing services	36.6
(c) Other services under Programme (2)	1.3

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB114

Question Serial No.

0414

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Provision for 2002-03 is \$18M higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. On what basis is the additional provision for enhancing the cleanliness of public markets earmarked and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

To enhance the cleanliness of public markets, additional provision is included in 2002-03 mainly to provide for:

- (a) the provision of 106 toilet attendants in 43 markets.
- (b) a higher standard of service to be imposed on market cleansing contractors through the inclusion of "Management By Result" requirements in eight contracts. Under the "Management By Result" requirements, in the event that the cleanliness of the public markets is not up to a certain standard, the contractors have to arrange additional cleansing service within a certain time limit to bring the cleanliness level up to the required standard. As such, more staff would be required by the contractors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB118

Question Serial No.

0513

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

According to the new legislation, fresh meat and chilled meat are required to be sold separately in fresh provision shops. Under the present establishment of FEHD, what is the number of posts responsible for the monitoring work in this respect? How many inspections have been conducted so far since the legislation came into effect? On how many occasions were irregularities detected and how were these cases handled?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Government has not introduced any new legislation for the specific control of the sale of chilled meat at retail outlets. Rather, the requirements are effected through the imposition of additional licensing requirement and conditions for sale. The monitoring and enforcement work is taken up by Health Inspectors as part of their routine inspection duties and as such it is not possible to work out the number of posts involved. Since the new requirement and conditions came into effect on 24.9.2001, 9 869 compliance checks were conducted. Seven operators were found in breach of the licensing requirement on nine occasions. A total of seven verbal warnings and two warning letters were issued to them. Subsequent inspections showed that the requirement and conditions had been complied with and no further action was required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB089

Question Serial No.

1363

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Though the number of illegal hawkers has been increasing, the Government only estimates that it will be increased by 100 in 2002 as compared with that of 2001. What is the rationale of the estimation and will more staff be provided for monitoring work in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in 2002 is projected on the growth of unlicensed hawkers in 2001 as observed in the quarterly hawker surveys conducted by the Department. The existing hawker control resources can cope with the projected increase. No additional resources is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 100

Question Serial No.

0929

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will more resources be allocated in the coming year for stepping up prosecutions against some farms in the New Territories for unauthorized disposal of animal carcasses?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Taking enforcement actions against illegal dumping of animal carcasses is part of the on-going duties undertaken by existing manpower. Allocation of additional resources in 2002-03 is not required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 101

Question Serial No.

0930

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will additional resources be earmarked in the coming year to improve the existing facilities and provide new ones so as to reduce the cases of unauthorized disposal of animal carcasses?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The existing animal carcass collection service will be enhanced in 2002-03 to cover more districts, with longer call hours and a shorter response time. The enhanced service will be provided through re-deployment of resources. AFCD will continue to appeal for cooperation from pig farmers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 103

Question Serial No.

0217

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Under Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health, conducting inspections of Mainland farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong is a new target in the performance measures and the number of farms to be inspected in 2002-03 is 20. In this connection,

- (a) what types of food animals are being exported to Hong Kong? (e.g. cattle, goats)
- (b) according to the Government's estimation, how many Mainland farms are exporting food animals to Hong Kong?
- (c) where are those 20 farms located? How much manpower and financial resources will FEHD need to conduct such inspections? What is the reason for setting the target number of 20 farms to be inspected in a year?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) Supply of food animals from the Mainland include pigs, cattle, goats, chickens, ducks, geese pigeons and game birds.
- (b) There are about 800 registered livestock and poultry farms in the Mainland that are qualified to supply food animals to Hong Kong.
- (c) On the basis of the manpower available and required, a work target of 20 farms is set for 2002-03. The 20 target farms to be visited in 2002-03 are located in Guangdong, Shenzhen, Henan, Hubei and Hunan.

Inspection work is split between two teams with each team comprising one Senior Veterinary Officer/Veterinary Officer and one Field Officer. A provision of \$3.2M has been included in the 2002-03 Estimates for this work (personal emoluments of \$2.5M and departmental expenses of \$0.7M).

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

EFB 122

Question Serial No.

0517

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Subhead (No. & title) :Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental HygieneBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and FoodQuestion :

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department tests 8 food samples for every 1 000 people in Hong Kong as a means of food surveillance. What are the criteria adopted by the Department for taking food samples? What are the staffing establishment and expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kanReply :

A risk-based approach is adopted in FEHD's food surveillance programme. Apart from routine sampling, priority is given to food with specific standard stipulated in the law, food connected with food poisoning or food safety incidents, food manufactured by or sold in previously convicted food premises, food under complaint by the public and food of public concern. Sampling size and strategy is regularly reviewed to take account of latest overseas and local risk analyses.

The Food Surveillance and Labelling Unit is responsible for carrying out the food surveillance programme, and the work include surveillance and inspection of food on sale in various outlets, taking of food samples and inspection of food labels to ensure compliance with the law. The staffing establishment of the Unit is as follows :

Rank	No. of Staff
Superintendent	1
Chief Health Inspector	2
Senior Health Inspector	8
Health Inspector	38
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Clerical Assistant	4
Office Assistant	1
Workman II	24
Total	82

A provision of \$35.5M has been included in the 2002-03 Estimates for the work of the Unit.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 124

Question Serial No.

0519

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (d) How much resources are FEHD allocated for Avian Influenza H5 blood testing in live poultry and beta-agonist urine testing in live pigs?
- (e) How much resources are FEHD allocated for the control of chemical residues in food animals and farms inspection?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) An allocation of \$8.5M has been provided for Avian Influenza H5 blood testing in live poultry and \$7.6M for urine testing for beta-agonist in live pigs respectively.
- (b) An allocation of \$3.2M is provided for Mainland Farm inspection and \$5M for the control of chemical residues in food animals respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 125

Question Serial No.

0520

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Chilled meat from the Mainland will be imported into Hong Kong this year. What is the estimated amount of imported meat by type? What plans will the Government have to cope with the new source of meat supply? How much expenditure will be required and what is the breakdown? What is the staffing involved?
- (b) As chilled meat will soon be imported from the Mainland, will FEHD step up inspections in this respect? If so, how many inspections will be conducted in the year? How much additional manpower will be required and what is the establishment? How much additional expenditure will be incurred?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) Supply of chilled meat is tied to the market demand. The additional work of import control and surveillance will be absorbed within existing resources.
- (b) Inspection strategy and frequency will be adjusted to take account of the new supply of chilled meat. Any additional inspection work will be absorbed by existing Health Inspectorate staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What will be the resources allocated to (a) recycling of inert construction and demolition materials ? (b) management of construction and demolition materials ?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : In 2002-03, CED has reserved \$80.77 m for the management of construction and demolition materials. This includes \$33 m for the setting up and operation of a recycling facility as well as \$47.77 m for the setting up and operation of barging points and a fill bank.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the breakdown of the increase in the anticipated expenditure under this Programme ? What are the details of the four new posts to be created ?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The anticipated increase in expenditure under this Programme is mainly due to the commissioning of a fill bank at Tseung Kwan O in late 2002 (\$27 m) and the staff related cost (\$3 m) for the management of construction and demolition materials. In addition, there is an increase of \$4 m in the provision for a sorting facility in Tseung Kwan O. However, this is offset by the savings of \$8 m arising from the decommissioning of a barging point at Tuen Mun. Hence, the overall net increase in the provision for 2002-03 is \$26 m.

The four new posts to be created are 1 Senior Engineer, 2 Engineers and 1 Inspector of Works.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Provision for 2002-03 is \$26.0 million (64%) higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to increased provision in recurrent expenditure and creation of 4 posts for management of construction and demolition materials. Please explain why recurrent expenditure will increase and supply details.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The anticipated increase in expenditure under this Programme is mainly due to the commissioning of a fill bank at Tseung Kwan O in late 2002 (\$27 m) and the staff related cost (\$3 m) for the management of construction and demolition materials. In addition, there is an increase of \$4 m in the provision for a sorting facility in Tseung Kwan O. However, this is offset by the savings of \$8 m arising from the decommissioning of a barging point at Tuen Mun. Hence, the overall net increase in the provision for 2002-03 is \$26 m.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB133

Head : 154 – Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

1353

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Government consider the provision of more waste separation bins in the coming year so as to encourage the public to support waste separation? If yes, what are the details and how much resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

We will continue to provide more waste separation bins to facilitate public participation in waste separation. At present, about 19 600 waste separation bins have been placed in public venues, schools and public/private housing estates. In the coming year, we plan to procure an additional 8 400 bins at a cost of some \$5 million. In addition, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set aside \$2.31 million for expanding the collection service of recyclable material at public venues.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ March 2002 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB135

Head : 154 – Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

0179

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In the Budget 2002-03, the Financial Secretary points out that the Government's role in the economy includes "considering the need to take appropriate measures to secure projects beneficial to our economy as a whole when the private sector is not ready to invest in them." Do the projects referred to by the Financial Secretary cover environmental industries? If so, what are the details and the estimated amount of resources to be invested? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The 2002 Budget makes the point cited in the question in general terms. The Government does not have in mind any specific projects at this stage. We will consider whether and, if so, what appropriate measures need to be taken when we come across such projects.

The Government's strong commitment to environmental improvement in recent years should also create a business environment which is conducive to development of the environmental industry. Taking the recycling industry as an example, we have launched a series of initiatives to promote waste separation and recovery. These initiatives would ensure more recyclable material and in turn business opportunities for the industry. We have also set aside 20 hectares of long-term land for establishing a Recovery Park for waste recovery operations and will continue to provide land on short-term tenancies exclusively for the recycling industry. Funding is also available from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and the Innovation and Technology Fund for the demonstration or development of recycling technologies.

In 2002-03, we have earmarked \$47 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure for promoting waste separation and recovery in Hong Kong. We will shortly seek the approval of the LegCo Finance Committee for an injection of \$100 million into the ECF primarily to support community-based waste recovery projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB137

Head : 154 – Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

0854

Programme (No. & title): (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please reply to the following questions concerning Programme (3) Environmental protection and conservation:

- (a) Please state the staffing establishment for the co-ordination of the action plan to recover waste and to prevent the generation of waste in the coming year? Compare the establishment with that of 2001-02.
- (b) Please set out the financial implications of the landfill charging proposal, and provide details, including the timetable for implementation.
- (c) Will the Administration implement other plans on producer responsibility scheme in 2002-03? If so, what are the financial implications and the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The staffing establishment in Environment and Food Bureau for the coordination of the waste prevention and recovery programmes includes 10% of a Deputy Secretary; 25% of a Principal Assistant Secretary and 40% of an Assistant Secretary. The establishment for 2002-03 is roughly the same as that for 2001-02.
- (b) We briefed the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs in February 2002 on the latest position in the formulation of a proposed landfill charging scheme. We have been consulting the trades concerned and will take into account the views of Panel members in determining implementation details, including timing for the scheme's introduction.
- (c) Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been making good progress with the mobile phone industry and a voluntary scheme to recycle mobile phone batteries will be launched in mid-April 2002. The pilot scheme will be funded through cost sharing by the participating companies.

In 2002-03, EPD will continue to work with individual trade sectors to develop producer or product responsibility schemes. A sum of \$13 million has been earmarked for EPD to implement these schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB038

Question Serial No.

1354

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : At present, the Government has already put in place concrete measures to recycle waste paper, plastic bottles and aluminium cans. However, in view of the growing volume of wastes in respect of glass bottles, computers and batteries, etc., what specific measures will be taken by the Administration to cope with the situation? Will the Administration encourage the contractors concerned to take up the recycling work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: The Environmental Protection Department has initiated a priority programme to deal with a variety of waste including glass, computers, batteries and vehicle tyres. Apart from conducting the relevant waste generation and composition surveys, we are also reviewing overseas practices that are applicable to Hong Kong. We have invited expressions of interest from local and overseas recyclers or contractors for proposals to recycle glass and tyres. We are also holding discussions with the computers industry, mobile phones industry and vehicle tyres association to develop product responsibility schemes. The aim is to work out arrangements that can be implemented on a voluntary basis as far as possible before mandatory schemes are considered. In 2002-03, a sum of \$13 million will be made available for the Environmental Protection Department to implement the various product responsibility programmes. In addition, a sum of \$8 million will be available for strengthening the existing system of separation and collection of recyclables.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB039

Question Serial No.

1355

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: Will the Government enter into more contracts with waste management companies in the coming year so as to encourage more contractors who are interested in waste recycling to participate in this area of work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: The Government will continue to award contracts to waste management companies (e.g. composting plant at Ngau Tam Mei and collection of plastic bottles) as and when there are suitable opportunities. However, a more effective way to encourage the private sector to participate in recycling is to improve the business environment so as to create more business opportunities in waste recycling. In this connection, we will continue to launch publicity and education programmes to further increase the amount of recyclables available for collection from all sources. We have been implementing community and district recycling projects as well as collection services to reduce the cost burden of private companies in the collection of recyclables that have a low profit margin. We will continue to provide more land at low cost through short term tenancies in 2002-03 for use by recycling industry. A preliminary study on the development and management framework of a recovery park on long term land in Tuen Mun Area 38 is scheduled for completion in May 2002. In addition, technical advice and assistance are being given to the private sector in helping them to better understand the business opportunities in waste recycling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB040

Question Serial No.

1365

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: The number of preliminary environmental reviews and class assessments in 2001 was 40. Why does the estimated number for 2002 drop substantially to 15? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: Preliminary environmental reviews and class assessments are conducted to address the possible environmental implications for public works projects prior to submission of funding proposals under the Capital Works Resource Allocation Exercise (RAE).

To expedite the public works programmes, the Government has streamlined the procedures involved since late 2001. Under the new procedure, preliminary environmental reviews would only be required for cases that are not designated projects and hence not subject to control under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, and where standard pollution control measures might not be sufficient. Hence, the number of preliminary environmental reviews and class assessments for 2002 is expected to reduce to 15.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB046

Question Serial No.

0523

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title): 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: What is the scope of the study of dioxins emission by sampling (Item 563) under the said Subhead? What are the facilities or places where samplings are mainly taken? What are the relations and common areas between this study and the previous study(ies) on dioxins carried out in Hong Kong? If yes, how can the findings of the previous study(ies) be utilized to make the work of Item 563 more cost-effective?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: In the study of dioxins emission, samples will be taken for dioxin analysis from potential sources of dioxin emissions in Hong Kong. Previous studies have investigated dioxins in the environment, and have measured the emission of dioxins from specific facilities (such as the chemical waste treatment centre), but this study will be measuring dioxins from more sources. Data from, and the findings of, previous studies would be reviewed to ensure that the work avoids duplication and is cost-effective.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB051

Question Serial No.

0528

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Would the government inform this Council:

- (a) What was and will be the quantity of grease collected by the government from restaurants in the past and coming year? What is the estimated total expenditure for handling such grease? Has the government provided any subsidies for the handling fees?
- (b) Is there any plan to examine ways on recycling such grease from restaurants? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

- a) In 2001, 117,500 tonnes of grease trap waste were treated at the grease trap waste treatment plant in the West New Territories Landfill where the aqueous portion was removed and treated and the residual grease was thickened for landfill disposal. This amounted to a total treatment and disposal cost of \$17.3 million. In 2002, the amount of grease trap waste to be delivered to the treatment plant is expected to be about the same and hence the expenditure is estimated to be around \$18 million. As there is no charge for disposal of waste at landfills at present, the Government is therefore fully subsidising such treatment and disposal cost.
- (b) The Government always welcomes viable technologies or methods in the recycling of grease trap waste and would consider schemes that could be practically adopted in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB052

Question Serial No.

0529

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The government has initiated various grant schemes for motor vehicles to improve air quality in the past. Please inform this Council:

- (a) What are the respective grant schemes? What are the types and number of vehicles benefited under the schemes? What is the percentage (%) of such vehicles in respective types?
- (b) What are the major air pollutants in quantity and in percentage (%) before and after the implementation of various air pollution improvement schemes?
- (c) What were the actual amount granted and the commitments approved by the Finance Committee for respective grant schemes up to the end of 2001?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

So far, the Administration has 2 grant schemes to reduce motor vehicle emissions. Details are given below:

LPG taxis

The Administration started in August 2000 a one-off grant of \$40 000 each to encourage the replacement of diesel taxis by LPG vehicles. As at end 2001, 14,179 diesel taxis (i.e. about 80% of the taxi fleet) had been replaced by LPG vehicles.

Traps/Catalysts

Another scheme provided a subsidy of \$1,300 each to assist pre-Euro light diesel vehicles to be installed with traps or catalysts. The installation started in September 2000 and ended in October 2001. These vehicles are mainly light goods vehicles, diesel taxis, light buses and a small number of old diesel private cars. As at end 2001, 23,950 vehicles (about 80% of the eligible vehicle fleet) had been retrofitted with traps or catalysts.

- (b) Before the above two measures and other air quality improvement measures such as the introduction of ultra low sulphur diesel were taken, at the roadside of Causeway Bay and Central, the average concentrations of respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides in 1999 were respectively 91 and 454 micrograms per cubic metre. In 2001, the averaged concentrations of these 2 air pollutants were 84 and 404 micrograms per cubic metre respectively. There was a reduction by about 8% and 11% respectively.
- (c) For introducing LPG taxis, the approved commitment by Finance Committee was \$725.5 million and the cumulative expenditure up to end 2001 was \$559.6 million. For installing traps or catalysts to pre-Euro light diesel vehicles, the approved commitment was \$50.9 million and the cumulative expenditure up to end 2001 was \$ 30.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Date

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB054

Question Serial No.

0531

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Would the Government advise this Council:

The names of the projects and the amount funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund in the past three years. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of these projects? If yes, what are the results? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) grants for Environmental Education and Community Action (EE & CA) Projects in the past three years are shown in the following table:

Financial Year	Approved Project	Approved Amount (\$m)
99/00	92	4.479
00/01	61	3.180
01/02	88	2.945
Total	241	10.604

The Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC), comprising all non-officials, is responsible for vetting applications for funding EE & CA projects. For assessment on EE & CA projects, according to the direction set out by the ECF, all recipient organisations are requested to submit the activity reports of the funded projects, giving an assessment of the effectiveness of the projects. They are requested to specify 'the overall assessment of the implemented projects', 'Objectives that have been achieved' and 'Objectives that cannot be achieved and the reasons'. The reports must be endorsed by the Vetting Committee members of ECC before the release of the remaining balances. During the past few years, all the activity reports were endorsed by the Vetting Committee.

To make the assessment more comprehensive, the Vetting Committee members decided in January 2002 to send ECC Secretariat staff to carry out on site assessments on major projects so as to ensure the projects achieve the expected objectives. In fact, ECC has implemented the site inspection system on Waste Recovery Schemes, which are jointly organised by ECC and community groups in 2001. ECC Secretariat carried out site inspections to assess the progress of the schemes.

In addition, the ECF provided funding for ECC to carry out territory wide environmental campaigns for schools, tertiary institutes, housing estates, business sectors, community groups and District Councils. The projects were monitored and assessed by ECC and its sub-working groups.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB055

Question Serial No.

0767

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (5) Water

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The estimated percentage compliance with Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for marine waters in 2002 is 79%. Is this figure derived from the average percentage of compliance of various districts? Please provide the percentage of compliance in each district and compare the figures with those in 2001. What measures have been taken by the Administration to raise the percentage of compliance with WQOs from 76% in 2001 to 79% in 2002?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The "percentage compliance with Water Quality Objectives for marine waters" is an average figure summarising the whole year results from 76 marine monitoring stations in all the Water Control Zones.

We expect that the percentage compliance with the Water Quality Objectives will improve from 76% in 2001 to 79% in 2002. This is due to the continued implementation of pollution control measures and sewerage programmes. Comparing the percentage compliance rate between 2001 and 2002, we expect the major change will be in the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone due to the full commissioning of Stage I of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB057

Question Serial No.

0641

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department will work with the Guangdong authorities on plans and measures to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region. In this respect, would the Government inform this Council:

- 1) the details of the work and the time for publishing its results?
- 2) the estimated expenditure for the work?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

- 1) The study of the air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region has been largely completed and the study team is preparing the reports. The Administration is currently discussing with the relevant authorities in Guangdong on the options needed to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region. We plan to achieve a consensus by April this year and publish the results of the work.
- 2) Since the options are still being discussed, estimated expenditure is not available yet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB061

Question Serial No.

1106

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: Would the Administration inform this Council the details of the environmental awareness and education programmes to be organized in 2002-03, including their contents, target groups and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The Administration will organize a large number of environmental awareness and education programmes in 2002-03. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue a 2-year "Green Leader Programme" to promote environmental awareness among ten target groups by providing tailor-made environmental training programmes in a more strategic way. The major target groups are Members of the District Councils, residents' organization of housing estates, community groups, women's associations, youth centres, school principals, transport operators, business sectors. Funds of \$1.1 million have been set aside under the Capital Account to support this programme in 2002-03. In addition, the EPD will continue to raise public awareness in the importance of and Government's effort in cleaning up the harbour and will spend about \$0.5 million for this purpose under the Capital Account in 2002-03.

Additional provision of \$14.8 million under the Recurrent Account will be allocated to the EPD for enhancing public education and community involvement in "waste reduction and recovery" and implementing the "Community Green Network Programme" in 2002-03. For the "waste reduction and recovery" programme, it aims to educate the general public especially the residents of the housing estates and children. A Liquefied Petroleum Gas van will continue to be used as a Theme Van on Waste Reduction to reach out to housing estates, schools and community centres. Moreover, a series of publicity and education packages like mini-TV programmes, VCDs and supplementary education materials will be produced for children and teachers. For the "Community Green Network Programme", it aims to educate the general public to understand more and care for our environment and the government's environmental initiatives. It is planned to set up "Green Desk", an environmental information counter in community centres, shopping malls or housing estates; to set up a new environmental resource centre; to implement the outreach programme for schools; and to work with District Councils and community groups to organize strategic education programmes in the districts.

Subject to the approval of the allocation of by the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) will organize the following major environmental awareness and education programmes. These programmes include Waste Recovery Schemes, Environmental Education & Community Action Projects and ECC's core programmes. The core programmes include World Environment Day, Hong Kong Environmental Protection Festival, Environmental Protection Ambassador Schemes for students, youths and housing residents, Hong Kong Green School Award, Waste Recycling Schemes for housing estates, schools, tertiary & vocational institutes and Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB064

Question Serial No.

1311

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Government has allocated an additional provision of \$34.3 million for waste facilities programme in the coming year. Would the Administration inform this Council:

- (a) within the said amount, the breakdown of expenditure on strengthening the support for waste separation, recovery and facilities;
- (b) details of the five posts created in this respect;
- (c) whether provision has been set aside to provide more waste recycling bins in public places. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (d) whether provision has been set aside to study the problem on recyclers' reluctance to recover plastic bottles and improve the situation? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

- Reply: (a) Of the \$34.3 million allocated by the Government for the waste facilities programme in 2002-03, \$13 million is for the development of product responsibility schemes; \$8 million for strengthening support for waste separation and recovery; and the remaining for enhancing education and public participation in waste reduction.
- (b) Of the five posts to be created, one Senior Environmental Protection Officer and three Environmental Protection Officers are for developing product responsibility schemes and strengthening the support for waste separation and recovery whilst one Environmental Protection Inspector is for supervising the operation of the multi-purpose grass pitch on the restored Sai Tso Wan landfill.
- (c) We will continue to provide more waste separation bins to facilitate the public to participate in waste separation. At present, about 19,600 waste separation bins have been placed in public venues, schools and public/private housing estates. In the coming year, we hope to increase the number of bins to 28,000. Around \$5 million will be required to procure the additional bins. We have not set aside specific provision for this purpose as departments concerned will absorb the cost of the bins. Separately, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set aside \$2.31 million to hire contractors to collect the recyclables at public venues for delivery to waste recyclers/exporters.
- (d) With an allocation of \$8 million in 2002-03 for strengthening support for waste separation and recovery, the Environmental Protection Department will work to enhance plastic bottles recovery. We will try out and implement different collection services including an extension of the existing central plastic bottles collection trial and develop a pilot recycling centre to support the collection services. We will also explore alternative uses and new markets for the collected plastic bottles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB065

Question Serial No.

1320

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03, it is mentioned that the Government will complete a study on the potential extension of existing landfills and development of new waste disposal facilities within the year. Would the Government inform this Council:

At what time of the year will the study be completed? What is the expenditure involved? Will the results be published upon completion? If yes, what is the detailed timetable? If no, what are the reasons? And will the public be consulted on the study results? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

The study, at a cost of \$6.4 million, aims to assess the feasibility of extending the existing landfills and to identify potential sites for new landfills and waste disposal facilities to meet the future waste management needs of Hong Kong. It is scheduled for completion in July 2002. The results will be presented to the Advisory Council on the Environment and the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs in late 2002 and early 2003 respectively. The details will include the remaining life of existing landfills, available options for extending their life, development of new landfills as well as preliminary findings on their environmental acceptability and recommended schemes to proceed with detailed environmental impact assessment. The relevant district councils and the public will also be consulted during the course of the development and detailed environmental impact assessment of the recommended schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03", it is stated that the Department will complete a study on the development of a materials recovery park within the year. Would the Government inform this Council?

At what time of the year will the study be completed? What is the expenditure involved? Will the results be published upon completion of the study? If yes, what is the detailed timetable? If no, what are the reasons? And will the public be consulted on the study results? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Twenty hectares of industrial land in Tuen Mun Area 38 has been set aside for the development of a Recovery Park. A preliminary study on the development and management framework of the proposed Recovery Park started in November 2001 and is scheduled for completion in May 2002. The study costs \$0.99 million. Upon completion of the study, the findings will be presented to the Tuen Mun District Council. The study results will also be presented to the Advisory Council on the Environment and the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs by end 2002. The public will be further consulted during the course of the detailed environmental impact assessment and the application for rezoning of the site from the current zoning of "Special Industries Area" to "Recovery Park" in around mid 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB070

Question Serial No.

0949

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: In the year 2002-03, the Government will work with the Guangdong authorities on plans and measures to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply: The study of the air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region has been largely completed and the study team is preparing the reports. The Administration is currently discussing with the relevant authorities in Guangdong on the options needed to improve air quality in the region. The details are yet to be finalised, and we plan to achieve a consensus by April this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB071

Question Serial No.

0950

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please answer the questions regarding Programme (2) Air as follows:

- (a) Why did the number of smoky vehicle reports processed and smoky vehicles tested drop substantially in 2001? Why are these numbers expected to increase during 2002-03?
- (b) What is the proposal to strengthen the emission inspection system for petrol and LPG vehicles in 2002-03?
- (c) The government has developed a programme to implement the alternative fuel light buses scheme upon completion of the trial scheme. What is the estimated expenditure for the programme?
- (d) What are the measures to reduce emissions from motor vehicles in 2002-03?

Asked by: Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

- (a) The substantial reduction in the number of smoky vehicle reports processed and smoky vehicles tested in 2001 was the result of a number of measures that include introduction of ultra-low sulphur diesel; 80% of diesel taxis replaced by LPG taxis; introduction of the dynamometer smoke test; increased fixed penalty against smoky vehicles and installation of particulate removal devices to pre-Euro diesel light vehicles. Though the control measures will continue to reduce the number of smoky vehicles, more spotters are being trained up. Hence we expect the numbers in 2002-03 will be about the same as 2001-02. The slight increase is because of the use of rounded-up figures.
- (b) The proposal is to develop a scheme to spot petrol and LPG vehicles emitting excessive emissions so that they can be notified for repair. A technical review panel comprising technical experts, academics and representatives of relevant government departments has been formed to guide the development of the proposal. Relevant trades will be consulted during the development process when more details are available.
- (c) The proposed incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of diesel light buses with LPG or electric light buses includes a one-off grant for replacing diesel public light buses and an exemption of first registration tax for replacing private diesel light buses. The estimated expenditure will be worked out as we finalise the proposed scheme taking into account the outcome of the consultation and subject to approval by the Finance Committee.
- (d) In 2002-03, the Administration's plan for further reducing motor vehicle emissions include:
 - assisting owners of pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles to install diesel oxidation catalysts or other emission reduction devices;
 - providing an incentive to encourage switch from diesel light buses to LPG and electric;
 - working on a proposal to strengthen the emission inspection system for petrol and LPG vehicles; and
 - proposing legislation to require pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes to have particulate removal device.

Signature

Name in block letters

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title

Director of Environmental Protection

Date

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB072

Question Serial No.

0951

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: What are measures to address the noise impacts from existing roads in 2002-03?

Asked by: Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply: To address the noise impacts from existing roads, the Government will commence in 2002-03 detailed design of retrofitting noise barriers and enclosures on 15 existing road sections. The resurfacing of 72 existing road sections with low noise material will also commence in 2002-03. The Government has also identified five trial traffic management schemes which involve banning all or certain types of heavy vehicles at night at certain road sections and which may give an appreciable noise mitigating effect to those being affected by excessive road traffic noise. Consultation with the District Councils and the relevant trades has already been initiated by the Government on the proposed trial schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB073

Question Serial No.

0562

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: The air pollution in Hong Kong is an acute problem. There has not been any significant improvement in the air quality. However, the financial provision for Programme (2) in 2002-03 drops substantially by 53% as compared to 2001-02. Please give the details, the reasons and the amount of reduction in expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The decrease in financial provision for the Air Programme is mainly because of (a) the completion of the retrofit programme for the pre-Euro diesel light vehicles with particulate traps or catalysts (Capital Account Subhead 700 Item 553) and (b) over 80% of the diesel taxis have been replaced with LPG taxis (Capital Account Subhead 700 Item 554).

The revised estimated expenditure of item 553 and item 554 was \$29M and \$383.8M respectively for 2001-02. Item 553 was completed in 2001-02 and for item 554 the estimated expenditure for 2002-03 is \$75.2M. These 2 accounts alone have already attributed to a decrease in the provision in the 2002-03 estimate against the revised estimate for 2001-02 by \$337.6M, representing 53%. Excluding Capital Account, there is an increase of about 3.1% on the provision for recurrent expenditure for the Air Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

M. J. STOKOE

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB074

Question Serial No.

0563

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: What is the progress of the study of the air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region? When will the plans and measures be drawn up to improve air quality in the Region?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The study of the air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region has been largely completed and the study team is preparing the reports. The Administration is currently discussing with the relevant authorities in Guangdong on the options needed to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region. We plan to achieve a consensus by April this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB076

Question Serial No.

0316

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

(1) Whilst on the one hand the financial provision sought for the said programme in 2002-03 decrease by more than 50%, there is no plan to make significant improvement in the performance measures under various targets and indicators on the other. What are the concrete plans of the government to improve the air quality?

(2) What is the financial provision set aside for working with the Guangdong authorities on plans and measures to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region? What are the details of the work?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

(1) The decrease in financial provision for the Air Programme is mainly because of (a) the completion of the retrofit programme for the pre-Euro diesel light vehicles with particulate traps or catalysts (Capital Account Subhead 700 Item 553) and (b) over 80% of the diesel taxis have been replaced with LPG taxis (Capital Account Subhead 700 Item 554). Excluding Capital Account, there is an increase of about 3.1% on the provision for recurrent expenditure. Apart from continuing with all the current programmes, the major new planned activities in 2002-03 for controlling air pollution include:

- assisting owners of pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles to install particulate reduction devices;
- providing grants to encourage diesel light buses to use LPG and electric light buses;
- working on a proposal to strengthen the emission inspection system for petrol and LPG vehicles; and
- working with the relevant authorities in Guangdong on plans and measures to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region.

(2) The Government is currently discussing with the relevant authorities in Guangdong on the plans and measures needed to improve air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region. The target is to achieve a consensus by April this year. Since the plans and measures are still being discussed, financial provision has not been set aside yet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB077

Question Serial No.

0851

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please answer the questions regarding Programme (1) Waste Facilities as follows:

- (a) What are the current transfer and landfill charges for each tonne of domestic waste?
- (b) What is the amount of resources put into the producer responsibility schemes and their details?
- (c) What is the amount of resources employed for promoting waste reduction and recycling at district level? What types of programmes are involved? What are the details of the job opportunities thus created?
- (d) Please list out the number of government staff and employees hired by contractors at the respective strategic landfills and refuse transfer stations at present.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

- (a) The current transfer charges for each tonne of domestic, commercial and industrial waste delivered by private waste collectors to the four refuse transfer stations that are open to the public are as follows:

	Island East Transfer Station	Island West Transfer Station	West Kowloon Transfer Station	North Lantau Transfer Station
Unit charge rate	\$40/tonne	\$40/tonne	\$30/tonne	\$110/tonne

The disposal of waste at landfills is still currently free of charge. The Government will continue to discuss with the waste producers and haulers to work out the details of a landfill charging scheme, initially for construction and demolition waste.

- (b) In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to liaise further with the mobile phones industry, vehicle tyres association and computers industry to develop producer or product responsibility schemes. The aim is to examine overseas experience of successful schemes that are applicable to Hong Kong and to work out arrangements that can be implemented on a voluntary basis as far as possible before mandatory schemes are considered. A sum of \$13 million will be made available in 2002-03 for the Environmental Protection Department to implement the various product responsibility programmes.

- (c) The Government will seek approval from the Finance Committee to inject \$100 million into the Environment and Conservation Fund largely to support waste reduction and recycling projects organised by community organizations and green groups at district level. In addition to the Environment and Conservation Fund, a sum of \$8 million will be made available in 2002-03 for the Environmental Protection Department to (i) assist community parties to implement district waste reduction and recycling projects; (ii) try out and implement different district level recyclables collection arrangements and services; and (iii) set up a pilot district-based recycling centre to test the viability of processing recyclables that are facing collection difficulties.

It is expected that some job opportunities will be created through employment of staff by the project proponents to implement district projects as well as contracting out the running of the pilot recycling centre and provision of recyclables collection services by the Government. The actual number of jobs created can only be ascertained after the projects are confirmed.

- (d) At present, there are a total of 3 strategic landfills and 8 refuse transfer stations. For each landfill, there are 9 government site staff and between 140 to 190 employees hired by the contractors depending on the extent of site works and quantity of waste handled. For each refuse transfer station, there are 5 government site staff and between 35 to over 100 contractor employees on average depending on the size of the transfer station.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>M. J. STOKOE</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Environmental Protection</u>
Date	<u>22 March 2002</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB078

Question Serial No.

1140

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Administration allocate more resources for site investigation and risk assessment of the land that is subject to possible dioxin contamination in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply: Dioxins are formed from some combustion and industrial processes. The Government plans to carry out a study to identify potential sites which might have been contaminated by dioxin due to their past activities. As part of the investigation, soil samples will be taken and tested to identify the level of dioxin contamination before deciding on any need to take remedial measures. We estimated that the sampling and testing would cost \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters M. J. STOKOE

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 091

Question Serial No.

0822

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

One of the work under the Programme "Food Safety and Public Health" of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is the exercising of import control on high-risk food and live food animals. The Mainland authority has announced earlier that their quota on imported chilled meat to Hong Kong would be cancelled. The Secretary for the Environment and Food also said that large amount of chilled meat from China will be imported to Hong Kong a few months later. Will the Secretary inform this Council :

- (a) Will the Department allocate additional resources for the importation of chilled meat to Hong Kong and what specific control measures will be taken?
- (b) The establishment ceiling for 2002-03 will be reduced by approximately 10%. As regards the control on the quality and safety of Mainland chilled meat imported to Hong Kong, how much resources and manpower will be allocated in the coming year to safeguard public health?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The importation of chilled meat into Hong Kong, regardless of its place of origin, is subject to stringent and statutory safety and hygiene requirements. Every consignment of imported chilled meat must be accompanied by an official health certificate issued by a competent veterinary authority certifying that the meat is fit for human consumption. Inspection and taking of samples are conducted at the import, wholesale and retail levels to ensure compliance with our requirements. The additional work relating to control on chilled meat imported from the Mainland will be absorbed within existing resources.
- (b) Imported chilled meat from the Mainland will be included in FEHD's food surveillance programme for quality and safety control. The additional work arising will be absorbed and taken up by existing staff of the Department.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB092

Question Serial No.

0335

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 001 Salaries

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Will the Administration inform the Council:

- (a) What types of posts are the estimated 1 165 permanent posts to be deleted in the coming year?
- (b) What are the reasons for the deletion? Will existing services be affected? If so, what are these services?
- (c) How much will be saved from deleting these posts?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

- (a) A total of 1 204 posts will be deleted in 2002-03. These are 1 Clerical Assistant, 49 Gangers, 35 Motor Drivers, 1 Office Assistant, 132 Special Drivers, 1 Transport Services Officer II, 2 Typists, 74 Workman I, and 909 Workman II. The deletion will be offset by the creation of 39 posts, comprising 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 3 Chief Health Inspectors, 5 Field Officers I, 18 Health Inspectors I/II, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 7 Senior Health Inspectors, 1 Senior Veterinary Officer, and 2 Veterinary Officers. As such a net figure of 1 165 posts will be deleted.
- (b) These posts will be deleted as a result of the release of staff through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Existing services will not be affected as FEHD will maintain the level of service through redeployment and contracting out services.
- (c) The savings to be achieved will be about \$129M per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita Lau
Director of

Post Title	<hr/> Food and Environmental Hygiene <hr/>
Date	<hr/> 22 March 2002 <hr/>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 093

Question Serial No.

0336

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As an economic impact assessment on the labelling of genetically modified food will be completed and the way forward be determined, will the Administration inform the Council whether funds have been earmarked for this purpose. If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

A financial provision of \$5.8M has been included in the 2002 – 03 Estimates, with \$2.6M for personal emoluments, and \$3.2M for departmental expenses, for work related to genetically modified food. The work includes enforcement, general surveillance, conducting the economic impact assessment, conducting safety assessment and publicity and education programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB110

Question Serial No.

0324

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 007 Job-related allowances

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please list out all the allowance items under Subhead 007 Job-related allowances.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The allowance items are –

- (1) Extraneous Duties Allowance – for performing extra duties other than those normally undertaken
 - (a) Level 1: for supplementary duties requiring some skills
 - (b) Level 2: for supplementary duties requiring specialized skill
 - (c) Responsibility: for carrying additional responsibility
- (2) Obnoxious Duties Allowance – for performing exceptionally offensive, onerous and objectionable duties
- (3) Shift Duty Allowance – for irregular hours of work
 - (a) Standard: for irregular hours as part of an approved shift pattern
 - (b) Non-standard: for night duties in the slaughterhouses
- (4) On-call Duty Allowance – for officers who are required to be on-call beyond their normal working hours

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 126

Question Serial No.

0521

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

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) How many risk assessment studies on food will be conducted by FEHD in the coming year? How much expenditure and manpower are required?
- (b) Does FEHD have any positive plan to publicize the results of the risk assessment studies for public information and what are the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) In 2002-03, in addition to ad-hoc studies on topical issues of food safety and public health concern, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct four major risk assessment studies on specific food items. A financial provision of \$6.1M including personal emoluments for 8 staff has been included in the 2002-03 Estimates for this purpose.
- (b) Results of risk assessment studies will be disseminated to the public through press conferences, exhibitions at strategic venues, articles to the media, hotlines, printed materials and the internet. The resources required have been included in the existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 086

Question Serial No.

1357

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) At present, how many collection points are designated for animal carcasses disposal in the territory? Where are they located?
- (b) As the dumping of animal carcasses (pig carcasses in particular) is rampant, what measures do the Government have to check such activities? Will there be additional manpower to monitor the situation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has designated 78 collection points for public disposal of animal carcasses. The locations of these collection points are at **Annex**.
- (b) To tackle illegal dumping of animal carcasses, FEHD staff have stepped up surveillance of dumping blackspots. In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has incorporated in its advisory letter to pig farmers a warning message against indiscriminate dumping of pig carcasses and has provided the list of designated collection points for public disposal. Such work is undertaken by existing resources of the two departments and no additional manpower is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

List of FEHD's Designated Collection Points for Animal Carcass Collection Service

District	Serial No.	Location
Tuen Mun	1	Nai Wai Village RCP, Nai Wai
	2	Yick Yuen Village RCP, Yick Yuen
Yuen Long	1.	Hung To RCP, San Tin
	2.	Pak Shek Au RCP, San Tin
	3.	Chau Tau RCP, Lok Ma Chau
	4.	Ki Lun Shan Entrance RCP, Chau Tau
	5.	Ki Lun Shan Top Bin Site, Ki Lun Shan Road
	6.	Siu Hom Tsuen Bin Site, near San Tin Petrol Station
	7.	Mai Po Tsuen RCP, San Tin
	8.	San Wai RCP, near Fuk Hing Lane, San Tin
	9.	Ngau Tam Mei East RCP
	10.	Pok Wai RCP
	11.	Wing Ki Tsuen Bin site, Pok Wai
	12.	Wing Ning Tsuen No. 1 RCP, Ping Shan
	13.	Fung Kut Heung RCP, at the hillside
	14.	Lau Fau Shan RCP, Lau Fau Shan
	15.	Sha Kiu Sheung Wan Bin Site, Deep Bay Road, Lau Fau Shan
	16.	Sha Kiu Ha Wan Bin Site, Deep Bay Road, Lau Fau Shan
	17.	Kau Lee Uk Tsuen RCP, Tin Ha Road
	18.	Yau Kung No. 2 Bin Site, San Sang Road
	19.	Dumping site at the entrance of heliport, Kai Pak Leng, Hung Shui Kiu
	20.	Slope at side of the entrance of heliport, Kai Pak Leng, Hung Shui Kiu
	21.	At right hand side of passing space of heliport, Kai Pak Leng, Hung Shui Kiu

District	Serial No.	Location
	22.	At left hand side of passing space of heliport, Kai Pak Leng, Hung Shui Kiu
	23.	Sik Kong Wai Bin Site, Ha Tsuen
	24.	Sha Kong Miu RCP, Lau Fau Shan
	25.	Sheung Pak Lai No. 2 Bin Site, Lau Fau Shan
	26.	Ha Pak Lai RCP, Lau Fau Shan
	27.	Pak Sha Tsuen RCP, Tai Tong Road
	28.	Lam Hau Pok Bin Site, Ma Tin Road
	29.	Tong Yan San Tsuen, Ma Fung Ling Road
	30.	Tai To Tsuen RCP, Ping Shan
	31.	Tan Kwai Tsuen RCP, Hung Shui Kiu
	32.	Yau Char Po Bin Site, Tai Shu Ha West Road
	33.	Tai Shu Ha West RCP (at side of Yau Lee Farm)
	34.	Ma Tin Pok RCP, Tai Tong
	35.	Tong Tau Po Bin Site, Tai Shu Ha West Road
	36.	Po Chu Yuen RCP, Tai Ki Ling
	37.	Tai Kong Po Bin Site, Kam Tin
	38.	Kong Ha Wai VMO Bin Site, Kam Tin
	39.	Tar Shek Tong Bin Site, near FSD Training School
	40.	RCP at junction of Shek Kong Airport Road and Kam Tin Road
	41.	Shek Wu Tong VMO RCP, Kam Sheung Road
	42.	Man Ka Yuen RCP, Kam Tin Road, near Home for the Aged
	43.	Bor Lei Hang RCP, Sheung Tsuen
	44.	Ng Ka Tsuen Bridge RCP
	45.	Hang Tau Par RCP, Kam Sheung Road
	46.	Wang Toi Shan San Tsuen, Pat Heung
	47.	Ha Yau Tin Tsuen RCP

District	Serial No.	Location
	48.	At side of Pumping Station of Wong Chuk Hang, Kam Sheung Road, Kam Tin.
	49.	At hill side of Ngau Tam Mei Primary School, Ngau Tam Mei East, San Tin
	50.	Brothers Farm of Ngau Tam Mei East, San Tin
	51.	Long Ha RCP, San Tin
	52.	Mo Fan Heung RCP, San Tin
	53.	Shek Wu Wai, San Tin
	54.	Wai Tsai Tsuen RCP, San Tin
	55.	Tse Tong Tsuen RCP, Kam Tin
	56.	At entrance of Chik Yuen, Deep Bay Road
	57.	Wong Nai Tun Tsuen hillside
North	1	Tung Fong Farm RCP, Kwu Tung
	2	Shek Tsai Ling RCP, Bor Lau Road
	3	Lion Road RCP, Tong Kung Ling
	4	Kam Tsin Ngau Tei RCP, Kam Tsin
	5	Ping Kong San Tsuen RCP, Fan Kam Road
	6	Ha Shan Kai Wat RCP, near Ping Che Road
	7	Chung Tai Bin Site, Sha Tau Kok Road
	8	Lin Tong Mei RCP, Sheung Shui
	9	Lin Ma Hang Road RCP, Muk Wu Tsuen
	10	Lin Ma Hang Road RCP, Heung Yuen Tsuen
	11	Kwu Tung Tin Sum RCP
	12	Hung Kiu San Tsuen RCP
	13	Fung Kong Tsuen RCP
	14	Cheung Po Tsuen RCP (I), Man Kam To
	15	Cheung Po Tsuen RCP (II)m Man Kam To
	16	Tung Yuen RCP, Castle Peak Road

District	Serial No.	Location
	17	Kam Tsin South RCP
	18	Takwuling Government Offices RCP, Ping Che Road
	19	Li Uk Tsuen RCP, Ping Che Road

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB088

Question Serial No.

1361

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will more services be outsourced in 2002-03? With regard to the outsourcing of cleansing services, it is estimated that 1 130 posts will be deleted in the coming year. What are these posts and how much are their salaries? How much savings will then be achieved?

Asked by: Hon. Chan Yuen-han

Reply:

In 2002-03, the Department will continue to implement an outsourcing programme.

A total of 1 130 posts will be deleted in 2002-03 under Programme (2). These include 1 Clerical Assistant, 38 Gangers, 35 Motor Drivers, 132 Special Drivers, 1 Transport Services Officer II, 2 Typists, 74 Workman I, and 847 Workman II. Their total annual salaries amounts to \$139M. Savings arising from outsourcing is estimated at \$42M per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 113

Question Serial No.

1128

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The financial provisions under Programme (1) for 2002 and 2003 are \$372.7M and \$409.1M respectively, representing an increase of \$36.4M. Will the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene inform this Council:

- (1) How much was spent on taking blood samples for the testing of avian influenza H5 during the past 5 years?
- (2) What was the provision incurred in paying compensation arising from the depopulation of poultry infected by avian influenza during the past 5 years?
- (3) Will additional resources be provided for the setting up of a research centre with a view to enhancing food safety in Hong Kong and preventing the outbreak of avian influenza?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- (1) The expenditure on monitoring imported live poultry including taking blood samples for avian influenza H5 testing is around \$1M for 1997-98 and \$8M annually from 1998-99 to 2001-02.
- (2) The expenditure incurred on compensation and ex-gratia payment arising from the depopulation of poultry infected by avian influenza during the past five years is:

1997 – 98 \$M	1998 – 99 \$M	1999 – 2000 \$M	2000 – 01 \$M	2001 – 02 \$M
-	90.4	-	-	88.6

- (3) Since the inception of FEHD on 1 January 2000 and the setting up of a Risk Assessment Section under the new department, risk assessment and research work has become an integral part of the food safety control mechanism. Additional resources have been allocated to further strengthen the research capability in 2001 leading to the establishment of a Food Research Laboratory in December 2001. As far as preventing outbreaks of avian flu is concerned, a multi-disciplinary approach is adopted in Hong Kong. The Government is collaborating with local, Mainland and overseas experts and regulators to better improve our preventive strategy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and

Post Title	<u>Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>March 2002</u>

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

EFB 121

Question Serial No.

0516

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Please state the numbers of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted by FEHD by types of offence in respect of labelling for pre-packaged food in the last two years. What is the average penalty?
- (b) It is mentioned in the Estimates that there will be an increase in manpower for strengthening food labelling for pre-packaged food. What is the staffing establishment for the additional manpower? What is the expenditure so incurred? Are the additional staff members responsible for conducting inspections or drawing up regulatory policy or legislation?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of prosecutions and warnings issued in respect of labelling for pre-packaged food and the average penalty for the years 2000 and 2001 are as follows:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Prosecutions	87	110
Warnings	3,563	5,294
Average fines	\$1,760	\$1,805

Detailed breakdown of the prosecutions and warning letters by types of offence is set out in Annex.

- (b) The additional manpower includes 1 Chief Health Inspector, 1 Senior Health Inspector and 2 Health Inspectors. A provision of \$2M has been included.

The additional manpower provided will be deployed to study the feasibility of introducing and subsequent implementation of a nutrition labelling system for pre-packaged food. They will also be responsible for enforcing new labelling requirements on food additives and alcoholic drinks.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Irregularity	No. of contravention resulting in prosecution		No. of contravention resulting in verbal warning		No. of contravention resulting in warning letter	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
a) Fail to label the name or designation of the food properly	42	40	1,178	1,311	186	897
b) Fail to list out or to list out properly the ingredients	76	70	2,993	3,177	199	912
c) Fail to indicate or to indicate properly "best before" or "use by" date; sale of food beyond "use by" date	73	89	2,017	2,228	199	641
d) Fail to state or to state properly the special condition for storage or instructions for use	39	28	1,113	1,455	124	902
e) Fail to indicate or to indicate properly the name and address of manufacturer or packer	64	77	3,257	3,698	210	923
f) Fail to indicate or to indicate properly the count, weight or volume	45	31	1,201	1,112	163	845
g) Fail to use the appropriate language	34	37	47	51	7	13
Total no. of contraventions	373	372	11,806	13,032	1,088	5,133
No. of prosecutions	87	110	-	-	-	-
No. of verbal warnings	-	-	3,324	4,000	-	-
No. of warning letters	-	-	-	-	239	1,294
Average penalty	\$1,760	\$1,805	-	-	-	-

The total number of prosecutions/verbal warnings/warning letters does not tally with that of the contravention because one prosecution/verbal warning/written warning might cover more than one contravention.

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

EFB127

Question Serial No.

1229

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health /
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please provide the names and terms of reference of the advisory boards and statutory committees established under the above Programmes and their respective number of meetings convened in the past three years. Please also list out the honorarium (if any) of the chairmen and members of these committees. How much expenditure had been incurred and manpower provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in supporting the operation of these committees in the previous year and how much will be required in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The information sought is provided as follows-

Name of Board/ Committee	Terms of Reference	Number of Meeting in 2000 and 2001	Honorarium for Chairman/ Member	Expenditure and Manpower Required in 2001/02	Expenditure and Manpower Required in 2002/03
Liquor Licensing Board (LLB)	The Liquor Licensing Board is constituted for the purpose of issuing liquor licences in accordance with the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations (Cap. 109 sub. leg.)	88 meetings	Chairman : \$1,105/ attendance Vice Chairman and Member : \$735/ attendance	Secretariat of seven staff and total expenditure is \$3.3M	Secretariat of seven staff and total expenditure is \$3.5M

- * The number of meeting is not provided for 1999 because the current LLB was only established on 1 January 2000.
- * The LLB is under Programme (2) and there is no boards/committees under Programme (1).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food and
 Environmental Hygiene

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 128

Question Serial No.

1231

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, will the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department join together to promote waste recycling and Clean Hong Kong activities? If so, what is the specific plan? How many joint programmes of such kind had been organised in the past two years? If not, why no plan has been drawn up in this regard to render the resources input in publicity and public education more cost-effective?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

As part of the Government's efforts to promote waste reduction and Clean Hong Kong, we have been working closely not only with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), but also with the Education Department (ED), schools, District Councils and community groups in the organization of promotional activities with themes encompassing waste recycling.

In 2000-01 and 2001-02, we have funded over 90 community involvement projects under the Clean Hong Kong Funding Scheme and provided more than 200 talks to primary and secondary schools to encourage the public and students to keep the environment clean and to separate waste for recycling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and Environmental
Post Title Hygiene

Date March, 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB140

Question Serial No.

0522

Head : CWRP Head 704 - Drainage Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

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

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : In financial year 2002-03, DSD will continue with the detailed design work of 23 sewerage projects. The details of these projects, with a total estimated cost of about \$8.4 billion, are listed below :-

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4052DS	Ting Kau sewerage, stage 2	early 2005	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage in Ting Kau area
4125DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas	mid 2013	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in Tai Po and Sha Tin
4126DS	Sham Tseng sewerage, stage 3	early 2005	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau areas
4143DS	Central, Western and Wan Chai West sewerage, stage 2 phase 2 works	end 2006	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Central, Western and Wan Chai West
4157DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage 2	end 2005	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage along Yuen Long – Tuen Mun Corridor
4160DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage I	end 2007	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4171DS	North and South Kowloon sewerage, stage II	end 2007	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in To Kwa Wan, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin districts
4181DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage 2	end 2007	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4203DS	North District sewerage	end 2009	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in North District
4204DS	Wan Chai East and North Point sewerage, remaining works	end 2006	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in North Point
4205DS	Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam sewerage, stage 2	early 2006	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pokfulam districts

/

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4208DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 1	mid 2007	To provide sewerage facilities for Yung Shue Wan (Lamma Island) and Ngong Ping
4211DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 2	early 2008	To provide sewerage facilities for Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan
4214DS	Tseung Kwan O sewerage for villages	early 2006	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tseung Kwan O areas
4215DS	Yuen Long & Kam Tin sewerage & sewage disposal	end 2007	To provide trunk sewerage to Yuen Long and Kam Tin
4222DS	Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works – stage V	end 2010	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works
4223DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage treatment upgrade – (upgrade of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works)	end 2007	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works
4226DS	Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works phase II upgrading	mid 2007	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works
4272DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2	early 2007	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Tai Chung Hau, Pak Sha Wan, Tai Po Tsai, Wong Chuk Wan, Mang Kung Uk in Sai Kung district
4273DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3	early 2007	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Ho Chung, Tseng Lan Shue and Area 4 in Sai Kung
4274DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage 3	early 2008	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage to Yuen Long and Yuen Long fringe areas
4326DS	Central and East Kowloon sewerage, sewage treatment and disposal – advance housing related works	mid 2006	To provide sewers to serve new housing sites in East Kowloon
4329DS	Upgrading of Pillar Point sewage treatment works	early 2010	To upgrade the existing Pillar Point STW

Signature _____
 Name in block letters J. Collier
 Post Title Director of Drainage Services
 Date 23 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 084

Question Serial No.

0037

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What is the total expenditure for outsourcing street cleansing services, waste collection services and maintenance services of public cleansing facilities in 2002-03? What is the estimated manpower to be employed by the contractors?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The total estimated expenditure for outsourcing street cleansing services (including street sweeping, street washing, gully emptying, cleansing of public toilets and minor maintenance services of public cleansing facilities) and waste collection services (including collection of household waste and recyclable waste) in 2002-03 is \$747M. The estimated manpower to be employed by the contractors is 6 984.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 095

Question Serial No.

0564

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : (1) Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Programme : Food Safety Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure for stepping up control of the sale of live poultry e.g. the prevention of avian influenza H5 in 2002-03? What will be the average expenditure incurred in terms of each live chicken and is it higher than that of last year?
- (b) How much additional resources will be allocated for the inspection of local chicken farms? What are the specific measures to be taken?
- (c) Will live chickens be vaccinated?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) In 2001-02, the estimated total cost of the avian influenza surveillance programme is \$33.1M. This does not include the expenditure involved in controlling the outbreaks that occurred in May 2001 and February 2002. In 2002-03, the amount reserved for the avian influenza surveillance programme is \$39.7M. Based on an estimated annual live poultry consumption of 34.54 million, the expenditure incurred for each chicken in 2001-02 is \$0.96 and in 2002-03 will be \$1.15.
- (b) For 2002-03, AFCD have made provision for the creation of 11 new posts for local livestock farm inspections (one Senior Veterinary Officer and one Veterinary Officer supported by 9 field staff). These staff will devote about 40% of their time to monitoring local poultry farms for avian influenza and ensuring farms meet new, improved hygiene and biosecurity standards.
- (c) We have not taken a view on vaccination of live chickens as we are still studying the feasibility of this approach.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 102

Question Serial No.

0934

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Some vehicles transporting livestock are not properly managed, animal wastes are frequently found on the carriageways in Sheung Shui, causing environmental nuisance. How many prosecutions have been instituted against these offences during the past year and will additional resources be allocated in the coming year to improve the situation?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In the past year, FEHD received only one complaint about the dropping of animal waste from vehicles onto carriageways in the Sheung Shui area. No prosecution has been taken. The general cleanliness of the Sheung Shui area will be closely monitored and appropriate enforcement action taken as necessary. No additional resources are required as these are part of the normal duties of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB107

Question Serial No.

0221

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Regarding Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control, please set out the actual and revised expenditures for hawker control for the past three years as well as the estimated expenditure for 2002-03. Please also set out the number of staff of the Hawker Control Team for the past three years.
- (b) Regarding Programme (3), the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers is about 4 100 in 2002-03, what is the basis for this estimation? According to the Government figures, the number of unlicensed hawkers for 2001-02 and 2002-03 is lower than that for 2000-01. Has the Government examined the reasons for the decrease?
- (c) Regarding Programme (3), the number of raids conducted by the Hawker Control Team in 2001/02 was less than that in 2000/01 by 4 612, i.e. a decrease of 6%. What are the reasons for the decrease?
- (d) Please provide the number of the summonses issued and prosecutions successfully instituted against unlicensed hawkers in 2000/01 and 2001/02 respectively. Please also give the general reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions.
- (e) Regarding Programme (3), the number of hawker blackspots in 2002/03 will not be less than that in 2001/02, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) (i) The actual and revised estimated expenditure relating to hawker control in the past three years and the estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2002-03 are as follows :

1999 Actual (April to December) \$ million	2000 Actual (January to March) \$ million	2000-01 Actual \$ million	2001-02 Revised Estimates \$ million	2002-03 Draft Estimates \$ million
862	273	1,035.3	1,013.7	1,012.2

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

- (ii) The number of staff of the Hawker Control Team in the past 3 years is:

<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
3 265	3 198	2 990

- (b) (i) The estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in 2002 is projected based on the growth of unlicensed hawkers in 2001, as observed in quarterly hawker surveys conducted by the Department. The estimate for 2002 was prepared on the basis of the quarterly surveys ending December 2001. In the light of the current state of the economy, we may see an upward adjustment in the actual number of unlicensed hawkers for 2002.

- (ii) The reduction in the number of unlicensed hawkers from 4 485 in 2000 to 4 005 in 2001 was probably due to effective patrol and raidings of hawker blackspots.

- (c) The decrease in the number of raidings by Hawker Control Teams was due to :

- (i) the reduction in unlicensed hawkers in 2001; and
(ii) the greater use of the disperse tactics before resorting to raiding action.

- (d) The number of prosecutions instituted against illegal hawkers and convictions (i.e. successful prosecutions) in 2000 and 2001 are as follows :

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
No. of prosecutions	28 309	21 122
No. of conviction (i.e. successful prosecutions)	28 274	21 088

The success rates in both 2000 and 2001 were 99.8%. In the small number of the unsuccessful prosecutions (0.2%), the acquittals were due to benefit of doubt being given to the defendants.

- (e) A location will be classified as a hawker blackspot if at any one time of the day during the hawker survey, there is an assembly of ten or more unlicensed hawkers or five or more unlicensed cooked food hawkers. It is only when the number of illegal hawkers dropped below the above standard that the location will be removed from the list of hawker blackspots.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 119

Question Serial No.

0514

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What will be done specifically to strengthen the recyclable waste collection service? What are the additional manpower and expenditure required? How will the work be shared and co-ordinated between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department? Will there be any overlapping of resources?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Government will continue to provide more waste separation bins to facilitate the public to participate in waste separation. At present, 19 600 waste separation bins have been placed in public venues, schools and public/private housing estates. For 2002-03, additional provision of \$2.31M is required for the expansion of collection services in public places and government offices/quarters. This includes the staff cost of one Health Inspector.

The Environmental Protection Department is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the waste recovery programme, while the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for the provision of collection service at public places and government offices/quarters. There is no overlapping of resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 123

Question Serial No.

0518

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In the Estimates, 73 posts will be deleted as a result of contracting out some of the pest control services in FEHD. Under this arrangement, what is the establishment for pest control services and that of the 73 posts to be deleted? What is the amount of expenditure so saved? What is the proportion of the outsourced service in respect of the entire pest control work?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

After the deletion, the establishment of the Pest Control Unit will be downsized to 764 posts. The 73 posts to be deleted consist of 11 Gangers and 62 Workman IIs. The deletion will result in an annual saving of \$2.9 million after offsetting the outsourcing expenses. The service planned for outsourcing constitutes about 9% of the present pest control service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB131

Question Serial No.

0300

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The increased provision for 2002-03 is mainly for the creation of 4 posts and the greening work in 25 vacant government sites. Please specify the duties of the 4 posts and the expenditures on salary involved. Please also list out the locations of the 25 vacant government sites and give details of their development plans.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The duties of the four Amenities Assistant I posts include preparation of landscape plans and planting schedules as well as daily supervision of landscape contractors. The estimated annual salary involved is \$1.03 million.

Locations of the 25 vacant government sites and details of the development plans are enclosed at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date .2002

Annex

Greening of Vacant Government Lands in 2002-03

District	Serial No.	Location	Future plans (commencement of project)
Central & Western	1	Vacant land adjacent to Western Fire Services Street	District open space (2007)
	2	Edinburgh Place, Queen's Pier	Central reclamation project (2002)
	3	Piers No. 1-7, Central Reclamation	Central reclamation project (2002)
	4	Pavement outside People Liberation Army Headquarters	Central reclamation project (2002)
Wan Chai	5	Waterfront promenade outside HK Convention and Exhibition Centre	No development programme
	6	Vacant land at Stubbs Road near Rosaryhill School	No development programme
	7	Vacant land at Tung Lo Wan Road near Chinese Recreation Club	No development programme
	8	Vacant land at Tai Hang Road near Lincoln Court	No development programme
	9	Vacant land at Tonnochy Road near Wan Chai Training Pool	Wan Chai reclamation project (2003)
	10	Vacant land near Lily Street near 'Lin Fa Kung'	No development programme
Eastern	11	Vacant land at Hoi Tai Street near Canossa College	Quarry Park Phase II stage 2 (2005)
	12	Vacant land at Shau Kei Wan Street East near Kam Fat Building	No development programme
Yau Tsim Mong	13	Waterfront promenade outside Cultural Centre	No development programme
	14	Vacant land in West Kowloon Reclamation	Regional Park (no date)
	15	Vacant land at ex-Tai Kok Tsui Bus Terminal, Cherry Street	Open space (no date)

Annex

District	Serial No.	Location	Future plans (commencement of project)
Wong Tai Sin	16	Vacant land at Wing Ting Road	Open space (no date)
	17	Vacant land at Lung Cheung Road near Hammer Hill Road Leisure Pool	No development programme

	18	Vacant land at Lung Cheung Road , Wang Tau Hom near Lok Sin Tong Yu Kan Hing School	Open space (no date)
Kwun Tong	19	Vacant land at Kai Tin Road	No development programme
	20	Vacant land at Clear Water Bay Road near Fei Ha Road	No development programme
Islands	21	Vacant land at Tat Tung Road, Tung Chung near the bus terminal	Civic Centre (no date)
	22	Vacant land at Man Tung Road, Tung Chung, Lantau	Open space (no date)
Tuen Mun	23	Vacant land at San Shing Street near Handford Garden	Open space (no date)
Yuen Long	24	Vacant land at Tin Lung Road, Tin Shui Wai near Tin Shui Estate	Government Institute and Community (no date)
North	25	Vacant land at Tai Wo Service Road East	No development programme

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB132

Question Serial No.

0804

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

With regard to “intensify greening work by developing 25 vacant government sites”, will the Government inform this Committee :

- (a) of the specific location of these 25 vacant sites?
- (b) of the financial provision relating to the above issue in 2002-03 with a specific breakdown of the expenses?
- (c) of the benefits expected to be achieved?
- (d) whether resources are reserved, in case of good results, for extending this scheme to the whole territory? If so, what are the details?
- (e) if not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) Of the 25 vacant government sites to be provided with greenery, 20 are in the urban area and five are in the New Territories. Details are at the Annex.
- (b) In 2002-03, the estimated total expenditure for these greening projects is \$24 million.
- (c) The projects will improve the local environment.
- (d) Leisure and Cultural Services Department has preliminary plans to beautify another 20 sites in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ .2002

Annex

Greening of Vacant Government Lands in 2002-03

District	Serial No.	Location	Future plans (commencement of project)
Central & Western	1	Vacant land adjacent to Western Fire Services Street	District open space (2007)
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	4	Pavement outside People Liberation Army Headquarters	Central reclamation project (2002)
Wan Chai	5	Waterfront promenade outside HK Convention and Exhibition Centre	No development programme
	6	Vacant land at Stubbs Road near Rosaryhill School	No development programme
	7	Vacant land at Tung Lo Wan Road near Chinese Recreation Club	No development programme
	8	Vacant land at Tai Hang Road near Lincoln Court	No development programme
	9	Vacant land at Tonnochy Road near Wan Chai Training Pool	Wan Chai reclamation project (2003)
	10	Vacant land near Lily Street near 'Lin Fa Kung'	No development programme
Eastern	11	Vacant land at Hoi Tai Street near Canossa College	Quarry Park Phase II stage 2 (2005)
	12	Vacant land at Shau Kei Wan Street East near Kam Fat Building	No development programme

Annex

District	Serial No.	Location	Future plans (commencement of project)
Yau Tsim Mong	13	Waterfront promenade outside Cultural Centre	No development programme
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Wong Tai Sin	16	Vacant land at Wing Ting Road	Open space (no date)
	17	Vacant land at Lung Cheung Road near Hammer Hill Road Leisure Pool	No development programme
	18	Vacant land at Lung Cheung Road , Wang Tau Hom near Lok Sin Tong Yu Kan Hing School	Open space (no date)
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	22	Vacant land at Man Tung Road, Tung Chung, Lantau	Open space (no date)
Tuen Mun	23	Vacant land at San Shing Street near Handford Garden	Open space (no date)
Yuen Long	24	Vacant land at Tin Lung Road, Tin Shui Wai near Tin Shui Estate	Government Institute and Community (no date)
North	25	Vacant land at Tai Wo Service Road East	No development programme

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB134

Head: (No. & title) 154 – Environment and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

0842

Programme: (No. & title) : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

During the third outbreak of the avian flu in early February, officials of the Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department put part of the blame on poultry traders who hid their poultry on the rest day, making it impossible to break the virus cycle. Officials also pointed out that the next few years would be the peak period of avian flu in Hong Kong and South China and that the possibility of another outbreak of avian flu could not be ruled out. Medical professionals even pointed out that the avian flu had become a local epidemic. Will the Secretary please inform us:

Whether any resources have been reserved this year for adopting special measures to prevent the recurrence of the avian flu? If so, the details. Will the measures include the provision of a wholesale market or other markets for handling chickens from local farms for sale to retail markets?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

We highlighted the lack of co-operation from a small number of stall-holders to underline the importance of support from the trades concerned in controlling avian flu.

The Administration has reserved resources for continued implementation of the avian influenza surveillance programme in 2002-03. These include \$13.7 million for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and \$26.0 million for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

We have appointed an Investigation Team to establish the cause(s) of the recent outbreak and to recommend measures to reduce the likelihood of such incidents in the future. We will take into account the recommendations of the Investigation Team in formulating longer term measures on combatting avian flu. As the Investigation Team has not yet completed its work, it is not possible for us to spell out the nature and details of these measures and whether we would require additional resources at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB087

Question Serial No.

1359

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

With regard to the prosecutions against food premises-

- (a) It is estimated that the number of prosecutions against food premises (both licensed and unlicensed) will be increased in 2002. What specific measures will be taken to rectify the irregularities?
- (b) The number of food business licences suspended/cancelled has decreased despite the increase in irregularities. What are the reasons?
- (c) Under what conditions will food business licences be suspended/cancelled in case of irregularities?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The following measures would be taken to rectify the irregularities:
 - (i) taking stringent enforcement actions against repeated offenders;
 - (ii) expediting the process of licence applications with the granting of provisional licences; and
 - (iii) providing free hygiene courses for food handlers to promote good hygiene practices and to enhance their awareness of their legal obligations.
- (b) While FEHD takes stringent enforcement actions, it also promotes the rehabilitation of offending licensees. Instead of suspending or cancelling the licence on accumulation of the prescribed number of demerit points, the licensee concerned may be given a second chance by undertaking not to commit any further contraventions within a specified period. In this regard, the considerations are often whether the licensee has improved in compliance and in the hygiene condition of his premises. As a result, the number of food business licences to be suspended / cancelled is expected to drop slightly.

- (c) Under the Demerit Points System, a prescribed number of demerit points ranging from five to 15 will be registered against a licensed premise for convicted contraventions. The first accumulation of 15 points within 12 months may lead to a 7-day suspension. A second and third accumulation of 15 points, each within a 12-month period, may lead to a 14-day suspension and cancellation of licence respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB090

Question Serial No.

0760

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : According to the revenue and expenditure accounts of 2002-03 Estimates, the services under Environmental Hygiene and Related Services (Programme 2) and Public Education and Community Involvement (Programme 4) of FEHD will be strengthened. Why has the estimated expenditure for these two policy areas increased by 16.4% and 15% respectively which is higher than that of the public expenditure and other service areas of the Department? Please give details on the reasons for such substantial increase.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Under programme 2, the increase is due to the following :

- (d) implementation of a two year programme to enhance cleanliness of Hong Kong and to create some 2 600 jobs;
- (e) provision of new services and the opening of new facilities in 2002-03;
- (f) the purchase of replacement vehicles;
- (g) full year effect of new facilities and new/improved services in 2001-02; and
- (h) incremental creep

Under programme 4, the increase is mainly due to the following :

- (a) implementation of a two-year public education programme to promote environmental hygiene and food safety;
- (b) the net transfer of 2 posts from the Environment and Food Bureau; and
- (c) incremental creep.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB094

Question Serial No.

0337

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health
 (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
 (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
 (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As most of the performance targets set for last year were achieved by the Department, will the Government inform this Council whether there is any plan to raise the performance targets for the coming year to further improve service quality? If so, what are the details and the expenditure required? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

The following targets have been raised for 2002:

	Old Target	New Target
applications for import of game, meat and poultry to be processed within five working days (%)	95	98
applications for import of milk and milk products to be processed within 13 working days (%)	95	98
applications for import of frozen confection to be processed within 13 working days (%)	95	98
applications for export or re-export food health certificates to be processed within 13 working days (%)	95	98
inspecting vehicles carrying vegetables at Man Kam To Food Control Office (% of vehicles)	95	98
issuing veterinary health certificates for exported food containing animal products within three working days (%)	95	98
inspecting vehicles carrying poultry at Man Kam To (% of vehicles)	95	98
testing pigs for beta-agonists (% of lots)	95	98
public toilets provided with toilet attendant service (during day-time) (%)	45	70
no. of organizations approached for organising community involvement programmes	25	35

Estimated additional expenditure required for raising the target 'public toilets provided with toilet attendant service' is \$11.1M per annum. No additional expenditure is required for raising the remaining targets listed above.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Rita Lau
Post Title Director of Food and
 Environmental Hygiene
Date 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 096

Question Serial No.

0968

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene
 Department

Subhead(No. &
 title):

001 Salaries /002 Allowance
 / 007 Job-related allowance /
 149 General departmental
 expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the public cleansing services outsourced:

- (a) Please list out, by types of services provided, the names of the private contractors currently providing public cleansing services, their respective service areas, the number of staff employed, the contract period and the contract value.
- (b) What is the staffing establishment and expenditure for the supervision of the performance of the contractors providing such services?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

- (a) As at 1 March 2002, the public cleansing services contracted out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) include street cleansing, waste collection and desludging. The details are as follows –

<u>Type of Services</u>	<u>Name of Contractors and Service Areas</u>	<u>Total No. of Staff Employed</u>	<u>Contract Period</u>	<u>Total Contract Value</u>
Street Cleansing (including toilet cleansing)	See Annex	5 679	3 months to 2 years	\$965M
Waste Collection	See Annex	221	1 to 5 years	\$295.1M
Desludging	See Annex	12	2 years	\$4.3M

- (b) A total of 266 officers are deployed to supervise and monitor the performance of cleansing contractors. The expenditure involved in such staff resources for the year 2002-03 is \$87M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title Director of Food
and Environmental Hygiene

Date 22 March 2002

Service Areas	Name of Contractors providing Services in		
	Street Cleansing (including toilet cleansing)	Waste Collection	Desludging
Central	Baguio, JC, S&S, Asia, Man Shing, P&P	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Western	Hang Shun, JC, Wai Tat	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Eastern	JC, S&S, Well Born	Baguio, Wai Hong, S&S	-
Southern	JC, Wai Hong, Asia, Champion	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Wanchai	Baguio, JC, JE, Yu's, S&S, Sun Lee	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Islands	JC, Waylung, Kee Fung, Fu Dak, ISS	Sam Hing, Wai Hong, Waylung, S&S	ISS, Waylung
Yau Tsim	JC, Wai Hong, Cheung Kee	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Mong Kok	JC, Wai Hong, Waylung, Well Born	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Sham Shui Po	JC, Wai Hong	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Kowloon City	Baguio, JC, Wai Hong, Yu's, P&P	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Wong Tai Sin	Baguio, JC, Wai Hong, P&P	Wai Hong, S&S	-
Kwun Tong	Baguio, JC, Wai Hong, P&P	Wai Hong, Waylung, S&S	-
Tsuen Wan	JC, Wai Hong, Eternal, ISS	Wai Hong, Waylung, S&S	Waylung
Kwai Tsing	Baguio, Hang Shun, JC, Wai Hong, Man Shing, ISS	Baguio, Wai Hong, Waylung, S&S	-
North	JC, JE, Wai Hong, Waylung, Tai Sang, Asia, ISS	Wai Hong, Hang Shun, S&S	-
Tai Po	Baguio, JC, Wai Hong, Waylung, Well Born, ISS	Baguio, Wai Hong, Hang Shun, S&S	-
Sai Kung	Baguio, JC, JE, Wai Hong, Clare, ISS	Baguio, Wai Hong, Waylung, World, S&S	-
Sha Tin	JC, JE, Wai Hong, Asia, P&P, Law's, ISS	Baguio, Wai Hong, Waylung, World, S&S	-
Tuen Mun	Hang Shun, JC, Wai Hong, P&P, ISS	Baguio, Wai Hong, World, Hang Shun, S&S	-
Yuen Long	Baguio, JC, Wai Hong, ISS	Baguio, Wai Hong, Waylung, World, Hang Shun, S&S	-

- Legend**
1. Service areas refer to the boundaries of FEHD District Offices. Apart from Tsuen Wan in the case of desludging service, all other service areas are served by more than one contractor in respect of either separate parts of the area or in respect of different requirements for the specified services.
 2.

Baguio	=	Baguio Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.
Hang Shun	=	Hang Shun Cleaning & Pest Control Services Co.
JC	=	Johnson Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.
JE	=	Johnson Environmental Services Limited
Wai Hong	=	Wai Hong Cleaning & Pest Control Co. Ltd.

Waylung	=	Waylung Waste Services Limited
Yu's	=	Yu's Tin Sing Enterprises Co. Ltd.
Tai Sang	=	Tai Sang Cleaning Co.
S&S	=	S & S Cleaning Co. Ltd.
Asia	=	Asia Cleaning Service Co.
Man Shing	=	Man Shing Cleaning Service Co. Ltd.
Wai Tat	=	Wai Tat Cleaning Company
Champion	=	Champion Cleaning Transport Co. Ltd.
P&P	=	Pollution & Protection Services Limited
Cheung Kee	=	Cheung Kee Cleaning Co. Ltd.
Kee Fung	=	Kee Fung Cleaning & Gardening Services Co. Ltd.
Well Born	=	Well Born Services Limited
Fu Dak	=	Fu Dak Cleaning Engineering Ltd.
Eternal	=	Eternal Joint Engineering Ltd.
Law's	=	Law's Cleaning Services Company
Clare	=	Clare Environmental Services Ltd.
Sun Lee	=	Sun Lee Cleansing Co. Ltd.
ISS	=	ISS Environmental Services
Sam Hing	=	Sam Hing Cleaning Service Company
World	=	World Environmental Services Limited

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 106

Question Serial No.

0220

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

As regards the removal of illegal bills and posters in *Matters Requiring Special Attention* in 2002-03 under Programme (2), please give a breakdown of the expenditure incurred, the number of removals as well as the number of prosecutions and convictions during the past 3 years in this area of work

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The expenditure incurred for the removal of illegal bills and posters and the number of removals, prosecutions and convictions in the past 3 years are given below –

<u>Year</u>	<u>1999/2000</u> *	<u>2000/2001</u>	<u>2001/2002</u> #
Expenditure	\$2.16M	\$8.33M	\$13.36M
No. of bill/poster removed	560 000	2 200 000	2 070 000
No. of prosecutions	134	556	522
No. of convictions	109	428	349

* figure for January – March 2000 only.

figure up to January 2002 only.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

EFB111

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

Question Serial No.

0325

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the "Quality Assurance Section" of the FEHD,

- (a) What are its functions?
- (b) Please list out the staff establishments for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03.
- (c) What are the revised expenditure in 2001-02 and the estimated expenditure in 2002-03?
- (d) Which grades of the Department have been inspected by the Section since its establishment and how are the inspections conducted?
- (e) Has FEHD assessed the effectiveness of the Section? If so, what are the indicators for assessment? Is the work value for money?
- (f) Has FEHD received any complaints lodged by departmental staff against the Section? If so, how many complaints have been received since its establishment? What has been done to deal with these complaints?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The functions of the Quality Assurance Section (QAS) are as follows -
 - (i) conduct regulatory inspections on services and identify inadequacies in systems, procedures and guidelines with a view to making recommendations for improvement;
 - (ii) investigate into complaints concerning staff misconduct; and
 - (iii) report on good performers for appropriate recognition by the management.
- (b) The staff establishment of the QAS for the year 2001-02 is at Annex. Subject to review of possible deletion of one vacant post of Senior Executive Officer (SEO), the staff establishment of the QAS for the year 2002-03 would be reduced by one.
- (c) The revised expenditure in 2001-02 is \$12,393,000. Subject to the deletion of one SEO post mentioned in paragraph (b) above, the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 would be reduced to \$11,838,320.
- (d) The QAS' main focus is on the service quality of the Department as a whole and is not targeting at a particular grade or rank of staff. Investigation of an individual staff will

Food & Environmental Hygiene Department
Establishment and Strength of Quality Assurance Section
(Position as at 28.2.2002)

	<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>Support Unit</u>			
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	
Senior Executive Officer	2	1	<i>1 vacant post under review of deletion.</i>
Executive Officer I	1	1	
Clerical Officer	1	1	
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	1	
Personal Secretary II	1	1	
 <u>Operations Unit</u>			
Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	1	1	
Senior Health Inspector	6	6	
Health Inspector	6	6	
Overseer	4	4	
<u>Motor Driver</u>	6	6	
<i>Total :</i>	30	29	
	=====	=====	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB112

Question Serial No.

0972

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The revised estimate for 2002 and the estimate for 2003 in respect of staff establishment in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are 14 230 and 13 065 posts respectively. Will the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene inform this Council:

- (d) What are the grades, ranks, remuneration and fringe benefits of the 1 165 posts to be deleted?
- (e) What are the reasons for the deletion?
- (f) How much savings will be achieved after the deletion of these posts?
- (g) What are the respective establishment of the ranks at present and after the deletion?
- (h) Does the Department have any plans to create new posts? If so, what are the grades and ranks involved?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- (d) The 1 165 posts to be deleted in 2002/03 comprise a mix of grades and ranks, namely, Clerical Assistant, Office Assistant, Typist, Transport Services Officer II, Special Driver, Motor Driver, Ganger, Workman I and Workman II. The Full Annual Staff Cost at Mid-point (FASCAM) values which are inclusive of provisions for Notional Annual Mid-point Salaries and fringe benefits for the respective grades and ranks are as follows:

Grades/Ranks	Number of posts to be deleted	NAMS Values (per post)	FASCAM Values (per post)
Clerical Assistant	1	\$145,260	\$203,364

Grades/Ranks	Number of posts to be deleted	NAMS Values (per post)	FASCAM Values (per post)
Office Assistant	1	\$120,240	\$168,336
Typist	2	\$145,260	\$203,364
Transport Services Officer II	1	\$271,200	\$379,680
Special Driver	132	\$175,740	\$246,036
Motor Driver	35	\$145,260	\$203,364
Ganger	49	\$125,040	\$162,552
Workman I	74	\$125,040	\$162,552
Workman II	909	\$113,040	\$146,952

* Note: A total of 1 204 posts will be deleted. This will be offset by the creation of 39 posts as explained in (e) below, giving a net reduction of 1 165 posts.

- (e) The posts would no longer be required as a result of the release of staff under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- (f) The savings to be achieved will be about \$129M per annum.
- (g) The establishment of the respective grades and ranks before and after the proposed deletion is as follows –

Grades/Ranks	<u>Establishment as at 1.3.2002</u>	<u>Establishment after deletion of posts</u>
Clerical Assistant	319	318
Office Assistant	49	48
Typist	7	5
Transport Services Officer II	15	14
Special Driver	591	459
Motor Driver	684	649
Ganger	266	217
Workman I	851	777
Workman II	5 714	4 805

- (h) We plan to create 39 new posts in 2002/03 in order to meet new service demands. These are posts in the ranks of Assistant Clerical Officer (2), Chief Health Inspector (3), Senior Health Inspector (7), Health Inspector I/II (18), Field Officer I (5), Senior Executive Officer (1), Senior Veterinary Officer (1) and Veterinary Officer (2). The increase is offset by the deletion of posts explained in (a) above.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Rita Lau

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB117

Question Serial No.

0512

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What is the subsidy level under the Recurrent Account for market management in FEHD for the past two years?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The subsidy level under the Recurrent Account for market management for the past two years is as follows:

	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Subsidy/Deficit</u>
2000-01 (Actual)	\$369.6 million	\$357.1 million	\$12.5 million
2001-02 (Revised Estimate)	\$424 million	\$340 million	\$84 million

Main reasons for an increase in subsidy level in 2001-02 include increased expenditure relating to the opening and operation of new markets, stepping up of cleansing services of all markets, as well as a slight decrease in the number of tenancies which results in a drop in revenue.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 124

Question Serial No.

0519

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

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (f) How much resources are FEHD allocated for Avian Influenza H5 blood testing in live poultry and beta-agonist urine testing in live pigs?
- (g) How much resources are FEHD allocated for the control of chemical residues in food animals and farms inspection?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) An allocation of \$8.5M has been provided for Avian Influenza H5 blood testing in live poultry and \$7.6M for urine testing for beta-agonist in live pigs respectively.
- (b) An allocation of \$3.2M is provided for Mainland Farm inspection and \$5M for the control of chemical residues in food animals respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

22 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB129

Question Serial No.

0484

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03, it is stated that the department will launch multi-media publicity programmes to promote Clean Hong Kong and anti-littering messages.

- How much provision has been allocated?
- Are there any targets set to measure the effectiveness of these programmes?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply :

In 2002-03, \$4M has been allocated for launching multi-media publicity programmes to promote Clean Hong Kong Programme and anti-littering messages. The programmes include new TV and Radio Announcements of Public Interest, sponsored radio programmes, newspaper advertisements, interactive game on the Clean Hong Kong website, giant wall and road-side banners as well as posters and placards on public transport. The overall theme and emphasis is to appeal for public support to keep the environment clean with clear warnings of the Fixed Penalty Scheme that will be introduced soon. The effectiveness of the multi-media publicity programmes can be measured by feedback from public opinion surveys and collection of public views through other channels, e.g. monitoring press and media reaction and discussions with District Councils.

Signature _

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and Environmental
Hygiene

Post Title

Date 22 March, 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

EFB 130

Question Serial No.

0485

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

According to the performance measures of the department, the number of seminars for general public and number of school talks will increase dramatically 18.4 times and 7.7 times respectively in 2002.

Will the Administration inform this Council the amount of provision earmarked and the manpower required for meeting the targets?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply :

Increasing the number of school talks and seminars for the general public is part of a two-year intensive programme planned by FEHD to raise and enhance student and public awareness of environmental hygiene and food safety. The provision earmarked in 2002-03 is \$5.12M. A total of 12 staff are required to meet the targets.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Director of Food and Environmental

Post Title _____ Hygiene

Date _____ 22 March, 2002

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

EFB001

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0602

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the estimated expenditures for dealing with Mikania micrantha in 2002-03 as well as in the preceding year of 2001-02? What specific measures are there to tackle the rampant growth of Mikania micrantha for the purpose of conservation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2001-02, \$0.63M has been spent for the control of Mikania in ecological sensitive areas in the countryside including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Mai Po Nature Reserve. The work includes manual clearance of Mikania (about 17 hectares), planting of tree seedlings to rehabilitate the sites and regular monitoring of the condition of the sites.

To enhance the control of Mikania in ecologically sensitive areas in the countryside in 2002-03, we will step up inspection and manual clearance of the climbers, and actively maintain the tree seedlings planted. It is estimated that \$0.70M will be spent for the purpose in the year. We will also organise volunteers to take part in the Mikania control work.

We have also commissioned the Forestry Bureau of Guangdong Province to conduct a study on controlling Mikania in Hong Kong. The study has commenced in December 2001 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2003. The total cost involved is \$0.268M.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB002

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0821

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In February this year, avian flu spread quickly in local farms. Will the Administration answer these questions:

- a) As the enforcement officers had to inspect different farms and premises, did the Administration have any suspicions that they might be carriers who brought avian flu viruses from an infected place to other areas?
- b) To ensure that avian flu viruses will not spread, what measures will the Administration take to quarantine chickens, vehicles entering or leaving farms as well as the enforcement officers; and perhaps even to disinfect the officers' clothing? Have resources been earmarked for this work area?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The Administration is acutely aware of the need to make sure that staff conducting farm visits take all possible precautions to prevent carriage of disease from farm to farm. All field staff are fully trained in this area before going on to farms. On entering any livestock farm they must put on a complete set of disposable protective clothing. This is removed and discarded when they leave the farm. Any member of staff entering a farm known to be infected with avian influenza or other serious disease is not permitted to enter a non-infected farm for a minimum of 48 hours.
- (b) The Administration is introducing new biosecurity and hygiene measures for local poultry farms. These include measures covering movement of poultry on, off and between farms, disinfection of vehicles entering and leaving farms and controls on movement of people on the farm. In 2002-03 we have made provision for the creation of 11 new posts for local livestock farm inspection (one Senior Veterinary Officer, and one Veterinary Officer supported by 9 field staff). They will be allocated to step up farm inspections and enforce

the new requirements. They will devote 40% of their time to avian influenza monitoring.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Thomas C Y Chan</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>22 March 2002</u>

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

EFB003

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

0844

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The estimate for Programme (3) increases by \$2.7 m to provide for salary increments for staff. Why does it require an additional provision as high as 3.6%? Will this expenditure be passed on to the trade?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

The increase is mainly due to salary increments for staff. Apart from this, a section coordinating agricultural and food supply statistics was transferred from the Agricultural Development Division (under Programme 1) to the Wholesale Market Development Division (under Programme 3) upon departmental reorganisation in 2001. The cost of the transferred staff accounts for the higher financial provision for Programme 3 with a corresponding reduction in Programme 1. This expenditure will not be passed on to the trade.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB004

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

0846

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding the work involving the design, planning, development and reprovisioning of wholesale markets mentioned in Brief Description under Programme (3), what is the progress of the relevant plans and what are the targets for the coming year? What is the estimated expenditure for this work area in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

To maximise land use, we have to consider reprovisioning the different wholesale trades to one wholesale food market complex. Nevertheless, wholesalers have raised a number of objections and concerns to the previous design of a 5-trade market complex. We are now considering all possible options to maximise land use while at the same time taking into account the views of the wholesale trades. As only planning work is involved, no capital expenditure is anticipated for this work area in the coming year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB006

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0351

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Will the Government inform this Council, in regard to its intention to set up an ecological database, of the purpose, scope of study, methodology and main use of the database; the estimated expenditure and manpower involved; and the completion date?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The purpose for building up the ecological database is to help identify and monitor the natural biological assets in Hong Kong. It will cover all important habitats in the territory, including the distribution of rare plant communities and animal species.

The database will be built up through territory-wide surveys mapping out the distribution and status of habitats and species present. Where necessary, biological specimens will also be collected for authentication as well as for future reference. This database will then be regularly updated through long term continuous monitoring to ensure its accuracy and relevancy over time.

We will use the database to identify ecologically important areas and species present in the territory. The information can facilitate the formulation of our conservation programmes; and the conduct of ecological impact assessment including the design of mitigation plans during the environmental impact assessment process.

A half-year provision of \$1.923 million in 2002-03 and an annual provision of \$3.846 million for the years between 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been earmarked for the purpose. The provision includes the creation of one professional officer and one field officer posts responsible for planning the surveys and monitoring out-sourced surveys.

We will develop the survey programme in 2002 and start setting up the database by phases in early 2003 for completion in around 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB011

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0566

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In connection with the prevention of avian flu,

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 for prevention of the introduction and spread of animal diseases such as avian flu prevention? What is the average expenditure for each live chicken? Is there any increase as compared with last year?
- (b) How much additional resources will be allocated for the inspection of local chicken farms? What are the specific measures?
- (c) Will live chickens be vaccinated?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

(a) In 2001-02, the estimated total cost of the avian influenza surveillance programme is \$33.1 million. This does not include the expenditure involved in controlling the outbreaks that occurred in May 2001 and February 2002. In 2002-03, the amount reserved for the avian influenza surveillance programme is \$39.7 million. Based on an estimated annual live poultry consumption of 34.54 million, the expenditure incurred for each chicken in 2001-02 is \$0.96 and in 2002-03 will be \$1.15.

(b) For 2002-03, AFCD have made provision for the creation of 11 new posts for local livestock farm inspections (one Senior Veterinary Officer and one Veterinary Officer supported by 9 field staff). These staff will devote about 40% of their time to monitoring local poultry farms for avian influenza and ensuring farms meet new, improved hygiene and biosecurity standards.

(c) We have not taken a view on vaccination of live chickens as we are still studying the feasibility of this approach.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Thomas C Y Chan</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>22 March 2002</u>

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN QUESTION

EFB013

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0748

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Provision for 2002-03 is over 10% more than that of the previous year mainly due to increases in capital expenditure. What does this capital expenditure refer to?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

For 2002-03, the increase in capital expenditure is mainly for the artificial reef project. The bulk of the second phase of the project will be implemented in 2002-03 and a provision of \$29 million has been allocated for the purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB016

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0183

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide information on the names and functions of advisory and statutory committees under Programme (1); the number of meetings these committees held in the past 3 years; and the honoraria (if any) payable to the chairmen and members of these committees. For the support services provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to them, what expenses and manpower were involved last year and will be involved in the coming year respectively?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kanReply :

The names, functions and number of meetings of the advisory and statutory committees under Programme (1) are as attached.

No honorarium has been paid to the chairmen and members of these committees.

To support the operation of these committees, the recurrent expenditure and manpower involved are as below :

Year	Recurrent Expenditure	Manpower involved	
01-02	\$0.70M	Senior Fisheries Supervisor	15%
		Agricultural Officer	25%
		Executive Officer I	82%
		Assistant Clerical Officer	30%
		Clerical Assistant	30%
02-03	\$0.72M	Senior Fisheries Supervisor	15%
		Agricultural Officer	25%
		Executive Officer I	82%
		Assistant Clerical Officer	30%
		Clerical Assistant	30%

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Thomas C Y Chan</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>22 March 2002</u>

Name of Advisory and Statutory Committees	Functions	No. of meetings in the past three years
Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries	(a) To advise the Government on matters pertaining to:- (i) the development of agriculture and fisheries production in Hong Kong; (ii) the formulation of agricultural, fisheries and other related policies; and (iii) any other matters relating to the production, distribution and marketing of agriculture and fisheries products as may arise. (b) To appoint sub-committees or working groups, which may include co-opted persons and public officers, to further the Committee's functions.	9 full committee meetings and 45 sub-committee meetings
Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee	To advise the Trustees of the Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund on all matters whatsoever touching the administration of the Fund and the attainment of objective of : (i) the provision of scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons employed in agriculture and agricultural products marketing industries in Hong Kong and their families and dependants; and (ii) the provision of scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons who wish to enter the agriculture and agricultural products marketing industries in Hong Kong.	6
Fish Marketing Advisory Board	To advise the Chief Executive and the Fish Marketing Organization upon any matters referred to it by the Chief Executive or by the Organization.	14
Fisheries Development Loan Fund Advisory Committee	To advise the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation on the granting of loans from the Fisheries Development Loan Fund	6
Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund Committee	To administer the Fund for the purpose of encouraging or improving agriculture in Hong Kong by the issue of loans to farmers, groups of farmers or persons intending to become farmers, at such rates of interest, if any, and subject to any terms and conditions as the committee may direct, or by such other means as may from time to time be approved by the Chief Executive.	5
Marine Fish Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee	To advise the Trustees of the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund on all matters whatsoever touching the administration of the Fund and the attainment of objective of : (i) the provision of scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons employed in the marine fisheries and fish marketing industries in Hong Kong and their families and dependants; and (ii) the provision of scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons who wish to enter the marine fisheries and fish marketing industries in Hong Kong.	6

Name of Advisory and Statutory Committees	Functions	No. of meetings in the past three years
Marketing Advisory Board	To advise the Chief Executive upon any matters referred to it by the Chief Executive or the Director of Marketing.	10

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

EFB018

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0194

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why does the Administration give the estimated number of claims assessed for capture fisheries ex-gratia payment in 2002 at 600 only, which is less than the figure of 1 870 claims in 2001?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The number of capture fisheries ex-gratia payment claims varies from year to year depending on the scale and progress of coastal development projects for the year. The larger number of claims processed in 2001 is mainly due to a territory-wide exercise to deal with claims from fishing vessels longer than 15 metres. No such exercise is anticipated in 2002.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB019

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0195

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the amount and breakdown of the expenditure used by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in monitoring avian flu? What manpower is involved? Will there be any new expenditure items and manpower increase in the coming year? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2001-02, we deployed one Senior Veterinary Officer and two Veterinary Officers, supported by 22 technical and 11 field staff, to undertake monitoring and testing for avian influenza and other diseases of livestock. The total allocation for work on avian influenza was \$9.00 million.

In 2002-03, we have included a provision for 11 additional staff (1 Senior Veterinary Officer and 1 Veterinary Officer supported by 9 field personnel) to expand our local farm inspection programme. They will devote 40% of their time to avian influenza monitoring. We also created 8 new laboratory positions (1 Veterinary Officer supported by 7 technical staff) to cater for increased livestock disease testing. They will devote 70% of their time to avian influenza testing. The total amount of new resources in 2002-03 for avian influenza monitoring is \$4.7 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB020

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0196

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide information on the names and functions of the advisory and statutory committees under Programme (4); the number of meetings these committees held in the past 3 years; and the honoraria (if any) payable to the chairmen and members of these committees. For the support services provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to them, what expenses and manpower were involved last year and will be involved in the coming year respectively?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kanReply :

There are 4 statutory and advisory committees under Programme 4. The names and functions of these advisory and statutory committees are shown in the attached table. In the past 3 years, these committees have held 55 meetings. No honorarium has been paid to any committee member over the past three years. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department provide secretarial and administrative support to these committees. The expenditure and manpower involved is as below :

Year	Recurrent Expenditure	Manpower involved	
01-02	\$1.46M	Veterinary Officer	20%
		Chief Executive Officer	50%
		Executive Officer I	75%
		Assistant Clerical Officer	35%
		Clerical Assistant	25%
02-03	\$1.51M	Veterinary Officer	20%
		Chief Executive Officer	50%
		Executive Officer I	75%
		Assistant Clerical Officer	35%
		Clerical Assistant	25%

Signature

Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

Name of Advisory and Statutory Committees	Functions	No. of meetings in the past three years
Dogs and Cats Classifications Board	To determine any application made to the Board in respect of the breed and classification of dogs and cats under the Dogs and Cats Ordinance, Chapter 167.	3
Animal Welfare Advisory Group	To advise the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation on matters concerning animal welfare.	13
Veterinary Surgeons Board	To set the qualification standards for registration of veterinary surgeons and process applications for registration and renewal of registration of veterinary surgeons.	39
Rabies Ordinance Appeal Board	To determine appeals made under Section 40 of the Rabies Ordinance, Chapter 421.	0

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

EFB025

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 700 General other non-recurrent

0201

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for helping local fishermen develop off-shore fishing? Please give details about the current progress of the "consultancy study on the feasibility of developing an off-shore fishing industry for Hong Kong". When will the study be completed and the findings made public?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Consultancy Study on the Feasibility of Developing an Offshore Fishing Industry for Hong Kong examines the technical and financial issues relating to the development of offshore fishing for Hong Kong. It is anticipated that the Study would be completed by mid 2002. The Consultant will analyse in detail the opportunities, difficulties and risks involved for local fishermen to venture into off-shore fishing. Whether local fishermen will pursue off-shore fishing is a business decision of their own. The Government has all along been facilitating the development of the fisheries industries through providing the basic infrastructure, technical support training and loan facilities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002

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

EFB026

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0202

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for helping farmers develop organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The estimated expenditure in 2002 - 03 for local development of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production totals \$4 million, i.e. \$2 million each.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Thomas C Y Chan
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	22 March 2002