

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

**Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Commerce and Industry**

**Session No. : 4 File name : S-CIB-e.doc**

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CIB001

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 152 Government Secretariat: Commerce and Industry Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Commerce and Industry

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Commerce and Industry

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Commerce and Industry

Question :

What are the details of the 20 measures that have been implemented in respect of helping business studies/projects completed in 2001-02?

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

Reply:

A list of the measures that have been implemented and the implementation dates is provided below:

Name of Project/Study	Measures/Initiatives Implemented	Implementation/ Completion Date
Electronic submission of Government forms through Internet	(a) Selecting and converting government forms into e-Form format for the project.	April 2001
	(b) Enhancing the Government Forms Web Site ( <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/forms">www.info.gov.hk/forms</a> ) to provide the public with one-stop searching and downloading service of e-Forms.	April 2001
Departmental business study of Government Supplies Department (GSD)	(c) Adoption of improved practice by GSD to concentrate on areas where expertise and knowledge rests in the department. For procurement of products of highly specific or technical nature, technical advice is sought during the technical evaluation stage.	June 2001
	(d) Adopting a consistent sourcing strategy and practice based on category spend analysis.	June 2001
	(e) Introducing a text version of the GSD homepage with user-friendly features.	December 2001
	(f) Establishing the technical feasibility of automating the Supplier Tender Responsiveness check and introducing a new automated reporting system.	March 2002
Provision of portable water meters to the construction industry	(g) Providing portable water meters to contractors on private works.	August 2001

Name of Project/Study	Measures/Initiatives Implemented	Implementation/Completion Date
Stock-taking of public forms (Year 2001) and encouraging departments to cut unnecessary forms	(h) Promoting awareness of government bureaux and departments of the need to streamline and reduce public forms.	August 2001
Review of licensing of food premises other than restaurants	(i) Using courier service to improve the coordination between Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and other departments and agencies. (j) Relaxing supermarket cold storage area loading requirements. (k) Setting up an inter-departmental Licence Improvement Committee to work out the details in implementing the other initiatives. (l) Providing refresher training courses for licensing staff and hygiene supervisors to ensure consistency in processing licence applications.	September 2001 November 2001 November 2001 December 2001
Review of approval procedures for general building plan submission	(m) Centralizing the processing of the more complex cases under the Building Plan Unit. (n) Establishing new performance pledges to shorten the processing time of the more complex submissions from 13 weeks to 10 weeks and further to 8 weeks for the less complex cases. (o) Inviting Authorized Persons (APs) to attend Building Committee III meetings to present their cases, provide clarifications and note comments and decisions of the Committee on individual submissions. (p) Establishing service targets for comments on submissions from relevant departments. (q) Strengthening and enriching the Practice Notes with more guidelines, reference materials and examples of common problems to facilitate APs' preparation of submissions.	August 2001 August 2001 August 2001 August 2001 August 2001
Pilot project on electronic retrieval of approved building plans	(r) Completing conversion of building plans for the Yau Tsim District into electronic form within 3 months starting from March 2001. (s) Launching the Building Records Management System for the public to retrieve the building plans and documents electronically. (t) Developing a plan for full implementation based on the results of the pilot project.	June 2001 June 2001 September 2001
Business process re-engineering study of massage establishments licensing procedures	(u) Streamlining the processing of licence applications to reduce the processing time to 25 working days.	November 2001

<b>Name of Project/Study</b>	<b>Measures/Initiatives Implemented</b>	<b>Implementation/ Completion Date</b>
Water-cooled air-conditioning systems	(v) Extending the scheme for the introduction of fresh water-cooled air-conditioning systems to cover applications from 11 additional district areas, making the total to 17 areas.	April 2001

Name in block letters Raymond Young  
Post Title Secretary for Commerce and Industry (Acting)  
Date 2.4.2002

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CIB002

Question Serial No.

S054

Head: 31 Customs and Excise  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Commerce and Industry/Secretary for Security/Secretary for the Treasury

Question :

- (a) What are the breakdowns of the establishment and rank of "Technical Services Division", and the total amount of the provision for 2002-03?
- (b) Please give a detailed description of the work carried out by the "Technical Services Division" in 2001-02. What kinds of technical support have been provided?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) We do not have a "Technical Services Division". However, in connection with the re-organization of our Customs Drug Investigation Bureau, the former Accommodation and Equipment Team has been expanded and retitled as the Technical Support Team (TST) since 4 March 2002 to provide logistics and routine technical support services, such as servicing and maintenance of operational equipment. A breakdown of the establishment of the TST by rank is as follows –

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Establishment</u>
Inspector	1
Chief Customs Officer	1
Senior Customs Officer	1
Customs Officer	<u>13</u>
Total	:
	16

The provision for the TST in 2002-03 is \$3.50 m.

(b) The question is not directly relevant as we do not have a “Technical Services Division”.

Name in block letters RAYMOND H C WONG

Post Title Commissioner of Customs & Excise

Date 4.4.2002

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CIB003

Question Serial No.

S055

Head: 31 Customs and Excise  
Department

Subhead(No. &  
title):

103 Rewards and Special  
Services

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement  
(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation  
(3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection  
(4) Revenue Protection and Collection  
(5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Commerce and Industry/ Secretary for Security/ Secretary for  
Economic Services and Secretary for the Treasury

Question : a) Please give the breakdown of expenditures under the above subhead by sections  
or divisions of the Customs and Excise Department.

b) What is the percentage of the expenditure of the "Technical Services Division" in  
the expenditures under the above subhead?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) Expenditure under subhead 103 "Rewards and Special Services" includes payments of rewards, special services and operational expenses incurred in covert operations. It would not be appropriate to reveal details under this subhead because further disclosure would compromise the operational effectiveness of our investigations.
- (b) We do not have a "Technical Services Division". However, in connection with the re-organization of our Customs Drug Investigation Bureau, the former Accommodation and Equipment Team has been expanded and retitled as the Technical Support Team (TST) since 4 March 2002 to provide logistics and routine technical support services, such as servicing and maintenance of operational equipment. In 2001-02, the TST had not incurred any expenditure under Subhead 103 Rewards and Special Services.

Name in block letters RAYMOND H C WONG

Post Title Commissioner of Customs & Excise

Date 4.4.2002

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CIB004

Question Serial No.

S056

Head: 31 Customs and Excise  
Department

Subhead(No. &  
title):

103 Rewards and Special  
Services

Programme:

- (1) Control and Enforcement
- (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
- (3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection
- (4) Revenue Protection and Collection
- (5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Commerce and Industry/Secretary for Security/ Secretary for Economic Services and Secretary for the Treasury

Question : Please list the rank(s) of officers who were empowered and had exercised the authority to carry out blitz checks on the accounts in 2000-01 and 2001-02, as well as the number of checks. During the period, how many abnormal cases were found on the accounts ?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Customs has comprehensive rules governing the use of the "Rewards and Special Services" Fund (RSSF). Periodic surprise inspections of expenses under the RSSF are carried out by officers at the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner level. The Director of Audit also carries out audits on RSSF expenditure.

On average, 12 surprise inspections were conducted by the Customs each year. All inspections conducted in 2000-01 and 2001-02 confirmed that there were no irregularities.

Name in block letters RAYMOND H C WONG

Post Title Commissioner of Customs & Excise

Date 4.4.2002



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Reply Serial No.

S-CIB005

Question Serial No.

S057

Head: 31 Customs and Excise  
Department

Subhead(No. &  
title):

103 Rewards and special  
services

Programme:

- (1) Control and Enforcement
- (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
- (3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection
- (4) Revenue Protection and Collection
- (5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Commerce and Industry/Secretary for Security/Secretary for Economic Services and Secretary for the Treasury

- Question :
- (a) What are the actual or estimated expenditures and number of payments on rewards and on special services under this subhead in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively? What are the purposes of rewards? What are the purposes of special services payments?
  - (b) What was the actual or estimated number of persons granted with rewards under this subhead in 2000-01 and 2001-02? What was the corresponding number of persons granted with special services payments?
  - (c) What were the offences in the cases involving the actual expenditures under this subhead in 2000-01 and 2001-02?
  - (d) What were the actual numbers of persons granted with rewards for the arrest of offenders under this subhead in 2000-01 and 2001-02? What were the expenditures? How many cases were involved? What was the highest one-off reward payment in each of the (fiscal) years?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) There were about 60 and 30 reward payments in 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively. It is not possible to estimate the number of reward payments in 2002-03.

Rewards are paid to informers who provide information leading to discovery of offences with seizures of offending goods and/or arrests. Special services payments are made in relation to covert operations.

(b), (c)  
and (d)

Expenditure under subhead 103 "Rewards and Special Services" includes payments of rewards, special services and operational expenses incurred in covert operations. It would not be appropriate to reveal details under this subhead because further disclosure would compromise the operational effectiveness of our investigations.

Name in block letters RAYMOND H C WONG  
Post Title Commissioner of Customs & Excise  
Date 4.4.2002