

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

**Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Treasury
Session No.: 1 File name: S-FB-e**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-FB01	S012	CHAN Yuen-han	51	Acquisition and Allocation
S-FB02	S013	CHAN Yuen-han	130	Printing Services
S-FB03	S002	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	147	Service Departments
S-FB04	S065	LEE Cheuk-yan	147	Revenue and Financial Control
S-FB05	S066	LEE Cheuk-yan	147	Revenue and Financial Control
S-FB06	S067	LEE Cheuk-yan	147	Revenue and Financial Control
S-FB07	Oral	SIN Chung-kai	147	Revenue and Financial Control

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

Reply Serial No.

S-FB01

Question Serial No.

S012

Head : 51 Government Property Agency Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Acquisition and Allocation

Controlling Officer : Government Property Administrator

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Treasury

Question(s) : The following is the follow-up to Question Serial No. FB014:

- (a) Regarding the three quarters de-leased in 2001, what are the respective dates of de-leasing?
- (b) For the quarters de-leased in 2002, what is the date of de-leasing?
- (c) When are the other two quarters expected to be de-leased?
- (d) What is the total government expenditure incurred as a result of the leased quarters becoming vacant in 2001?
- (e) What is the amount of rents payable by the Administration for the two quarters to be de-leased in 2002?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (a) The notices for termination of tenancy were served on the landlords for one quarters on 8 October 2001 and for the other two on 27 November 2001. Vacant possession was returned on 31 December 2001 and 31 January 2002 respectively.
 - (b) The notice for termination of tenancy in respect of the quarters in question was served on the landlord on 30 January 2002. The unit was returned to the landlord on 28 February 2002.
 - (c) For the other two quarters to be de-leased in 2002, the notices for termination of tenancy were served on the landlords on 20 March 2002. The quarters will be returned to the landlords on 20 April 2002.
 - (d) The total government expenditure incurred as a result of the leased quarters falling vacant in 2001 amounted to \$569,470.
 - (e) The amount of rents payable by the Administration for the two quarters to be de-leased in 2002 totals \$17,000 per month.

Signature

Name in block letters

K K MOK

Post Title

Acting Government Property
Administrator

Date

4 April 2002

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

Reply Serial No.

S-FB02

Question Serial No.

S013

Head : 130 Printing Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Printing Services

Controlling Officer : Government Printer

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Treasury

Question :

- (a) What are the job title and the nature of work of the non-civil service contract staff expected to be recruited in 2002-03?
- (b) Will the non-civil service contract staff replace the 4 permanent posts to be deleted?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The job title of the non-civil service contract staff expected to be recruited in 2002-03 is "Senior Technical Officer". Its duties are to assist in the implementation of our "e-Ordering System" and other IT-related projects.
- (b) The non-civil service contract staff is not employed to replace those in the 4 permanent posts to be deleted.



Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DAVID TSUI _____

Post Title _____ Government Printer _____

Date _____ 4.4.2002 _____

Bureau Serial No.

S-FB03

Question Serial No.

S002

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

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

Head : 147 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Finance Bureau

Programme : (2) Service Departments

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Treasury

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Treasury

Question :

This is a follow up question to Q0965, since the new guidelines were introduced in May 2001 on the conditions of employment offered by contractors to grassroots workers, has there been evidence of non-compliance by contractors. Please give details of such cases and how they were handled.

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Since the implementation of the new tendering arrangements for the procurement of government services that rely heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers in May 2001, Government has detected 11 cases in which the contractors imposed excessive working hours on their non-skilled workers, in breach of their tender offers. The relevant procuring department has already warned, issued default notices to and deducted liquidated damages from the contractors concerned. There are two other suspected cases involving underpayment of wages to workers; these are under investigation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mr Stanley Ying

Post Title Secretary for the Treasury

Date 3 April 2002

WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 147 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title) :

Finance Bureau

Programme : (1) Revenue and Financial Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Treasury

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Treasury

Question(s) :

In replying to my question on the number of civil service posts deleted as a result of the implementation of the Enhanced Productivity Programme (Reply Serial Number: FB051), the Secretary for the Treasury said that the deletion of a post may result from one or more productivity measures and it is difficult to classify posts deleted by the different productivity measures. However, the Report on EPP Savings shows in detail the measures through which posts have been deleted by various policy bureaux and government departments. Please provide details on the number of civil service posts in different salary bands deleted by government departments through abolition of out-dated or unnecessary services in 2002-03 and the savings achieved. If the Administration is unable to provide such information, please give the reasons for this in detail.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In our previous reply, we have explained that the deletion of posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) may result from one or more productivity measures. We wish to reiterate that it is not only difficult in breaking down the posts deleted (and the savings) to fit the categories requested by Hon Lee Cheuk-yan, but that an arbitrary breakdown is misleading. To illustrate, to keep up its EPP efforts in previous years, the Inland Revenue Department has deleted/will delete another 56 posts through a mixture of measures including streamlining of office procedures; rationalisation of staff requirements in response to a shift from in-person payment to e-payment; re-shuffling of duties of staff; and the use of IT and computerization. The Finance Bureau has deleted/will delete another 9 posts through office automation; sharing and re-distribution of duties and streamlining of procedures. It is not practical, nor is it meaningful, to set out in detail the staff implication of each individual measure, some of which are related to one another or are implemented as a whole package. Having said so, we can assure Members that no civil servants have been rendered redundant because of EPP measures. Reports on how individual bureau and department achieves the EPP savings and their safeguards for quality services are available on our website <http://www.info.gov.hk/fb>.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Mr Stanley YING, JP

Post Title Secretary for the Treasury (Atg.)

Date 3 April 2002

S-FB05

S066

WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 147 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title) :

Finance Bureau

Programme : (1) Revenue and Financial Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Treasury

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Treasury

Question(s) :

In replying to my question on the number of civil service posts deleted as a result of the implementation of the Enhanced Productivity Programme (Reply Serial Number: FB050), the Secretary for the Treasury said that the deletion of a post may result from one or more productivity measures and it is difficult to classify posts deleted by the different productivity measures. However, the Report on EPP Savings shows in detail the measures through which posts have been deleted by various policy bureaux and government departments. Please provide details on the number of civil service posts in different salary bands deleted by government departments through re-structuring of the services delivered in 2002-03 and the savings achieved. If the Administration is unable to provide such information, please give the reasons for this in detail.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In our previous reply, we have explained that the deletion of posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) may result from one or more productivity measures. We wish to reiterate that it is not only difficult in breaking down the posts deleted (and the savings) to fit the categories requested by Hon Lee Cheuk-yan, but that an arbitrary breakdown is misleading. To illustrate, to keep up its EPP efforts in previous years, the Inland Revenue Department has deleted/will delete another 56 posts through a mixture of measures including streamlining of office procedures; rationalisation of staff requirements in response to a shift from in-person payment to e-payment; re-shuffling of duties of staff; and the use of IT and computerization. The Finance Bureau has deleted/will delete another 9 posts through office automation; sharing and re-distribution of duties and streamlining of procedures. It is not practical, nor is it meaningful, to set out in detail the staff implication of each individual measure, some of which are related to one another or are implemented as a whole package. Having said so, we can assure Members that no civil servants have been rendered redundant because of EPP measures. Reports on how individual bureau and department achieves the EPP savings and their safeguards for quality services are available on our website <http://www.info.gov.hk/fb>.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Mr Stanley YING, JP

Post Title Secretary for the Treasury (Atg.)

Date 3 April 2002

WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 147 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title) :

Finance Bureau

Programme : (1) Revenue and Financial Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Treasury

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Treasury

Question(s) :

In replying to my question on the number of civil service posts deleted as a result of the implementation of the Enhanced Productivity Programme (Reply Serial Number: FB049), the Secretary for the Treasury said that the deletion of a post may result from one or more productivity measures and it is difficult to classify posts deleted by the different productivity measures. However, the Report on EPP Savings shows in detail the measures through which posts have been deleted by various policy bureaux and government departments. Please provide details on the number of civil service posts in different salary bands deleted by government departments through outsourcing in 2002-03 and the savings achieved. If the Administration is unable to provide such information, please give the reasons for this in detail.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In our previous reply, we have explained that the deletion of posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) may result from one or more productivity measures. We wish to reiterate that it is not only difficult in breaking down the posts deleted (and the savings) to fit the categories requested by Hon Lee Cheuk-yan, but that an arbitrary breakdown is misleading. To illustrate, to keep up its EPP efforts in previous years, the Inland Revenue Department has deleted/will delete another 56 posts through a mixture of measures including streamlining of office procedures; rationalisation of staff requirements in response to a shift from in-person payment to e-payment; re-shuffling of duties of staff; and the use of IT and computerization. The Finance Bureau has deleted/will delete another 9 posts through office automation; sharing and re-distribution of duties and streamlining of procedures. It is not practical, nor is it meaningful, to set out in detail the staff implication of each individual measure, some of which are related to one another or are implemented as a whole package. Having said so, we can assure Members that no civil servants have been rendered redundant because of EPP measures. Reports on how individual bureau and department achieves the EPP savings and their safeguards for quality services are available on our website <http://www.info.gov.hk/fb>.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Mr Stanley YING, JP

Post Title Secretary for the Treasury (Atg.)

Date 3 April 2002

Year	Amount	Growth rate	Cumulative growth rate
	\$ billion	%	%
01-02	239.4	6.5	450.0
02-03	254.2	6.2	484.2
03-04	253.3	(0.4)	482.0
04-05	255.6	0.9	487.4
05-06	259.1	1.4	495.3
06-07	264.0	1.9	506.6

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mr Stanley Ying

Post title Ag. Secretary for the Treasury

Date 4 April 2002