

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

**Bureau Secretary : Judiciary Administrator  
Session No. : 7 File name : S-JA-e.doc**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">S-JA001</a>	S029	LEE Cheuk-yan	80	Courts and Tribunals
<a href="#">S-JA002</a>	S064	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	80	Support Services for Courts' Operation

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

Reply Serial No.

S-JA001

Question Serial No.

S029

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Courts and Tribunals

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Bureau Secretary: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

For Labour Tribunal cases which are not settled or withdrawn, how long do they take to proceed from the first hearing to the end of trial? Please illustrate in terms of within 3 months, 3-6 months, 7-9 months, 9-12 months, 13-15 months and over 15 months.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply: \_\_\_\_\_

In 2001, there were 10 450 cases filed at the Labour Tribunal, of which 2 955 cases were heard and concluded.

The distribution of time taken from first hearing to conclusion for such cases is as follows :

<u>Time</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Within 3 months	2 379
4 – 6 months	439
7 – 9 months	119
10 – 12 months	18
Over 12 months	0
	2 955

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

Wilfred Tsui

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Judiciary Administrator

Date \_\_\_\_\_

3 April 2002

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

Reply Serial No.

S-JA002

Question Serial No.

S064

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Bureau Secretary: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

How much money was spent on the "Opening of the Legal Year" earlier this year and how much has been earmarked for the following year? Are there plans to economise on this annual activity by organizing a less elaborate and glitzy gathering?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The opening of the Legal Year is a prominent annual event of the Judiciary. It serves to reinforce the mission of the Judiciary to maintain an independent and competent judicial system which upholds the rule of law, safeguards the rights and freedoms of the individual, and commands domestic and international confidence. It presents the commitment and determination of the Judiciary to fulfill its duty to Hong Kong.

Participants at the ceremony include members of the Judiciary and the legal profession, Consuls-General, academics, prominent members of the community, as well as University and secondary school students.

A total of \$1.46M was spent on organising the Ceremonial Opening of Legal Year in January this year. We have provisionally earmarked a similar amount for next year's event. We shall continue to exercise the utmost prudence in its planning and to ensure that public funds will be expended cost-effectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Wilfred Tsui

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Judiciary Administrator

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 April 2002