

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee
Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**

Controlling Officer : Director of Administration/Director of Legal Aid

Session No. : 8

File name : S-CSO-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-CSO01	S05	WONG Kwok-hing	142	Efficiency Unit
S-CSO02	SV16	NG Margaret	94	Litigation Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-CS001

Question Serial No.

S05

Head: 142 – Government Subhead(No. & title):
Secretariat: Offices of the
Chief Secretary for
Administration and the
Financial Secretary

Programme: (1) Efficiency Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question :

In Reply Serial No. FSTB(Tsy)026, the Administration fails to answer questions as to “how many outsourcing service projects in total were promoted by government departments in 2004? What were the total number of staff engaged in outsourcing services? What was the expenditure incurred in outsourcing?” Please give replies to these questions.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

According to an outsourcing survey conducted by the Efficiency Unit in August 2004, there were 4512 contracts with a total contract value of \$214 billion involving an annual expenditure of \$46.48 billion.

The Government does not maintain statistics on the number of staff employed by contractors undertaking outsourced government contracts. This is because contracts cover a huge range of different types of services from capital works and construction through environmental hygiene to property management and even technical support services. It is not possible to quantify the number of staff engaged in these contracts. Other practical reasons include-

- (a) departments are encouraged to follow outsourcing best practices, which include establishing service levels using output specifications rather than input specifications. In other words, in managing a contract, we focus primarily on achieving the quality and value for money of the required results, rather than the number of staff a contractor may choose to deploy for the contract; and
- (b) furthermore, the number of contractor's staff may vary during the life of a single contract. For example, in a 'design, build and operate' contract, the number of staff involved in the three stages will vary considerably.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Chang King-yiu

Post Title _____ Director of Administration

Date _____ 15 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-CSO02

Question Serial No.

SV16

Head: 94 Legal Aid Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Litigation Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question: As a follow-up to the Administration's reply no. CSO031, the Administration is requested to provide information, in table form, to show the distribution of assigned out civil cases among solicitors/solicitor firms and counsel. Information on the number of cases assigned out and the amount of fees paid to individual solicitors/solicitor firms and counsel should be included.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply: Statistics on assignment of legally aided civil cases to solicitors and counsel are collated on a calendar year basis and the figures in respect of 2004 are set out in Annex 1.

Payment of fees is compiled on a financial year basis and the latest available statistics in respect of 2003-04 are set out in Annex 2. There is no breakdown of fees to individual solicitors as payments are made to solicitor firms rather than solicitors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Benjamin CHEUNG

Post Title Director of Legal Aid

Date 15 April 2005

**Assignment of Legally Aided Civil Cases
to Solicitors and Counsel in 2004**

No. of Cases	No. of Solicitors	No. of Counsel
>50	5	0
31-50	7	3
16-30	41	16
5-15	272	46
1-4	944	138
Total no. of solicitors/counsel	1269	203
Total no. of cases	5895	1063

**Fees paid to Solicitor Firms and Counsel
Handling Legally Aided Civil Cases in 2003-04**

Payment	No. of Solicitor Firms	No. of Counsel
Over \$5,000,000	2	0
between \$4,000,001- \$5,000,000	0	0
between \$3,000,001- \$4,000,000	2	0
between \$2,000,001- \$3,000,000	15	2
between \$1,000,001- \$2,000,000	34	7
between \$900,001- \$1,000,000	4	1
between \$800,001- \$900,000	13	2
between \$700,001- \$800,000	5	4
between \$600,001- \$700,000	13	7
between \$500,001- \$600,000	16	9
between \$400,001- \$500,000	30	14
between \$300,001- \$400,000	37	11
between \$250,001- \$300,000	20	9
between \$200,001- \$250,000	29	13
between \$150,001- \$200,000	49	15
between \$100,001- \$150,000	53	19
between \$50,000- \$100,000	96	46
below \$50,000	125	98
Total no. of solicitor firms and counsel	543	257
Total Amount of payment	\$201.094 million	\$54.513 million