Replies to initial written raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

[Controlling Officer : Private Secretary to Chief Executive]

[Session No. : 8] [File name : CEO-e1.doc]

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CEO002	0003	YEUNG Sum	21	2102 – Executive Council
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO001

Question Serial No.

0002

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2102 –Executive Council

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

Please provide the number of non-official Members of the Executive Council and the amount of honoraria in the 2003-04 actual provision, the 2004-05 revised estimate and the 2005-06 estimate.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

There were five non-official Members of the Executive Council in 2003-04 and the actual provision for their honoraria in that year was $3.197M. In October 2004, two additional non-official Members were appointed, hence a total of seven. The honoraria in the 2004-05 revised estimate and 2005-06 estimate are $3.863M and $4.577M respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 31 March 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO002

Question Serial No.

0003

Head:21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2102 – Executive Council

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

Please provide the amount and breakdown of provisions for expenses other than honoraria for non-official Members of the Executive Council under this programme in the 2003-04 actual provision, the 2004-05 revised estimate and the 2005-06 estimate.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The amount and breakdown of provisions for expenses, other than honoraria, in Programme (2) are as below –

	2003-04 Actual provision	2004-05 Revised estimate	2005-06 Estimate
Personal Emoluments	$6.760M	$6.157M	$5.971M
Personnel Related Expenses (Mandatory Provident Fund)	$0.012M	$0.012M	$0.012M
Departmental Expenses	$0.411M	$0.445M	$0.400M
Total for the year	$7.183M	$6.614M	$6.383M

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 31 March 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO003

Question Serial No.

0013

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

Please provide the staff establishment and salaries expenditure of the Chief Executive's Office in the 2004-05 revised estimate and the 2005-06 estimate.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The establishment by grades under Programme (1) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is listed below-

Grade	No. of Posts (as at 31.3.2005)	No. of Posts (as at 31.3.2006)	Changes
Administrative Officer	4	4	
Executive Officer	7	7	
Official Languages Officer	2	2	
Secretarial	14	14	
Clerical	16	16	
Office Assistant	3	3	
Confidential Assistant	1	1	
Social Secretary	2	2	
Housekeeper	1	1	
Domestic Staff	25	23	-2
Chauffeur/Motor Driver	6	6	
Total	**81**	**79**	**-2**

The total personal emoluments will be $31.208M in 2004-05 and $29.890M in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 31 March 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO004

Question Serial No.

0014

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

In the light of the current vacancy in the office of the Chief Executive (CE), what arrangements will be made for the new CE in Government House, CE's official residence and Fanling Lodge, and are there provisions earmarked for the related renovation works? If yes, what is the amount? Will it be met by redeployment of resources or by supplementary appropriation?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The Government would in due course make arrangements in respect of the official and country residence for the new CE. Same as other government premises, works on regular refurbishment, maintenance and repair will be conducted if necessary, funded by the block allocations of the Architectural Services Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO005

Question Serial No.

0736

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

Under this subhead, the 2004-05 revised estimate for remuneration for special appointments is $7,408,000, 19.3% higher than the original estimate and 28.5% higher than the 2003-04 actual expenditure. Will the Administration provide the breakdown of the above item in 2004-05? Why is the 2004-05 revised estimate higher than the original estimate of the same year and the actual expenditure of the previous year?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

The revised estimate for remuneration for special appointments is to cover provisions for 4 positions, namely, Director of the Chief Executive's Office (DCEO), Senior Special Assistant (SSA), Senior Personal Assistant (SPA) and Personal Chauffeur (PC). Below is the breakdown of provisions for these posts in 2004-05 revised estimate-

DCEO	SSA	SPA	PC	Total
$3.789M (inclusive of $1.251M for gratuity)	$1.854M	$1.306M (inclusive of $0.382M for gratuity)	0.459M (inclusive of $0.098M for gratuity)	$7.408M (inclusive of a total of $1.731M for gratuity)

The reason for increased expenditure in 2004-05 revised estimate is due to the payment of gratuities of $1.731M to DCEO, SPA and PC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO006

Question Serial No.

0737

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

As the Chief Executive (CE) has resigned, the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) will be the Acting CE until a new CE is selected by election. Will the Administration inform whether there is any difference in salary, allowance and other benefits during this period between the Acting CE and the CE selected by election. If yes, please detail the items and amounts. If no, for what reasons?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

CS is receiving his own remuneration package while acting CE. There are no additional payments and benefits.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO007

Question Serial No.

0738

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

The Office is responsible for ensuring that the Chief Executive receives the best advice and support for formulating and co-ordinating policies. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee whether the Office has undertaken any consultancy studies for policy making and assessment, and if so, please provide the details and the expenditure incurred.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

Consultancy studies on various subjects for policy making and assessment are undertaken by the relevant bureaux/ departments as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO008

Question Serial No.

0739

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

It is stated that the Office is responsible for co-ordinating the Government's media and public relations strategy. Please give details on how many media receptions or press conferences for local and foreign media have been held, and the expenditure incurred.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

In 2004-05, this Office organized 10 press conferences, 36 media stand-up sessions and 7 media briefings for the Chief Executive. The expenditure incurred, which covered mostly the provision of public address system, simultaneous interpretation service and backdrops was absorbed by relevant departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO009

Question Serial No.

0749

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

In the light of the resignation by Chief Executive (CE) TUNG Chee Hwa, will the Administration inform of the following about the CE's official residence:

(a) During his term Mr Tung resided in his private property in Grenville House and the Government rented an adjacent flat as part of his official residence. Was the lease immediately terminated upon the approval by the Central Government of his resignation? If no, will the rent of the flat continue to be paid by public money? If it will, for what reasons? If it will not, what is the latest arrangement regarding the rent?

(b) Is there provision earmarked for studying the issue of a permanent official residence for future CEs?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

(a) In line with the prevailing practice for civil servants, Mr Tung is given a 60-day grace period to stay in the official residence which the Government has rented. In consultation with the landlord on the lease of the adjacent flat which runs up to June 2007, the Government is exploring options that may alleviate the rent cost after the grace period.

(b) No provision is earmarked for the study of a permanent official residence for future CEs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CEO010

Question Serial No.

0984

Head: 21 – Chief Executive's Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 2101 – Chief Executive's Office

Controlling Officer: Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Director of Bureau: Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Question:

As the Chief Executive (CE) has resigned, will the Administration inform this Council whether the arrangement of Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) acting as CE until the selection of a new CE by election will cause any changes to the expenses of the CE's Office. If yes, please detail the items and amounts. If no, for what reasons?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

The arrangement of CS also acting as CE does not entail additional expenses in the CE's Office. There is no acting pay involved and the acting CE is receiving his own remuneration as CS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Robin Ip

Post Title Private Secretary to Chief Executive

Date 6 April 2005