

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 14

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB001

Question Serial

0139

Head : 151 – Government Secretariat: Security Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the details of the work on the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law in 2005-06 and how much expenses will be involved? In this connection, will any review or public consultation be conducted? If so, what will be the timetable and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Security Bureau is currently continuing its internal review of the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. We have no pre-determined timetable to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law. The work and the expenditure involved will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Security Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 6.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB002

Question Serial No.

1205

Head : 151 Government Secretariat : Security

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the progress of discussions between the Administration and the Mainland authorities on transfer of Hong Kong residents serving sentence on the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

There have been various exchanges with Mainland authorities on arrangements for transfer of sentenced persons between Hong Kong and the Mainland since March 2000. The topics covered have included the main principles and provisions enshrined in the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Ordinance, Cap 513 and the agreements on the transfer of sentenced persons that we have signed with other jurisdictions. Having regard to the differences in the legal and judicial systems of the two places and the complexity of the issues involved, no timetable has been set for the completion of the discussions.

Name in block letters Stanley Ying

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL
WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB003

Question Serial No.

1487

Head: 151 Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the bureau will continue to co-operate with relevant bureaux and departments in the fight against illegal employment and step up enforcement actions on this front. What are the details and the resources allocated for this area of work?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Protecting employment opportunities for the local workforce is a top priority for Administration. In this connection, an Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures and enforcement action against illegal activities, including illegal employment. Its membership includes representatives from the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations by various departments concerned in order to combat illegal employment in a more focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (i) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
- (ii) To verify the identity of doubtful visitors and immigration offenders who try to circumvent immigration control by using different identities through the Pilot Face Recognition System (FACES) launched in December 2004;
- (iii) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
- (iv) To conduct undercover patrol duties at black spots of illegal workers and to take speedy actions on reports on illegal workers;

- (v) To hold capacity building seminars for, and distribute guidelines to, owners' corporations and property management companies to enhance their vigilance on illegal employment in household renovation;
- (vi) To educate safety officers and sub-contractors of construction companies on the security features of identity cards through regular briefings to prevent illegal workers from seeking employment on construction sites with forged identity cards;
- (vii) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to raise public awareness of the serious consequences of illegal employment; and
- (viii) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected of, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal employment activities would be carefully scrutinised.

The costs to be incurred by the Bureau on the above initiatives will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL
WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB004

Question Serial No.

1488

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimated provision for 2005-06 is 1.1% higher than the revised estimate for 2004-05. It is stated that this is mainly due to the provision for the Crime Victimization Survey. What are the details and the estimated resources required for the survey? When will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. Howard YOUNG

Reply:

The Crime Victimization Survey (CVS) is conducted from time to time under the auspices of the Fight Crime Committee. The objective of the CVS is to provide those involved in the administration of criminal justice with information, not otherwise available from official records, on the nature and extent of crime and reasons for reporting or not reporting crime to the Police, with a view to complementing data resources already on hand for the purpose of planning, evaluation and analysis. The next round of CVS is scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2006, during which about 20,000 households will be interviewed. The estimated expenditure for the CVS is \$3.8 million, part of which will be expended in 2005-06. Analysis of the survey results and compilation of the survey report under the CVS is scheduled for completion in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 6.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB005

1539

Head : 151 – Government Secretariat: Security Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the continuation with the work on the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law, what are the revised estimate for 2004-05 and estimate for 2005 in relation to manpower and resources? What is the specific work to be done?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Security Bureau is currently continuing its internal review of the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. The manpower and other resources involved will be absorbed by existing resources of the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 6.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB006

Question Serial No.

1540

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the specific measures to be worked out to monitor drug trafficking and drug abuse as well as the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Government implements its anti-drug policy through a five-pronged approach which covers areas including legislation and law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education and publicity, research and external co-operation.

On law enforcement, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Customs and Excise Department will continue to adopt strategies such as enhancing co-operation with the Mainland and other parts of the world, adopting a multi-agency drug prevention approach and making intelligence-based arrests to plug the supply of drugs at source. Also, legislative measures have been taken to recover the proceeds of drug trafficking activities, with a view to tackling the drug trafficking problem. To curb drug trafficking and abuse of dangerous drugs is also one of the operational targets of the Hong Kong Police Force in 2005.

In 2005-06, drug treatment and rehabilitation services will focus on monitoring the drug abuse trends and strengthening the support services for the re-integration of rehabilitated abusers and their families. Besides, emphasis will also be placed on enhancing professionalism of front-line workers through training and development programmes, implementation of the Third Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2003-05) and monitoring the progress of the licensing scheme for drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres.

On preventive education and publicity, the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau will continue to use the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre as a platform for launching drug education activities for youngsters and their parents. In addition, the Security Bureau will embark on a series of publicity programmes in 2005, which include the organisation of radio publicity campaigns for young people with Commercial Radio 2, production of docudramas with Television Broadcasts Limited, broadcasting anti-drug information programmes in buses, placing advertisements in the Kowloon-Canton Railway stations, holding roving exhibitions on anti-drug information at various districts, and release of Announcements of Public Interest. These publicity activities will help reinforce the preventive education programmes, such as seminars and counselling services, organised by the Government or non-governmental organisations and further disseminate anti-drug message.

On the research front, apart from supervision of the research projects sponsored by the Action Committee against Narcotics and Beat Drugs Fund, redevelopment of the Central Registry of Drug Abuse is underway. The redevelopment aims to facilitate the submission of information by reporting agencies and release of information to the public. The data used to reflect the drug abuse trends will thus be more accurate.

For external co-operation, the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau will continue to participate in international and regional co-operation conference on anti-drug issues and keep abreast of global and regional drug trafficking and abuse situation so as to draw on the experience of other places in tackling the drug problem.

Regarding the resource allocation, the expenditures on anti-drug work in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are \$609.93 million and \$591.3 million respectively. Of the estimated expenditure in 2005-06, around 50.2% will be spent on legislation and law enforcement, 45.8% on treatment and rehabilitation, 3.1% on preventive education and publicity, 0.7% on research and 0.2% on external co-operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters YING Yiu-hong, Stanley

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Security

Date 6.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB007

Question Serial No.

1541

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of and expenditure on the Crime Victimization Survey under the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Crime Victimization Survey (CVS) is conducted from time to time under the auspices of the Fight Crime Committee. The objective of the CVS is to provide those involved in the administration of criminal justice with information, not otherwise available from official records, on the nature and extent of crime and reasons for reporting or not reporting crime to the Police, with a view to complementing data resources already on hand for the purpose of planning, evaluation and analysis. The next round of CVS is scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2006, during which about 20,000 households will be interviewed. The estimated expenditure for the CVS is \$3.8 million, part of which will be expended in 2005-06. Analysis of the survey results and compilation of the survey report under the CVS is scheduled for completion in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Stanley YING

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____

6.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB008

Question Serial No.

1542

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau
Programme:

Subhead (No. & title): 700 General
non-recurrent

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Why is there a substantial reduction in the estimated general non-recurrent expenditure in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The substantial reduction in the estimated general non-recurrent expenditure for 2005-06 is due to the fact that all the work under 3 items of this subhead in the estimates of the previous year has been completed and provision is no longer required in this year's estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 6.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 151 – Government Secretariat: Security Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Regarding the work related to Article 23 of the Basic Law, what are the manpower and provision involved?
- (b) What are the action plan and timetable for “the continuation with the work on the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Laws” in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

- (a) The Security Bureau is currently continuing its internal review of the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. The manpower and other resource requirements will be absorbed by existing resources of the Security Bureau.
- (b) At present the work mainly concerns a review of the relevant material. There is no pre-determined timetable to restart the legislative process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 6.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB010

Question Serial No.

1565

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the expenditure on and details of the Crime Victimization Survey.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The Crime Victimization Survey (CVS) is conducted from time to time under the auspices of the Fight Crime Committee. The objective of the CVS is to provide those involved in the administration of criminal justice with information, not otherwise available from official records, on the nature and extent of crime and reasons for reporting or not reporting crime to the Police, with a view to complementing data resources already on hand for the purpose of planning, evaluation and analysis. The next round of CVS is scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2006, during which about 20,000 households will be interviewed. The estimated expenditure for the CVS is \$3.8 million, part of which will be expended in 2005-06. Analysis of the survey results and compilation of the survey report under the CVS is scheduled for completion in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Security

Date 6.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB011

Question Serial No.

1566

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security Bureau
Programme: (2) Internal Security
Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Is the creation of one permanent post related to the conduct of the Crime Victimisation Survey? If not, what are the duties and rank of the post and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

There will be a time-limited post at the rank of Senior Administrative Officer for a period of not more than one year and the expenditure involved will not exceed \$920,000. Its duties include assisting the review of contingency plans and coordinating matters relating to the setting up of a new control point for the HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Security

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB012

Question Serial No.

1840

Head: 151 Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As regards formulating policies and plans for immigration control, please provide information on the Security Bureau's liaison work in 2004-05 with Mainland authorities in relation to the arrangements for one-way permit quota, the admission of Mainland talents and professionals as well as illegal employment, the Mainland authorities concerned and the manpower and establishment involved.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

In formulating policies and plans for immigration control, the Security Bureau has maintained close liaison with relevant Mainland authorities, such as the Bureau of Exit-Entry Administration of the Public Security Ministry, in relation to the arrangements for one-way permit quota, the admission of Mainland talents and professionals and in the combat against illegal employment. As regards manpower and establishment, apart from the Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security who oversee and coordinate such work, a Deputy Secretary for Security, a Principal Assistant Secretary for Security and two Assistant Secretaries for Security are also directly involved in the above-mentioned issues.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley YING

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB013

Question Serial No.

0137

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please state the number of cases handled by the Complaints Against Police Office, the number of cases which were found to be substantiated, the manpower required and the actual expenditures incurred in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.
- (b) Please state the estimated establishment and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office for 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Complaints Against Police Office handled 3 384 and 3 222 cases in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively, in which 286 and 267 cases were found to be substantiated after full investigation as endorsed by the Independent Police Complaints Council.

The information on the establishment and expenditure is given below:

<u>Manpower required (rank)</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
Senior Superintendent	1	1	1
Superintendent	4	4	4
Chief Inspector	14	14	12
Senior Inspector	23	23	23
Station Sergeant	10	10	7
Sergeant	65	61	50
Police Constable	5	5	1
Executive Officer I	0	0	1
Official Languages Officer II	0	0	1
Senior Police Translator	2	0	0
Police Translator I	4	4	2
Statistical Officer I	0	0	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	4	2	5
Clerical Assistant	14	14	15
Personal Secretary II	4	4	3
Senior Typist	3	2	0
Typist	10	8	3
Supplies Supervisor II	0	0	1
Workman II	3	1	2
Total	166	153	132
Actual/Estimated Expenditure	\$57.20 m	\$52.93 m	\$45.53 m

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB014

Question Serial No.

0245

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the information provided by the Authority, the number of calls received by the Police Hotlines in 2004 totalled 44 838, an increase of more than 24% as compared to 2003. What were the three commonest types of reports/calls for assistance? How can the Authority promote the use of the Hotlines more effectively?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2004, the three commonest types of reports/calls for assistance made to the Police Hotlines were about commercial or computer crimes, contacts with individual police stations and narcotics crimes.

In order to promote the use of the Police Hotlines, the Force has put up the numbers of the Police Hotlines on the police internet, and frequently appeals to the public to report crimes through these hotlines in the Police Magazine/Police Report programmes. The police contact cards provided by the various District Offices and police stations also list the numbers of the Police Hotlines. Many members of the public often request for information on the police telephone numbers including the Police Hotlines through the Police Hotlines facsimile service. The Force will continue to make good use of these channels to promote the use of the Police Hotlines.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB015

Question Serial No.

0246

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the plans or measures adopted by the Authority to combat crimes involving the use of genuine firearms in 2005-06? Will the Authority enhance its existing links with the other countries in order to collect more information concerning the inflow/outflow of genuine firearms?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Force is much concerned about crimes involving the use of genuine firearms and has committed to combat such crimes in the Commissioner's Operational Targets 2005. The Force will take pre-emptive measures to prevent such crimes from occurring by using intelligence-based operations against violent crimes involving the use of firearms. All the police districts will also ensure strong police presence, both uniformed and plainclothes, particularly at high-risk premises. For intercepting the inflow of firearms, the Force will continue to maintain close liaison and exchange intelligence with the Mainland and Macau authorities as well as overseas law enforcement agencies for preventing the occurrence of crime cases involving the illegal use of firearms.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB016

Question Serial No.

0247

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What was the result of the combat against syndicate-controlled prostitution in 2004? Is there any information indicating that this type of crime is on the increase? Will the Authority increase the funding for 2005-06 to step up its combat against such crime? If yes, what will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Force has always combated illegal prostitution in different levels. The Police Headquarters and the Crime Unit in each Region initiate strategic investigations on syndicated prostitution to combat such activities and trace the proceeds from prostitution, while the Special Duties Squad of each police district takes targeted enforcement actions against the illegal prostitution activities in its district. Since most of the females involved in illegal prostitution are visitors from the Mainland, the Force will continue to maintain close cooperation with the Mainland Authority to combat cross-boundary prostitution.

In 2004, the Force conducted 109 enforcement operations against these crimes in various scales, with over 700 cases of "Managing a Vice Establishment" and "Living on the Earnings of Prostitution" being detected. To crack down on vice syndicates, the Police Kowloon West Region has mounted a number of intelligence-based investigations. Between March and October in 2004, over 700 females involved in illegal prostitution and a number of core members of the vice syndicates were arrested. In addition, assets of up to HK\$100 m in value from these syndicates have been frozen under the Organized and Serious Crime Ordinance. The information available indicates that syndicated prostitution is not on the increase.

The resources allocated for combating illegal prostitution falls under the Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime" and no specific breakdown is available. The Force will continue to use the provisions under the said programme for 2005-06 to combat syndicated prostitution.

Name in block
letters

LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title

Commissioner of Police

Date

7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB017

Question Serial No.

0248

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this programme, the financial provision for the coming year is 6.5% lower than the original provision in 2004-05. Given the reduction in the financial provision, how can the Marine Police effectively provide rescue service to cope with the annual progressive growth of marine traffic accidents?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

Under Programme (4) "Operations", the financial provision for 2005-06 is 6.9% lower than the original provision in 2004-05, mainly due to the civil service pay cut of 2.2% and deletion of 109 logistic posts, including 16 civilian posts, to achieve efficiency savings. Resources are saved as a result of the outsourcing of security work at the Police Headquarters and reduction in certain training posts. There has not been any reduction in the number of front-line police officers, so the capability of the Force in handling marine incidents is not lowered.

In order to raise public and the industry's awareness of maritime safety, the Marine Police often organize maritime safety activities. In addition, the Marine Police always maintain close co-operation with other departments including the Marine Department, Fire Services Department and Government Flying Service, and conduct inter-departmental sea rescue exercises yearly in order to maintain a highly efficient sea rescue service.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB018

Question Serial No.

0567

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As a result of the adoption of enforcement strengthening actions in 2004, there was a great increase in the number of fixed penalty tickets issued and prosecutions for speeding offences. Has the Authority reviewed the effectiveness? According to the estimated figures provided, will the Authority continue to strengthen its relevant enforcement actions? If yes, what are the implications for the estimated expenditure? Is there any need to increase the manpower?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

“Enhancing road safety” is one of the main items of the Commissioner’s Operational Targets in 2004. The Force has dual purposes in traffic enforcement, namely to prevent traffic accidents and to maintain a smooth traffic flow.

In 2004, the Force strengthened enforcement actions against offences that cause or may cause traffic accidents (e.g. speeding) to enhance road safety. To achieve the enforcement objectives of preventing traffic accidents and maintaining a smooth traffic flow, the Force also took initiative in preventing offences that lead to traffic congestions. As a result, the number of fixed penalty tickets issued and the number of prosecutions for speeding offences both increased in 2004. The Force has reviewed the results of the relevant actions and come to the view that the “road safety enhancement work” has achieved remarkable success. Although the overall number of traffic accidents in 2004 was slightly higher than that of 2003, the number of fatal or serious injuries in traffic accidents had evidently decreased.

In 2005-06, the Force will continue to enhance road safety through publicity and education. In addition, the Force will step up enforcement actions to prosecute offenders at traffic accident black spots and pedestrians who repeatedly disobey traffic regulations. At present, the Force does not have any plans to increase the estimated expenditure or manpower to step up enforcement actions in the coming year.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB019

Question Serial No.

0568

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The prosecutions for pedestrian offences in 2004 amounted to 17 080, an increase of 23% over 2003. What are the reasons? What are the action plans for promoting road safety for pedestrians in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Road safety has always been an issue of concern for the Force and one of the Commissioner's Operational Targets 2004 was the "enhancement of road safety". In 2004, the number of prosecutions for pedestrian offences was 17 080, an increase of 23.8% over 2003. This was mainly due to a number of pedestrian safety campaigns conducted by the Force in 2004, including the "Traffic Day" held in various districts, the "Operation Foxfire" in the Hong Kong Island, the "Operation Eagle Eye" in West Kowloon and the territory-wide "Pedestrian Road Safety Campaign". During the activities, the Force distributed publicity leaflets to pedestrians to enhance their awareness of road safety and also stepped up its effort to prosecute pedestrians disobeying the traffic regulations.

In 2005-06, the Force will continue to promote pedestrian safety through education, publicity and enforcement actions to reduce traffic accidents. Road safety activities will be on-going to encourage pedestrians to pay attention to road safety.

Educational and publicity activities to be organised in 2005-06 include:

- organising various forms of activities in kindergartens and primary and secondary schools, such as road safety shows, slogan competitions, debates, drawing and speech competitions;
- holding road safety seminars in schools to enhance road safety education for students;
- organising carnivals in the community;
- Open Day of the Road Safety Towns;
- holding seminars to enhance road safety for the elderly and organising competitions;
- holding the Pedestrian Safety Promotion Day;

- distributing publicity leaflets at the main traffic accident black spots and conducting on-street education;
- distributing road safety leaflets to tourists to disseminate road safety messages;
- continuing to promote the road safety vision for Hong Kong – “Zero Accidents on the Road, Hong Kong's Goal” – with a view to consolidating the efforts of all road users to further reduce traffic accidents.

In addition, the Force will step up enforcement actions to prosecute offenders at traffic accident black spots and pedestrians who repeatedly disobey the traffic regulations.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB020

Question Serial No.

0569

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the detailed plans for improving the driving behaviour of professional drivers in 2005-06? What was the effectiveness of the relevant work in 2004? Has the target been achieved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2005-06, the Force will place greater emphasis on improving the driving behaviour of drivers, including professional drivers, by way of "road safety" education and publicity to go in line with enforcement actions.

Activities on "road safety" publicity and education include:

- Distributing publicity leaflets and initiating on-street education at public transport holding areas, lorry parks and land boundary control points;
- Conducting seminars or symposiums targeting at professional drivers; and
- Continuing with the Road Safety Campaign with the theme of "Smart Driving" to foster a new driving culture, which centres on a "caring, considerate and committed" attitude.

With respect to enforcement actions, the Force will commence a territory-wide enforcement operation in June this year targeting at speeding, disobeying traffic lights, careless driving, dangerous driving and the like, with a view to enhancing the drivers' alertness of road safety and encouraging public transport users to report to the Force on the undesirable driving manners of professional drivers.

In line with the theme of "Smart Driving", the Force strived to improve the driving behaviour of professional drivers in 2004 by means of education, publicity and enforcement actions to promote to drivers the message of "taking care of yourself and others". The Force has reviewed the results of the relevant actions and come to the view that the "road safety enhancement" work has achieved remarkable success. Although the overall number of traffic accidents in 2004 was slightly higher than that of 2003, the number of fatal or serious injuries in traffic accidents had evidently decreased.

The Force will continue to minimize traffic accidents by way of education, publicity and enforcement operations to realize the vision of "Zero Accidents on the Road, Hong Kong's Goal".

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB021

Question Serial No.

0570

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the detailed plans for extending the digital Speed Enforcement Camera and Red Light Camera Systems to cover all strategic road networks? Are there any target roads at the present stage for the installation of such equipment? What are the works schedule and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In respect of the plan of extending the digital Speed Enforcement Camera System to cover all strategic road networks, the Transport Department in 2004 commissioned a consultancy company to conduct a study. Upon the completion of the study in the middle of this year, the Force and the Transport Department will follow up on the recommendations in the study report and draft the implementation plan. As regards the extended use of the digital Red Light Camera System, the Transport Department and the Force are now in the process of formulating the plan.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB022

Question Serial No.

0571

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of illegal immigrants prosecuted in 2004 amounted to 721. The figure is estimated to be 625 for the year 2005. Why has the Authority predicted that the figure will continue to fall? What is the estimated expenditure on the detection and interception of illegal immigrants in 2005? Will the expenditure decrease against last year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

As the number of illegal immigrants arrested has been on a steady decrease recently, the number of illegal immigrants prosecuted is also expected to drop correspondingly.

The drop of the number of illegal immigrants arrested is mainly due to the relaxation of the Mainland's restrictions on residents' travelling, for example by implementing the "Individual Visit Scheme", the strict law enforcement work of both Hong Kong and the Mainland enforcement authorities and the enhancement of intelligence exchanges between the two places.

As anti-illegal immigration work falls under the Programme "Operations", no specific breakdown of the estimated expenditure is available.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB023

Question Serial No.

0572

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Authority plans to develop and provide new operational and tactical training courses in 2005-06 to enhance the Force's operational capability. What are the details, the estimated ranks and number of participants and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2005-06, the Police Tactical Unit (PTU) Headquarters will draw reference from overseas emergency agencies and input new elements into the regular training of the Force to enhance the Force's capabilities in the prevention and management of emergencies. The training programmes include internal security, management of major incidents and disasters, crowd management and skills of handling major events.

All the operations formations, including the PTU Companies, Emergency Units, the Quick Reaction Forces, the Escort Companies and the Regional and District internal security companies, will receive regular training under the new programmes. The attendance of the participants from the ranks of Superintendent to Police Constable is expected to be 18 000.

As regular training falls under the Programme of "Operations", no specific breakdown of the estimated expenditure is available.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB024

Question Serial No.

0573

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The technical equipment of the Marine Police will be upgraded in 2005-06. What are the details and the expenditure incurred? Does the Authority plan to increase the manpower of the Marine Police in order to enhance operational effectiveness at sea?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2005-06, the Marine Police will introduce the following new facilities:

(1) Electronic Chart Plotter System

To meet the requirements of the Electronic Chart Plotter of the Marine Department and the International Maritime Organization, the Marine Police are planning to acquire appropriate computer softwares and hardwares in the coming year for 51 police launches to facilitate the use of the Electronic Chart Plotter of the Marine Department. The expenditure involved is estimated at \$2.5 m.

(2) Communication Equipment

The Marine Police are planning to acquire equipment for the Small Boat Division. Through the installation of the communication equipment that can be fitted into the helmet, the communication quality of the small boats operating at high speed will be enhanced. This set of equipment can be applied to the current radio communication system of the Marine Police and can receive mobile phone calls. The expenditure for the procurement is estimated at \$1.84 m.

The way forward for the Marine Police is to further enhance their operational efficiency through the modernization of their equipment. There is no plan for extra manpower for the next year.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB025

Question Serial No.

0574

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

One of the targets of this programme is to reduce the disciplined manpower on administrative duties to the minimum and deploy them on operations. Please state the relevant measures to achieve this target. What are the implications for the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Administrative work of the Force has been streamlined through work process re-engineering, civilianisation and outsourcing. As the Force has recruited significantly fewer officers in recent years, there is a decreasing demand for training. Hence, some of the police officers responsible for administrative and training duties will be re-deployed to take up other operational work.

As at 1 March 2005, the Force has 1 792 full-time administrative and training posts for police officers. It is estimated that in 2005-06, there will be a deletion of 134 posts of this nature. The posts to be deleted represent approximately 7.5% of the total number of these posts. As a result, the notional annual mid-point salary value of the Force for 2005-06 will be reduced by \$55 m.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB026

Question Serial No.

0575

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The total number of 999 calls in 2004 was 671 929. Is there any information that indicates wasteful employment of police among these calls? If yes, what is the ratio? What are the reasons for expecting an increase in the number of calls in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Of 671 929 responses to 999 telephone calls, 21 492 of them involved hoax reports, representing 3.2% of the overall responses to 999 calls.

The estimated increase of the number of responses to 999 telephone calls for 2005 is based on the great number of 999 calls recorded by the Force in the previous years.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB027

Question Serial No.

0576

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The alignment of boundaries of the New Territories police regions will be reviewed in 2005-06. What are the details? In respect of the feasibility of streamlining police districts, has the Authority considered the impacts on finance and law and order in each district after the streamlining?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2005-06, the Force will continue to review the alignment of boundaries of the New Territories police regions in light of the latest demographic changes and new policing needs. The aim is to strengthen and enhance the Force's capability to respond to emergencies and to provide the most efficient and effective service to the public. The review ambit includes studies on the future population growth, the land development and land use in the New Territories and the increase of workload hence caused to various police districts. The findings will assist the Force in allocating resources more effectively and appropriately to meet the future policing needs of the New Territories.

In streamlining police districts, the Force implemented the Tsuen Wan District Amalgamation Project in 2004 by amalgamating the Lei Muk Shue Division with the Tsuen Wan Division. After the amalgamation, 10 front-line police officer posts were created while 15 disciplined posts and 17 civilian posts were deleted. As a result, the Force will save about \$6 m each year. The project will not undermine the Force's capability in maintaining law and order in the district. In 2005-06, the Force will continue to study the feasibility of streamlining other police districts.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB028

Question Serial No.

0577

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2005-06, 286 posts will be deleted. What is the distribution of those posts and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

Under Programme (1) "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", the Force plans to delete 286 permanent posts in 2005-06. The distribution of the posts and the notional annual mid-point salary value (NAMS) involved are listed below:

<u>Distribution of Posts</u>	<u>No. of Posts to be Deleted</u>
Disciplined Staff	
Senior Superintendent	2
Superintendent	5
Chief Inspector	7
Senior Inspector/Inspector	27
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	63
Police Constable	<u>134</u>
Sub-total	238
Civilian Staff	<u>48</u>
Total	<u>286</u>
NAMS involved (\$m)	<u>82.613</u>

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB029

Question Serial No.

0578

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the reasons for a decrease in the estimated expenditure in 2005-06? What items are involved in the reduction of provision and what are the implications for manpower and service?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

Under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime", the provision for 2005-06 is 2.7% lower than the original estimate for 2004-05. This is mainly due to the civil service pay cut of 2.2% and the deletion of 28 posts, including 11 civilian posts, to achieve efficiency savings. Resources have been saved primarily through structural streamlining and efficiency enhancement. There is no reduction in the number of front-line police officers. Therefore, the reduction of provision will not affect the Force's existing front-line services.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB030

Question Serial No.

0579

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What were the actual expenditures on the handling of domestic violence in 2003-04 and 2004-05? What is the estimated expenditure on this for 2005-06? What are the measures and services?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The handling of domestic violence falls under the Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime" and there is no specific breakdown in this aspect.

The Force always adopts a multi-disciplinary approach and co-operates with the Social Welfare Department, other Government departments and non-Government organizations to handle domestic violence cases so that the victims can receive appropriate support from the other departments or organizations. The Force will also participate in the relevant publicity campaigns and educational activities to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence cases.

In 2005, the Force will implement a series of initiatives to handle domestic violence cases, including the updating of the Communal Information System of crimes. Past records can be referred to upon the receipt of new cases for the adoption of appropriate follow-up actions. In a joint effort with the Social Welfare Department and other non-Government organizations, the scheme of "District Liaison Groups" is launched to strengthen the coordination work on the handling of domestic violence cases.

Moreover, the Force has been providing training in the handling of domestic violence for the front-line officers. In 2004, the Force provided a new set of training materials for the front-line officers, with a view to deepening their understanding of domestic violence and thus enhancing their alertness and sensitivity. "Skills on Handling Victims' Psychology" is also incorporated into the regular training courses in 2005 and this will further help them in the handling of domestic violence.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB031

Question Serial No.

0580

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please state the annual expenditure of the Secondary School Liaison Officer Programme since its implementation. What are the expenditure and the percentage change of the expenditure for 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

Since the launching of the Secondary School Liaison Officers Programme in August 2001 by the Force, the expenditure has been mainly spent on the staff cost of the sergeants who serve as the Secondary School Liaison Officers. The number of the posts has remained at 33. In the previous years, the expenditure slightly drops each year due to pay cut. The notional annual mid-point salary values from 2001-02 up to 2004-05 were \$6.2 m (from mid-August 2001), \$10.1 m, \$9.9 m and \$9.6 m respectively. For 2005-06, the expenditure will decrease by 3.1% to \$9.3 m.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB032

Question Serial No.

0581

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention of Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the 28 posts to be deleted in 2005-06, what are their duties and ranks?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

Under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime", the Force plans to delete 28 permanent posts in 2005-06. The deleted posts are mainly training and administrative supporting posts. The ranks involved are listed below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts to be Deleted</u>
Disciplined Staff	
Superintendent	1
Chief Inspector	2
Senior Inspector/Inspector	2
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	6
Police Constable	6
Sub-total	17
Civilian Staff	11
Total	28

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB033

Question Serial No.

0582

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this programme, the financial provision for the coming year is 6.5% lower than the original provision in 2004-05. Given the reduction in the financial provision, how can the Marine Police effectively tackle the increasingly serious problem of illegal fishing activities carried out by the Mainland fishermen in Hong Kong waters?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

Under Programme (4) "Operations", the financial provision for 2005-06 is 6.9% lower than the original provision in 2004-05, mainly due to the civil service pay cut of 2.2% and deletion of 109 logistic posts, including 16 civilian posts, to achieve efficiency savings. Resources are saved as a result of the outsourcing of security work at the Police Headquarters and reduction in certain training posts. There has not been any reduction in the number of front-line police officers, so the capability of the Force in handling marine incidents is not lowered.

In respect of the illegal cross-border fishing issue, apart from daily enforcement actions, the Force will continue to maintain close liaison with the Mainland enforcement authorities through regular and ad hoc meetings to discuss the issue, with a view to strengthening enforcement and preventive measures.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB034

Question Serial No.

0750

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the total expenditure of the Service Quality Award Scheme? What is the estimated annual expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The total expenditure of the Service Quality Award Scheme in 2004-05 was \$49,940. The estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$50,000.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB035

Question Serial No.

0834

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2005-06, the Force will place greater emphasis on improving the driving behaviour of drivers, particularly professional drivers, and raising the road safety awareness of road users. Please give details of the plan.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The Force will place greater emphasis on improving the driving behaviour of drivers, including professional drivers, by way of "road safety" education and publicity to go in line with enforcement actions.

Activities on "road safety" publicity and education include:

- Distributing publicity leaflets and initiating on-street education at public transport holding areas, lorry parks and land boundary control points;
- Conducting seminars or symposiums targeting at professional drivers; and
- Continuing with the Road Safety Campaign with the theme of "Smart Driving" to foster a new driving culture, which centres on a "caring, considerate and committed" attitude.

With respect to enforcement actions, the Force will commence a territory-wide enforcement operation in June this year targeting at speeding, disobeying traffic lights, careless driving and dangerous driving, with a view to enhancing the drivers' alertness of road safety and encouraging public transport users to report to the Force on the undesirable driving manners of professional drivers.

The Force's plan to raise other road users' awareness of road safety will also be implemented mainly through education and publicity coupled with enforcement actions to achieve maximum effectiveness. The publicity and educational activities include:

- Producing a variety of publicity films and organising various kinds of activities on road safety education with the Road Safety Council;
- Extending the arrangements for the display of road safety messages on the bodies of public transport vehicles;
- Displaying slogans of road safety messages at major roads over the territory;

- Co-operating with District Councils and community organisations to give publicity and education on the correct road safety manners of pedestrians and cyclists;
- Launching a three-week territory-wide Road Safety Campaign in schools at the beginning of the new school term in September 2005, targeting at drivers, teachers and students.

In order to further reduce traffic accidents, the Force will continue to promote the publicity objective of “Zero Accidents on the Road, Hong Kong’s Goal” to consolidate the efforts of all road users for a commitment to road safety.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB036

Question Serial No.

0835

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of prosecutions against pedestrian offences increased substantially in 2004 as compared to 2003. In 2005, will the Force reduce the number of warnings and increase that of prosecutions?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

In 2004, the number of prosecutions for pedestrian offences was 17 080, an increase of 23.8% over 2003. The number of verbal warnings issued for pedestrian offences in the same year was 62 767, 10% less than 2003. This was mainly due to a number of pedestrian safety campaigns conducted by the Force, including the "Traffic Day" held in various districts, the "Operation Foxfire" in the Hong Kong Island, the "Operation Eagle Eye" in West Kowloon and the territory-wide "Pedestrian Road Safety Campaign". During the activities, the Force distributed publicity leaflets to pedestrians to enhance their awareness of road safety and prosecuted offenders at traffic accident black spots and pedestrians who repeatedly disobey the traffic regulations.

The Force is committed to enhancing the road safety culture and behaviour of road users through publicity and education together with enforcement operations. The Force will continue in this direction in 2005.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB037

Question Serial No.

0836

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2005-06, the Force will work in collaboration with the Transport Department to extend the digital Speed Enforcement Camera and Red Light Camera Systems to cover all strategic road networks. Please give a detailed list of the strategic roads.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

In respect of the plan of extending the digital Speed Enforcement Camera System to cover all strategic road networks, the Transport Department in 2004 commissioned a consultancy company to conduct a study. Upon the completion of the study in the middle of this year, the Force and the Transport Department will follow up on the recommendations in the study report and draft the implementation plan. As regards the extended use of the digital Red Light Camera System, the Transport Department and the Force are now in the process of formulating the plan.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB038

Question Serial No.

0886

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the equipment items procured by the Force for the purpose of strengthening internal security and crowd management in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 and those expected to be procured in 2005-06, and the actual expenditure incurred in the respective financial years.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Internal security and crowd management are daily work of the Force. The equipment used such as loud hailers, mills barriers and CCTV are also standard equipment of the Force. In the previous years, apart from the renewal and replacement of standard equipment, no specific provisions were allocated for the procurement of additional equipment for internal security and crowd management.

In 2005-06, the Force needs to enhance the equipment for internal security and crowd management for the coming World Trade Organisation Conference. Therefore, the Force estimates that an additional provision of \$1.6 m is required primarily for procuring equipment such as X-ray machines and metal detectors.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB039

Question Serial No.

0949

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Among the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, a focus group will be formed to establish a crisis management mechanism for the Force. What is the anticipated operation and effectiveness of such a mechanism? Are additional supporting facilities required for the mechanism to be established? If so, what are those supporting facilities? What is the estimated total expenditure incurred for the entire mechanism?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Force plans to conduct a study on and establish a crisis management mechanism in 2005. The mechanism is expected to achieve the following four main objectives:

- (1) To help the managers prevent the emergence of crises in the formulation of new policies;
- (2) To help the managers swiftly identify the existence of any crises and resolve them should any incidents occur;
- (3) To help the managers effectively cope with crises should they arise; and
- (4) To help the managers to take the appropriate follow-up actions upon the resolution of crises.

As the crisis management mechanism is still under study, it is not possible for the time being to make specific prediction or assessment of the details, including the supporting facilities and the financial arrangements. However, it is believed that the total expenditure involved in this study will not be too great.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB040

Question Serial No.

0950

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201- Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please state the number of cases handled by the Complaints Against Police Office in 2004-05, the manpower required and the actual expenditure incurred.
- (b) Please state the estimated establishment and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office for 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Complaints Against Police Office handled a total of 3 222 cases in 2004-05. The information on the establishment and expenditure is given below:

<u>Manpower required (rank)</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
Senior Superintendent	1	1
Superintendent	4	4
Chief Inspector	14	12
Senior Inspector	23	23
Station Sergeant	10	7
Sergeant	61	50
Police Constable	5	1
Executive Officer I	0	1
Official Languages Officer II	0	1
Police Translator I	4	2
Statistical Officer I	0	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	2	5
Clerical Assistant	14	15
Personal Secretary II	4	3
Senior Typist	2	0
Typist	8	3
Supplies Supervisor II	0	1
Workman II	1	2
Total	153	132

Actual/Estimated Expenditure

\$52.93 m

\$45.53 m

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB041

Question Serial No.

0951

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please give details of the findings of the major surveys conducted by the Force in 2004-05, including the Staff Opinion Survey and Customer Satisfaction Survey. Did the Force commence any studies or follow-up actions with respect to the findings of these major surveys? If yes, please give details in this aspect and the expenditure incurred. If no, why?
- (b) Why was the Force Survey Strategy revised to include the conduct of major surveys once every three years instead of every year? Will the change in the Survey Strategy affect the overall review carried out by the Force on its daily work?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) In 2004-05, the Force conducted only one major survey which was the Staff Opinion Survey, but no Customer Satisfaction Survey or other surveys.

The Survey was conducted by the Public Opinion Programme, the University of Hong Kong between 16 December 2004 and 1 April 2005. A total of 3 950 successful cases were received which represented a response rate of 72.5%

According to the Survey, 81% of the respondents considered the overall performance of the Force to be good. 92% agreed with the Force's vision and 78% were willing to put in extra effort to help the Force achieve its vision. 70% thought the Force has done a good job in demonstrating the Force's values. 72% were satisfied with their jobs and 77% were very proud to work for the Force. 68% considered that communication has improved within the Force over the last 3 years. General improvements in all attributes were noted comparing to the similar survey conducted last time (2001).

29% of the respondents perceived the morale in the Force to be satisfactory. This result is believed to be related to a number of external factors including civil service pay cut, Government's Efficiency Savings Exercise and increase in workload for staff. However, the result of the survey also indicates that the "level of job satisfaction", "sense of belonging" and other factors that contributed to good morale were rated highly by staff. This reflects police officers's devotion to duty.

The Force and the consultant are now examining the findings in detail to develop follow-up plans and measures. No estimated expenditure is confirmed yet.

- (b) Following a full review of the Survey Strategy in 2003, the Force decides to conduct major surveys once every three years instead of once every two years. A great amount of information will be generated after each survey and considerable time and efforts have to be spent on the collation and analysis of the information obtained, formulation of follow-up plans and publication of the findings to the whole Force. In addition, more time should be allowed for improvements to be made after the implementation of the measures. Therefore, it is necessary to extend the interval between major surveys to provide sufficient time for taking follow-up actions and implementing improvement measures. If it is necessary to gauge opinions from staff on specific issues or assess the effectiveness of improvement measures, mini-surveys will be conducted as and when required.

The new Survey Strategy is more flexible and cost-effective, which helps enhancing the effectiveness of the Force in its overall review of daily work.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB042

Question Serial No.

1133

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - 04

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2005-06, it is estimated that 412 permanent posts will be deleted. Please give a breakdown of the posts to be deleted by rank, responsibility and form of deletion.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The Force plans to net delete 412 permanent posts in 2005-06. The ranks involved are listed below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts to be Deleted</u>
Disciplined Staff	
Senior Superintendent	3
Superintendent	8
Chief Inspector	15
Senior Inspector/Inspector	39
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	112
Police Constable	<u>154</u>
Sub-total	331
Civilian Staff	<u>81</u>
Total	<u>412</u>

The posts to be deleted are mainly those of training and logistic support. They will be deleted primarily through re-engineering of work processes, structure, priorities etc., coupled with natural wastage and the voluntary retirement scheme for the civil servants.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB043

Question Serial No.

1868

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please list the establishment of the Technical Services Division by rank and the total provision for 2005-06.
- (b) Please give the details of the work of the Technical Services Division in 2004-05, including the technical services provided.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) A breakdown of the establishment of the Technical Services Division by rank and the total provision for 2005-06 are as follows :-

Rank	Establishment
Disciplined Staff	
Chief Superintendent	1
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	5
Chief Inspector	8
Inspector/Senior Inspector	21
Station Sergeant	16
Sergeant	23
Police Constable	<u>39</u>
Sub-total	<u>114</u>
Civilian Staff	
Confidential Assistant	8
Police Communications Officer	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Personal Secretary I	1
Personal Secretary II	2
Clerical Assistant	1
Technical Officer	1
Workman II	<u>1</u>

Sub-total 17

Total 131

The total estimated provision for the Technical Services Division for 2005-06 excluding Rewards and Special Services Fees is \$40.85 m.

- (b) The main role of the Technical Services Division is to assist other formations in investigating crimes and gathering evidence by providing them with technical services. Disclosure of details of the work provided by the Division is not in the interest of the public as it will reveal the Force's law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB044

Question Serial No.

1869

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the establishment and strength by rank, and the actual and estimated expenditures of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The permanent establishment of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) is as follows:-

	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
<u>Disciplined Staff</u>		
Chief Superintendent	1	1
Senior Superintendent	1	1
Superintendent	5	5
Chief Inspector	14	14
Inspector/Senior Inspector	34	34
Station Sergeant	22	22
Sergeant	85	85
Police Constable	<u>151</u>	<u>151</u>
Sub-total (Disciplined Staff):	<u>313</u>	<u>313</u>

	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
<u>Civilian Staff</u>		
Executive Officer I	1	1
Official Languages Officer II	1	1
Clerical Officer	1	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	3	3
Clerical Assistant	2	2
Personal Secretary II	6	6
Confidential Assistant	23	23
Typist	2	2
Supplies Assistant	2	2
Artisan	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Sub-total (Civilian staff):	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>
Total: (Disciplined + Civilian Staff)	<u>355</u>	<u>355</u>

The actual expenditure for CIB in 2004-05 was \$103 m.

The estimated expenditure for CIB in 2005-06 is \$101 m.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB045

Question Serial No.

1870

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of “strengthening the Force’s crime investigation capability by improving the existing criminal intelligence systems”, what is the estimated expenditure required for improving these systems? Please state in detail in what way will the improvement of the systems strengthen the Force’s crime investigation capability.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

A provision of about \$66 m was allocated in 2000 by the Force to renew the criminal intelligence computer system. The renewal works has been implemented in stages. The actual expenditure for the works in 2004-05 was around \$1 m and the estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is around \$3.6 m. The new system is expected to simplify, accelerate and strengthen the information collection, classification and input and retrieval work. It can also be operated bilingually and is equipped with encryption and multi-media processing functions, thus enhancing the overall criminal intelligence processing effectiveness and strengthening the Force’s crime investigation capability.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB046

Question Serial No.

1871

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2004-05, what measures did the Force take to prevent and combat narcotics offences, particularly those related to the use of psychotropic drugs? What was the expenditure involved? What measures will be taken in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

In 2004-05, the Force took the following measures to prevent and combat offences related to narcotics and psychotropic drugs:

- actively gathered intelligence to investigate the activities of drug traffickers;
- mounted targeted enforcement operations to arrest drug traffickers, neutralize drug trafficking syndicates and raid premises used for drug distribution and the abuse of psychotropic drugs;
- enhanced co-operation with the Mainland and overseas authorities to stop drugs from being trafficked into Hong Kong and to combat cross-border drug trafficking activities;
- curtailed proceeds from drug trafficking by prosecuting local and overseas money laundering, froze and confiscated the assets acquired by drug trafficking; and
- promoted anti-drugs activities, especially to promote the hazards of narcotics and abusing drugs to the youngsters through inter-departmental cooperation.

In 2005-06, the Force will continue the above measures to prevent and combat narcotics offences.

The above work falls under the Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime" and no specific breakdown is available.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB047

Question Serial No.

1872

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please provide the number of apparatus of the existing digital Speed Enforcement Camera and Red Light Camera Systems.
- (b) In respect of the systems concerned, please provide a breakdown of the number of officers who are responsible for routine operation and subsequent processing of the images to ascertain if any drivers commit an offence. Is the number of officers sufficient to handle the number of the apparatus of the existing camera systems? If not, is there any plan to deploy more manpower and what is the number of the additional officers to be deployed? What is the expenditure thus incurred?
- (c) In respect of the matter of "extending the digital Speed Enforcement Camera and Red Light Camera Systems to cover all strategic road networks", how many cameras and apparatus are planned to be added? What is the expenditure thus incurred? Will the number of the officers be adjusted accordingly? If so, what is the estimated number of the additional officers and what is the expenditure incurred? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) The number of apparatus of the existing digital Speed Enforcement Camera and Red Light Camera Systems is given as follows:

	Camera	Camera housing
Digital Speed Enforcement Camera System	8	75
Digital Red Light Camera System	12	60

- (b) The routine operations and the subsequent processing work (follow-up actions and investigation) are taken up by the officers from the various Regional Traffic Headquarters as part of their work. The Force will review the workload and manpower required from time to time.
- (c) In respect of the plan of extending the digital Speed Enforcement Camera System to cover all strategic road networks, the Transport Department in 2004 commissioned a consultancy company to conduct a study. Upon the completion of the study in the middle of this year, the Force and the Transport Department will follow up on the recommendations in the study report and draft the implementation plan. As regards the extended use of the digital Red Light Camera System, the Transport Department and the Force are now in the process of formulating the plan.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB048

Question Serial No.

1873

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of “enhancing public and stakeholders’ awareness to assist the police in combating terrorist activities”, please provide the details of the activities organised in 2004-05 and those planned to be organised in 2005-06, and the expenditures incurred.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Hong Kong Police Force conducted the following exercises for counter-terrorist activities in 2004-05 to enhance public and stakeholders’ awareness to assist the police in combating terrorist activities. The expenditure involved was about \$50,000. The details are as follows:

	Date	Type	Participating Departments/Organisations
1	14 May 2004	Counter Terrorism (CBRN Agent Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation
2	14 July 2004	Counter Terrorism (CBRN Agent Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department
3	12-13 August 2004	Counter Terrorism (Terrorist Attack on the Airport and Hostages Held) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Civil Aviation Department Airport Authority, Hong Kong Aviation Security Company Limited Government Flying Service Fire Services Department Hong Kong Business Aviation Centre Limited

4	10 September 2004	Counter Terrorism (Bomb Disposal) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation
5	4 November 2004	Counter Terrorism (CBRN Agent Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department
6	10 November 2004	Counter Terrorism (Marine Security and Terrorist Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Marine Department
7	15 November 2004	Counter Terrorist Exercise Jointly Held by Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau (Terrorist Attack) (Co-ordinated by the above three regions)	Public Security Department, Guangdong Province Hong Kong Police Force Macau Public Security Police
8	2 December 2004	Counter Terrorism (CBRN Agent Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department MTR Corporation Limited
9	23 February 2005	Counter Terrorism (Marine Security and Terrorist Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Hongkong International Terminals Limited Modern Terminals Limited CSX World Terminals Hong Kong Limited COSCO – HIT Terminals (Hong Kong) Limited Asia Container Terminals Limited
10	29 February 2005	Counter Terrorism (CBRN Agent Attack) (Co-ordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force)	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department

The following exercises for internal security and counter terrorist activities are expected to be organised by the Hong Kong Police Force in 2005-06 also for enhancing public and stakeholders' awareness to assist the police in combating terrorist activities. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$100,000. The details are as follows:

Type	No. of Times	Government Departments and Other Organisations Involved
Internal Security and Counter Terrorism - Include the handling of Large Scale Riots, Terrorist Attack and CBRN Agent Attack	About 30 exercises in large, medium and small scales will be conducted between April and December 2005	A number of government departments and relevant public and non-government organisations/bodies
Terrorist Attack on Ocean Liners/Port Facilities and Hostages Held	1	Hong Kong Police Force Marine Department Fire Services Department Government Flying Service Customs and Excise Department Immigration Department Relevant Port Facilities and Shipping Companies
Marine Security and Terrorist Attack (include CBRN Agent Attack)	5	Hong Kong Police Force Marine Department Fire Services Department Government Flying Service Hospital Authority Hong Kong Observatory Relevant Port Facilities
CBRN Agent Attack	6	Hong Kong Police Force Fire Services Department MTR Corporation Limited Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation
Airport Security and Terrorist Attack	1	Hong Kong Police Force Civil Aviation Department Airport Authority, Hong Kong Aviation Security Company Limited

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB049

Question Serial No.

1874

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2004-05, what was the number of cases and people involved in the payment of rewards and special services? What was the number of payments for rewards and special services? What was the actual expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The number of payments for rewards was 1 222 in 2004-05. Expenses paid under Rewards and Special Services involve police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against terrorist activities, serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. Disclosing any other relevant information may reveal detailed operational arrangements of the Force and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice, thus jeopardizing public interests. Therefore, other information required cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB050

Question Serial No.

1875

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please give details of the cases and amount of the police rewards offered in 2004-05, the actual expenditure incurred and number of payments, and the number of people receiving reward offers.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

In 2004-05 (as at 29 March 2004), the number of cases of rewards offered was 40 and the amount involved was \$12.74 m. Expenses paid under Rewards and Special Services involve police operations of confidential nature. Disclosing any other relevant information will jeopardize public interests. Therefore, other information required cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB051

Question Serial No.

1876

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What was the expenditure for the purchase and maintenance of equipment under this subhead in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenses paid under Rewards and Special Services involve police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against terrorist activities, serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. Disclosing the information required may reveal detailed operational arrangements of the Force and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice, thus jeopardizing public interests. Therefore, the relevant information cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB052

Question Serial No.

1877

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2005-06, the estimated expenditure under this subhead is \$80 m. How much of it is expected to be allocated for police rewards and how much for the purchase and maintenance of equipment?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenses paid under Rewards and Special Services involve police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against terrorist activities, serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. Disclosing the information required may reveal detailed operational arrangements of the Force and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice, thus jeopardizing public interests. Therefore, the relevant information cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB053

Question Serial No.

1878

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2005-06, the estimated expenditure under this subhead is \$80 m. How much of it is expected to be allocated for combating serious crimes and drug offences and for security purpose? Please list by type.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenses paid under Rewards and Special Services involve police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against terrorist activities, serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. Disclosing the information required may reveal detailed operational arrangements of the Force and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice, thus jeopardizing public interests. Therefore, the relevant information cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB054

Question Serial No.

1879

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please state the expenditures relating to the payment for the information useful to investigation provided overseas for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, and the overseas areas involved.
- (b) Please state the expenditures relating to the payment for the information useful to investigation provided locally for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.
- (c) In the proposed provision for 2005-06, what percentage of provision is estimated to be paid for the information useful to investigation provided overseas?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The expenditure and the allocation of funds under this subhead involve confidential police operations. Disclosing such information will jeopardize the work and is not in the interest of the public. Therefore, the information required cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB055

Question Serial No.

1880

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Under this Subhead, were there any funds allocated to meet the expenditure for the Technical Services Division in 2004-05? If so, what are the number of cases and the amount involved?
- (b) What is the estimated funding for the Technical Services Division in 2005-06? Are there any constraints on the amount of expenditure it can approve? If so, what is the ceiling? How is it compared to that for 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The expenditure for the Technical Services Division on the police work has been included in the vote under Subhead 103. No specific funding is reserved under this subhead for the Division and funds will be allocated to cover the expenditure as actual needs arise. Disclosing information on the expenditure is not in the interest of the public as it may reveal the detailed operational arrangements of the Force and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB056

Question Serial No.

1881

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please state the ranks of officers conducting surprise inspections under this subhead in 2004-05 and the number of such inspections. How many irregular cases have been detected during such inspections?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Surprise inspections of the Rewards and Special Services Fund sub-impressts carried out by Inspecting Officers in 2004-05 are summarized as follows :-

<u>Inspecting Officer</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u> <u>2004-05</u>
Commissioner of Police	8
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations)	10
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Management)	3
Director of Crime & Security	22
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime)	21
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Security)	3
Regional Commander (Hong Kong Island)	15
Regional Commander (Kowloon East)	15
Regional Commander (Kowloon West)	18
Regional Commander (New Territories North)	15
Regional Commander (New Territories South)	18
Regional Commander (Marine)	6
Senior Executive Officer (Internal Audit)	30

No irregular cases have been detected during the inspections.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB057

Question Serial No.

1882

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) What are the numbers of officers of the operations formations responsible for intercepting communications in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (b) What are the actual expenditures for intercepting communications by operations formations in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (c) What are the numbers of messages intercepted by operations formations in intercepting communications in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05? Amongst them, how many are intercepted under Section 33 of the Telecommunication Ordinance and Section 13 of the Post Office Ordinance respectively?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

For operational and security reasons, the information required cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB058

Question Serial No.

1883

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Under this subhead, the actual expenditure was \$61,438,000 in 2001-02, \$62,839,000 in 2002-03, and \$58,801,000 in 2003-04. The actual expenditure for each year remained at about \$60 m. However, the revised estimate for this subhead in 2004-05 unexpectedly increased to \$77 m. Why?
- (b) The proposed provision of \$80 m for this subhead in 2005-06 is much higher than its revised estimate in 2004-05. Why?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenditure under this subhead involves police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against terrorist activities, serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. The estimated expenditures of these years were calculated on the basis of the possible actions taken in respective years.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB059

Question Serial No.

1884

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Does the Police Force have any plans to reorganize the Special Branch in the Force? If yes, please advise on the expenditure involved and the estimated staff establishment.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Police Force has no such plan to reorganize the Special Branch in the Force.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB060

Question Serial No.

1885

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please give a breakdown of the establishment of officers in the Security Wing by rank, and state the total provision from 2001 to 2004.
- (b) Has the Government any plans to increase manpower and other resources of the Security Wing in 2005-06? If yes, what are the estimated figures for the establishment and the total provision?
- (c) Please provide a breakdown of additional equipment procured by the Security Wing from 2001 to 2004 and the anticipated figure for 2005-06 by type, quantity and expenditure. Which categories of crime are targeted to combat with the additional equipment? Has the Security Wing received any non-recurrent provision for the procurement of the equipment? What was the amount involved?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) The establishment of the Security Wing from 2001 to 2004 were 411, 411, 409 and 416 respectively. Please refer to the Annex for a breakdown by rank and the total provision.
- (b) Presently, the Government has no specific plan to increase the manpower and resources of the Security Wing in 2005-06.
- (c) For security reason, the equipment of the Security Wing and the relevant expenditure involved cannot be disclosed.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2005

A. Establishment

<u>Rank</u>				
<u>Disciplined Staff</u>	<u>2001/02</u>	<u>2002/03</u>	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2004/05</u> <u>(To date)</u>
Assistant Commissioner	1	1	1	1
Chief Superintendent	1	1	1	1
Senior Superintendent	3	3	3	3
Superintendent	9	9	9	9
Chief Inspector	22	22	22	22
Inspector/Senior Inspector	54	54	54	54
Station Sergeant	22	22	22	24
Sergeant	80	80	80	82
Police Constable	<u>131</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>137</u>
Sub-total	<u>323</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>333</u>
<u>Civilian Staff</u>				
Senior Clerical Officer	1	1	1	1
Clerical Officer	2	2	2	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	9	9	8	8
Clerical Assistant	9	9	9	9
Office Assistant	2	2	1	1
Senior Confidential Assistant	3	3	3	3
Confidential Assistant	42	42	42	40
Executive Officer I	1	1	1	1
Senior Official Languages Officer	1	1	1	1
Official Languages Officer I	2	2	2	2
Personal Secretary I	1	1	1	1
Personal Secretary II	1	1	1	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1	1	1	1
Supplies Assistant	1	1	1	1
Workman II	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
Sub-total	<u>88</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>83</u>
TOTAL	<u>411</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>416</u>

B. Total Provision

<u>2001/02</u>	<u>2002/03</u>	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2004/05</u>
\$ m	\$ m	\$ m	\$ m
<u>127.7</u>	<u>127.1</u>	<u>125.7</u>	<u>123.5</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

SB061

Question Serial No.

1886

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of enforcement actions against illegal workers jointly taken by the Force and other departments, the total number of illegal workers arrested, the areas of the arrests and the types of illegal work from 2004 up to the end of March 2005.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The majority of the operations against illegal workers were jointly conducted by the Immigration Department and the Force. The Force and the Immigration Department conducted 85 and 13 joint operations against illegal workers in 2004 and between January and February 2005 (the figures for March are still being processed) respectively.

The total numbers of illegal workers arrested in 2004 and between January and February 2005 were 5 635 and 871 respectively.

These were intelligence-based operations targeting at some of the businesses employing illegal workers, including food catering, interior decoration, retailing, waste recycling and foot massage. As the working places of these businesses spread over the territory, there are no specific areas where arrests were made.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB062

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR
 Residents outside Hong Kong

0491

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong jumped from 1470 in 2003 to 5648 in 2004. Why? Please give a breakdown by nature of the requests and where they were from. Were all those cases resolved successfully? The department pledged it would continue to provide such services in 2005-06. Will there be extra resources reserved for such services especially after criticisms last year during the tsunami tragedy in Indian ocean?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

The number of requests for assistance increased from 1470 in 2003 to 5648 in 2004. A breakdown of these requests by nature is tabulated below:

	Tsunami disaster	Loss of travel document	Traffic accident	Hospitalization, sickness and death	Others (e.g. missing persons, detention, etc.)	Total
2003	-	869	31	69	501	1470
2004	1942	2729	132	77	768	5648

A breakdown by location where Hong Kong residents needed our assistance is tabulated below:

Locations	2003	2004
Mainland China	903	3065
Thailand	40	1550
Indonesia	8	275
Malaysia	23	92
Australia	35	59
USA	45	54
Sri Lanka	2	53
UK	52	44

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

Reply Serial No.

SB064

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

0560

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The estimated number of iPermit applications in 2005 will be 31,844 more than 2004. But the growth rate is much lower when compared with the actual number of iPermit applications from 2003 to 2004. What accounts for this drop? What are the resources allocated to promote the iPermit in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

We believe a major reason for the high rate of growth in the number of iPermit applications in 2004 is that demand in 2003 had been suppressed due to the SARS outbreak. Such a rate of growth is thus not expected to be repeated in 2005. Applications for iPermit are mainly handled by designated airlines. Our role lies principally in liaison and promotion. Resources required for these purposes will be absorbed by the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB065

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

0561

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The estimated number of HKSAR Travel Pass Scheme applications received in 2005 is 1,000, which is only 40 more than 2004. What accounts for this estimated figure when compared with some other schemes related to Pre-entry Control?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The HKSAR Travel Pass is issued to bona fide frequent visitors. It is valid for 3 years at a fee of \$500. The holder enjoys speedy immigration clearance at our control points. Similar services are also available to "frequent flyers" who have obtained the Frequent Visitors Card (FVC) issued by the Airport Authority and used at the Hong Kong International Airport, and to business travellers who have obtained the APEC Business Travel Card.

The number of applications for Travel Pass was in the region of 1 000 per year save in 2003 when there was an uncharacteristic drop due to the SARS outbreak. Given the availability of similar services and the pattern of demand in the past, we believe that the number of applications for Travel Pass will only show a small increase in 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 7 April 2005 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB066

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0615

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of passengers/vehicles/vessels examined increased 28.5% in 2004 when compared with 2003 but the estimate in 2005 will only increase 3.6 %. What accounts for the decreased growth?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The unusual growth in air passengers examined in 2004 can mainly be ascribed to the drop in such passengers in 2003 due to the outbreak of SARS. The 3.6% rise estimated for 2005 is based on the annual growth rates of the period from 1998 to 2004, excluding 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB067

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

0616

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The actual number of visit visa applications received in 2004 was 3,171 more than 2003 and the estimated number of visit visa received in 2005 will be 28,945 higher than 2004. What accounts for this estimated increase?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

In view of increases in abuses by visitors from a number of countries, the Chinese diplomatic and consular missions in these countries have been asked to refer visa applications to us for processing. This is expected to lead to a significant increase in workload in 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB068

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0617

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The actual number of passengers/seamen refused entry in 2004 was 629 more than 2003 while the estimate in 2005 will be 3,716 more than 2004. What accounts for the estimated increase?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply

To prevent people from neighbouring economies to seek entry into Hong Kong to seek unapproved employment or engage in other illegal activities, we have stepped up vigilance in immigration examination and adopted more pro-active measures at the control points. Coupled with the continued growth in the number of visitors to Hong Kong, we estimate that the number of passengers/seamen refused entry will continue to increase in 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 7 April 2005 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB069

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

0618

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

With regard to lobbying more foreign countries to grant visa free access to holders of HKSAR passport, will the Bureau inform this Council the details of the targeted countries and the respective schedules of lobbying work in 2005? What is the financial provision for this area of work?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Enhancing visa-free access for HKSAR passport holders remains an on-going priority of the HKSARG. Currently, a total of 133 countries and territories have granted or agreed to grant visa-free access and visa on arrival to HKSAR passport holders. While we will continue to lobby for visa-free access to more countries, it is unrealistic to draw up any rigid schedule as visa-free access hinges on a variety of factors including immigration and security considerations, trade relations, reciprocity and circumstances of individual country or territory.

The Director of Immigration personally steers the visa-free lobbying work of the Immigration Department. Other senior officials of the Government also contribute towards the lobbying work when suitable opportunity arises. As far as this Department is concerned, the costs to be incurred on the above initiative will be absorbed within our resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB070

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control
 (3) Control after Entry

0933

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide the number of Mainland visitors who entered Hong Kong on Business Visit Endorsements in 2004. What is the estimated number for 2005-06?
- (b) How many Mainland visitors with Business Visit Endorsements were found to have taken unlawful employment in Hong Kong in 2004 as compared with the numbers in previous years? What is the estimated number for 2005-06?
- (c) What measures will the Administration take to prevent Mainland visitors with Business Visit Endorsements from taking up unlawful employment in Hong Kong? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) In 2004, the number of Mainland visitors who entered Hong Kong on business visit endorsements was 2 661 392. For 2005-06, the estimated number of such Mainland business visitors is about 2 262 000.
- (b) In 2003 and 2004, 2 823 and 1 125 Business Visit Endorsement holders were respectively arrested for taking up unapproved employment. It is noteworthy that considerably fewer illegal workers were arrested in 2004 against the background of greater demand for labour in a reviving economy. Apart from the deterrent effect generated by increased enforcement actions in Hong Kong, Mainland authorities have also tightened up the issue of endorsements for business visits since March 2004, when a new endorsement for business visits was introduced to allow the holder a single trip to Hong Kong for a stay of up to 7 days (as opposed to double or multiple trips for a stay of up to 14 days each trip before that). It is believed that the new measure has contributed positively to the improved situation.

It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of such arrests in 2005-06 because a variety of factors are at play. These include the economic situation, the prevailing labour market, the deterrent effects of penalties meted out by the court, public education, the intensity and the effectiveness of law enforcement and the co-operation of other relevant authorities.

- (c) Protecting employment opportunities for the local workforce is a top priority for the Immigration Department as well as the Government as a whole. In this connection, an Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures and enforcement action against illegal activities, including illegal employment. Its membership includes representatives from the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations by various departments concerned in order to combat illegal employment in a more focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (i) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
- (ii) To verify the identity of doubtful visitors and immigration offenders who try to circumvent immigration control by using different identities through the Pilot Face Recognition System (FACES) launched in December 2004;
- (iii) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
- (iv) To conduct undercover patrol duties at black spots of illegal workers and to take speedy actions on reports on illegal workers;
- (v) To hold capacity building seminars for, and distribute guidelines to, owners' corporations and property management companies to enhance their vigilance on illegal employment in household renovation;
- (vi) To educate safety officers and sub-contractors of construction companies on the security features of identity cards through regular briefings to prevent illegal workers from seeking employment on construction sites with forged identity cards;
- (vii) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to raise public awareness of the serious consequences of illegal employment; and
- (viii) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected of, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal employment activities would be carefully scrutinised.

As far as this Department is concerned, the costs to be incurred on the above initiatives will be absorbed within our resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB071

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(1) Pre-entry Control

0934

Policy Secretary :

Secretary for Security

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Question :

Please give a breakdown of the number of persons lodging petitions, appeals and judicial reviews in 2004 by visa applications and by matters relating to Certificate of Entitlement, and the number of cases being accepted and rejected in each category.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

In 2004, there were 43 petitions and 15 judicial reviews relating to visa applications, and 171 appeals relating to Certificate of Entitlement applications. A breakdown by their outcome is provided below:

	Visa Applications		Certificate of Entitlement Applications	
	Petition	Judicial Review	Appeal	Judicial Review
Rejected/dismissed	12	4	61	0
Refusal reversed by D of Imm following review	3	3	0	0
Allowed	0	0	10	0
Withdrawn	2	1	19	0
Awaiting decision	26	7	81	0
Total	43	15	171	0

Signature _____

Name in block letters TKLAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB072

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0935

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please give a breakdown by reason and by place of origin of the passengers and seamen who were refused entry in 2004.
- (b) How many appeals arose from these cases of refused entry and what were the results?
- (c) Of those who were refused entry, how many were so refused entry because of "genuineness of visit in doubt"? What were the purposes of such visits furnished to the Government by these people?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) Of the 28 284 persons refused permission to land in 2004, 26 317 were passengers and 1 967 were seamen. These refused landing cases, broken down according to places of origin and reasons for refusal, are set out as follows –

Places of Origin Reasons for Refusal	Africa	Asia & Pacific*	Europe	Mainland China	North America	South America	Total
Genuineness of visit in doubt	385	2 818	24	13 173	13	31	16 444
Improperly Documented	119	5 941	113	4 224	24	25	10 446
Use of Forged Travel Documents	133	306	42	867	26	20	1 394
Total	637	9 065	179	18 264	63	76	28 284

(* "Asia & Pacific" refers to countries in Asia and the Pacific region but excludes Mainland China.)

- (b) In 2004, no objection was lodged under section 53 of the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115, against the Director of Immigration's decision to refuse entry.

- (c) In 2004, 16 444 persons were refused entry on the grounds of “genuineness of visit in doubt”. Usually these passengers claimed that they came to Hong Kong for sightseeing, business visits or visiting friends/relatives when examined by immigration control officers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB073

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0936

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of passenger clearance counters at all boundary control points as at end March 2005 and the daily average number of passengers cleared at each counter in 2004.
- (b) Please list out the respective establishment and strength of all boundary control points as at end March 2005.
- (c) Has the Administration planned to revise the establishment and estimated expenditure of all control points in response to the implementation of automated clearance systems? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The current number of passenger clearance counters and daily average number of passengers cleared in 2004 at the five land boundary control points are as follows:

Control Point	Lo Wu	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok	Hung Hom
No. of passenger clearance counters	232*	50	28	16	40^
Daily average no. of passengers	245 007	104 145	8 098	5 664	8 257
Daily average no. of passengers per counter#	1 056	2 083	289	354	206

* including 18 e-Channels (9 for departure and 9 for arrival).

^ excluding 8 counters (4 for arrival and 4 for departure) under construction works for conversion to 10 e-Channels

The figures in this row must be seen against the background that the counter-manning level, passenger mix, traffic patterns and operating hours vary from one control point to another.

- (b) The establishment and strength of the above boundary control points as at 1 March 2005 are as follows :-

Control Point	Lo Wu	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok	Hung Hom
Establishment	838	396	98	51	72
Strength	840	399	95	50	72

- (c) The e-Channels (Automatic Passenger Clearance (APC) System) were first introduced on 16 December 2004 at Lo Wu Control Point. At present, there are a total of 18 e-Channels at Lo Wu on trial run, viz. 9 for departure and 9 for arrival. The plan is to install about 270 e-Channels at the control points in phases by mid-2006. We also plan to roll out the Automatic Vehicle Clearance (AVC) System in the first half of 2005. With the implementation of these systems, ImmD will be able to release 217 immigration service officers for redeployment progressively from 2004-05 onward. The establishment and strength of the control points will be subject to constant review taking into account these staff savings and other factors such as changes in workload, passenger mix (visitors vs residents), traffic pattern, operating hours and operational needs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB074

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0937

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) What was the average waiting time for passengers to be cleared at each immigration control point last year? How many passengers travelling by sea and by land were cleared within a 30-minute waiting time and how many passengers travelling by air were cleared within a 15-minute waiting time?
- (b) Does the Administration have any plans to adjust the current clearance service targets based on the actual performance over the past few years? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) In 2004, the waiting time of passengers (in percentage terms) at various control points are as follows:

Control Point	Percentage of passengers cleared			
	within 15 minutes	within 16 – 30 minutes	within 30 minutes	31 – 60 minutes
Airport	99.89	0.11	-	-
Lo Wu	-	-	99.63	0.37
Hung Hom	-	-	99.72	0.28
Man Kam To	-	-	100.00	0.00
Lok Ma Chau	-	-	98.95	1.05
Sha Tau Kok	-	-	100.00	0.00
Macau Ferry Terminal	-	-	98.98	1.02
China Ferry Terminal	-	-	99.93	0.07

- (b) In view of the challenges presented by ever increasing cross boundary passenger traffic, and the mounting demand on this Department's services on other critical fronts (e.g. combating illegal employment), we have at this stage no plan to adjust the relevant performance pledges. However, we will continue to improve the efficiency of immigration clearance through various means, e.g. flexible redeployment of staff, streamlining of procedures, improvement works and use of technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 7 April 2005 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB075

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1086

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, has the Administration taken any measures to facilitate the employers to submit their applications for the smooth implementation of the Scheme? In addition, what improvements can be made? Since the implementation of the Scheme in July 2003, which sectors have the applications mainly come from amongst the 7 000 applications processed? Does the Government have any quota or priority system for sectors making the applications?

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

Reply :

Since the introduction of the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTTP) in July 2003, we have been promoting it to the local as well as Mainland business community through briefings and pamphlets. Briefing sessions have been held for businesses in Mainland cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Chongqing, Chengdu, Tianjin and Guangzhou), as well as business delegations visiting Hong Kong under the arrangements of InvestHK and Trade Development Council. Details of the Scheme are readily available at the Department's website. Applications can be sent by post or in person to the Immigration Department by the employer.

We will continue to take measures to streamline the application procedures. For example, a company file system has been set up to maintain information concerning reputable companies with good track records. The system allows the same company to submit further applications without providing information previously submitted.

There is no quota or priority system for different sectors under the ASMTTP. From its introduction in July 2003 to 28 February 2005, we received 6 897 applications from the following sectors: academic research and education (4 001), commerce and trade (640), arts/culture (452), financial services (311), engineering and construction (254), information technology (226), recreation and sports (209), catering (181), manufacturing industries (130), traditional Chinese medicine (121), legal services (94), telecommunications (70), medical and health services (62), biotechnology (44) and others (102).

Signature _____

Name in block letters TKLAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB076

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1167

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference which will be held in Hong Kong at the end of this year, will the Government inform this Council :

- a. whether the Immigration Department has allocated additional resources for the processing of related entry applications to ensure that the Conference will be conducted smoothly? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- b. whether any entry applications have been received from related overseas protest groups and individuals so far? If yes, how many applications are there in total? Has the Director of Immigration decided to reject any of these applications? If yes, how many applications have been rejected in total?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) The 6th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference (MC6) will be held in Hong Kong in December 2005. As the nationals of over 170 countries/territories may visit Hong Kong without a visa, we believe that most MC6 attendees would be covered under existing visa waiver arrangements. We will deal with entry applications relating to MC6 within existing resources. Such applications will be processed with priority.
- (b) So far, we have not received any entry application relating to MC6.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI _____

Post Title Director of Immigration _____

Date 7 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB077

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1168

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the average processing time required for the issue of documents, over 90% of them achieved the target over the past years. In this respect, will the Department plan to shorten the average processing time required for the issue of various documents? If yes, what are the details? Will additional resources be allocated for this purpose?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

We constantly review our performance pledges in respect of the services provided to the public. We have recently completed a review. The outcome shows that the existing performance pledges are reasonable and achievable within the existing resources. We will continue to provide quality services through flexible deployment of staff, streamlining procedures and use of technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB078

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1496

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The actual number of APEC Business Travel Card-local applications received in 2004 was 906 which is 166.4% more than 2003. What accounts for this dramatic increase? What are the resources earmarked to promote the travel card in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Holders of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) enjoy visa-free access to APEC economies participating in the ABTC Scheme as well as expeditious immigration service at their checkpoints. In 2003, five more APEC economies joined the ABTC Scheme, namely Japan, Thailand, Brunei, Peru and China. This improved the attractiveness of the Scheme to business travellers and led to an upsurge in the number of applications for ABTC. We will continue to promote the Scheme. The costs of our efforts will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB079

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

1497

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Matter Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the Department will continue its efforts to facilitate the flow of passengers between Hong Kong and the Mainland and strive to reduce the waiting time for cross-boundary passengers. What are the plans to improve efficiency in order to further shortening the waiting time and the additional resources, if any, allocated ?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

To cope with the growing cross-boundary passenger traffic, we will continue to strive hard to improve our efficiency through various means such as flexible deployment of staff, streamlining of procedures and use of technology. Specifically, we have started to roll out e-Channels as from December 2004. To-date, 18 e-Channels are in operation at the Lo Wu Control Point to support self-service immigration clearance by Hong Kong permanent residents aged 11 or above holding smart identity cards. By mid 2006, about 270 such channels will be installed at control points, yielding an estimated saving of 217 posts of immigration service officers. Apart from meeting other operational needs such as manning the new control points, the above staff savings will enable us to man more conventional counters, and to maintain service quality despite increasing passenger traffic.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI _____

Post Title Director of Immigration _____

Date 7 April 2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB080

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(1) Pre-entry Control

1506

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

The Immigration Department expects a substantial increase in the number of visit visa applications and referral applications for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Cards in 2005 as compared with the past years. Regarding this,

- a. has the Immigration Department looked into the reasons for this substantial increase?
- b. what are the measures in place to ensure adequate resources to cope with the increased number of applications?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- a. In view of increases in abuses by visitors from a number of countries, the Chinese diplomatic and consular missions in these countries have been asked to refer visa applications to us for processing. This is expected to lead to a significant increase in workload in 2005.
- b. Holders of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) enjoy visa-free access to APEC economies participating in the ABTC Scheme, as well as expeditious immigration service at their checkpoints. In 2003, five more APEC economies joined the ABTC Scheme, namely Japan, Thailand, Brunei, Peru and China. This improved the attractiveness of the Scheme to business travellers and is expected to lead to an upsurge in the number of referral applications for ABTC.
- c. We will cope with the increase in workload through streamlining of procedures and flexible deployment of staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB081

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1507

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In view of the policy adopted by the Mainland authorities to lower the scores under the Point System for reunion of married couples from the Guangdong Province, will the Government advise:

- a. whether applications for one-way permits for reunion of married couples will affect applications for Certificates of Entitlement which are now handled in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details?
- b. whether the Department needs to allocate manpower and additional resources correspondingly for 2005-06 to tie in with the implementation of the relevant policy? What are the details? If it is not necessary, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) Certificates of Entitlement (COE) are issued by the Immigration Department (ImmD) to eligible persons who have been verified to have the right of abode in Hong Kong. Within the daily quota of 150 entrants under the One-way Permit (OWP) Scheme, a specified sub-quota of 60 places has been allocated to COE holders. The lowering of eligible scores for separated spouses under the OWP Scheme does not affect this sub-quota or the handling of COE applications in Hong Kong.
- (b) The OWP Scheme is administered by Mainland authorities and the lowering of eligible scores for separated spouses has no impact on the resources of ImmD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB082

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

1508

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The estimated provision for 2005-06 under this Programme shows an increase of 2.8%. The Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision indicates that the increase of provision is mainly attributed to the creation of ten posts for implementing Phase III of Updated Information Systems Strategy. Regarding this, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the specific expenditure and job nature of these ten newly created posts?
- (b) why is there a bigger increase of estimated provision arising under this Programme despite that the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision indicates only a slight or negative growth of the estimate in the overall financial provision under other Programmes albeit similar creation of new posts?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) Phase III of Updated Information Systems Strategy (ISS-2) comprises the Application and Investigation Easy System and Electronic Records Programme. The ten project posts involved which contribute towards Programme (3) "Control after Entry" are mainly responsible for planning and participating in the system analysis and development activities, formulation of user acceptance test strategies and schedule, site preparation, arrangement for user training and procurement and installation of equipment. The annual salary cost of the ten posts for 2005-06 amounts to \$2.96 million.
- (b) Apart from the creation of the ten posts mentioned above, staffing resources have recently been re-deployed within the Department to Programme (3) "Control after Entry" for the purpose of stepping up immigration control, viz. combating forgery and illegal migration syndicates, handling claims under the Convention Against Torture, etc. A full-year provision for such redeployment of staff is reflected in 2005-06. This explains why there is a bigger increase in the estimated provision under this programme area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB083

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

1509

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of offenders actually prosecuted in 2004 drops by 7% as compared with 2003. What are the reasons? Please also list the reasons by category for offenders prosecuted in 2004.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The total number of prosecutions in 2004 was 20 864, whereas that in 2003 was 22 526. We believe the decrease of 7.4% could mainly be ascribed to a drop in prosecutions relating to overstaying, which went down by 21.3% from 15 283 in 2003 to 12 023 in 2004.

Indeed, the decrease would have been greater but for the fact that prosecutions relating to illegal employment and forged travel documents went up in 2004. A breakdown of offences by category in 2003 and 2004 is set out below :

Category of Offence	No. of Prosecutions	
	2003	2004
Breach of condition of stay (overstaying)	15 283	12 023
Breach of condition of stay (taking up unapproved employment)	2 889	3 881
Illegal remaining	45	54
Being the employer of a person not lawfully employable	282	383
Using or in possession of forged or unlawfully obtained travel document	1 173	1 248
Other offences (e.g. false representation, infringement, etc.)	2 854	3 275
Annual Total:	22 526	20 864

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB084

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

1510

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

How does the anticipated growth of passenger traffic at the Hong Kong International Airport in 2005 compare to that in 2004? Will there be an increase in manpower to cope with the growth of passenger traffic?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

It is estimated that the passenger traffic at the Airport will be more than 25.1 million in 2005, up by 3.6% from 24.22 million in 2004.

Our performance pledge is to clear 92% of passengers at the Airport within 15 minutes. In 2004, our achievement was well above the pledged standard with over 99% of passengers cleared within the pledged waiting time. To cope with growing passenger traffic, we will continue to improve our efficiency through flexible redeployment of staff, streamlining of procedures and use of technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB085

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

1511

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of passengers / vehicles / vessels examined for entry into or exit from Hong Kong via land is forecast to increase in 2005 as compared to 2004. In this connection, will the Government inform us on:

- a. what is the estimated growth in the number of passengers / vehicles / vessels examined respectively?
- b. has the estimated growth taken into consideration the implementation of Co-location of Boundary Crossing Facilities? If so, what is the increase in number arising from the implementation of the Co-location policy?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) The estimated growth in passengers, vehicles and vessels examined in 2005 is as follows :

	Passengers	Vehicles	Vessels	Total
Estimated figures in 2005 (percentage growth over 2004)	211 081 000 (+13.5%)	15 198 000 (+8.1%)	244 000 (+3.8%)	226 523 000 (+13.1%)

- (b) Our plan is to implement co-location arrangement for both passenger and cargo clearance at the new control point at Shekou, Shenzhen for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor. Since the new control point is scheduled for completion in the latter half of 2006, the traffic projection for 2005 has not taken it into consideration.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB086

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

1512

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Amongst those visitors who were refused entry in 2004, how many cases involved individual visitors from the Mainland? What were the reasons for refusing entry? Amongst them, were there any cases involving pregnant women suspected of coming to Hong Kong to give birth? Regarding the estimated number of passengers refused entry in 2005, has the Immigration Department estimated the number of cases involving individual visitors from the Mainland and pregnant women suspected of coming to Hong Kong to give birth respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In 2004, 2 971 persons travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme were refused permission to land in Hong Kong. The reasons for their refusal are as follows:

Reasons for refusal	Genuineness of visit in doubt	Improperly documented	Use of forged travel document	Total
No. of persons refused entry	2 076	870	25	2 971

We do not maintain statistics on pregnant visitors refused permission to land in Hong Kong. The fact that a visitor seeking entry into Hong Kong is pregnant does not per se constitute a valid ground for refusal of permission to land. A pregnant visitor may still be allowed to enter Hong Kong if she is a bona fide visitor with a valid travel document.

The estimated number of passengers/seamen refused entry for 2005 (i.e. 32 000) is an overall projection based on past trend without further breakdown.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB087

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control Upon Entry

1513

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

After the implementation of the Automated Passenger Clearance System (e-channels), has the passenger throughput at Lo Wu control point been enhanced? If yes, what are the details? Regarding the target of 30-minute waiting time in the case of passengers travelling by land, will the Immigration Department aim at a higher target with the implementation of the e-channels by reducing the waiting time? If yes, how much time can be improved on average and what is the amount of manpower and resources saved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The e-Channels (Automated Passenger Clearance (APC) System) were first introduced on 16 December 2004 in the departure hall at Lo Wu Control Point. With effect from 21 March 2005, passengers may also use e-Channels for immigration clearance in the arrival hall. At present, there are a total of 18 e-Channels, viz. 9 for departure and 9 for arrival.

Hong Kong permanent residents aged 11 or above holding smart identity cards can use the e-Channels to perform self-service clearance. Up to 31 March 2005, more than 881,000 passengers had made use of the e-Channels.

The e-Channels are being implemented in stages, and it is expected that about 270 e-Channels will be installed at the control points by mid-2006, yielding an estimated saving of 217 posts of immigration service officers. Apart from meeting other operational needs such as manning the new control points, the above staff saving will enable us to man more conventional counters, and to maintain our service quality despite increasing passenger traffic.

The average processing time for each passenger by an e-Channel is about 12 seconds. Furthermore, two conventional counters can be converted into three e-Channels. But it is difficult to project from these characteristics the actual average time required since other factors such as rate of increase in passengers, the passenger mix and the extent of bunching will also come into play.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB088

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control Upon Entry

1514

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

How many posts in total are created for the clearance service for cross-boundary passengers at the China Ferry Terminal during the extended operating hours and the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal? What is the provision involved? What is the extra number of passengers expected to be cleared?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

To cater for the extended operating hours (from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.) at the China Ferry Terminal on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays under a pilot scheme, seven additional posts have been created. This, together with adjustments in the shift pattern, enables us to handle about 4 000 passengers daily during the extended hours. Total salary costs and departmental expenses for the extension in 2005-06 amount to some \$2.369 million.

For the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal, 30 posts are planned to be created to process up to 12 000 passengers per day. The provision for 2005-06 is estimated to be \$10.08 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB089

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

1515

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

With the targets for processing various applications achieving 100%, will the Department consider reducing further the target working days to achieve service improvements? If yes, what are the details and the resources involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Except for the performance in connection with birth/death registrations, acceptance of notices of intended marriage and verification of eligibility for permanent identity card (99.9%, 99.3% and 98.3% respectively for 2004), we have achieved the performance pledge in respect of all other service areas. Our performance targets have taken account of the minimum turnaround time for completing necessary procedures for different types of applications, including mandatory checks. To further reduce the processing time may adversely affect the integrity, security and quality of our services. Furthermore, increasing demand for our services on different fronts will also limit the extent to which pledges to provide faster services can be realistically made. However, we will take advantage of advanced technologies to introduce improved targets where possible. For example, under the new system to be implemented to support the issue of biometric passports, we aim to shorten the processing time by one-third from 15 to 10 working days.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB090

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

1516

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the effects of introducing the scheme of solemnisation of marriages by civil celebrants on the allocation of resources and manpower of the Department?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong Wah

Reply :

The prime objective of the "Civil Celebrants of Marriages" Scheme is to provide more choices and greater convenience to the public for marriage solemnization services. Existing services through marriage registries will continue at the initial stage after the Scheme commences. Whether such services will be reduced in future will depend on the extent to which the demand for existing services is diverted by new services of the civil celebrants. Under the new Scheme, the administrative costs involved in the appointment of celebrants will be fully recovered from the appointees.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB091

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR
Residents outside Hong Kong

1799

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Regarding the actual number of requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong in 2004, please list the main reasons for the requests and the places where they were in distress.
- (b) To strengthen and speed up the provision of assistance for Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong, has the Immigration Department considered setting up a worldwide 24-hour hotline so that Hong Kong residents can make phone calls from anywhere to Hong Kong to request assistance immediately? If a hotline is not considered, what are the reasons? Please assess the human resources and provision involved in the setting up of such a hotline.
- (c) The Secretary for Security indicated earlier on that he would consider putting in place a permanent inter-departmental mechanism to deal with major incidents involving Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong. Regarding this, what is the specific concept of such a mechanism? Is there any preliminary assessment on the impact on manpower and resources under this programme after implementation of the mechanism?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) A total of 5 648 requests for assistance was received in 2004. Of these, 1 942 were related to the tsunami disaster that struck in December 2004. A breakdown of the remaining 3 706 requests by nature and location is set out in the two tables below:

Table 1 Breakdown by nature of requests

Nature of request	Workload
Loss of travel document	2 729
Traffic accident	132
Hospitalization, sickness and death	77
Others (e.g. missing persons, detention, etc.)	768
Total	3 706

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

Reply Serial No.

SB092

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1841

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please give a breakdown of the number of non-local residents studying in Hong Kong in 2003-04 and 2004-05 by level of study and by place of origin respectively.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

In 2003 and 2004, 3 768 and 5 593 applications for entry to take up studies were approved respectively. We do not compile statistics on applicants' place of residence or country of origin on a regular basis. A breakdown by the education level is set out below: -

Level of Education	2003	2004
Primary	30	30
Secondary	58	104
Post-secondary and above	3 334	5 038
Others (e.g. exchange students)	346	421
Total	3 768	5 593

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB093

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1842

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please state the number of persons admitted in 2003-04 and 2004-05 under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals and the number of family members they brought in. Please state the number of foreign nationals who came to work in Hong Kong, the number of family members they brought in and the countries they came from in 2003-04 and 2004-05, excluding foreign domestic helpers.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals was introduced in July 2003. The numbers of applicants and dependants granted entry in the past two years are:

Year	Applicants	Dependants
2003 (July – December)	1 350	206
2004	3 745	528

The numbers of entrants admitted under the General Employment Policy (GEP) in 2003 and 2004 were 15 774 and 19 155 respectively. In 2003 and 2004, the total numbers of dependants of Hong Kong permanent residents and temporary residents granted entry were 12 238 and 14 620 respectively. While a detailed breakdown is not available, about 50% of them are dependants joining persons who have been granted entry into Hong Kong under the GEP. The nationality/place of origin of the persons admitted under the GEP is as follows:

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

Reply Serial No.

SB094

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1843

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please state the number of persons residing in Hong Kong through investment, the number of family members they brought in and the countries they came from in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

Statistics on persons admitted for investment are set out below:

Investors Year	Entry for setting up or joining in a business operation*	Under Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES)⁺	
		Entrant	Dependant
2003	297	19	20
2004	236	272	503

*Statistics on their dependants are not available.

⁺ The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme started on 27 October 2003.

Statistics on investors according to their nationality are tabulated below:

(I) Investors admitted for setting up or joining in a business operation

Nationality	2003	2004
USA	24	18
India	32	33
UK	28	20
Japan	16	15
Others	197	150
Total	297	236

(II) Investors admitted under CIES

Nationality	2003⁺	2004
Chinese :		
- From Overseas	10	123
- From Taiwan	2	28
- From Macau SAR	0	8
Australia	0	6
Belize	0	4
Cambodia	0	1
Canada	2	12
Dominica (Commonwealth of)	0	1
Dominican Rep	0	1
France	0	2
Germany	0	2
India	0	2
Indonesia	2	17
Ireland	0	1
Italy	0	2
Japan	0	3
Malaysia	0	6
Mexico	0	1
Nepal	0	1
New Zealand	0	2
Peru	0	1
Philippines	0	15
Portugal	0	4
Singapore	0	4
Solomon Islands	0	1
South Africa	0	1
South Korea	0	6
Spain	1	0
Switzerland	0	1
Thailand	0	1
United Kingdom	0	7
USA	2	6
Stateless persons	0	2
Total	19	272

+The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme started on 27 October 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB095

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1844

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In 2003-04 and 2004-05, how many people received Certificates of Entitlement and what are their ages? Among these people, how many have already come to Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

In 2003 and 2004, 12 379 and 8 735 Certificates of Entitlement (COE) were issued to Mainland residents respectively. We do not compile statistics on the age of COE applicants.

The number of COE holders arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland in 2003 and 2004 was 13 350 and 10 314. According to information furnished by COE holders on arrival in Hong Kong, their age breakdown is as follows:

Year	Below 18	18 or above
2003	9 643	3 707
2004	8 032	2 282

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB096

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

1845

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding those Hong Kong residents who have become foreign nationals, is the Immigration Department aware of how many of them have returned to work and settle in Hong Kong and their ages? If yes, please give a breakdown of the figures.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The Immigration Department does not collect information on the number of Hong Kong residents who have acquired foreign nationality, or who have emigrated overseas and returned to Hong Kong to work and settle.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB097

Question Serial No.

1002

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding the net creation of 22 posts for new fire stations, what are the grades, ranks, years of service, terms of appointment and expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: In 2005-06, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will create a total of 48 posts for new fire stations, including 5 Station Officer and 43 Fireman posts. As 26 other posts will be deleted under the Programme on "Fire Service", there will be a net creation of 22 posts.

The FSD has been granted approval to conduct an open recruitment of Station Officers (Operational) and Firemen (Operational/Marine) during 2005-06. Station Officer and Fireman recruits will be appointed according to the prevailing probationary terms. The probationary period of these two ranks is three years. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the probationary period, these new recruits may be considered for further appointment according to the prevailing permanent terms.

Salaries for the 22 posts mentioned above involve an additional annual expenditure of about \$4.47 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB098

Question Serial No.

1003

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Please provide a breakdown of additional operating expenses required for commissioning the new mobilising system as well as the expenses required for developing the system.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The new mobilising system has commenced operation by phase. Upon the full commissioning of the system, the additional operating expenditure is estimated at about \$39.4 m per annum. As maintenance for some parts of the system will still be covered by the contractors under the warranty period, the operating expenditure for 2005-06 will be about \$21.96 m. The approved estimate for the development of the Third Generation Mobilising System is \$718.6 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB099

Question Serial No.

1061

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : To measure the performance of the services under this programme, a new indicator for "Inspection of fire service installation to verify the accuracy of maintenance certificates" has been set since 2005. It is estimated that a total of 3000 inspections will be carried out in the year. Please explain the rationale of setting this new indicator, the expenses involved, the criteria used in deciding whether an inspection is to be carried out and the expected results.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply: The purpose of this item is to verify the accuracy of maintenance certificates issued by fire service installation contractors, so as to ensure that the fire service installations and equipment are being maintained in good working condition.

Under the relevant working procedures, the data on the maintenance certificates will be entered into the computer database upon receipt of the certificates by the fire protection commands of the Department. Every month, a number of certificates will be randomly selected for inspection by personnel from the operational fire commands. To facilitate the inspection, some testing instruments will need to be procured and the expenditure involved is about \$220,000.

In addition to facilitating the verification of the accuracy of maintenance certificates, the new service will enable the Department to better monitor the work standard of fire service installation contractors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB100

Question Serial No.

1094

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : The Fire Services Department states clearly that its mission is to provide an efficient and effective fire service to the community. At present, however, a lot of areas in the New Territories have not been provided with up-to-standard emergency vehicular access for fire appliances. To address this issue, the Fire Services Department has acquired light fire appliances and fire motorcycles for trial. Would the government implement the initiative in full in 2005-06 and how much funds would be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply: The main function of fire motorcycles is to respond to vehicle fires and to arrive at the scenes speedily even in severe traffic congestion. The fire-fighter will carry out preliminary rescue services, appraise the situation and report to the mobilizing centre. Equipped only with simple fire-fighting equipment, fire motorcycles are not suitable for fighting building fires. As for light fire appliances, due to their size, they are only effective in fighting fire in some remote areas in the New Territories and cannot be widely used. Therefore, the Fire Services Department has no plan to procure more light fire appliances at this stage and there is no provision reserved for this item in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB101

Question Serial No.

1332

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding "Monitor the performance of registered FSI contractors", please list the cases in breaches of regulations involving the contractors registered in class 1, class 2 and class 3 respectively in the past three years and the results of the Department's action against them.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The figures of registered FSI contractors who were involved in breaches of regulations and prosecuted by Fire Services Department from 2002 to 2004 and the actions taken against them were as follows:

Regulations	Year	2002	2003	2004
	Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations ^{Note}	4C(1)	0	3
7(4)		3	7	5
14		0	0	1
Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations ^{Note}	9(1)	0	2	12
Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations ^{Note}	64	0	1	0
Total		3	13	21

Note: Please refer to Annex for the Regulations concerned.

Regarding the above 37 cases, all the registered FSI contractors concerned were fined by the court and the amount of fines ranged from \$250 to \$10,000. Moreover, all the cases were referred to the Fire Service Installation Contractors Disciplinary Board for disciplinary hearing and the contractors of 23 cases received a reprimand. In another case, the contractor's name was removed from the class 1 and class 2 registers for six weeks. The remaining 13 cases are pending hearing and judgment of the Fire Service Installation Contractors Disciplinary Board. As some of the above FSI contractors have concurrent registration for different classes, the breaches of regulations and the results of the Department's actions against the FSI contractors were not recorded by registered class.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

Annex

Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations

4C(1) *A registered contractor shall notify the Director of Fire Services in writing within 14 days of any change of the address of any workshop used by the registered contractor and shall at the same time notify the new address of the workshop.*

7(4) *A registered contractor shall notify the Director of Fire Services in writing within 14 days of any change of registered name or registered address.*

14 *A registered contractor who undertakes any work in connexion with fire service installations or equipment, except work of the class in respect of which his name is entered in the register, shall be guilty of an offence.*

Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations

9(1) *Whenever a registered contractor installs, maintains, repairs or inspects any fire service installation or equipment in any premises, he shall within 14 days after completion of the work issue to the person on whose instructions the work was undertaken a certificate and forward a copy thereof to the Director of Fire Services.*

Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations

64 *No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, for the storage of any gas, any cylinder or other container except of a type appropriate to the storage of such gas and approved by the Authority.*

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB102

Question Serial No.

1333

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Please provide the timetable and expenditure involved in "reviewing the legislative provisions regarding the registration scheme for fire service installation (FSI) contractors".

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The preliminary review of the registration scheme for FSI contractors has been completed. The Administration will, in the light of the results of the review, examine the need to change the existing registration system and amend the relevant legislation. The review was conducted by existing staff and no additional expenditure was involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB103

Question Serial No.

1406

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : (a) In 2004, what was the reason for the failure to meet the pledged performance target for emergency calls answered within the response time of 12 minutes? Was it related to the substantial reduction in provisions in 2004-05?

(b) Figures show that the number of emergency calls and the average number of calls per ambulance are both increasing. However, why is it that the provision for 2005-06 is less than 2004-05 by 1.1%?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply: a) In 2004, the response time performance of emergency ambulance service fell short of the performance pledge of 92.5%. This was mainly due to a sharp increase of 12% in the number of emergency ambulance calls as compared with 2003. There was no reduction in the resources deployed for emergency ambulance service for 2004-05 as compared with those for 2003-04. The revised estimate for 2004-05 was about \$48.70 m (5.7%) lower than the actual expenditure in 2003-04. This was mainly due to the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cuts and reduced cash flow requirement for procurement and replacement of ambulances.

b) There is no reduction in the resources deployed for emergency ambulance service for 2005-06. The provision for 2005-06 is 1.1%, approximately \$9 m, lower than last year. This is mainly due to the full-year effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut. In addition, a net deletion of 33 time-limited posts upon completion of training for the full implementation of paramedic ambulance service, and a reduced cash flow requirement for procurement and replacement of ambulances also account for a reduction in expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN _____

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services _____

Date _____ 7.4.2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB104

Question Serial No.

1407

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Why is it that there has been no expansion of the establishment of ambulance personnel despite the commissioning of new ambulance depots and the continuous increase in services?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) has been monitoring closely the demand for emergency ambulance service and the deployment of ambulance resources. With regard to manpower, 29 Ambulanceman recruits have completed their induction training and were posted to frontline units in February 2005. FSD has also been granted approval to conduct an open recruitment of 10 Ambulance Officers and 54 Ambulancemen during 2005-06 for filling vacancies.

To enhance the quality of ambulance service and achieve better utilization of existing resources, the FSD has introduced a series of management initiatives and improvement measures. Moreover, the new ambulance depots at Mong Kok and Kwai Chung, which are located at strategic locations, will be commissioned in 2005-06. Their commissioning will help to improve the coverage of ambulance service and the response time performance of ambulance service. To cope with the growing demand for ambulance service and ensure that patients and casualties in critical condition will be accorded priority in the provision of emergency ambulance service, the Department has commissioned a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on introducing an Emergency Ambulance Service Priority Despatch System in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services

Date _____ 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB105

Question Serial No.

1408

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title): 661 Minor plant, vehicles and
equipment

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Why has the estimate under this Subhead been decreased drastically by 27.2% as against last year? Can demands be met after such a decrease in estimate?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply: The provision under Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) is 27.2% lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05. The replacement of fire-fighting and rescue equipment and procurement of additional and replacement ambulances were substantially completed in 2004-05, resulting in a reduced cash flow requirement under this Subhead for 2005-06.

The provision under this Subhead for 2005-06 is \$22.78 m, which should be able to meet the cash flow demand for replacement of such equipment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB106

Question Serial No.

1409

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title): 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the Subhead estimate in 2005-06 which will be used for: (i) procuring replacement fire-fighting equipment; (ii) procuring replacement ambulance equipment; and (iii) procuring new and replacement ambulances.

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

- (i) Under Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) for 2005-06, the amount for replacement of fire-fighting equipment is \$5.295 m. The equipment includes the following:
- 1 heavy duty foam monitor
 - 1 high / low pressure compressed air supply system for transportable recompression chamber
 - 1 mobile fire-fighting supporting machine
 - 2 sets of HAZMAT equipment for nuclear and biochemical incidents
 - 4 Light Rescue Units
 - 5 Mini Rescue Trucks
 - 12 sets of thermal imaging camera
 - 30 sets of light portable pump
- (ii) Regarding the approved replacement ambulance equipment under Subhead 661, the procurement procedures were completed in 2003-04. Therefore, no relevant provision has been included under this Subhead for 2004-05 or 2005-06. Nevertheless, the provision for Department Expenses under the operating account for 2005-06 includes an amount of about \$14 m for procuring new and replacement ambulance equipment for day-to-day use.
- (iii) In addition, \$250,000 has been earmarked for procuring new and replacement ambulances under this Subhead. The amount will be used to replace 1 village ambulance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB107

Question Serial No.

1468

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : In 2005-06, the estimated expenditure for fire service and ambulance service are both less than those in 2004-05 by 1.1%. According to the actual figures, the number of fire calls is decreasing, and presumably a cut in the estimated expenditure for this service should not have too much impact on the relevant operation and service quality. However, the number of ambulance calls is on the rise, so a cut in the estimated expenditure may have great impact on the service.

Please state the reasons for cutting the estimated expenditure for ambulance service by \$9 m when the demand for this service is actually increasing.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: There is no reduction in the resources to be deployed for emergency ambulance service in 2005-06. The provision for the year is 1.1%, approximately \$9 m, lower than last year. This is mainly due to the full-year effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut. In addition, a net deletion of 33 time-limited posts upon completion of training for the full implementation of paramedic ambulance service, and a reduced cash flow requirement for procurement and replacement of ambulances also account for the reduction in expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services

Date _____ 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB108

Question Serial No.

1532

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : The number of prosecutions against obstructions to means of escape in 2004 was 36, which has dropped as compared with 2003. Does this indicate that the situation has improved? Please provide the respective figures for domestic and non-domestic buildings as well as the figures on successful conviction among these 36 cases.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The total number of prosecutions against obstructions to means of escape in 2004 was 36, representing a drop of 13 cases (about 26.5%) as compared with 49 cases in 2003. These figures indicate that the situation has improved. We believe that the reasons are enhanced public awareness of fire safety and the setting up of owners' incorporations at old buildings for improvement of building management. Moreover, the penalty provisions in the Fire Services Ordinance regarding non-compliance with Fire Hazard Abatement Notices have been amended to augment the deterrent effect.

All the above 36 cases have resulted in conviction and the respective figures for domestic and non-domestic buildings are 7 and 29 cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB109

Question Serial No.

1533

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : The Department plans to further extend the First Responder Programme to cover all fire stations during 2005-06. Please provide relevant details and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply The First Responder Programme has been implemented in 64 fire stations as of end 2004. The Fire Services Department (FSD) plans to further extend the Programme to cover all 78 fire stations in 2005. Moreover, in order to enhance the flexibility of manpower deployment, the FSD will continue training more fire-fighters as reserve First Responders to stand in for those who are on leave, on transfer, or have left the service. The expenditure required for implementing the above plan during 2005-06 will be about \$636,000, mainly for procuring equipment. The FSD has reserved the necessary provision in the departmental operating account for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB110

Question Serial No.

1534

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : How effective was the Department in tackling fire incidents in fuel farms and tunnels over the past year? Has any assessment been made on the effectiveness of enhancing fire fighting capability in tackling such incidents by procuring specialised and advanced equipment for the year 2005-06? Please provide the estimates of expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: In 2004, there were 8 fire incidents in tunnels and none in fuel farms. These fires were all extinguished within a short period of time. Apart from the MTR fire incident on 5 January 2004 in which 15 citizens reported discomfort, there was no casualty in these incidents.

To enhance overall operational efficiency, the Fire Services Department keeps abreast of the latest development of fire-fighting equipment and introduces specialised and advanced equipment as appropriate. The Department plans to procure 1 heavy duty foam monitor and 1 mobile fire-fighting supporting machine in 2005-06 with a view to enhancing its fire-fighting capability in tackling fire incidents in fuel farms and tunnels. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is around \$2.6 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB111

Question Serial No.

1535

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Please provide details on the measures to enhance fire safety in old commercial buildings in 2005-06. Is it necessary to increase relevant expenses?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The Fire Services Department plans to inspect 140 "specified commercial buildings" under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, i.e. commercial buildings completed before 1987, and to serve "fire safety improvement directions" to the owners or occupiers as appropriate, requiring them to improve the fire safety measures of these buildings. Such work will be handled by the existing staff of the Department and no additional expenses will be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN _____

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services _____

Date _____ 7.4.2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB112

Question Serial No.

1536

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Has the Department reviewed the effectiveness of the Fire Safety Ambassador Scheme? How would the Department compare the content of the Scheme during 2005-06 with that in the past? Please provide the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) launched the Fire Safety Ambassador (FSA) Scheme in 1997 to assist the Department in promoting fire prevention messages to the public. A total of 56 521 FSAs have been recruited up to March 2005. Through active participation in fire protection education and publicity activities, and assistance in reporting and abating fire hazards, they have helped to promote public fire safety awareness. The Department will continue to review the Scheme on a regular basis.

The content of FSA Scheme in 2005-06 will be largely in line with that in the past years. However, the FSD will further step up the implementation and promotion of this Scheme at district level. In 2005-06, the estimated expenditure in respect of this Scheme is about \$1.2 m, mainly for conducting FSA training courses, publishing newsletters and organizing activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB113

Question Serial No.

1537

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : In 2004, 91.1% of emergency calls were answered within the target response time of 12 minutes, which fell short of the target of 92.5%. What were the reasons for that? Has the Department reviewed the need for additional manpower? Was the sharp increase in emergency calls during 2004 a contributing factor?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: In 2004, the response time performance of emergency ambulance service fell short of the performance target of 92.5%. This was mainly due to a sharp increase of 12% in the number of emergency ambulance calls as compared with 2003.

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has been monitoring closely the response time performance of emergency ambulance service and the deployment of ambulance resources. To enhance the quality of ambulance service and achieve better utilization of existing resources, the FSD has introduced a series of management initiatives and improvement measures. Moreover, 29 Ambulanceman recruits have completed their induction training and were posted to frontline units in February 2005. The FSD has also been granted approval to conduct an open recruitment of 10 Ambulance Officers and 54 Ambulancemen during 2005-06 for filling vacancies. To cope with the growing demand for ambulance service and ensure that patients and casualties in critical condition will be accorded priority in the provision of emergency ambulance service, the FSD has commissioned a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on introducing an Emergency Ambulance Service Priority Despatch System in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN _____

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services _____

Date _____ 7.4.2005 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB114

Question Serial No.

1538

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Please give details of the community education programme in the past year, including the types of training that have been provided for the public. Has the Department assessed the effectiveness of the programme? How do the public respond to the programme?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: Regarding the ambulance service, the community education programme launched by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2004 included the training of about 1 400 persons on the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and distribution of about 60 000 publicity leaflets on prevention of household accidents involving the elderly and children, basic knowledge of handling common acute illnesses, proper use of ambulance service, etc. Moreover, 22 promotion campaigns on ambulance service were held during the year, including a major promotion campaign on 12 December 2004 at Sha Tin Town Hall plaza, publicizing the full implementation of paramedic ambulance service in the first quarter of 2005 and educating the public on the proper use of ambulance resources. About 20 000 persons participated in this campaign. The FSD will review the effectiveness of the community education programme regularly. The programme has received the public's support as reflected by their favourable response and attendance in such activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 7.4.2005

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

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

As mentioned in the document, the occupancy rate of the prisons in 2003 and 2004 was over 100% and the estimated occupancy rate for 2005 is as high as 122.2%. Would the Administration list the measures for relieving prison overcrowding and the time-table for implementing such measures?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Since the shelving of the Hei Ling Chau prison development plan in October 2004, we have been exploring other prison development options to address the problems of prison overcrowding and outdated penal facilities. Initially, we are studying the redevelopment potential of existing institutions. We have identified such potential for the Lo Wu Correctional Institution and are now exploring the technical feasibility of its redevelopment. We will consult the Legislative Council, the relevant District Councils and local organizations in due course.

We have taken various short-term measures to relieve prison overcrowding and the measures being implemented are as follows –

- (a) The old staff married quarters blocks at Lai Chi Kok are being converted into a new institution, namely the Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution. The new institution will provide 650 penal places, among which 438 will be used for re-provisioning Victoria Prison and 212 will be additional penal places. The project is expected to be completed by end 2005.
- (b) A new 3-storey building will be constructed inside the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to provide 144 additional penal places for male prisoners. The project will commence in May 2005 for completion by end 2006.
- (c) Following the reshuffling of functions among a number of institutions for female prisoners in January 2005, the former Chi Ma Wan Drug Addiction Treatment Centre and Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre were converted into a new institution – the Chi Sun Correctional Institution. Upon its completion in August 2005, the project will generate a total of 96 additional penal places.

Signature

Name in block letters

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date

4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB116

Question Serial No.

0418

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Why was the success rate (non-conviction in one year after discharge) of the re-integration programme for young prisoners under supervision in 2004 nearly 7% lower than that of 2003?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

As in the case of other supervision programmes, the success rate of the young prisoner supervision programme may be affected by various personal and socio-economic factors, such as individual offenders' family and social background, their response to rehabilitation/counselling services, and the prevailing economic conditions. As such, there are bound to be fluctuations in the success rate from year to year. Overall, the success rate of the young prisoner supervision programme has been quite stable over the past five years, as shown by the following table.

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1.	Total no. of expired young prisoner supervision cases	164	129	127	127	103
2.	No. of expired cases without reconviction	136	113	113	116	88
3.	No. of expired cases with reconviction	28	16	14	11	15
4.	Success Rate [(2)/(1) x 100 %]	82.9%	87.6%	89.0%	91.3%	85.4%

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

SB117

Question Serial No.

0419

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Why is the average daily number of prisoners increasing drastically but the prison occupancy rate decreasing in 2005?
- (b) What are the offences expected to be committed or ordinances violated by the prisoners admitted daily in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

- (a) While we estimate that the average daily number of prisoners will increase in 2005, we expect that penal places will increase at a slightly faster rate over the same period. Therefore, we estimate that the average occupancy rate in 2005 will decrease slightly, by 0.9%, as shown below.

	2004		2005	
	Actual	Estimated	Change over Preceding Year	
Average Daily Number of Prisoners (1)	11 869	12 070	+201	or +1.7%
Average Certified Accommodation of Prisons (2)	9 644	9 880	+236	or +2.4%
Average Occupancy Rate of Prisons [= (1)/(2)]	123.1%	122.2%	-0.9%	

- (b) Of the prisoners admitted in 2004, over 50% were convicted of the offence of “breach of condition of stay” (39.7%) or “theft” (12.3%). We have observed the same trend in January and February 2005, and expect it to continue in 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What ranks and services will be involved in the deletion of 48 posts in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

The net deletion of 48 posts is the result of a number of creation and deletion of posts as shown below. The deleted posts are mainly involved in logistics support in the Department's Headquarters or non-core custodial duties such as workshop supervision and patrol duties in penal institutions.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Deletion (-) / Creation (+)</u>
<u>Disciplined posts</u>	<u>No.</u>
Superintendent	-1
Chief Officer	+1
Principal Officer	-9
Officer	-8
Assistant Officer I	-31
Assistant Officer II	-6
Technical Instructor	-1
	<i>Sub-total</i>
	-55
<u>Civilian posts</u>	<u>No.</u>
Executive Officer II	+2
Assistant Clerical Officer	+2
Clerical Assistant	+6
Telephone Operator	-1
Senior Typist	-1
Workman II	-1
	<i>Sub-total</i>
	+7
Net	-48

Signature

Name in block letters

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In the draft Estimate, there will be a net deletion of 6 posts in 2005-06. Please answer the following :

1. What is the nature of duties of the posts to be deleted?
2. What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted?
3. Are they contract staff or permanent staff holding the posts to be deleted?
4. What are the reasons for deleting the posts?
5. How will the Administration absorb the duties of the posts to be deleted?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1&2. The net deletion of 6 posts is the result of a number of creation and deletion of posts as shown below. The deleted posts are mainly involved in logistics support in the Department's Headquarters or non-core rehabilitation services such as workshop supervision in a number of institutions.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Deletion (-) / Creation (+)</u>
<u>Disciplined posts</u>	<u>No.</u>
Principal Officer	-1
Officer	-3
Assistant Officer II	-4
<i>Sub-total</i>	-8
<u>Civilian posts</u>	<u>No.</u>
Executive Officer II	+1
Clerical Assistant	+1
<i>Sub-total</i>	+2
Net	-6

3. The posts to be deleted are all permanent posts in CSD's establishment. At present, these posts are either vacant or being filled by permanent staff.
4. The deletion of posts is a result of the implementation of efficiency improvement measures. Manpower savings are achieved through efforts towards re-engineering work processes, re-prioritizing tasks and re-organizing work areas, etc.
5. The original duties will be absorbed through organizational restructuring and work process re-engineering within the Department, including re-ranking of posts to allow for redistribution of duties; re-assessing job requirements and merging work areas to optimise manpower allocation; and civilianizing those disciplined posts performing non-core duties such as research and compilation of statistics.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

PANG SUNG YUEN

Commissioner of Correctional Services

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

As mentioned in the draft Estimate, there will be a net deletion of 48 posts in 2005-06. Please answer the following :

1. What is the nature of duties of the posts to be deleted?
2. What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted?
3. Are the posts to be deleted held by contract staff or permanent staff?
4. What are the reasons for deleting the posts?
5. How will the Administration absorb the duties of the posts to be deleted?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1&2. The net deletion of 48 posts is the result of a number of creation and deletion of posts as shown below. The deleted posts are mainly involved in logistics support in the Department's Headquarters or non-core custodial duties, such as workshop supervision and patrol duties in penal institutions.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Deletion (-) / Creation (+)</u>
<u>Disciplined posts</u>	<u>No.</u>
Superintendent	-1
Chief Officer	+1
Principal Officer	-9
Officer	-8
Assistant Officer I	-31
Assistant Officer II	-6
Technical Instructor	-1
<i>Sub-total</i>	-55
<u>Civilian posts</u>	<u>No.</u>
Executive Officer II	+2
Assistant Clerical Officer	+2
Clerical Assistant	+6
Telephone Operator	-1
Senior Typist	-1
Workman II	-1
<i>Sub-total</i>	+7
Total	-48

3. The posts to be deleted are all permanent posts in CSD's establishment. At present, these posts are either vacant or being filled by permanent staff.
4. The deletion of posts is a result of the implementation of efficiency improvement measures. Manpower savings are achieved through efforts towards re-engineering work processes, re-prioritizing tasks and re-organizing work areas, etc.
5. The duties will be absorbed through organizational restructuring and work process re-engineering within the Department, including re-ranking of posts to allow for redistribution of duties; re-assessing job requirements and merging work areas to optimise manpower allocation; and civilianizing those disciplined posts performing non-core duties such as registration of visitors and hand-in articles at the visitors' waiting rooms of penal institutions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB121

Question Serial No.

0691

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the reasons for the increase in the number of concerted acts of indiscipline from 9 in 2003 to 12 in 2004?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The causes of concerted acts of indiscipline in 2003 and 2004 included group fight, protest against disciplinary action, request for extra TV programmes and objection to repatriation. All cases were swiftly controlled and resolved by CSD staff, resulting in no casualties or significant impact on prison security and discipline.

Whilst the number of cases of concerted acts of indiscipline may be different year from year, it has been very low, taking into account the total penal population. No increasing trend of such cases is detected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB122

Question Serial No.

0692

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the expenditure for installing 24-hour CCTV systems in some of the prison cells, including custodial wards in public hospitals? Has the Administration assessed the cost-effectiveness of such installations?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Currently, CCTV systems have been installed in 11 penal institutions and in the two custodial wards at Queen Mary Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital. CCTV installation works are in progress in seven other penal institutions.

Of the 11 institutions where CCTV systems have been installed, the total installation expenditure for nine of them was \$14.37 million. The CCTV installations in the other two penal institutions and the custodial wards of the two public hospitals were completed more than 10 years ago, and we have not been able to trace the information related to the relevant expenditure. The total expenditure for the CCTV installation works under progress in the seven institutions is estimated at \$17.67 million.

The Department has the statutory obligation to ensure safe custody of all persons entrusted to them for detention under the law. Installation of CCTVs is one of the measures commonly adopted in penal institutions in other parts of the world. Such devices are effective in helping the Department to combat illegal activities in prisons, such as gambling and fighting, and to enhance the supervision of those prisoners who require close monitoring for safety and security reasons.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

SB123

Question Serial No.

0693

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

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Would the Administration set out:

- (1) The employment rates of young prisoners after discharge in 2003-04 and 2004-05; and
- (2) The number of prisoners who participated in the Pre-Release Employment Scheme in 2003-04 and 2004-05 and who successfully found employment through the scheme during the same period?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (1) One of the supervision requirements for discharged prisoners under supervision is to engage themselves in gainful employment. Among the 104 young prisoners discharged under supervision in 2003 and the 103 discharged in 2004, 97.1% and 98.1% respectively were engaged in employment upon discharge. Those not engaged in employment upon discharge were either chronically ill or have had to perform the role of a housewife at home. The Department does not keep employment statistics on young prisoners discharged without having to undergo statutory supervision.
- (2) The number of participants in the Pre-release Employment Scheme (PRES) in 2003 and 2004 was 14 and 21 respectively. All of them were employed upon discharge, as an applicant for the scheme must have secured employment for the supervision period.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The financial provision for Prison Management has dropped from \$2,059.9 million in 2003-04 to \$1,974.6 million in 2004-05 and is estimated to drop further to \$1,935.9 million in 2005-06. However, the average daily number of prisoners increased by 5% from 2003 to 2004 and is expected to rise. Moreover, the occupancy rate also increased by 3% from 2003 to 2004.

Given that the targets of the said programme will be to continue relieving prison overcrowding through expansion and improvement of prison facilities, please explain why there is a continuous drop in its provision and as a result of the drop, how the said targets could be achieved. Further, please give a detailed breakdown of the 2005-06 estimates on the said programme as well as that of the past two years.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The continuous reduction in financial provision for Prison Management from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is mainly due to the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cuts and the deletion of 67 posts in 2004-05 and 48 posts in 2005-06 achieved through the implementation of efficiency improvement measures. A breakdown of the 2005-06 estimates on the said programme as well as that of the past two years is shown below:

	2003-04 (Actual) (\$ million)	2004-05 (Original) (\$ million)	2004-05 (Revised) (\$ million)	2005-06 (Estimate) (\$ million)
<u>Programme (1) Prison Management :</u>				
Personal Emoluments	1,771.7	1,688.6	1,687.5	1,634.4
Personnel Related Expenses	3.3	5.2	5.1	7.2
Departmental Expenses *	242.9	234.3	235.3	244.9
Other Charges #	32.1	34.6	36.4	36.8
Total, Operating Account	2,050.0	1,962.7	1,964.3	1,923.3
Non-Recurrent Expenses	1.4	-	-	-

Plant, Equipment & Works	8.5	11.1	10.3	12.6
Total Expenditure	2,059.9	1,973.8	1,974.6	1,935.9

* Including provisions for institutions

Including prisoners' earning scheme

Despite the reduction in financial provision, our effort towards achieving the target of relieving prison overcrowding has continued. We have taken various short-term measures to relieve prison overcrowding and those being implemented are as follows –

- (a) The old staff married quarters blocks at Lai Chi Kok are being converted into a new institution, namely the Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution. The new institution will provide 650 penal places, among which 438 will be used for reprovisioning Victoria Prison and 212 will be additional penal places. The project is expected to be completed by end 2005.
- (b) A new 3-storey building will be constructed inside the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to provide 144 additional penal places for male prisoners. The project will commence in May 2005 for completion by end 2006.
- (c) Following the reshuffling of functions among a number of institutions for female prisoners in January 2005, the former Chi Ma Wan Drug Addiction Treatment Centre and Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre were converted into a new institution - the Chi Sun Correctional Institution. Upon its completion in August 2005, the project will generate a total of 96 additional penal places.

The above conversion and construction works are funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund, and the related provisions are not shown in the Department's expenditure account. For the longer term, we have identified redevelopment potential for the Lo Wu Correctional Institution and are now exploring the technical feasibility for its redevelopment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

One of the prime targets of the Correctional Services Department is to ensure that its re-integration programmes achieve the highest possible success rates. However, according to the given indicators, the success rates of over 50% of the re-integration programmes within the supervision period in 2004 have dropped when compared with those of 2003. Please advise:

- (a) Whether the Department has failed to achieve its target as reflected by the said indicators and if so, the reasons;
- (b) Why there has been a continuous decrease in the financial provision of the said programme;
- (c) Given the rampant drug trafficking and drug addiction problems, especially among the youth group, please provide the statistics of the drug addicts admitted to the drug addiction treatment center programme in the past two years and the breakdown of expenditure in operating a drug addiction treatment center for the past two years.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

- (a) The success rates of re-integration programmes are affected by various personal and socio-economic factors, such as individual offenders' family and social background, their response to rehabilitation/counselling services, and the prevailing economic conditions. Therefore, there are bound to be fluctuations in the success rates of these programmes from year to year. Overall, the success rates of the various re-integration programmes have been quite stable in the past five years, as shown in the table below. The Department has and will continue to make every effort to ensure that its re-integration programmes achieve the highest possible success rates, and to enhance community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated offenders.

	2000 (%)	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)
Training Centre	68.0	65.2	65.4	70.2	68.1
Detention Centre	97.5	95.2	95.0	95.9	95.8
Rehabilitation Centre (operational since mid-2002)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	96.6
Young Prisoners	82.9	87.6	89.0	91.3	85.4

Drug Addiction Treatment Centre	69.7	69.3	65.4	66.4	63.6
Release under Supervision Scheme	100	100	100	100	100
Pre-release Employment Scheme	100	100	100	100	100
Post-release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme	89.8	86.2	85.1	91.4	89.1
Conditional Release Scheme	100	N.A.	N.A.	100	100
Supervision After Release Scheme	N.A.	100	100	100	100

[Notes : N.A. – no case expired in that year]

- (b) The continuous reduction in financial provision for Programme (2): Re-integration from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is mainly due to the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cuts and the deletion of 19 posts in 2004-05 and six posts in 2005-06 under this Programme achieved through the implementation of efficiency improvement measures.
- (c) The number of offenders admitted into the drug addiction treatment centre programme (DATC) operated by the Department in the past two years is as follows:

	2003	2004
No. of DATC admission :		
a) Adult offenders (21 & above in age)	1 134	1 165
b) Young offenders (under 21)	149	159
Total :	1 283	1 324

The expenditure incurred in operating the drug addiction treatment centre programme (covering the operation of drug addiction treatment centres in eight institutions) in 2003-04 and 2004-05 is \$129.1 million and \$115.8 million respectively. As explained at (b) above, the reduction of financial provision is mainly due to the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cuts and the deletion of posts through the implementation of efficiency improvement measures.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

PANG SUNG YUEN

Commissioner of Correctional Services

8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB126

Question Serial No.

0928

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Would the Administration list out the expenditure on medical services, psychological counselling and welfare services respectively provided for prisoners and inmates up to end of 2004? What is the estimated expenditure on the above services in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The expenditure incurred by the Department on medical services, psychological services and welfare services is set out below:

	Revised Estimate 2004-05	Estimate 2005-06
	\$'000	\$'000
Medical Services	138,384	136,648
Psychological Services	21,761	21,784
Prisoners' Welfare Services	44,690	44,501

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB127

Question Serial No.

0929

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the Re-integration Programme of Correctional Services Department -

- (a) The success rates in 2004 of the re-integration programmes in respect of training centres (non-conviction in three years after discharge) and drug addiction treatment centres (non-conviction and free from drugs in one year after discharge) were lower than those of 2003 and of other institutions. What are the reasons?
- (b) Does the Correctional Services Department have long-term strategies and measures to tackle the above problems? Has the Administration considered re-formulating the drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation programmes in question? If yes, what are the resources to be invested and what will be the effectiveness? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) As in the case of other re-integration programmes, the success rates of the training centre (TC) and the drug addiction treatment centre (DATC) programmes are affected by various personal and socio-economic factors, such as individual offenders' family and social background, their response to rehabilitation/ counseling services, and the prevailing economic condition. As such, there are bound to be fluctuations in the success rates of these programmes from year to year.

The success rates of TC (in terms of non-conviction during supervision) and DATC (in terms of non-conviction and remaining drug-free during supervision) are usually lower than those of other supervision programmes. In the case of TC, non-conviction has to be maintained for a longer supervision period (i.e. three years as compared with one to two years in other programmes). In the case of DATC, drug addiction and its associated problems increase the risk of re-offending.

Overall, the success rates of TC and DATC have been quite stable over the past five years, as shown below:

	2000 (%)	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)
Training Centre	68.0	65.2	65.4	70.2	68.1
Drug Addiction Treatment Centre	69.7	69.3	65.4	66.4	63.6

- (b) The Department has made and will continue to make every effort to rehabilitate offenders, and provide support to help supervisees face the challenges in leading a law-abiding life after discharge and re-integrating into society.

In particular, the Department regularly conducts reviews on the efficacy of the rehabilitation programmes. For example, with the assistance of the Correctional Service of Canada, the Department has commissioned a consultancy study aimed at reviewing the evaluation procedures of re-offending risks and rehabilitative needs of offenders with a view to enhancing the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. The study will be completed in late 2005. Moreover, with the assistance of the University of Hong Kong, a two-year consultancy study on “The Development of Preventive and Treatment Programmes for Offenders with Problems of Psychotropic Substance Abuse” was launched in mid-2003 for completion in late 2005.

On the basis of these studies and the Department’s experience in offender rehabilitation, appropriate enhancement will be made to the strategies and measures to ensure that the programmes will continue to meet the needs of the offenders concerned. The resource requirement will be assessed when the recommendations of the above studies are considered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB128

Question Serial No.

1838

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The Administration estimates that the commercial value of production/services managed by the Correctional Services Industries in 2005 will be significantly higher than that of 2004. What are the reasons? Will and, if so, how does the increase in the commercial value of such production/services contribute to the internal resources of the Correctional Services Department?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In accordance with Prison Rule 38, Correctional Services Industries (CSI) provides work to all prisoners. It is expected that CSI will receive more job orders in 2005 as the quality of its products and services has been improving. Therefore, we estimate that the commercial value of CSI production will increase slightly by 2.5%, from \$419.8 million in 2004 to \$430.3 million in 2005.

The Correctional Services Department is not making any profit from CSI products and services as they are provided to other government departments on a cost recovery basis. The commercial value of CSI production is a notional figure representing the estimated market value of such products and services were they to be procured in the open market. This notional figure cannot be translated into additional financial resources for the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB129

Question Serial No.

1839

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the specific plan, required manpower and expenditure for reprovisioning Victoria Prison?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In May 2003, Finance Committee approved the reprovisioning of Victoria Prison at the Lai Chi Kok old staff married quarters site at a project estimate of \$229.4 million. The project includes the conversion of the staff married quarters into a new prison and the construction of two new blocks to accommodate supporting facilities.

The construction works of the project commenced in March 2004 for target completion by September 2005. Taking into account the time required for furniture and equipment installation, testing of equipment and facilities, and other commissioning routine, the new prison is expected to commence operation in November 2005. On the basis of this timetable, Victoria Prison would be decanted progressively and the entire premises would be vacated by end 2005.

The cost of decanting Victoria Prison would be insignificant and will be absorbed by the Correctional Services Department. The reprovisioning of the Victoria Prison involves no additional manpower.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB130

0146

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/ Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

The expenditure for Civil Service Provident Fund contribution under "Personnel Related Expenses" will be increased drastically from only \$20,000 last year to \$0.92 million in the new financial year. What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

When officers appointed under the new entry terms are offered permanent terms of appointment, they will be eligible to join the Civil Service Provident Fund (CSPF) Scheme. In 2004-05, only one officer of the rank and file grade was offered permanent terms of appointment in the department and thus the expenditure under this item was about \$20,000. In 2005-06, an additional 14 Inspectors of the department will be offered permanent terms of appointment. Therefore, the CSPF contributions payable by the department will be increased to \$0.92 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB131

0535

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead :(No. & title)

Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Programme (2), the estimate for 2005-06 represents a 3.6% decrease as compared with the original estimate in 2004-05. What is the reason? Will the department be affected when achieving the targets on anti-narcotics duties?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

Provision for Programme (2) for 2005-06 is 3.6% lower than the original estimate for 2004-05. This is mainly due to the full-year effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut and deletion of eight posts through business process streamlining. The deletion of the eight posts amounts to about \$2.2 million only and will not affect the department's ability to achieve its targets on anti-narcotics duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date 6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB132

Question Serial No.

0718

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead : (No. & title)

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

In "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06", the department will continue to improve clearance services to facilitate efficient passenger and cargo flows across the boundary. However, in the measurements of the performance targets, why the department could only maintain the clearance of passengers at a time within 15 minutes and the clearance of vehicles crossing the land boundary at a time within 60 seconds? Can the services be further enhanced and the customs clearance be speeded up? Is it necessary to deploy additional resources on this issue?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

The performance targets for clearing passengers and vehicles refer to the maximum time that a passenger or a vehicle spends on Customs clearance at the control points. The duration hinges on several factors, including the traffic volume, the seasonal factor, the peak hour factor, complexity of the cargo manifests and improvement measures adopted by Customs as explained below.

- (a) Passenger clearance: The volume of passenger traffic increased by 18.6% during the past year, but the department remained able to meet the target of clearing passengers within 15 minutes of their queuing up for clearance. Furthermore, a vast majority of passengers could be cleared within ten and many within three to five minutes. The installation of Customs clearance cubicles at various control points since 2003 has helped expedite clearance whilst also protecting privacy. However, during peak hours or festive seasons when there are a large number of passengers at the control points, they may have to wait somewhat longer than usual but they can still be cleared within the target time of the present performance pledge.
- (b) Vehicle clearance: During the past year, vehicles crossing the land boundary rose by 9.9%. We managed to meet the performance target by flexible redeployment of staff in particular during the peak seasons. While the target is 60 seconds, a vast majority of laden vehicles were cleared in about 30 seconds, and empty vehicles around 16 seconds. In March this year, we installed electronic display boards at Customs kiosks to automate the issuing of customs clearance directives to cross-boundary drivers. This should reduce average clearance time by a few seconds. A longer time, however, will still be needed to clear vehicles carrying a large volume of goods of different varieties and a complex manifest.

The department will keep a close watch on the performance targets each year and review them for improvement. We will continue to deploy our staff flexibly within the overall resources available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB133

0817

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics InvestigationControlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and ExciseDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Security**Question :**

Please list respectively, in the following table, the number of teenagers involved in "drug cases" and "psychotropic drugs cases" among the 710 dangerous drugs seizure cases as stated in the "indicators" of 2004.

Item Category	Number of cases/ Quantity of Drugs	Number of cases/ Quantity of Drugs Involving Teenagers/ Number of Teenagers Involved	
		cases	persons
Seizure cases	710 cases	cases	persons
Heroin (kg)	11.8 kg	kg	persons
Cocaine (kg)	13.2 kg	kg	persons
Cannabis (kg)	111.2 kg	kg	persons
MDMA (ecstasy) (tablet)	116 477 tablets	tablets	persons
Methylamphetamine (ice) (kg)	11.0 kg	kg	persons
Ketamine	4.8 kg	kg	persons

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying**Reply :**

The table below shows the number of teenagers (aged under 21) who were involved in the department's "drug cases" and "psychotropic drugs cases" in 2004.

Item Category	Number of cases/ Quantity of Drugs	Number of cases/ Quantity of Drugs Involving Teenagers/ Number of Teenagers Involved	
		cases	persons
Seizure cases	710 cases	27 cases	30 persons
Heroin (kg)	11.8 kg	0.3 kg	6 persons
Cocaine (kg)	13.2 kg	Nil kg	Nil persons
Cannabis (kg)	111.2 kg	1.4 kg	8 persons
MDMA (ecstasy) (tablet)	116 477 tablets	96 tablets	2 persons
Methylamphetamine (ice) (kg)	11.0 kg	1.7 kg	5 persons
Ketamine	4.8 kg	0.8 kg	8 persons

The total number of teenagers arrested in cases involving the above drugs does not add up to 30 persons because a few teenagers were arrested in cases involving other drugs, e.g. Estazolam and Midazolam.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB134

0930

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
/ Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

Please list the rank(s) of officers who carried out surprise checks on the above subhead in 2004-05, 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 :

Periodic surprise inspections of expenses under Subhead 103 Rewards and Special Services (RSS) are carried out by officers at and above the Assistant Commissioner level. The Director of Audit and the Internal Audit Division of the department also carry out audits on RSS expenditure.

Twenty-two inspections were conducted in 2004-05. No irregularities were found.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TIMOTHY H M TONG
Post Title Commissioner of Customs and Excise
Date 6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB135

0931

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
/ Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

- a) Please provide the amount of expenditure involved in 2004-05 for the payment for provision of useful information from overseas for investigation purpose and what are the overseas places involved?
- b) Please provide the amount of expenditure involved in 2004-05 for the payment for provision of useful information locally for investigation purpose.
- c) Regarding the proposed provision for 2005-06, what is the percentage of expenditure estimated for the payment for provision of useful information for investigation purpose from overseas?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a), (b) and (c) Expenditure under Subhead 103 "Rewards and Special Services" includes payments of rewards, special services and operational expenses incurred in covert operations, including anti-narcotics, anti-illicit fuel and cigarettes, and anti-piracy operations. The actual expenditure under this subhead in 2004-05 (up to 29 March 2005) is \$8.82 million. It would not be appropriate to reveal the expenditure details under this subhead because the disclosure of such information would compromise the operational effectiveness of our investigations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology /
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

- (a) What are the respective numbers of cases and persons granted with rewards and special services payments in 2004-05? Moreover, what are the number of rewards and special services payments made and the actual expenditures involved?
- (b) Please list out the cases involving the offer of rewards for the arrest of offenders and their respective amounts, the actual expenditures involved, the actual number of payments made, and the number of recipients of such rewards in 2004-05.
- (c) What are the expenditures on the procurement and maintenance of equipment under this subhead in 2004-05?
- (d) The estimated expenditure under this subhead for 2005-06 is \$9 m. How much of the estimated expenditure will be used for rewards for the arrest of offenders and how much will be used for procurement and maintenance of equipment?
- (e) The estimated expenditure under this subhead for 2005-06 is \$9 m. How much of the estimated expenditure will be earmarked for the suppression of serious crimes and the protection of intellectual property rights? Please give the breakdown figures.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) and (c) There were 55 reward payments made in 2004-05. The total expenditure of rewards and special services in 2004-05 including payment on reward money as well as operational expenses incurred in covert operations (up to 29 March 2005) is \$8.82 million. As subhead 103 provides funding for covert operations and intelligence gathering, it would not be appropriate to reveal further expenditure details under this subhead.
- (b) The department did not have any cases involving the offer of rewards for the arrest of offenders in 2004-05.
- (d) Rewards are paid to informers who provide information leading to the discovery of offences with seizures of offending goods and/or arrests. Special services payments are made in relation to covert operations. The two expenditure items are within the same subhead, and funds are transferable between them if necessary.
- (e) The expenditure under this subhead will be used for combating Customs-related offences in general. There is no specific allocation to different types of Customs-related offences.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB137

1531

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : As the targets in terms of number of working days required for issuing various authorizations or approvals are fully met (100% achieved), it indicates that there may still be room for enhancing the working efficiency of the relevant services. In this respect, will the Government consider to set a target with reduced average numbers of working days required for processing these applications? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The performance targets for issuing Import Authorizations (CED 312), Export Authorizations (CED 313) and Storage Approvals (CED 360) reflect the maximum, instead of average, number of days required for this department to process, approve and issue such authorizations and approvals to the importers, exporters and responsible persons of the storage places respectively. For 95% of the applications, we were able to achieve our targets well within the pledged timeframe. But for the remaining 5%, we could only barely complete processing the applications within the pledged limit because of the complexity of the applications. We would not be able to meet performance targets in respect of these applications if the standard of current pledges is further raised. However, we will constantly review the performance targets and look for new measures to improve our performance within available resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB138

1543

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology /
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

As the performance targets of all the customs clearance tasks have been fully met (100% achieved), it indicates that there may still be room for enhancing the relevant clearance efficiency. Will the Government consider the need to shorten the average processing time of each type of clearance to facilitate the cross-boundary flow of pedestrians and cargoes? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The performance targets for clearing passengers and vehicles refer to the maximum time that a passenger or a vehicle spends on Customs clearance at the control points. The duration hinges on several factors, including the traffic volume, the seasonal factor, the peak hour factor and, in the case of cargo clearance, the complexity of the manifests.

For passenger clearance, the volume of passenger traffic increased by 18.6% during the past year, but the department remained able to meet the target of clearing passengers within 15 minutes of their queuing up for clearance. Furthermore, a vast majority of the passengers could be cleared within ten and many within three to five minutes. The installation of Customs clearance cubicles at various control points since 2003 has helped expedite clearance whilst also protecting privacy. However, during peak hours or festive seasons when there are a large number of passengers at the control points, they may have to wait somewhat longer but they can still be cleared within the target time of the present performance pledge. Given the high volume of traffic, there is little room for the pledged time to be further shortened.

As for vehicle clearance, the number of vehicles crossing the land boundary rose by 9.9% during the past year. We managed to meet the performance target by flexible redeployment of staff in particular during the peak seasons. While the target is 60 seconds, the average processing time for laden vehicles has been shortened from 45 seconds in 2003 to the current 30 seconds, and empty vehicles from 20 seconds in 2003 to the current 16 seconds through streamlining of the clearance procedures and the installation of automatic vehicle licence recognition system. A longer time, however, will still be needed to clear vehicles carrying a large volume of goods of different varieties and a complex manifest. Shortening the pledged time will mean that the performance target may not be met in respect of these vehicles. Notwithstanding the above, the department continues to seek improvement measures with a view to further enhancing clearance efficiency. In March this year, we have completed installation of electronic display boards at the Customs kiosks to automate the issuing of customs clearance directives to cross-boundary drivers. We hope this would further reduce the average clearance time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB139

1793

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

Subhead :
(No. & title)

Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

According to the indicators under this programme, the following has been noted:

- (a) There is a drop of 20% from 2003 to 2004 in the number of drug abusers reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse maintained by the Security Bureau. Further, there has been a drop of 50% in the amount of dangerous drugs seized outside Hong Kong. Please explain why there have been such significant decreases in both cases. Does it imply that provisions required for this Programme can be reduced significantly? Please provide also a breakdown of the financial provision for this programme in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (estimate);
- (b) There is a 100% increase in the quantity of poisons/anti-biotics seized in Hong Kong from 2003 to 2004. Please explain why there has been such a huge increase and what strategies and measures will be adopted to combat this problem; please also advise whether additional resources are required in this respect.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

- (a) According to the latest statistics, a total of 14 714 drug abusers were reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse in 2004, representing a drop of 5.7% when compared with 15 605 in 2003. This is mainly attributed to sustained efforts on various fronts, namely legislation and law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education and publicity, research, and international cooperation.

The decline of 50% in the amount of dangerous drugs seized overseas in 2004 was mainly attributable to a significant case in which 1 070 kg of "Ice" was seized by the Philippines authorities in 2003. It is also worth noting that the persons arrested outside Hong Kong rose by 37% from 27 in 2003 to 37 in 2004.

We have been endeavouring to maintain effective investigation and control action under Programme (2) within available resources, and the above figures do not in any way imply that the provision for this Programme can be reduced significantly. It is essential to maintain stringent law enforcement efforts, among others, to effectively suppress supply of and demand for drugs at source.

/The

The breakdown of financial provisions for Programme (2) in 2003, 2004 and 2005 is appended below –

	2003-04 (Actual) (\$M)	2004-05 (Revised) (\$M)	2005-06 (Estimate) (\$M)
Operating Account	130.7	130.2	126.2
Capital Account	2.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Provision	132.7	130.2	126.2

The estimated provision for 2005-06 at \$126.2 million represents a 3.1% reduction when compared to the revised amount of \$130.2 million in 2004-05.

- (b) The significant increase in the quantity of poisons/antibiotics seized in 2004 arose mainly from three major smuggling cases detected during the year, which together accounted for 2 130 kg and 16 600 tablets of assorted pharmaceutical products seized. These were isolated cases involving different destinations and did not signify any established trend. The department will continue to adopt a robust intelligence-led operation mode which has been proven effective in detecting such offences. No additional resources are required in this aspect.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TIMOTHY H M TONG
Post Title Commissioner of Customs and Excise
Date 6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB140

1794

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security / Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology /
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

According to the indicators as published under this programme, the number of seizure cases had increased by 22% from 2003 to 2004. Further, the number of persons compounded for offences relating to illicit cigarettes had increased by 91% from 2003 to 2004. Please explain:

- (a) the reasons for the high increase in the number of seizure cases as well as persons compounded for offences relating to illicit cigarettes and what specific measures and strategies will be adopted to deal with the situation;
- (b) in order to combat the above-mentioned situation, will the department require more resources and provisions and if so, why is there still a decrease in the 2005-6 estimate for this Programme; please also provide a breakdown of the provision for this Programme in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (estimate);
- (c) regarding the persons compounded for offences relating to illicit cigarettes, please provide the distribution of origins of such persons and whether there is any cooperation between Hong Kong and the origins in order to curtail the activity.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

- (a) The seizure cases effected by the department under Programme (1) cover the following categories –
 - (i) dutiable goods seized because passengers refused to pay duty for them;
 - (ii) failure of passengers to make declarations on dutiable goods; and
 - (iii) smuggling of contraband and failure to observe import and export licensing requirements.

The increase in seizure cases in 2004 mainly falls under category (i) and (ii) above. This is the result of the department's stepped-up measures to enhance enforcement against the abuse of duty-free concessions by passengers at control points. Such enforcement measures include –

- (i) establishing a Special Duties Unit since September 2002 to monitor and conduct checks on passengers suspected to have brought in dutiable commodities in excess of the duty-free quantities allowed without making declarations to Customs;
- (ii) linking computer workstations with the Immigration Department at various control points to verify whether an incoming Hong Kong resident has spent 24 hours or more outside Hong Kong and hence is eligible for duty-free concessions; and
- (iii) strengthening our intelligence exchange and mounting joint operations with the Mainland Customs to detect cases of abuse at both ends.

Other than the above enforcement measures, the department launched various publicity programmes in 2004, including making announcements on radio and television, issuing press releases and distributing information leaflets to visitors at various control points to advise them of the duty-free quantities allowed and the penalties for the related offences. All these measures will continue in 2005.

- (b) Sufficient resources are provided in the 2005-06 Estimates for the department to maintain effective Customs control and enforcement at control points and to detect and combat smuggling activities. A gradual reduction in the recurrent operating expenses for this Programme has been recorded in the past years because of the strenuous effort made to achieve savings through business process streamlining. Notwithstanding the overall reduction in operating expenses and the total number of posts under this Programme in 2005-06 (there will be a net deletion of 19 posts), additional resources including those for the creation of 43 posts have been included to strengthen cross-boundary services and to man a new control point in the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal in 2005-06.

The breakdown of the provision for Programme (1) for the three years is appended below –

	2003-04 (Actual) \$million	2004-05 (Revised Estimate) \$million	2005-06 (Estimate) \$million
Operating account	1,131.1	1,122.1	1,121.1
Capital account	53.7	24.0	17.6
Total	1,184.8	1,146.1	1,138.7

- (c) Of the persons compounded for offences relating to illicit cigarettes in 2004, 84% were Hong Kong residents, 7% were Mainland visitors and 9% were visitors from places other than the Mainland. As explained in (a) above, the department has stepped up efforts locally and maintained close cooperation with the Mainland Customs to detect suspected cases of abuse of duty-free concessions.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TIMOTHY H M TONG
Post Title Commissioner of Customs and Excise
Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB141

Question Serial No.

0065

Head: 166 - Government Flying Service Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

Comparing with 2003, the direct operating cost per flying hour of fixed-wing aircraft and the two types of helicopters will increase by 38% to \$9,310 and by about 20% respectively in 2005-06. In this connection, could the administration inform us of:

- (a) the reasons for the increases;
- (b) whether the estimated cost for procuring aircraft components will continue to rise;
- (c) whether cost control measures have been adopted. If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

- (a) The direct operating cost of the aircraft is made up of two elements, namely fuel cost and maintenance cost. The fuel price increased significantly between 2003 and 2004 and this accounted for part of the increase in the operating cost. The maintenance cost also increased for two reasons – (a) the increase of the exchange rate of Euro, the currency for paying the majority of our maintenance spares; and (b) the additional procurement of maintenance spares. For 2005-06, there is a need to procure specialized aircraft component/equipment to meet the newly implemented statutory airworthiness requirement, to procure additional essential spare parts to enhance the maintenance spares provision and to cover the additional scheduled maintenance due.
- (b) The rise and fall of the cost of the aircraft components is partly affected by the quantity of major aircraft components requiring overhaul or replacement for the period which may not be an annual event. Although this can be estimated, there are other elements that affect the cost of the components which are beyond our control. Such factors include the annual pricing review conducted by the aircraft component manufacturers, exchange rate changes and new statutory airworthiness requirements imposed by our regulatory agent. It is therefore difficult to estimate at this stage whether the cost of the aircraft component will continue to rise.

(c) We are always conscious of the need to use our resources effectively and efficiently. We have adopted the following measures to control the operating cost :

(i) in our negotiation with the manufacturers on the supply of aircraft components, we have specified the price adjustment mechanism and capped the level of price increase in the agreement;

(ii) we make use of the Government's bulk purchase contracts (e.g. for the supply of aviation fuel and oil) wherever applicable; and

(iii) as far as possible, all repairs /overhauls of aircraft components and equipment are done locally using our own resources instead of sending the defective parts overseas, thus saving freight charges and additional repair cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters BRIAN BUTT

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 7.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB142

Question Serial No.

0342

Head: 166 - Government Flying Service Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

The overall financial provision under this programme in the estimate for 2005-06 is 17.5% higher than the revised estimate for 2004-05. Please account in detail for the increase.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The increase in financial provision for 2005-06 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirements for the following -

- (a) the new capital items for the replacement of two sets of Forward Looking Infra Red System for the J41 fixed-wing aircraft to enhance the Government Flying Service's capability in search and rescue operations and its support to law enforcement missions; and
- (b) procuring specialized aircraft components to meet newly implemented statutory airworthiness requirement; and procuring additional essential spare parts to enhance provision on maintenance spares and to meet the additional scheduled maintenance due.

The increase in provision is a one-off provision for 2005-06 only.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

BRIAN BUTT

Post Title _____

Controller, Government Flying Service

Date _____

7.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB144

Head : 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0436

Programme : (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer : Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of "providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland", how many requests for assistance were received by the Beijing Office in terms of number of cases during each of the past two years? Is the number expected to increase in the coming year? Will there be any resource implications? What were the expenses involved in providing assistance to "Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland" in 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

(a) In 2003, the Beijing Office received 219 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 54 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, and 69 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland. The remaining 96 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.

In 2004, the Beijing Office received 297 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 82 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, and 126 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland. The remaining 89 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.

(b) It is difficult, if not impossible, for the Beijing Office to predict the number of Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland who require assistance in the coming year.

(c) The handling of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland had not been planned as the work of the Beijing Office when it was first established, and no resource had been provided for this area of service. Since August 1999, the Beijing Office has coped with such additional service through productivity enhancement and internal staff deployment. The Beijing Office will continue to handle requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents through the existing arrangement.

(d) The manpower resources involved in handling the requests for assistance accounted for 35% and 45% of the then resources of the Immigration Section of the Beijing Office in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 7.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB145

Head : 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0437

Programme : (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer : Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Will the Beijing Office take stock of the cases it has received and work out how the Mainland provinces and municipalities can improve their policies or administrative measures so as to facilitate the gradual convergence of Mainland government operations with international practices and at the same time reduce the difficulties that Hong Kong residents encounter in doing business, working and touring there? Are there any provisions earmarked for the work in this respect?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

Since its establishment, the Beijing Office has accumulated considerable experience in providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. During this period, the Beijing Office has also established good liaison and strengthened its contacts, communication and co-operation with relevant Mainland authorities, thus enabling a better understanding of each other's policies and administrative measures. These are useful for handling the requests for assistance from and resolving the difficulties faced by Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. Regarding this area of work, the Beijing Office will try its best to assist Hong Kong residents to solve their problems by maintaining and expanding the liaison network with the Central Government and local governments in the Mainland with existing manpower and resources.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 7.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB146

Head : 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1201

Programme : (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer : Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the cases for which assistance was sought from the Beijing Office every year for the past 3 years under this Programme, please provide a breakdown on Hong Kong residents being detained in the Mainland by reason for detention, place of detention, number of cases and detention time. Regarding the requests for assistance, are there any practical ways to help or follow up the cases apart from passing on and reflecting them to the relevant authorities? Has the Beijing Office offered legal assistance for such cases?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

(a) In 2002, the Beijing Office received 108 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland. Their breakdown is as follows:-

Reason for detention: smuggling (41), fraud/ robbery (27) , smuggling / manufacturing/ possession of narcotic drugs (13), organising prostitutes (1), bigamy (1), injuring with intent (1), official tort/ misappropriation/ false capital contribution/ illegal operation (11), corruption and bribery (2), business disputes (2), organising illegal migration (1), breach of state order/giving away information without authorisation (4), selling entry and exit documents (1), prejudicing witnesses in the giving of testimony (1), traffic accident (1) and covering up the suspects (1).

Place of detention: Guangdong(73), Beijing(5), Shanghai(5), Ningxia Autonomous Region(4), Jiangsu(4), Guangxi(3), Yunnan(3), Shandong(2), Zhejiang(2), Fujian(1), Hunan(1), Hubei(1), Sichuan(1), Hainan(1), Heilongjian(1) and Tianjin(1).

Term of imprisonment (according to information available to the Beijing Office): below 3 years (22), 3 to 10 years (28), over 10 years (7), life imprisonment (4), death sentence (6), released on bail (9), acquitted/ released (31) and still under trial (1).

In 2003, there were 96 cases. Their breakdown is as follows:-

Reason for detention: fraud/illegal operation/false capital contribution/false official tax receipt (30), smuggling (26), smuggling/manufacturing of narcotic drugs (12), breach of state order/giving away information without authorisation (6), official tort/ misappropriation (5), theft/robbery/kidnapping (4), common assault (4), murder with intent (2), business dispute (2), buying/selling gun (1), corruption (1), illegal migration (1), organising illegal migration (1) and traffic accident (1).

Place of detention: Guangdong (57), Beijing (9), Fujian (6), Zhejiang (6), Guangxi (3), Jiangxi (3), Yunnan (3), Shanghai (2), Henan (2), Sichuan (1), Shandong (1), Hainan (1), Tianjin (1) and Qinghai (1).

Term of imprisonment (according to information available to the Beijing Office): below 3 years (20), 3 to 10 years (16), over 10 years (17), life imprisonment (7), death sentence (6), released on bail (11), acquitted /released (14) and still under trial (5).

In 2004, there were 89 cases. Their breakdown is as follows:-

Reason for detention: fraud/misappropriation/false official tax receipt (35), smuggling (21), smuggling/manufacturing of narcotic drugs (11), theft/robbery/kidnapping (5), breach of state order/giving away information without authorisation (4), organising illegal migration (3), fighting (2), gambling (2), visiting prostitutes (2), rape (1), corruption (1), traffic accident (1) and escapee (1).

Place of detention: Guangdong (55), Beijing (8), Guangxi (4), Fujian (3), Hebei (3), Hubei (2), Hunan (2), Shandong (2), Shanghai (2), Sichuan (2), Yunnan (2), Hainan (1), Henan (1), Xinjiang (1) and Zhejiang (1).

Term of imprisonment (according to information available to the Beijing Office): below 3 years (13), 3 to 10 years (18), over 10 years (3), life imprisonment (5), death sentence (5), released on parole for medical treatment (1), released on bail (8), acquitted/released (10) and still under investigation, prosecution or on trial (26).

- (b) In handling requests for assistance, the Beijing Office would gather details of the case from the assistance seekers and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution or trial, etc. It would also remind the assistance seekers that they may employ Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. At the request of the assistance seekers, the Beijing Office would pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. It would maintain close contact with the assistance seekers and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention, time limit and ways for lodging appeal and further appeals, etc.) according to the development of the case. The Beijing Office has also published a booklet providing general information and guideline on the Mainland laws and regulations which are of common interest for reference by the assistance seekers.
- (c) Only legal practitioners qualified to practise in the Mainland could provide legal advice and assistance to the assistance seekers. Where necessary, the Beijing Office would provide them with information on the lawyers associations in the relevant provinces or municipalities as shown on the list provided by "All China Lawyers Association". The assistance seekers could then contact the respective lawyers association direct with a view to choosing a suitable lawyer to represent them for the case.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 7.4.2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB147

Question Serial No.

0947

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide in detail the establishment and strength of the Secretariat of the Independent Police Complaints Council in 2004-05 and the estimated figures for 2005-06 respectively.
- (b) Please provide in detail the number of observers, resources involved and the numbers of observations and complaint cases involved in 2004-05 and the estimated figures for 2005-06 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The establishment and strength position of the Secretariat of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) for 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:-

	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
Establishment	22*	22
Strength	22	22

* Excluding two permanent posts deleted in 2004-05.

- (b) The number of IPCC Observers in 2004-05 (as at 29 March 2005) was 90 (including 19 IPCC Members and 71 Lay Observers). Resources required for the IPCC Observers Scheme are mainly in the form of travelling allowance payable to the Lay Observers. In 2004-05, about \$52,000 was paid to the Lay Observers as travelling allowance.

In 2004, 319 observations involving 236 complaint cases were conducted by the Observers.

The number of Observers in 2005-06 is not available as serving Lay Observers may retire while additional Lay Observers may be appointed by the Secretary for Security during the year.

Expenditure on travelling allowance to be incurred in 2005-06 depends on the number of observations made and the rate of travelling allowance payable to Lay Observers. The current rate of the allowance is \$173 for each visit.

It is estimated that the number of observations and complaint cases involved in 2005 will be similar to that for 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS ANNIE LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent
Police Complaints Council

Date 1 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB148

Question Serial No.

0948

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the complaints classified as substantiated after review by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in 2004 and the number of police officers involved.
- (b) Please provide the number of complaints in respect of which the IPCC disagreed with the classifications by the Complaints Against Police Office after review in 2004, and the details of the follow-up actions taken by the IPCC on these complaints.
- (c) Regarding the complaints reviewed in 2004, on how many occasions did the IPCC comment that the proposed disciplinary actions or warnings were not commensurate with the misconduct of the police officers? On how many occasions were these comments accepted by the Police? On how many occasions were they not accepted and no follow-up actions were taken after explanation or clarification? On how many occasions did recommendations have to be made to the Commissioner of Police or the Chief Executive?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) Among the 3,299 cases endorsed by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in 2004, 193 (involving 267 allegations) were found to be substantiated. These cases involved 308 police officers.
- (b) In examining the complaint investigation reports submitted by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO), the IPCC may propose to re-classify the investigation results depending on the evidence available. In 2004, the IPCC raised 130 queries of this kind with CAPO. As a result of these queries, 89 investigation results were changed subsequently. All the investigation results concluded by CAPO in the year were endorsed by the IPCC after its review and in the light of the amendments, explanation and clarification by CAPO.

(c) The imposition of disciplinary action and warning on police officers is the prerogative of the Commissioner of Police. The IPCC may, however, comment on whether the level of the disciplinary action or warning is commensurate with the gravity of the misconduct. The IPCC made 16 such comments in 2004. Of these, 14 (87.5%) were accepted by the Police and 2 (12.5%) were satisfactorily explained/followed-up by the Police. The IPCC had no further question about the disciplinary action or warning imposed on police officers after explanation or clarification was furnished by the Police and made no suggestion in this regard to the Commissioner of Police or the Chief Executive in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS ANNIE LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent
Police Complaints Council

Date 1 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB149

Question Serial No.

0404

Head: 23 - Auxiliary Medical Service

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A total of 351 new members were recruited in 2004, much fewer than the 671 members recruited in 2003. Why? Is there any difficulty in recruitment? Will this affect the performance of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS)? Any measures to boost recruitment?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply:

Owing to the SARS outbreak in 2003, AMS members were required to perform the duty of temperature screening for inbound and outbound travellers at land and sea immigration control points. Additional members were therefore recruited to provide the service and to top up the wastage occurred during the period. In 2004, the turnover rate was lower than that of the previous year. Accordingly, the intake of new members in 2004 was only 351, which enabled AMS to maintain a strength of 4 372, representing 99% of its establishment of 4 418 members. Hence, despite fewer new members were recruited in 2004, the performance of AMS was not affected. AMS has no difficulty in the recruitment of new members as over 1 000 applications were received in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Yiu-wing _____

Post Title _____ Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service _____

Date _____ 2.4.2005 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB150

Question Serial No.

0405

Head: 23 - Auxiliary Medical Service

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2004, why did the number of actual man-hour in the recruit training decrease substantially when compared with that of target man-hour?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The number of actual man-hour in the recruit training is calculated in accordance with the number of new recruits and the number of training hours they actually attend in that year. Owing to the SARS outbreak in 2003, the number of new recruits required was greater than the estimated wastage in the same year. In addition, because of the reduced turnover rate in 2004, the number of new recruits required for topping up was only 351, resulting in a substantial decrease in the number of actual man-hour in the recruit training.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **CHAN Yiu-wing** _____

Post Title Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service

Date _____ 2.4.2005 _____

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

SB151

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (6) Treatment of Drug Abusers

1000

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : In view of the increasing number of soft drug users, what measures does the Administration have in providing treatment to them? What are the expenditure and subvention/provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Drug treatment and rehabilitation services are provided by various Government departments and institutions, including Correctional Services Department, Social Welfare Department, Department of Health, clinics under the Hospital Authority and institutions run by non-government organisations.

The Department of Health operates a Methadone Treatment Programme to provide treatment of opiate abusers through a network of 20 clinics. The Department also provides subvention to three non-governmental organisations to operate five centres for residential treatment and rehabilitation services to drug abusers. The majority of patients admitted to these centres are opiate abusers. Multiple drug abusers including psychotropic substance abusers are also admitted. The subvention for 2005-06 is \$82M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

SB152

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (6) Treatment of Drug Abusers

1298

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding the reduction in the subvention for the subvented sector in 2005-06, how many subvented organisations will be affected? What is the average reduction in the subvention for each subvented organisation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

There are three non-governmental organisations receiving subvention from the Department of Health to provide residential treatment and rehabilitation services to drug abusers. They are the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers, the Caritas Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Christian Service.

The subvention for these organisations will be slightly decreased by 2% on average in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

SB153

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0786

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : The Marine Department will propose amendments to the subsidiary legislation of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance in 2005-06. What are the details? Which industries or operations will be affected by such amendments?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

To align the local regulatory regime on dangerous goods with international standards, the Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council in March 2002. Detailed controls under the amended ordinance will be set out in the subsidiary legislation under preparation, including the Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulations. Main features of the proposed amendments to the regulation include:

- (a) Classification and Packing
Classification and packing requirements of dangerous goods in Hong Kong waters will follow the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, subject to minor amendments to suit local circumstances.
- (b) Labelling
The labelling of dangerous goods will follow international standards. The English description on the labels will follow the recommendations of the IMDG Code while the Chinese description will follow the Chinese IMDG Code issued by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.
- (c) Others
Provisions governing the conveyance of dangerous goods by vessels currently stipulated under various ordinances will be incorporated into the Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulations. Administrative measures on the conveyance of dangerous goods by vessels currently in use will be codified and obsolete provisions will be removed from the Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulations.

The Marine Department has consulted and obtained the support of barge operators engaged in the conveyance of dangerous goods, the Port Operations Committee and the Provisional Local Vessel Advisory Committee on the proposed amendments to the Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulations. The Legislative Council Panel on Security will be consulted on the proposed amendments in the current legislative session.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.Y. TSUI

Post Title _____ Director of Marine

Date _____ 7 April 2005