

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology  
Session No. : 1**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">S-CITB(CT)01</a>	S19	TAM Heung-man	55	Operational Expenses
<a href="#">S-CITB(CT)02</a>	S50	LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie	155	Infrastructural Support
<a href="#">S-CITB(CT)03</a>	SV09	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	47	-
<a href="#">S-CITB(CT)04</a>	S18	TAM Heung-man	47	Information Technology Infrastructure and Standards

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**S-CITB(CT)01**

Question Serial No.

S19

Head: 55 - Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses  
Commerce, Industry and  
Technology Bureau  
(Communications and Technology  
Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology  
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question : It is stated in the Reply Serial No. CITB(CT)005 that the increased provision in the departmental expenses would be used for pursuing new initiatives, but no concrete plans had been worked out so far. Would the Administration explain to the Committee whether unnecessary initiatives are to be pursued just for the sake of "using the provision"? If not, would the direction and details of the new initiatives be provided?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : In examining the use of the provision, we will consider the purposes, effectiveness, priority, etc. of the new initiatives and activities before deciding on their implementation. The resources pooled among the Communications and Technology Branch and its departments are made available mainly for the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology to pursue new initiatives and activities within his policy areas, such as information and technology, innovation and technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, etc. No unnecessary initiatives will be pursued just for the sake of "using the provision".

Name in block letters

Francis Ho

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry  
and Technology  
(Communications and Technology)

Date

17.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**S-CITB(CT)02**

Question Serial No.

S50

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question : In its reply, the Innovation and Technology Commission said that “the discrepancy between the revised provision for 2005-06 and the original is mainly due to the revised expenditure for the DesignSmart Initiative. Such revision is made because the number of actual applications received under the Initiative and the required funding are lower than our original projection...” Could the Administration provide the actual number of approved projects and the amount of funding involved? Regarding the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme (DBCS) for small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SME), has the Government considered to raise its existing funding ceiling of \$100,000?  
[Regarding Question Serial No. 0693 (Reply Serial No. CITB(CT)014)]

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

Reply : In 2005-06, a total of 12 projects were approved under the Design Support Programme of the DesignSmart Initiative, involving total funding of \$18 m.

The DBCS aims to promote collaboration between local SMEs and the design industry, encourage them to add value to their products or services and enhance the competitiveness of such. The funding provided by the DBCS benefits commercial projects undertaken by individual companies. The Government has not considered raising the current funding ceiling at this stage. In the coming year, the Government will enhance its promotional work and encourage more industry participation in the DBCS.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong  
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology  
Date 20.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY VERBAL QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**S-CITB(CT)03**

Question Serial No.

SV09

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the  
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer : Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question : At the request of Hon. Emily LAU, Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Administration agrees to provide information on quality professional services provided through Standing Offer Agreement Contract, if any, to the Independent Police Complaints Council in relation to the security of their electronic information, including the personal data of some 20 000 complainants which have recently been posted on the Internet.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : In addition to publishing guidelines on IT security, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has been facilitating the acquisition by bureaux and departments of information security services. The information security services, which include risk assessment and audit services, have been available for acquisition under the prevailing standing offer agreements, namely IT Professional Services Arrangement (ITPSA) between June 2002 and December 2005 and the Standing Offer Agreements for Quality Professional Services (SOA-QPS) since December 2005. These services have also been announced to all bureaux and departments, including the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) Secretariat.

The IPCC Secretariat has budgeted \$95,000 for conducting an information security risk assessment and audit exercise in 2006-07.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

17.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**S-CITB(CT)04**

Question Serial No.

S18

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the  
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer : Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question : In the reply under serial no. CITB(CT)041, the Administration stated that the private sector would be invited to operate the Hongkong Post Certification Authority (HKPCA). Would the Administration please inform this Committee that in case no private enterprise is willing to operate the HKPCA, will the Administration continue to subsidize its operational expense on a long-term basis?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : In our submission to the LegCo Panel on IT and Broadcasting on 12 December 2005, we have made it clear that in the event there is no successful bidder for the Request for Proposal exercise to outsource the HKPCA operation, the Government will support the HKPCA and subsidize its operational expenses until end March 2008 so as to allow sufficient time for the existing subscribers of e-Certs and business partners of HKPCA to complete the necessary transitional arrangements and switch to the services of other recognized certification authorities or other authentication solutions.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

17.3.2006