

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the
Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Session No: 18**

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DEVB(W)002	0153	Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)003	0232	Hon. KWOK Ka-ki	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)004	0233	Hon. KWOK Ka-ki	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)005	0374	Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)006	0390	Hon. KWOK Ka-ki	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)007	0458	Hon. LI Kwok-ying	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)008	0459	Hon. LI Kwok-ying	159	-
DEVB(W)009	0767	Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	159	-
DEVB(W)010	0848	Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)011	1005	Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)012	1050	Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)013	1057	Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick	159	Intra-Governmental Services
DEVB(W)014	1358	Hon. YEUNG Sum	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)015	1359	Hon. YEUNG Sum	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)016	1360	Hon. YEUNG Sum	159	Heritage Conservation
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DEVB(W)021	2143	Hon. CHOY So-yuk	159	Intra-Governmental Services
DEVB(W)022	2144	Hon. CHOY So-yuk	159	Intra-Governmental Services
DEVB(W)023	2319	Hon. WONG Kwok-hing	159	Intra-Governmental Services
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DEVB(W)026	2656	Hon. KWOK Ka-ki	159	Heritage Conservation
DEVB(W)027	0099	Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	25	-
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CONTROLLING OFFICER’S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

DEVB(W)001

Question Serial No.

0098

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question: Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

(1) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

(2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy study in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply: Details of consultancy studies for which funds have been reserved in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the following table:

(1) The Bureau has earmarked funds to conduct the following consultancy studies in 2007-08

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Department of Civil Engineering of The University of Hong Kong	Study on the Development Strategy for Professional Resources of the construction and related sector in Hong Kong	260,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
Hong Kong Architecture Centre Ltd.*	Benchmark study on building controls to facilitate adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Hong Kong	260,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
Mott Connell Limited	Study on sustainable construction for public works projects	230,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
Maunsell Consultants Asia Limited	Vetting of the draft manual for the preparation of bill of quantities for civil engineering projects	166,000	Completed	The manual will be put on trial use in various works contracts.	The government has already briefed the construction industry on the manual.
Powersoft Consultancy Ltd.*	Study on overseas experience of revitalisation of historic buildings and media strategies	164,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable

* The study started in 2007-08 and will be completed in 2008-09.

(2) The Bureau has earmarked funds to conduct the following consultancy studies in 2008-09

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Department of Civil Engineering of The University of Hong Kong	Study on the Development Strategy for Professional Resources of the construction and related sector in Hong Kong	1,040,000	To be completed in 2008-09	We will share the Study findings with the industry including the Construction Industry Council, local universities, local professional institutions and trade associations.
Mott Connell Limited	Study on sustainable construction for public works projects	920,000	To be completed in 2008-09	We will share relevant and useful information in the study with the industry, e.g. via the Construction Industry Council.

Hong Kong Architecture Centre Ltd.	Benchmark study on building controls to facilitate adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Hong Kong	130,000	To be completed in 2008-09	We will share relevant and useful information in the study with parties concerned, as appropriate, e.g. via workshop, website.
Powersoft Consultancy Ltd.	Study on overseas experience of revitalisation of historic buildings and media strategies	84,000	To be completed in 2008-09	We will share relevant and useful information in the study with parties concerned, as appropriate, e.g. via workshop, website.
Tender in progress	Study on the feasibility of adopting the Eurocodes in Hong Kong	1,000,000	To be completed in 2008-09	We will share relevant and useful information in the study with the industry, e.g. via the Construction Industry Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)002

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
 Secretariat: Development
 Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

0153

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

How much funding the Development Bureau has earmarked to handle the work in connection with the operation of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

Upon the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) vide FCR(2007-08)52 on 1 February 2008 to create a new commitment of \$100 million under Head 159 Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch) Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent for the implementation of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” (Revitalisation Scheme) for five years from 2008-09, we have launched the Revitalisation Scheme on 22 February 2008 and started to invite applications for the seven historic buildings under the first batch of the Revitalisation Scheme. As regards expenditure in support of the Revitalisation Scheme, it involves the following -

(a) On the Implementation of Works

The Administration has earmarked \$1 billion under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the capital cost for heritage projects. In particular, we will provide one-off capital grant to cover the cost for major renovation to the buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme, in part or in full. The level of this one-off grant will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the size and proposed usage of the building. The Works Branch will seek approval for the capital works funding from Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC)/ FC as necessary; and

(b) On the Operation of the Revitalisation Scheme

The non-recurrent commitment of \$100 million will provide funding for the one-off grant to meet the starting costs and operating deficits (if any) of the social enterprises (SEs) for a maximum of the first two years of their operation on the prerequisite that the SE proposal is projected to become self-sustainable after this initial period. The financial ceiling per building/project is set at \$5 million. The non-recurrent commitment will also cover other ad hoc expenses directly related to the Revitalisation Scheme, such as conducting historic research into individual buildings, mounting publicity (such as exhibitions and printing of promotional materials to promote the Revitalisation Scheme), maintaining the buildings yet to be allocated under the Revitalisation Scheme and arranging open days for those buildings.

The estimated expenditure of the commitment in 2008-09 is \$3 million. It should be noted that the trend of expenditure will start at a low level in 2008-09 and rise towards the following years. This is because the Revitalisation Scheme is entirely new, and lead time is required to carry out the basic ground work until the projects come into fruition (e.g. going through the vetting process, bidding funds from the PWSC of the FC for the renovation works, etc.).

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)003

Question Serial No.

0232

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 mentioned that different economic incentives would be explored to facilitate the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. What are the different economic incentives and how much expenditure will be used on research work?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

As announced in the package of new heritage conservation initiatives by the Chief Executive in his 2007 Policy Address, the Government will actively explore new arrangements to provide economic incentives for private owners to encourage heritage conservation. Implementation of this initiative is complicated as it straddles a number of different areas including planning, lands and building control. Also, each case has its own uniqueness. As such, we are adopting a case-by-case approach.

There is a range of economic incentives, such as in-situ land exchange, non-in-situ land exchange, transfer of development rights in the form of offsetting of land premium as appropriate, cash compensation, etc. We will normally start with the easiest way first, i.e. finding out whether there is space with development potential within the existing lot boundaries so as to make up for the loss of development rights of the owner due to the preservation of the historic building. If this is not feasible, the next option is to find a suitable government site in the vicinity. When the above options are not feasible, other alternatives, including identifying another lot in another district, or even providing cash payment to the owner will be considered. The case of King Yin Lei at 45 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong is a good illustrative example. With the understanding between the Government and the owner, the owner will surrender the whole site of King Yin Lei to the Government after restoring the historic building, while the Government will make available an adjacent site of man-made slope of roughly the same size and the same development parameters as King Yin Lei to the owner.

The staffing requirement for exploring different economic incentives in conjunction with the parties concerned will largely be met by internal redeployment of resources within Works Branch of the Development Bureau. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)004

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

0233

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 mentioned that the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” will be implemented to preserve and put government-owned historic buildings into good and innovative use; and to transform historic buildings into unique cultural landmarks. What will the innovative use be and how much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme) is innovative in that it is devised to achieve the dual objectives that historic buildings will be preserved and at the same time be made available for use by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to run social enterprises (SEs) in the best interest of the community (i.e. of high social value). Under the Revitalisation Scheme, NGOs are welcomed to submit whatever proposals that can meet such objective.

Upon the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) vide FCR(2007-08)52 on 1 February 2008 to create a new commitment of \$100 million under Head 159 Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch) Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent for the implementation of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” (Revitalisation Scheme) for five years from 2008-09, we have launched the Revitalisation Scheme on 22 February 2008 and started to invite applications for the seven historic buildings under the first batch of the Revitalisation Scheme. As regards expenditure in support of the Revitalisation Scheme, it involves the following -

(a) On the Implementation of Works

The Administration has earmarked \$1 billion under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the capital cost for heritage projects. In particular, we will provide one-off capital grant to cover the cost for major renovation to the buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme, in part or in full. The level of this one-off grant will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the size and proposed usage of the building. The Works Branch will seek approval for the capital works funding from Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC)/ FC as necessary; and

(b) On the Operation of the Revitalisation Scheme

The non-recurrent commitment of \$100 million will provide funding for the one-off grant to meet the starting costs and operating deficits (if any) of the SEs for a maximum of the first two years of their operation on the prerequisite that the SE proposal is projected to become self-sustainable after this initial period. The financial ceiling per building/project is set at \$5 million. The non-recurrent commitment will also cover other ad hoc expenses directly related to the Revitalisation Scheme, such as conducting historic research into individual buildings, mounting publicity (such as exhibitions and printing of promotional materials to promote the Revitalisation Scheme), maintaining the buildings yet to be allocated under the Revitalisation Scheme and arranging open days for those buildings.

The estimated expenditure of the commitment in 2008-09 is \$3 million. It should be noted that the trend of expenditure will start at a low level in 2008-09 and rise towards the following years. This is because the Revitalisation Scheme is entirely new, and lead time is required to carry out the basic ground work until the projects come into fruition (e.g. going through the vetting process, bidding funds from the PWSC of the FC for the renovation works, etc.).

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)005

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

0374

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question: In 2008-09, the Development Bureau will allocate some \$33 million for heritage conservation initiatives, which is 138.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. Though the Administration has accounted for the rise of individual items, I would request the following details to be provided:

- (1) Items, manpower resources and expenditure to be involved for each initiative;
- (2) Please give a detailed up-to-date account of the implementation progress of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”, list of officers responsible for various items of the Scheme as well as the selection criteria.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

- (1) In the 2007 Policy Address delivered in October 2007, the Chief Executive announced a range of initiatives on heritage conservation. The key initiatives are -
 - (a) conducting Heritage Impact Assessment in government projects;
 - (b) implementation of Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme);
 - (c) exploring new arrangements to provide economic incentives for conservation of privately-owned historic buildings; and
 - (d) extension of financial assistance on maintenance to privately-owned graded historic buildings.

All the above duties will be undertaken by the Commissioner for Heritage's (C for H's) Office to be set up upon endorsement of the post of C for H by the Finance Committee (FC) in April 2008.

The total expenditure pertaining to heritage conservation in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$33.6 million. The major breakdown of the estimated expenditure is as follows -

- (a) personal emoluments - \$13.3 million for staff involved in discharging duties related to heritage conservation, including the establishment of the C for H's Office with effect from April 2008;
- (b) departmental expenses - \$17.3 million comprising mainly expenditure for salaries of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, consultancy studies, creation of a dedicated website for heritage conservation, procurement of computer facilities, etc.; and

- (c) general non-recurrent expenditure - \$3 million for implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme. (As it is a new scheme, the trend of expenditure is expected to start at a low level in 2008-09 and rise towards the following years.)
- (2) Upon the approval of the FC vide FCR(2007-08)52 on 1 February 2008 to create a new commitment of \$100 million under Head 159 Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch) Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent for the implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme for five years from 2008-09, we have launched the Revitalisation Scheme on 22 February 2008 and started to invite applications for the seven historic buildings under the first batch of the Revitalisation Scheme. The closing date of application is 21 May 2008. Open days for the seven historic buildings to applicants have been held in the first two weeks of March and a workshop for applicants on the Revitalisation Scheme is scheduled for early April.
- The C for H post to be created will be responsible for overseeing the administration of the Revitalisation Scheme. A multi-disciplinary secretariat comprises mainly NCSC staff coming from relevant fields of historical research, management, accounting etc. will be set up to assist in the implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme. A Scheme Committee comprising representatives from relevant government bureaux/departments, member(s) of the Antiquities Advisory Board, experts in the fields of heritage conservation and social enterprise operation, etc., will be established to consider applications and related matters. The Scheme Committee will examine and assess the applications on the basis of a marking scheme. The marking scheme comprises the following components:
- reflection of historical value and significance;
 - heritage preservation;
 - social enterprise operation;
 - financial viability; and
 - other factors (such as the management capabilities and past experience of the applicant etc.).

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ C K MAK

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____ 28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)006

Question Serial No.

0390

Head : 159 – Government Secretariat: Development Subhead :
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (2) - Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 mentioned that the Development Bureau would take forward the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in the light of Hong Kong Jockey Club's public engagement exercise. What are the details of the project and how much manpower and expenditure will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. Kwok Ka-ki

Reply : The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) has submitted a proposal to Government to revitalise the Central Police Station (CPS) Compound into a heritage site, offering arts, cultural, retail and food and beverage facilities through the preservation of existing historical buildings. The revitalised CPS Compound will also provide new venues for arts and cultural performance. Subject to the outcome of the public engagement exercise, HKJC will finalize its proposal and submit it to Government for consideration.

No additional expenditure will be involved on the part of Government. Any work associated with the processing of HKJC's proposal will be met from within existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

31 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)007

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

0458

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the establishment of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office, please provide details of specific work to commence in 2008-09 should the establishment of the office be realized. How much manpower and expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

In the 2007 Policy Address delivered in October 2007, the Chief Executive announced a range of initiatives on heritage conservation. The key initiatives are -

- (a) conducting Heritage Impact Assessment in government projects;
- (b) implementation of Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme);
- (c) exploring new arrangements to provide economic incentives for conservation of privately-owned historic buildings; and
- (d) extension of financial assistance on maintenance to privately-owned graded historic buildings.

All the above duties will be undertaken by the Commissioner for Heritage's (C for H's) Office to be set up upon endorsement of the post of C for H by the Finance Committee in April 2008. The C for H post to be created will be responsible for overseeing the administration of the Revitalisation Scheme. A multi-disciplinary secretariat comprises mainly NCSC staff coming from relevant fields of historical research, management, accounting, etc. will be set up to assist in the implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme.

The total expenditure pertaining to heritage conservation in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$33.6 million. The major breakdown of the estimated expenditure is as follows -

- (a) personal emoluments - \$13.3 million for staff involved in discharging duties related to heritage conservation including the establishment of the C for H's Office with effect from April 2008;
- (b) departmental expenses - \$17.3 million comprising mainly expenditure for salaries of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, consultancy studies, creation of dedicated website for heritage conservation, procurement of computer facilities etc.; and

- (c) general non-recurrent expenditure - \$3 million for implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme . (As it is a new scheme, the trend of expenditure is expected to start at a low level in 2008-09 and rise towards the following years.)

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____ 28 March 2008

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date:

28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)010

Question Serial No.

0848

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In connection with the funding to implement heritage conservation policies, please tell us the funding required for each item, as well as the comparison against 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The total expenditure pertaining to heritage conservation in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$33.6 million. The major breakdown of the estimated expenditure is as follows -

- (a) personal emoluments - \$13.3 million is for staff involved in discharging duties related to heritage conservation including the establishment of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office with effect from April 2008;
- (b) departmental expenses - \$17.3 million comprises mainly expenditure for salaries of non-civil service contract staff, consultancy studies, creation of a dedicated website for heritage conservation, procurement of computer facilities etc.; and
- (c) general non-recurrent expenditure - \$3 million for implementation of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.

A comparison of the expenditure for implementing heritage conservation policies in 2008-09 against the preceding two financial years is as follows:

	2006-07 <u>(Actual)</u> \$M	2007-08 <u>(Revised Estimate)</u> \$M	2008-09 <u>(Estimate)</u> \$M
Personal emoluments	2.2	6.9	13.3
Departmental expenses	0.5	7.2	17.3
General non-recurrent	0.0	0.0	3.0
Total	2.7	14.1	33.6
		(+422% on 2006-07 Actual)	(+138% on 2007-08 Revised)

It should be noted that the expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is much higher due to the importance accorded to heritage conservation as announced in the 2007 Policy Address.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)011

Question Serial No.

1005

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As the Administration will engage the public actively in the conservation of historic buildings, what schemes will be implemented? How much will be the estimated expenditure? How many employment opportunities will be created by such schemes? Which districts will benefit?

Asked by: Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply:

The Administration will engage the public actively on heritage conservation via the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme) as well as the conservation of other historic buildings where appropriate. As regards the Revitalisation Scheme, it is devised to achieve the dual objectives that historic buildings will be preserved and at the same time be made available for use by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to run social enterprises (SEs) in the best interest of the community. Under the Revitalisation Scheme, NGOs are welcomed to submit whatever proposals that can preserve and put the buildings into good and innovative use on the one hand, while on the other, bring social benefits to the community particularly at the district level.

Upon the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) vide FCR(2007-08)52 on 1 February 2008 to create a new commitment of \$100 million under Head 159 Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch) Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent for the implementation of the "Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme" (Revitalisation Scheme) for five years from 2008-09, we have launched the Revitalisation Scheme on 22 February 2008 and started to invite applications for the seven historic buildings under the first batch of the Revitalisation Scheme. As regards expenditure in support of the Revitalisation Scheme, it involves the following -

(a) On the Implementation of Works

The Administration has earmarked \$1 billion under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the capital cost for heritage projects. In particular, we will provide one-off capital grant to cover the cost for major renovation to the buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme, in part or in full. The level of this one-off grant will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the size and proposed usage of the building. The Works Branch will seek approval for the capital works funding from Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC)/ FC as necessary; and

(b) On the Operation of the Revitalisation Scheme

The non-recurrent commitment of \$100 million will provide funding for the one-off grant to meet the starting costs and operating deficits (if any) of the SEs for a maximum of the first two years of their operation on the prerequisite that the SE proposal is projected to become self-sustainable after this initial period. The financial ceiling per building/project is set at \$5 million. The non-recurrent commitment will also cover other ad hoc expenses directly related to the Revitalisation Scheme, such as conducting historic research into individual buildings, mounting publicity (such as exhibitions and printing of promotional materials to promote the Revitalisation Scheme), maintaining the buildings yet to be allocated under the Revitalisation Scheme and arranging open days for those buildings.

The estimated expenditure of the commitment in 2008-09 is \$3 million. It should be noted that the trend of expenditure will start at a low level in 2008-09 and rise towards the following years. This is because the Revitalisation Scheme is entirely new, and lead time is required to carry out the basic ground work until the projects come into fruition (e.g. going through the vetting process, bidding funds from the PWSC of the FC for the renovation works etc.).

The Revitalisation Scheme will create additional job opportunities both at the district level and in the entire community from the carrying out of the renovation works and actual operation of the SEs. However, more details will only be known when the Revitalisation Scheme has been in actual operation for a reasonable period of time. (As background, the seven historic buildings under the first batch of the Revitalisation Scheme are located in Sham Shui Po (3 nos.), Mong Kok (1 no.), Tai Po (1 no.), Lantau Island (1 no.) and Tsuen Wan (1 no.)).

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)012

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

1050

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In connection with the seeking to set up the Commissioner for Heritage's Office under the Works Branch of the Development Bureau in 2008-09 to handle matters concerning heritage conservation specifically, please provide details of the work, manpower and expenditure concerned.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In the 2007 Policy Address delivered in October 2007, the Chief Executive announced a range of initiatives on heritage conservation. The key initiatives are -

- (a) conducting Heritage Impact Assessment in government projects;
- (b) implementation of Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme);
- (c) exploring new arrangements to provide economic incentives for conservation of privately-owned historic buildings; and
- (d) extension of financial assistance on maintenance to privately-owned graded historic buildings.

All the above duties will be undertaken by the Commissioner for Heritage's (C for H's) Office to be set up upon endorsement of the post of C for H by the Finance Committee in April 2008. The C for H post to be created will be responsible for overseeing the administration of the Revitalisation Scheme. A multi-disciplinary secretariat comprises mainly NCSC staff coming from relevant fields of historical research, management, accounting, etc. will be set up to assist in the implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme.

The total expenditure pertaining to heritage conservation in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$33.6 million. The major breakdown of the estimated expenditure is as follows -

- (a) personal emoluments - \$13.3 million for staff involved in discharging duties related to heritage conservation including the establishment of the C for H's Office with effect from April 2008;
- (b) departmental expenses - \$17.3 million comprising mainly expenditure for salaries of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, consultancy studies, creation of dedicated website for heritage conservation, procurement of computer facilities etc.; and

- (c) general non-recurrent expenditure - \$3 million for implementation of the Revitalisation Scheme. (As it is a new scheme, the trend of expenditure is expected to start at a low level in 2008-09 and rise towards the following years.)

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____ 28 March 2008

Reply :

The estimated increase of 11.4% (or \$18.1 million) pertains to increased provision for minor consultancy studies, implementation of Graduate Training Scheme, enhancement of computer systems, as well as staffing resources for various areas (e.g. Construction Workers Registration). It is not due to increase in expenditure in the Public Works Project Information System nor increase in resources to keep underspending of Public Works Programme (PWP) to below 5 %.

We would like to elaborate on the three specific enquiries as follows:

- (a) Regarding the Public Works Project Information System, it is maintained by a small team of six staff involving an annual expenditure of about \$4 million. They provide services to maintain the efficient operation of the system and to undertake system enhancement to meet the changing requirements of users. Given that the current level of service is generally satisfactory, the existing staffing level will be maintained;
- (b) & (c) Regarding the monitoring of delivery of the PWP, we were able to achieve a spending position within the range of +/-1% in the past two years. For 2007-08, the revised expenditure on infrastructure works of \$20.5 billion is slightly above the original estimate of \$20.4 billion. The existing staffing level of eight professional and supporting staff is responsible for monitoring the delivery of PWP, coordinating submissions and vetting of Panel and PWSC papers. The annual expenditure of about \$6 million will be maintained.

Spending level of PWP can be affected by factors like inclement weather; actual performance of contractors; work site ground conditions; underground utilities; and other unforeseen factors. Some deviation between actual spending and the original estimated expenditure of projects is therefore inevitable. The underspending limit of 5% is determined based on historical expenditure performance and will be reviewed when justified. At present, taking into account all prevailing circumstances, it is regarded as reasonable and appropriate.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date:

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)014

Question Serial No.

1358

Head : 159 – Government
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)
Subhead :

Programme : (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

- Question :
- (a) How much expenditure did the Administration spend on the maintenance of Government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings in 2006 and 2007 respectively? What is the expected expenditure for such work in 2008?
 - (b) How much expenditure did the Administration spend on the maintenance of privately-owned declared monuments in 2006 and 2007 respectively? What is the expected expenditure for such work in 2008?
 - (c) How much provision does the Administration expect will be used on the maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings in 2008?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

- (a) Restoration and maintenance of Government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings is funded by Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Water Supplies Department (WSD) depending on their current usage. Total expenditure in this respect was \$46 million in 2006-07 and \$54.4 million in the 2007-08 revised estimate. The estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is \$55.5 million. However, it should be noted that a large portion of the maintenance expenditure is incurred on historic buildings still in use by relevant government departments and is reflected in the departments' overall building maintenance vote.
- (b) Restoration of privately-owned declared monuments is funded by LCSD. The expenditure in this respect was \$5.8 million in 2006-07 and \$4.0 million in the 2007-08 revised estimate. The estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is \$12.8 million.

- (c) For the maintenance of privately-owned graded buildings, details of criteria and mechanism for providing financial support are being drawn up pursuant to its announcement in the 2007 Policy Address. A provision of \$2 million is earmarked in 2008-09 for the purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K Mak

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

31 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)015

Question Serial No.

1359

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question: Apart from those already incorporated into the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, how many declared monuments and graded historic buildings are not open to the public for visits due to quality of the buildings or management problems? How much resources does the Administration expect it will use in 2008-09 to facilitate the opening of such declared monuments and graded historic buildings for public visits and how many will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply: **Declared Monuments**

There are a total of 83 declared monuments of which 46 are Government-owned and 37 privately-owned.

In regard to the 46 Government-owned declared monuments, 40 are accessible by the general public either in an unrestricted manner (e.g. the Flagstaff House) or during open days (e.g. Hong Kong Observatory)/prior appointment (e.g. Island House). For the remaining, the public cannot get access to them due to limitations by their current usages (e.g. Cape D' Aguilar Lighthouse used as a lighthouse by the Marine Department) or other reasons.

In regard to the 37 privately-owned declared monuments, 35 are accessible by the general public either in an unrestricted manner (e.g. King Law Ka Shuk and Tang Ancestral Hall) or during open days (e.g. Main Building of St. Stephen's Girls College)/prior arrangement (e.g. Morrison Building). For the remaining, i.e. the Former Marine Police Headquarters and the Chik Kwai Study Hall, works are being carried out at the sites and they will be open to the public upon completion of the works.

Graded Historic Buildings

There are a total of 495 graded historic buildings of which 234 are government-owned and 261 privately-owned.

In regard to the 234 Government-owned graded historic buildings, apart from the 5 included in the first batch of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme), 89 are open to the public either in an unrestricted manner (e.g. Lyemun Barracks) or during open days (e.g. No. 28 Kennedy Road). For the remaining, they are not open to public due to limitations by their current usages (e.g. Garrison, psychiatric rehabilitation centre, quarters and waterworks facilities etc.) or are left vacant pending renovation (e.g. Yau Ma Tei Theatre).

In regard to the 261 privately-owned graded historic buildings, we do not have the information on the number of (and exactly in what manner) such buildings which are open to the public. Unlike privately owned monuments which receive Government funding for their renovation, there has not been incentive for the privately-owned graded historic buildings to open up for public visit. However, Government has announced a scheme to provide financial support for the maintenance of privately-owned graded buildings. While the mechanism, guidelines and criteria for the scheme are being drawn up, it is likely that opening up for public visit will be one of the conditions to be imposed on the property owner receiving the financial support. A provision of \$2 million is earmarked in 2008-09 for the scheme to be implemented.

We have not set aside any provision which is directly related to facilitating the opening of declared monuments or graded historic buildings for public visits. However, as part of our efforts on promoting public awareness on heritage, we will consider arranging open days for some of these buildings - like the ones we have recently organised for seven buildings under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, the Blue House Cluster and the former Police Married Quarters at Hollywood Road site. We will meet the requirement from our existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ C K MAK _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works) _____

Date _____ 31 March 2008 _____

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

DEVB(W)016

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

1360

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Apart from the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, will the Administration allocate more resources to allow non-profit-making organizations to manage government-owned declared monuments and historic buildings which will be open to the public for visits?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

Apart from the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, Government has, through the Government Property Agency, been leasing Government-owned declared monuments and historic buildings to non-profit-making organizations (NPOs). Since the taking over of heritage conservation policy by the Development Bureau on 1 July 2007, we have announced a package of measures in implementing the new heritage conservation policy. We will examine whether further assistance could be given, especially in the aspect of maintenance of monuments and historic buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____ 31 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)017

Question Serial No.

1507

Head : 159 – Subhead :
Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau
(Works Branch)
(3) Intra-Governmental Services

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

With regard to roof-top greening, please provide the number of private premises that has carried out roof-top greening in 2007-08, and the estimated number in 2008-09. What specific strategies will be adopted to encourage roof-top greening in private buildings?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Government currently does not possess information on the number of private premises with roof-top greening. However, apart from actively implementing roof-top green projects for new government buildings, the Government is investigating the feasibility of promoting roof-top greening in private developments. The Buildings Department has commissioned a consultancy study on sustainable building designs which aims at developing guidelines on sustainable building designs, and the provision of more green features is one of the issues under such study. The study is expected to complete in 2008. The Government will consider the recommendations and decide on the way forward.

To encourage roof-top greening, the Environment and Conservation Fund under the Environment Bureau is open to applications from non profit making institutions such as schools and social service institutions for funding support to greening projects, including roof-top greening. Seminars have been arranged for the potential applicant groups.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)018

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

1825

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In connection with “carry on the formulation of a long-term strategy on total water management”, would the Administration tell us the details and progress of the work? Does the strategy include the promotion of recycling of water resources and requiring large-scale works to set up storm water collection facilities?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The consultancy study on total water management is nearing completion. The long-term strategy aims at managing the demand and supply of fresh water. The study examined measures for the strategy including promotion of conservation of water; reducing leakage of water mains; expanding the use of seawater for toilet flushing; recycling of water such as treated effluent from sewage treatment works, grey water and rainwater for non-potable use; and desalination of seawater. An implementation plan will be drawn up at the conclusion of the study. At present, there is no plan to require major projects to set up rain water collection facilities although a trial scheme has been proposed for a public works project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date 28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)019

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
Secretariat: Development
Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

1826

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In connection with “oversee the maintenance and improvement of the water supply infrastructure”, would the Administration tell us:

- (d) The number of fresh water main burst cases in the past three years, the main causes for such, and what measures does the Administration have to prevent such burst cases; and
- (e) The estimated loss of fresh water due to leakage in the past three years, and what measures does the Administration have to prevent such loss?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) The number of fresh water main burst cases in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is 758, 814 and 960 (estimate) respectively. The main cause of these burst cases is the aging of water mains. To reduce occurrence of main bursts, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) has started works on the replacement and rehabilitation of about 3 000 kilometres of water mains in phases by 2015.
- (b) The leakage rates of fresh water mains in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are about 23.6%, 23% and 22.5% respectively. Apart from the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, the WSD has been taking proactive leakage control measures, such as pressure management and close monitoring on the daily operation of the water distribution systems. These measures will help minimise fresh water leakage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C K MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date 28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)020

Question Serial No.

1856

Head : 159 – Subhead :
Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : In connection with “promotion of roof-top greening”, please tell us:
a. What are the schemes, publicity and estimated expenditure for promotion of roof-top greening in 2008-09?
b. Regarding the promotion of roof-top greening to some private buildings and existing buildings, does the Administration have any promotion plans in 2008-09, such as provision of incentives and enquiry service to private developers and enterprises to get their participation in roof-top greening?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : a. In the implementation of capital works projects, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and the Housing Department have incorporated roof-top greening in their design where practicable. Types of projects include refurbishment and construction of schools, crematoria, community centres and housing estates, etc. In 2008-09, the expenditure involved is estimated to be \$12 million. In addition, the ArchSD completed a consultancy study on “Green Roof Application in Hong Kong”(the Study) in 2007, the purpose of which is to conduct a quick review of the latest concepts and design technology of green roofs and recommend technical guidelines adapted to suit applications in Hong Kong to promote public understanding and awareness. The full report has been posted on the Department’s website for public access. The ArchSD also organised a seminar in 2007 to share the findings of the Study with relevant professional institutes. We shall continue to organise seminar(s) for relevant organisations/personnels in 2008-09.

b. The Government is investigating the feasibility of promoting roof-top greening in private developments. The Buildings Department has commissioned a consultancy study on sustainable building designs which aims at developing guidelines on sustainable building designs, and the provision of more green features is one of the issues under such study. The study is expected to complete in 2008. The Government will consider the recommendations and decide on the way forward.

To encourage roof-top greening, the Environment and Conservation Fund under the Environment Bureau is open to applications from non profit making institutions such as schools and social service institutions for funding support to greening projects, including roof-top greening. Seminars have been arranged for the potential applicant groups.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

31 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)021

Question Serial No.

2143

Head : 159 –
Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Since the compilation of the Register of Old and Valuable Trees (OVTs) in 2004,

- a. How much expenditure has been used every year (including the estimate for 2008-09) on the maintenance of those trees?
- b. Have any departments requested to substantially prune, transplant or fell trees included in the Register of OVTs on various reasons? If yes, what are the details?
Please list the applications one by one with the name of the applicant department. What are the grounds put forward for the applications? What trees are involved? What are the final results of the applications?
- c. As for the OVTs which are unhealthy, please list out the serial numbers, locations, health status, causes of ill health, and whether any human negligence is involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

- Reply :
- a. The estimated annual recurrent expenditure (including the estimate for 2008-09) for maintaining about 530 OVTs in the Register is around \$10 million.
 - b. There has been no application for substantial pruning, transplanting or felling of OVT since the register was promulgated in 2004. The need to preserve trees, in particular OVTs, has been taken into account in the planning and design of public works projects.
 - c. The OVTs are generally in good condition. There was one OVT Registration No. LCSD SK/2, a Ficus elastica, at Hiram's Highway with part of its main trunk damaged during heavy rainstorm in May 2005. The tree was stabilised with cable bracing and a planter was built around the tree base to enhance new roots establishment. There is subsequently signs of significant growth in the aerial roots and the leaves. The damage was due to natural disaster and had nothing to do with human negligence.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

31 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)022

Question Serial No.

2144

Head : 159 – Subhead :
Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : How much is the total expenditure the Government intends to use on green roof projects in 2008-09? What is the total area to be involved in such greening?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2008-09, the Government will spend about \$12 million for roof-top greening involving a total area of some 11 200 square metres. Types of projects include school, crematorium, community centre, housing estate, etc.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)023

Question Serial No.

2319

Head : 159 –
Government Secretariat:
Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : In 2008-09, the Administration will continue to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts on greening, explore new opportunities to improve the cityscape, supervise the development and implementation of Greening Master Plans and enhance tree preservation. I would ask:

- a. How many staff in the Bureau are working on the above-mentioned plan?
- b. What plans and measures does the Administration have to “explore new opportunities to improve the cityscape” and “supervise the development and implementation of Greening Master Plans” in 2008-09? How much provision is involved?
- c. What measures and plans does the Administration have to “enhance tree preservation” in 2008-09? Will these include regular “updating of the Register of Old and Valuable Trees” and conducting territory-wide tree survey?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- a. Five officers in the Works Branch are involved in greening and related works. In particular, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) chairs a high-level Steering Committee on Greening to set the strategic direction and oversee the implementation of major greening programmes, with supports from 14 other bureaux and departments.
- b. The Government is striving to uplift the quality of our living environment through active planting, proper maintenance and preservation of trees and other vegetation. We are also considering new techniques like vertical greening, planting at open water channels and roof-top greening. Our works departments will maximize greening opportunities in new public works projects.

The Director of Civil Engineering and Development chairs a Greening Master Plan Committee to oversee the development and implementation of the GMPs. The plan is to complete development of GMPs for the urban areas by around early 2009. We will then move to develop the GMPs for the New Territories. The estimated expenditure in 08/09 is \$6.2 million for the implementation works of GMPs in Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/Causeway Bay and Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei. The Government will also seek Finance Committee's approval for the creation of a Chief Landscape Architect post in April 2008 to

provide a focal point for co-ordination and enhancement of greening efforts.

- c. The Government is fully committed to ensuring that no tree should be unnecessarily pruned or felled in public works projects and proper care and maintenance be provided. We have arranged with the Construction Industry Council Training Academy training courses on horticultural work for landscape workers and supervisors.

Since the promulgation of the Register of Old and Valuable Trees in 2004, about 530 Old and Valuable Trees have been identified. Departments concerned conduct regular check and maintain the trees and will update the Register as and when necessary. Since 2004, we have had eight new additions onto the Register. We will continue to identify suitable trees for registration.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)024

Question Serial No.

2426

Head : 159 - Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permannet Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The estimate for 2008–09 is \$19.5 million (138.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007–08. This is mainly due to the net increase of four posts and implementation of heritage conservation policies (including the cash flow for the general non-recurrent item on “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”). Please tell us the title, job nature and salaries of the four posts.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The details of the four posts proposed to be created under the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office in 2008-09 are as follows –

Post	Job Nature	Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary Value (\$)
Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (designated as Commissioner for Heritage)	To implement and monitor policies on heritage conservation; devise and take forward new initiatives; serve as the focal point of contact on heritage conservation matters; and conduct research on policies, legislation and practices on heritage conservation.	1,428,000
Administrative Officer	To assist in the development, formulation and implementation of polices on heritage conservation; conducting research; and preparing documents (such as speeches, policy papers) on topics relating to heritage conservation.	653,340
Chief Executive Officer	To assist in developing proposals for further development of the adaptive reuse of historic buildings; conducting research on the matter; and implementing and monitoring the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme	975,300
Curator	To assist in assessing proposals for and monitoring performance in conservation of historic buildings; conducting research; and organising heritage promotion events, etc.	714,960

Signature

Name in block letters

C K MAK

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)025

Question Serial No.

2427

Head : 159 – Government Subhead :
 Secretariat: Development
 Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The actual expenditure for 2007-08 has exceeded the original estimate for 2007-08 by 370%.
What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The increase of \$11.1 million (370%) in the 2007-08 revised estimate as compared to the original estimate reflected the significant importance attached by the Government to heritage conservation. The increase is mainly due to various factors such as internal redeployment of staff resources to formulate and implement heritage conservation policies, the additional departmental expenses for Heritage Public Awareness Campaign, conducting studies on the matter and the launching of the Revitalizing Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme, etc.

Signature

Name in block letters

C K Mak

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date

28 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)026

Head: 159 – Government Subhead (No. & title):
 Secretariat: Development
 Bureau (Works Branch)

Question Serial No.

2656

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Between 2003 and 2007 and in 2008-09, has the Government (including the Development Bureau and Home Affairs Bureau) conducted any studies or opinion surveys on Hong Kong's heritage conservation policy and related topics? If yes, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

Conducted by (Government / consultancy / academic institution)	Subjects and Contents of the Studies	Consultant Fees /public officers involved and their duties	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

We conducted the following opinion surveys and studies between 2003 and 2007 on heritage conservation policy and related topics:

Conducted by (Government / consultancy / academic institution)	Subjects and Contents of the Studies	Consultant Fees /public officers involved and their duties	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Mercado Solutions Association 米嘉道資訊策略 有限公司	Opinion survey on built heritage conservation policy (conducted in 2004)	\$110,000	Completed	The summary of views of the public consultation exercise held in early 2004, including those collected from the opinion survey, was presented at the meeting of LegCo Panel on Home Affairs on 9 November 2004.

Conducted by (Government / consultancy / academic institution)	Subjects and Contents of the Studies	Consultant Fees /public officers involved and their duties	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Center for Communication Research, The Chinese University of Hong Kong 香港中文大學傳 播研究中心	Opinion survey on built heritage conservation policy (conducted in 2007)	\$134,550	Completed	The views collected are for internal reference and have been taken into account by the Administration in formulating initiatives for heritage conservation.
Powersoft Consultancy Ltd. 圓思顧問有限公 司	Study on overseas experience of revitalisation of historic buildings and media strategies (started in 2007-08 and will be completed in 2008-09)	\$248,000	In progress	We will share relevant and useful information in the study with parties concerned as appropriate, e.g. via workshop, website.
Hong Kong Architecture Centre Ltd. 香港建築中心有 限公司	Benchmark study on building controls to facilitate adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Hong Kong (started in 2007-08 and will be completed in 2008-09)	\$390,000	In progress	We will share relevant and useful information in the study with parties concerned as appropriate, e.g. via workshop, website.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____
C K MAK

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Development
(Works)

Date _____
31 March 2008

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)027

Question Serial No.

0099

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format :

- (1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The Architectural Services Department has not reserved any funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)028

Question Serial No.

0387

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under the Programme on Facilities Development of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), the actual performance in completing projects within the approved time scale in 2006 was 98.3% and further went down to 85% in 2007.

- (1) What is the reason for the continuous decline in the percentage of completing projects within the approved time scale despite yearly increase in financial provision? Please tabulate a detailed breakdown of the manpower and resources deployed by ArchSD on Facilities Development in 2006 and 2007.
- (2) What measures are intended by ArchSD to stop the continuation of this situation?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (1) The major causes for failing to complete the projects as scheduled were due to the up coming of additional project requirements to meet client directives and public expectations and the unsatisfactory performance of individual consultants and contractors.

The manpower and resources deployed by ArchSD on Facilities Development in 2006 and 2007 are tabulated below -

Financial Year	Financial Provision (\$M)	Number of Staff
2006-07	483.7 (Actual)	817 (as at 31 March 2007)
2007-08	506.0 (Revised)	817 (as at 31 March 2008)

- (2) ArchSD would continue to strengthen the communication with the client departments throughout all stages of project execution and closely monitor the performance of the consultants and contractors. Moreover, ArchSD would facilitate the client departments to engage early public consultation and ensure that concerns of various stakeholders are carefully considered in the design.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 27 March 2008

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)029

Question Serial No.

0762

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The provision for the estimate for 2008-09 is \$9.6 million (5.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to additional provision for the creation of ten posts. Please provide details of the ranking and responsibilities of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The ranking and responsibilities of the ten new posts to be created in 2008-09 are as follows –

New post to be created	<i>Responsibilities</i>
1 Chief Landscape Architect	To head the new Landscape Planning and Greening Division to be formed and to provide support in the formulation of policies as well as to serve as a focal point for co-ordination amongst departments and parties concerned on landscape planning and greening
1 Senior Architect 1 Senior Building Services Engineer 1 Senior Maintenance Surveyor 1 Senior Quantity Surveyor 1 Senior Structural Engineer	To provide advisory service on heritage conservation and related matters
1 Senior Architect 1 Senior Structural Engineer	To strengthen the manpower for provision of advisory service with a view to speeding up the implementation of capital works projects
1 Senior Landscape Architect	To provide professional support on landscape matters
1 Senior Executive Officer	To provide administrative support

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)030

Question Serial No.

0763

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Are there any substantive indicators for the Department to measure its performance in promoting roof greening? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The Architectural Services Department's performance indicator in promoting roof greening is represented by the percentage of number of projects with green roof or terraces. For the design of new buildings, a target has been set requiring at least 90% of new projects to have landscape usable roof area or terraces.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)031

Question Serial No.

0845

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Under Programme (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services, additional provision is required for the creation of 10 posts in 2008-09 to strengthen the advisory role on capital works projects. Please specify the ranks and duties of the posts concerned as well as the reasons for their creation.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The creation of ten posts in 2008-09 is to strengthen the advisory role on various capital works projects. The ranks and duties of the ten new posts are as follows -

New post to be created	<i>Duties and Reasons for creation</i>
1 Chief Landscape Architect	To head the new Landscape Planning and Greening Division to be formed and to provide support in the formulation of policies as well as to serve as a focal point for co-ordination amongst departments and parties concerned on landscape planning and greening
1 Senior Architect 1 Senior Building Services Engineer 1 Senior Maintenance Surveyor 1 Senior Quantity Surveyor 1 Senior Structural Engineer	To provide advisory service on heritage conservation and related matters
1 Senior Architect 1 Senior Structural Engineer	To strengthen the manpower for provision of advisory service with a view to speeding up the implementation of capital works projects
1 Senior Landscape Architect	To provide professional support on landscape matters
1 Senior Executive Officer	To provide administrative support

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)032

Question Serial No.

0850

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will encourage participation in the Considerate Contractor Site Award Scheme. What are the details of it? How much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : Considerate Contractor Site Award Scheme is organised by the Development Bureau to encourage contractors under public works projects to work in a responsible and considerate manner. In 2008, ArchSD targets to extend the scheme to the subvention projects and encourages contractors of subvented organisations and the corresponding bureaux/departments, to participate in the scheme.

ArchSD will deploy existing resources to carry out the work as part of its normal duties under Programme (1) and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved for this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE _____

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)033

Question Serial No.

1069

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

rogramme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Administration indicates that it will promote roof greening in 2008. What was the effectiveness of the measures in 2007 and expenditure involved? What will be the programme in 2008-09 and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has included roof-top greening where practicable in the implementation of capital works projects. These projects include refurbishment and construction of schools, crematoria, and community centres etc. In 2007-08, the expenditure involved was \$8.8 million. In 2008-09, the expenditure involved is estimated to be \$9.1 million. In addition, the ArchSD completed a consultancy study on “Green Roof Application in Hong Kong” (the Study) in 2007, the purpose of which is to conduct a quick review of the latest concepts and design technology of green roofs and recommend technical guidelines adapted to suit applications in Hong Kong to promote public understanding and awareness. The full report has been posted on the Department’s website for public access. The ArchSD also organised a seminar in 2007 to share the findings of the Study with relevant professional institutes. We shall continue to organise seminar(s) for relevant organisations/personnels in 2008-09. The advisory and monitoring work in relation to roof-top greening is undertaken by ArchSD’s existing staff as part of their normal duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)034

Question Serial No.

1070

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Administration indicates that it will promote universal accessibility in design in 2008. What were the measures' effectiveness and expenditure involved in 2007? What are the programme's content and expenditure involved in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) promotes universal accessibility by the incorporation of universal accessibility provisions in government buildings.

In 2007, ArchSD promulgated a department's design guideline and checklist on universal accessibility. Since then, the designs of all new government building projects have to meet the mandatory requirements stipulated in the design guideline. For existing government buildings, provisions for universal accessibility are incorporated as far as practicable when carrying out refurbishments works. Separately, through the Department's continuous research and promulgation of results via internet and workshops, best practices on accessibility are promoted to the fellow professionals for application in their projects, and public's awareness of universal accessibility has been raised.

In 2008-09, the Department will continue to promote and conduct research on universal accessibility. The research report in traditional and simplified Chinese will be uploaded to the Department's website for access by a wider spectrum of readers.

The research and promotion work on universal accessibility forms part of the normal duties of ArchSD's existing staff. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)035

Question Serial No.

2649

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Architectural Services Department will promote roof greening in the coming financial year. Please give the details of the promotion work. Will private housing be included in the promotion efforts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has included roof-top greening where practicable in the implementation of capital works projects. These projects include refurbishment and construction of schools, crematoria, and community centres etc. In addition, the ArchSD completed a consultancy study on “Green Roof Application in Hong Kong”(the Study) in 2007, the purpose of which is to conduct a quick review of the latest concepts and design technology of green roofs and recommend technical guidelines adapted to suit applications in Hong Kong to promote public understanding and awareness. The full report has been posted on the Department’s website for public access. The ArchSD also organised a seminar in 2007 to share the findings of the Study with relevant professional institutes. We shall continue to organise seminar(s) for relevant organisations/personnells in 2008-09.

The Government is investigating the feasibility of promoting roof-top greening in private developments. The Buildings Department has commissioned a consultancy study on sustainable building designs which aims at developing guidelines on sustainable building designs, and the provision of more green features is one of the issues under such study. The study is expected to complete in 2008. The Government will consider the recommendations and decide on the way forward.

To encourage roof-top greening, the Environment and Conservation Fund under the Environment Bureau is open to applications from non profit making institutions such as schools and social service institutions for funding support to greening projects, including roof-top greening. Seminars have been arranged by the Environment Bureau for the potential applicant groups.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)036

Question Serial No.

2650

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : What is the amount of expenditure to be involved in roof greening?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has included roof-top greening where practicable in the implementation of capital works projects. These projects include refurbishment and construction of schools, crematoria, and community centres etc. The expenditure involved is estimated to be \$9.1 million in 2008-09. The advisory and monitoring work in relation to roof-top greening is undertaken by ArchSD's existing staff as part of their normal duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 28 March 2008

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead
Development Department (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of
Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (3) For the projects that have earmarked funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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- (2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy study in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2007-08, we conducted an in-house study with details as follows:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
In-house study within Civil Engineering and Development Department	Policy Formulation for the “Post-2010 Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP)”	Not applicable	Completed	The policy for the LPMitP has been formulated and endorsed. The related preparatory works for implementing the LPMitP have commenced.	A brief on the LPMitP was submitted to the LegCo Panel on Development and a media briefing was conducted on 29.11.2007 to explain the details of the LPMitP. The brief on the LPMitP was discussed at the LegCo Panel on Development meeting on 18.12.2007.

The Department has not earmarked any funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09 for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead
Development Department (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of
Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09, the Department will conduct engineering review of Kai Tak Development, and commence the decontamination works at the former south apron area and the advance infrastructure works for developments at the southern part of the former runway. Please provide information on the following –

- (1) What is the progress of the works and anticipated year of completion? How much provision is involved?
- (2) As the comprehensive planning of Kai Tak has not been completed, what are the details of the relation of the works with future area of development? How much provision is involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) Funding was approved by Finance Committee in February 2008 for construction of part of the advance infrastructure works including the decontamination works at the former south apron area. Works will commence in the second quarter of 2008 for completion in early 2010. The estimated provision for 2008-09 is \$21.5 million. The remaining advance infrastructure works are under design and will be implemented in stages to tie in with the planned developments at the southern part of the former runway.
- (2) The Kai Tak Development, including the advance infrastructure works mentioned above, is being taken forward progressively on the basis of the Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan approved by the Chief Executive in Council in November 2007. Upon completion of the decontamination works at the former south apron area, the construction of the advance infrastructure works for serving the new cruise terminal and other planned developments at the southern part of the former runway will then proceed subject to funding approval by Finance Committee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the addition of 13 posts in the non-directorate establishment in 2008-09, please provide a detailed breakdown of their respective departments, ranks and salaries.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The ranks and annual salaries of the 13 posts to be created in the Civil Engineering and Development Department in 2008-09 are as follows:-

Rank	Number	Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary Value (per post) (\$)	Total (\$)
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2	531,930	1,063,860
Geotechnical Engineer / Assistant Geotechnical Engineer	1	531,930	531,930
Landscape Architect / Assistant Landscape Architect	1	516,120	516,120
Executive Officer II	1	333,180	333,180
Assistant Inspector of Works	1	288,600	288,600
Works Supervisor I	1	237,480	237,480
Works Supervisor II	6	191,040	1,146,240
Total	13	NA	4,117,410

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The estimate for 2008-09 is \$8.1 million (8.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to filling of vacancies and other operating expenses, and requirement for replacement equipment. Please provide specific details on each item.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The increase of \$8.1 million in the estimate for 2008-09 over the revised estimate for 2007-08 is mainly due to the following provisions for:-

- filling four vacant professional and three vacant technical/general posts, viz. 3 Geotechnical Engineer, 1 Landscape Architect, 1 Technical Officer (Laboratory), 1 Assistant Librarian and 1 Laboratory Attendant posts;
- operating expenses for a new task starting from 2008-09 for monitoring the automated irrigation system at Penny's Bay Development Area to serve 51 hectares of public landscaped area; and
- the replacement of a dilapidated air-cooled chiller plant in Civil Engineering and Development Building.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **JOHN S V CHAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Civil Engineering and Development** _____

Date _____ **28.3.2008** _____

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the work to “continue the...comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories” mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention, will the Government advise on the progress and details of the latest planning work and the estimated dates of commencement and completion of the connection works of the cycle tracks?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The comprehensive cycle track system will connect various districts in the New Territories, from Tuen Mun in the west to Ma On Shan in the east. There are also planned extensions to the system including connections from Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Sheung Tan, from Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan, from Yuen Long to Nam Sang Wai, and from Ma On Shan to Sai Kung. Supporting facilities such as entry/exit hubs, resting places and education centres will be provided at suitable locations along the route.

The cycle track system will be implemented in phases. The first phase comprises a cycle track link between Yuen Long and Tai Po. Detailed design is in progress for construction works to commence in the second half of 2009. Upon completion of the first phase in early 2012, a continuous link will be in place all the way from Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan.

For the subsequent phases which mainly comprise the planned extensions to the cycle track system mentioned above, selection of consultants to undertake detailed investigation is in progress. Subject to investigation, it is currently targeted to start construction works in 2011 for completion in stages from 2015 onwards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development _____

Date _____ 28.3.2008 _____

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

For implementing greening works under greening master plans by the Civil Engineering and Development Department, why is the expenditure reduced by more than half against the actual expenditure last year, while the number of greening master plans to be formulated is only reduced by two? For the greening works, how much is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved ?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The yearly expenditure on greening works depends mainly on the amount of works implemented in that year and therefore has no direct relationship with the number of greening master plans (GMPs) formulated in the same year, which incurred substantially less expenditure.

In 2007, the expenditure of \$14.5 million was the implementation cost of greening works under the GMPs formulated in 2005 for two districts, namely Tsim Sha Tsui and Central. The works were carried out in 2006 and completed in 2007, with major spending incurred in 2007. On the other hand, we have also completed in 2007 the formulation of GMPs for another five districts, namely Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Sheung Wan, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay. We will seek funding approval of the Finance Committee in May 2008 for implementing the proposed greening works. Subject to funding approval, the proposed greening works will commence in September 2008 and the expenditure in 2008 will be about \$6.0 million. Works, and hence expenditure will continue in 2009 and 2010. We also plan to formulate GMPs for three districts (Sai Ying Pun, Kennedy Town and Aberdeen) of the remaining urban area in 2008.

The total estimated expenditure for the greening works for Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Sheung Wan, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay is about \$125.0 million. The works will be supervised by a team of resident site staff comprising four professional staff and 15 technical staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 1.4.2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No

DEVB(W)043

Question Serial No.

2241

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Subhead
Department (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2008, the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories will be continued. Please provide details about the measures. What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The comprehensive cycle track system will connect various districts in the New Territories, from Tuen Mun in the west to Ma On Shan in the east. There are also planned extensions to the system including connections from Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Sheung Tan, from Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan, from Yuen Long to Nam Sang Wai, and from Ma On Shan to Sai Kung. Supporting facilities such as entry/exit hubs, resting places and education centres will be provided at suitable locations along the route.

The cycle track system will be implemented in phases. The first phase comprises a cycle track link between Yuen Long and Tai Po. Detailed design is in progress for construction works to commence in the second half of 2009. Upon completion of the first phase in early 2012, a continuous link will be in place all the way from Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan.

For the subsequent phases which mainly comprise the planned extensions to the cycle track system mentioned above, selection of consultants to undertake detailed investigation is in progress. Subject to investigation, it is currently targeted to start construction works in 2011 for completion in stages from 2015 onwards.

The total cost for the design and site investigation of the cycle track system in 2008-09 is estimated at around \$7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development _____

Date _____ 28.3.2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

DEVB(W)044

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

0093

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Department will create 35 posts in 2008-09. Please tabulate the posts by grades, scopes of duty and annual salaries. What services will be improved by these newly created posts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : A breakdown showing the grades, scopes of duty and annual salaries of the net increase of 35 posts in 2008-09 are provided as follows-

Grade	No. of Posts to be Created/ Deleted	Scope of duty	Salaries in NAMS* value (per post) (\$)	Total (\$)
Engineer	8	Professional services for drainage and sewer maintenance	531,930	4,255,440
Electrical Inspector	8	Operational support for sewage treatment works	288,600	2,308,800
Mechanical Inspector	3		288,600	865,800
Electronics Inspector	3		288,600	865,800
Survey Officer	3	Technical support for construction contracts	183,990	551,970
Technical Officer	2		183,990	367,980
Works Supervisor	6	Operational support for drainage maintenance	191,040	1,146,240
Works Supervisor	15	Operational support for sewage treatment works	191,040	2,865,600
Executive Officer	1	Administrative support	333,180	333,180
Analyst/Programmer	1	IT support	348,900	348,900
Artisan	-2	General support for sewage treatment works	149,520	-299,040
Workman II	-13		111,480	-1,449,240
Total	35			

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

The net increase in manpower will improve the drainage and sewer maintenance as well as the operation of sewage treatment works of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

DEVB(W)047

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0456

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Please list out the ranks and salaries of the net increase of 35 non-directorate posts in the Department in 2008-09 and provide the reasons for the increase in manpower.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply : A breakdown showing the ranks and salaries of the net increase of 35 non-directorate posts in the Department in 2008-09 are provided below-

Rank	No. of Posts to be Created/ Deleted	Salaries in NAMS* value (per post) (\$)	Total (\$)
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	8	531,930	4,255,440
Assistant Electrical Inspector	8	288,600	2,308,800
Assistant Mechanical Inspector	3	288,600	865,800
Assistant Electronics Inspector	3	288,600	865,800
Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Quantity)	3	183,990	551,970
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Civil)	1	183,990	183,990
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Electrical & Mechanical)	1	183,990	183,990
Works Supervisor II (Civil)	6	191,040	1,146,240
Works Supervisor II (Electrical & Mechanical)	15	191,040	2,865,600
Executive Officer II	1	333,180	333,180
Analyst/Programmer II	1	348,900	348,900
Artisan	-2	149,520	-299,040
Workman II	-13	111,480	-1,449,240
Total	35		

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

The net increase in manpower will improve the drainage and sewer maintenance as well as the operation of sewage treatment works of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)050

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No.
& title):

Question Serial No.

0674

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question: With regard to continuing with the design and construction in stages of nullah decking projects, please inform this Council:

- (a) The number and location of nullah decking projects currently under construction (please list out respectively) and
- (b) Nullah decking projects that are expected to commence work in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (please list out respectively).

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

- Reply:
- (a) At present, we are undertaking decking projects on three nullahs located at Jordan Valley (Kwun Tong), Flower Market Road (Mong Kok) and Tonkin Street (Sham Shui Po).
 - (b) We plan to start the decking of the nullah at Fuk Man Road (Sai Kung) in 2008-09, and the decking of the nullahs at Queen's College (Causeway Bay), Kai Tak (Wong Tai Sin) and Staunton Creek (Wong Chuk Hang) in 2009-10.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)051

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department **Subhead (No. & title):**

Question Serial No.

2321

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question: Under the Indicator “value of projects under detailed design”, the value was substantially decreased from \$8,543 million for 2007 Actual to \$3,771.5 million for 2008 Estimate. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: The decrease in the value of projects under detailed design in 2008 against 2007 is mainly due to the completion of design for a number of large-scale projects. These projects include:

- (a) PWP Item 4092CD – Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai drainage improvements, stage 1 phase 2B – remaining works. The approved project estimate is \$202.4 million.
- (b) PWP Item 4103CD – Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island – Hong Kong West drainage tunnel. The approved project estimate is \$3,044.7 million.
- (c) PWP Item 4111CD – Drainage improvements in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi – Tsuen Wan drainage tunnel. The approved project estimate is \$1,259.5 million.

Signature _____
Name in block letters K K LAU
 Director of Drainage
Post Title Services
Date 26 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)053

Question Serial No.

2323

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question: During 2008-09, the Department will continue with the design and construction of the nullah decking projects in stages. Please inform this Council the details of the plan and the estimated cost involved. Will the Administration re-examine the potential of that section of the nullah to be improved for greening purpose before decking and consult the local residents about the nullah decking projects?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: The decking of nullahs at Jordan Valley (Kwun Tong), Flower Market Road (Mong Kok) and Tonkin Street (Sham Shui Po) is under construction and will continue in 2008-09. The total estimated cost is \$216 million. The respective District Councils have been consulted before commencement of construction. They supported these three decking projects including the proposed beneficial uses of the decked surface for greening, amenity and footpath widening purposes.

The decking of the Fuk Man Road nullah in Sai Kung is scheduled for commencement of construction in 2008-09. The estimated cost is \$86 million. The preliminary proposal including the greening and amenity design of the decked surface was supported by the Sai Kung District Council in 2007. We will consult Sai Kung District Council again in April 2008 on the final design.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage
Services

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format :

(1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format :

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress of consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicised; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
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(2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information :

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in the 2008-09 financial year will be publicised; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
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Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

(1) Study with provision in 2007-08

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress of consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicised; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
The University of Hong Kong	Study on enhanced promotion of Building Energy Codes in Hong Kong	\$600,000	Completed	The relevant information of the study report has been incorporated in the Public Consultation Paper on the proposed mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes issued on 28 December 2007.	Yes, the report has been uploaded to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's website.

(2) The Department has not earmarked any funds in 2008-09 for conducting consultancy studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (4) Centralised Services and Special Support

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the post to be deleted in 2008-09, please provide details of the rank, duties and the division the post belongs to.

Asked by: Hon. Ms LI Fung-ying

Reply:

One Motor Driver post in the Departmental Administration Division of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will be deleted in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide the number of permanent establishment of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the number of Non Civil Service Contract staff employed by the EMSD in 2007-08.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

As at 29 February 2008, EMSD has a permanent establishment of 338 civil service posts. The number of Non Civil Service Contract staff is 18.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI**

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services**

Date _____ **26 March 2008**

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

DEVB(W)059

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0467

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Highways Department estimated that the average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit in 2008 is 61 days.

- a. Why is the estimated duration the same as that of last year? Can the duration of works be shortened to minimize adverse impact on the use of footways and carriageways?
- b. Will there be a reduction in staff cost if the average duration of road excavation works is shortened?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- a. The duration required for an excavation permit depends on the nature and scope of the works. We will carefully assess the duration of each excavation permit to ensure that the time allowed is reasonable so that the disruption to road and pedestrian traffic is minimised.

Several major organizations have been implementing large scale replacement and rehabilitation programme for facilities underground, the works of which generally require a longer duration to complete. As these programmes will continue in 2008, we estimate that the average duration of road excavation works will be the same as that in 2007.

- b. A shorter duration per excavation permit will incur less day-to-day administrative work, such as auditing of excavation permit sites and handling of complaints, and hence less associated staff cost which will be recovered from the excavation permit fees.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)060

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

1738

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department (HyD) will “continue to improve the technical standard of Engineer Inspection of slopes through internal audit”. Please provide details about the task. Does it involve raising the inspection standard and safety factor etc.? Is there any collaboration between the HyD and the Civil Engineering and Development Department to carry out relevant tasks in order to achieve savings in expenditure and manpower ?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

For slope maintained by Highways Department (HyD), the Engineer Inspections (EI) are carried out by geotechnical consultants. In order to improve the technical standard of EI, HyD regularly carries out internal audits using in-house staff on the EI conducted by consultants. The internal audit involves reviewing the adequacy of information in the EI reports and conducting site verification.

The internal audit of EI of slopes assures the inspection standard and it is not related to the safety factor of slopes. HyD has regular communication and discussion with Civil Engineering and Development Department on the relevant tasks to ensure that the work is carried out in a consistent, effective and efficient manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)061

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2085

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Administration has been developing a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing since 2007-08. Please provide the following information:

- a. What is the progress at this stage? What is the anticipated completion time?
- b. How much resources have the Administration diverted to the task in the previous year and how many will the Administration divert to the task in 2008-09?
- c. Has the Administration assessed how the new computer system can improve efficiency in relevant work process when the system comes into operation? At present, the Highways Department issues road excavation permits to public utilities/road work permits within 12 days. In the estimation of the Administration, how much faster (in terms of days) can the department issue the permits when the new system comes into operation?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

- a. The new computer system replacing the Utility Management System is called the Excavation Permit Management System. The system analysis and design stage was completed in February 2008, and it is now going through the system implementation and integration stage. The new system is expected to be rolled out by the end of 2008.
- b. The total project cost is about \$9.5 million. The expenditure of the project in 2007-08 is about \$3.1 million and the estimated expenditure for 2008-09 is \$6.4 million.
- c. The new computer system will enable Highways Department to process the applications faster; enable the applicants to view the status of their applications in real time; enhance electronic authentication to promote electronic submissions; and reduce Highways Department's staff resources in carrying out spatial data conversion exercises between different computer systems. The overall time to process an excavation permit application is expected to be reduced by 10% to 20%.

It is expected that excavation permit applications submitted through the new system can be issued within ten working days.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

Head: 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the setting up of a dedicated team on heritage conservation in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09”, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) What are the details of work of this team (including its schedule and composition)?
- (2) What are the measures to ensure that alteration works will not adversely affect the heritage buildings, and that adaptive re-use of the buildings will harmonise with their neighbouring community and environment?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (1) The dedicated team on heritage conservation, the Heritage Unit (HU) to be set up in 2008-09 comprises a Senior Building Surveyor, a Senior Structural Engineer, two contract Building Surveyors and two contract Structural Engineers. The HU will be responsible for the following areas of work:
 - (i) processing of building plan submissions for approval under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) involving alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
 - (ii) providing technical advice on compliance with the BO to facilitate the approval of building plan submissions for conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
 - (iii) research and development of practical measures to comply with the building requirements under the BO which are compatible with preservation requirements for the alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings; and
 - (iv) preparation and updating of guidelines and practice notes for compliance with the building safety and allied requirements under the BO in the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.

- (2) Through the Centralized Plan Processing System, BD will seek comments from the Antiquities and Monuments Office on proposed alteration works for heritage buildings from the heritage conservation perspective. Where the heritage building concerned is a declared or proposed monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance, the proposed alteration works would be disapproved under section 16(1)(d) of the BO unless the applicant has obtained a permit under section 6 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance from the Secretary for Development. For other heritage buildings which are not declared or proposed monuments, BD will convey the comments made by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on the conservation of the heritage buildings to the applicant when the plans for the alteration works are approved under the BO.

With reference to the requirements for preservation of heritage values of the building as advised by the Antiquities and Monuments Office, we adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in applying the current statutory requirements for building safety and access for the disabled. Where a prescriptive requirement of the current building standards is not compatible with the preservation of heritage values of the building, we would accept alternative measures compatible with preservation which can achieve the same level of standards as the prescriptive requirement. Through the above mechanism, a suitable balance between the compliance with current building standards and the preservation of heritage values can be achieved when a heritage building undergoes alteration and addition or adaptive re-use.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>CHEUNG Hau-wai</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Buildings</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2008</u>

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

Head: 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0826

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please list in detail the establishment of the dedicated team on heritage conservation to be set up under the Buildings Department in 2008-09. How many people will be responsible for processing the building plan submissions?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The dedicated team on heritage conservation, the Heritage Unit (HU) to be set up in 2008-09 comprises a Senior Building Surveyor, a Senior Structural Engineer, two contract Building Surveyors and two contract Structural Engineers.

The HU will be responsible for processing building plan submissions involving alteration and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings as well as the following areas of work:

- (i) providing technical advice on compliance with the Buildings Ordinance (BO) to facilitate the approval of building plan submissions for conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (ii) research and development of practical measures to comply with the building requirements under the BO which are compatible with preservation requirements for the alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings; and
- (iii) preparation and updating of guidelines and practice notes for compliance with the building safety and allied requirements under the BO in the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>CHEUNG Hau-wai</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Buildings</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2008</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)064

Question Serial No.

0984

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Buildings Department will set up a dedicated team on heritage conservation in 2008-09. Will it be an inter-departmental task force? What is the establishment of the team?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The dedicated team on heritage conservation, to be set up within Buildings Department in 2008-09 comprises a Senior Building Surveyor, a Senior Structural Engineer, two contract Building Surveyors and two contract Structural Engineers. The team will be responsible for the following areas of work:

- (i) processing of building plan submissions for approval under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) involving alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (ii) providing technical advice on compliance with the BO to facilitate the approval of building plan submissions for conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (iii) research and development of practical measures to comply with the building requirements under the BO which are compatible with preservation requirements for the alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings; and
- (iv) preparation and updating of guidelines and practice notes for compliance with the building safety and allied requirements under the BO in the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.

The team will work closely with the Development Bureau and other departments in the area of heritage conservation.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

26 March 2008

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

DEVB(W)065

Question Serial No.

1515

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2008-09, the Buildings Department will set up a dedicated team on heritage conservation. What are the details of the team in respect of its composition, size, and terms of reference?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The dedicated team on heritage conservation, the Heritage Unit (HU) to be set up in 2008-09 comprises a Senior Building Surveyor, a Senior Structural Engineer, two contract Building Surveyors and two contract Structural Engineers. The HU will be responsible for the following areas of work:

- (i) processing of building plan submissions for approval under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) involving alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (ii) providing technical advice on compliance with the BO to facilitate the approval of building plan submissions for conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (iii) research and development of practical measures to comply with the building requirements under the BO which are compatible with preservation requirements for the alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings; and
- (iv) preparation and updating of guidelines and practice notes for compliance with the building safety and allied requirements under the BO in the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)066

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1653

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Buildings Department will set up a dedicated team on heritage conservation in 2008-09. Please give the details of the duties and establishment of the team, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

The dedicated team on heritage conservation, the Heritage Unit (HU) to be set up in 2008-09 comprises a Senior Building Surveyor, a Senior Structural Engineer, two contract Building Surveyors and two contract Structural Engineers with an annual expenditure of about \$3.94 million. The HU will be responsible for the following areas of work:

- (i) processing of building plan submissions for approval under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) involving alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (ii) providing technical advice on compliance with the BO to facilitate the approval of building plan submissions for conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- (iii) research and development of practical measures to comply with the building requirements under the BO which are compatible with preservation requirements for the alteration and addition works in and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings; and
- (iv) preparation and updating of guidelines and practice notes for compliance with the building safety and allied requirements under the BO in the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)067

Question Serial No.

2418

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2008-09, the Buildings Department will set up a dedicated team on heritage conservation to process building plan submissions involving alteration and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings and to provide technical advice on compliance with the Buildings Ordinance to facilitate the approval process. Will the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) the manpower, the ranks and expenditure involved in the team?
- (b) the estimated time required to process the submissions in general?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) The dedicated team on heritage conservation, the Heritage Unit (HU) to be set up in 2008-09 comprises a Senior Building Surveyor, a Senior Structural Engineer, two contract Building Surveyors and two contract Structural Engineers with an annual expenditure of about \$3.94 million.
- (b) The processing of building plan submissions involving alteration and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings is governed by the same timeframe as other plan submissions stipulated in the Buildings Ordinance. All new submissions will be processed within 60 days from the date of submission and re-submissions will be processed within 30 days.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)068

Question Serial No.

0154

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural
Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

How much resources will be allocated by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for the work concerning the maintenance of private historic buildings (particularly in the area of financial support)? Will a set of targeted funding criteria and a monitoring mechanism be established for such work?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Under Subhead 600 (Works), a sum of \$10.83 million has been earmarked by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2008-09 for restoration of declared monuments under private ownership.

Under Subhead 653 (Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)), a total provision of \$3.92 million has been earmarked in 2008-09 for restoration of privately-owned declared monuments and graded buildings. Of this amount,

- (a) \$1.92 million is for restoration of privately-owned declared monuments; and
- (b) \$2 million is for providing support for the restoration of privately-owned graded buildings.

For the latter pertaining to restoration of privately-owned graded buildings, details of the criteria and mechanism for providing financial support are being drawn up pursuant to its announcement in the 2007 Policy Address.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **28 March 2008** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)069

Question Serial No.

0370

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead: 694 Archaeological excavations
(block vote)

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

There is a provision of \$960,000 under Subhead 694 Archaeological excavations (block vote) for conducting excavation projects necessitated by various kinds of small-scale development in 2007-08. Please provide the actual number and specific locations of the excavation projects which have commenced in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Under Subhead 694 Archaeological Excavations (block vote), nine archaeological projects were carried out in 2007-08 -

- Archaeological investigation at the Former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road;
- Archaeological investigation at the site for development of a phone station at Ngau Hom Shek, Yuen Long; and
- Seven archaeological surveys at sites for building village small houses in Shui Lau Tin, Yuen Long; Mai Tseuk Leng, San Uk Ha, North District; Che Ha, Tai Po; Ho Pui, Yuen Long; Sha Tau Kok San Tsuen, North District; Ho Chung, Sai Kung and Sha Po Old Village, Lamma Island.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW _____

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services _____

Date _____ 20 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)070

Question Serial No.

0389

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead:

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

For 2008-09, how much resources and how many established posts will the Leisure and Cultural Services Department provide to the Antiquities and Monuments Office?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

In 2008-09, the provision of operating expenditure for the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) will be \$69.8 million. Another \$19.7 million will be provided to the Office under the Capital Account for various works projects.

In respect of establishment, the AMO will have 72 civil service posts by 31 March 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)071

Question Serial No.

0847

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural
Services
Department

Subhead:

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Department intends to extend financial support on the restoration of private historic buildings from declared monuments to graded historic buildings. Please provide a breakdown of the relevant provisions.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

For 2008-09, a total provision of \$3.92 million has been earmarked under Subhead 653 (Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)) for the restoration of privately-owned declared monuments and graded buildings. Of this amount,

- (a) \$1.92 million is for restoration of privately-owned declared monuments; and
- (b) \$2 million is for providing financial support for the restoration of privately-owned graded buildings.

For the latter pertaining to restoration of privately-owned graded buildings, details of the criteria and mechanism for providing financial support are being drawn up pursuant to its announcement in the 2007 Policy Address.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)072

Question Serial No.

1626

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead:

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) What was the expenditure involved for the 63 historic buildings/structures restored or maintained in 2007? How many of those historic buildings/structures can be opened to the public after restoration or maintenance?
- (b) Currently how many historic buildings/structures are waiting to be restored/maintained and what is the estimated expenditure involved? For the 60 items planned to be restored/maintained in 2008, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

- (a) In 2007-08, the revised provision for the restoration/maintenance of the 63 historic buildings/structures was \$6.29 million. All these historic buildings/structures are open to the public as appropriate (e.g. unrestricted, on open days, etc.).
- (b) The Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has appointed an expert panel to assess the heritage value of 1 440 historic buildings. The expert panel is working towards completing the assessment by the end of 2008, following which the AAB will consider the grading of those buildings. We will consider the renovation/maintenance works that should be carried out in the light of the expert panel's assessment and the grading exercise of the AAB.

In 2008-09, we have earmarked a provision of \$17.14 million for restoration and maintenance of 60 declared monuments and historic buildings already graded. The projects will include several large-scale restoration projects, including restoration and improvement works to Tai Fu Tai (\$1.7 million), Yan Dun Kong Study Hall (\$1 million), Chik Kwai Study Hall (\$4.5 million), Tang Ancestral Hall, Guest House and Yau Kung School in Ha Tsuen (\$1.55 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **28 March 2008** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)073

Question Serial No.

1627

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Why is it that under the performance measures in respect of heritage and museum services, there is no cumulative total of graded historic buildings?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The system for grading historical buildings is an internal mechanism of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) with has no statutory status. While the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides the AAB with detailed information on historical buildings to facilitate AAB's grading work, the actual grading work is administered by the AAB and hence not put under the performance indicators for heritage and museum services of the LCSD. The purpose of the grading system is to compare the heritage value of historical buildings and to facilitate the Administration's consideration on whether and how a particular building should be preserved. Up to the present, 495 historic buildings have been graded by AAB and the full list has been put on the website of the AAB for public viewing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date **20 March 2008** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)074

Question Serial No.

1628

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

For the education and public programmes in respect of heritage expected to be held in 2008, will they include collaboration with schools to organise heritage briefing sessions in schools, offer guided tours to schools, and provide assistance for them to organise such school activities as the promotion of heritage discovery and introductory talks on history? If yes, what is the expenditure involved and what are the relevant work plans?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has established a close partnership with educational institutions in promoting heritage conservation. Every year, a wide variety of educational activities, such as lectures, exhibitions, guided tours, workshops, conferences and seminars, are jointly organised. These activities are usually held at venues of the AMO with school students as the major target group. The AMO also trains secondary school students to become Young Friends of Heritage (YFOH). They are required to complete a series of training programmes comprising visits to historic buildings and heritage trails, as well as archaeological and experience sharing workshops. The YFOH participate actively in different heritage promotional activities and provide related voluntary services such as operating the YFOH webpage, organising extension activities etc. Moreover, the AMO also provides school teachers with training programmes to help them devise and arrange programmes related to heritage conservation in their schools. For 2008-09, a provision of \$0.6 million has been earmarked for arranging the above-mentioned activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **28 March 2008** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)075

Question Serial No.

2005

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2008-09, the Department will carry out heritage conservation work that is one of the key elements accounting for an increased provision of \$47.4 million. What are the details and how much provision will be allocated for such work?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The increased provision of \$47.4 million in 2008-09 includes \$31 million for heritage conservation work and \$16.4 million for museum services.

In 2008-09, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), which is responsible for carrying out heritage conservation work, will have a total provision of \$89.5 million. Of this amount, \$19.7 million is provided under the Capital Account for restoration and repair of monuments as well as graded historic buildings, archaeological excavations and provision of equipment. The remaining \$69.8 million is the operating expenditure of AMO and it includes staff costs; recurrent requirement for the operation of two heritage centres; organisation of educational activities such as exhibitions, lectures, guided tours, workshops; conducting research; and development and maintenance of heritage information on the Internet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **28 March 2008** _____

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format :

- (1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/in progress/completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Department on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/in progress/ completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by :

Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (1) We have earmarked funds for conducting the following consultancy study in 2007-08

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/in progress/completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Department on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd.	Engineering Strategy on Total Water Management for Hong Kong – Feasibility Study	1,430,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable

- (2) The above consultancy study is expected to be completed in 2008-09 with details as follows

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd.	Engineering Strategy on Total Water Management for Hong Kong – Feasibility Study	2,636,000	The study is expected to be completed in 2008-09.	The findings of the study will be released to the relevant stakeholders, including the Advisory Council on the Environment.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

26 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Administration estimates that the leakage rate of water mains in 2008-09 is 21.8%.
How much funds will the government allocate to improve the leakage of water mains?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2008-09, the Administration will spend about \$1.1 billion mainly in the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains to reduce the leakage of water mains. The monitoring work on leakage control is undertaken by the staff of Water Supplies Department as part of their normal duties.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

26 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please estimate the number of slopes requiring inspection and maintenance and the number of water mains which may affect slopes in 2008-09. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure for this?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

We will arrange for inspection and maintenance of about 4 000 slopes in 2008-09. The works will be carried out through consultants and contractors at a total estimated cost of \$120 million.

We will inspect and arrange repair works, if required, for about 800 sections of water mains which may affect slopes in 2008-09. The inspection work will be carried out by five staff. The total staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about \$0.7 million. The cost of the repair works is estimated to be about \$2 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

26 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the leakage rate of water mains under the indicators, please advise:

1. the estimated loss of fresh water and public money due to leakage in 2006-07 and 2007-08;
2. if there is any long-term measure or planning which can reduce the leakage rate? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

1. The leakage rates in 2006-07 and 2007-08 were about 23% and 22.5% respectively. To maintain a reliable water supply to all customers, the water mains are subject to a relatively high water pressure, this contributes partly to the existing leakage rate, which is considered more an operational constraint than a loss.
2. In addition to existing measures to reduce the leakage rate, the Water Supplies Department will
 - (a) reduce the fresh water supply pressure at minimum residual head pressure from 30-metre to 20-metre and require all plumbing proposals submitted after 1 April 2008 to comply with the new requirement; and
 - (b) initiate the next package of replacement and rehabilitation work in light of performance of the distribution network in the coming years.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)080

Question Serial No.

0732

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

When is the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains expected to complete? Can the Administration expedite the progress of the works in light of the increasingly severe main burst problem? What are the number of main burst cases in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the amount of loss of fresh water due to leakage of water mains respectively in these years?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The current programme for replacement and rehabilitation of about 3 000 kilometres of water mains is expected to be completed in stages by 2015. We are making every endeavour to bring forward the completion of the works as far as possible.

The number of main burst cases in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is 1 585, 1 639 and about 1 700 (estimate) respectively. The leakage rates for fresh water mains in the respective years are about 23.6%, 23% and 22.5%.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

27 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the accuracy of water meters, please advise this Council of the number of cases involving inaccuracy of water meters in 2006-07 financial year.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

In 2006-07, we conducted accuracy tests on 655 water meters at the request of customers. The tests were conducted in a Water Supplies Department's laboratory. A meter is considered not accurate if the reading registered differs from the true flow volume by +/- 3%, as stated in Regulation 30 of Waterworks Regulations. Of the 655 meters tested, 86 were found to be not accurate.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

28 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Water Supplies Department has indicated that it will develop fresh water resources and supply systems to cope with the requirements. As such, how many funds will the government expect to be needed to cope with this work in 2008-09? What are the details of the work?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department is conducting a study, which is near completion, on total water management to map out a strategy to meet our future water demand. The study examined the applicability of various demand and supply management measures including possible development of fresh water resources in Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure of the study in 2008-09 is \$2.6 million.

As for the supply system, we will expand the existing water supply network including expansion of the Tai Po Water Treatment Works and main laying for developments near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley, to cope with new requirements. The estimated expenditure on expansion of supply system in 2008-09 is \$95.5 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

28 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2008-09, the amount of water to be supplied is estimated to be 969 million cubic metre, an increase of 18 106 000 cubic metre over the actual consumption of 950 894 000 cubic metre in 2007. As the government has encouraged the public to save water, why the amount of water to be supplied is expected to increase?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Our forecast future fresh water demand was based on past consumption trend and projections of population and economic growth. The fresh water consumption in the past decade has been on a mild rising trend. While we will continue to encourage the public to save water, we expect the rising trend to continue.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

28 March 2008

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What are the plans and promotion programmes for "water conservation" in 2008-09 and the expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The promotional activities for water conservation we plan to conduct in 2008-09 include announcements on television and radio, promotion through press media, leaflets, posters as well as various educational activities such as exhibitions, talks and seminars. The estimated expenditure for 2008-09 is \$1.3 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)085

Question Serial No.

2506

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Heads 702-707, 709 and 711

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : For the Public Works Programme under Capital Works Reserve Fund, \$12 billion is expected to be spent during 2007-08. After allowing for an estimated expenditure of \$12.4 billion in 2008-09, the outstanding commitment as at 31 March 2009 is estimated to be about \$123.5 billion. In this connection, will the Administration explain in detail:

- (a) Why both the expenditure for works projects in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 estimates are only \$12 billion, far lower than the \$29 billion earmarked for public works expenditure in the Policy Address and Budget of previous years?
- (b) How much in the surplus of 2007-08 belongs to the unused provision for public works projects in last year's estimates? How many projects are involved? In the 2008-09 estimates for works projects, how much provision is originally intended to be spent in 2007-08 and has to be included in the 2008-09 expenditure again because the works were not implemented as scheduled?
- (c) If the 2008-09 provision for works projects is not fully utilized, can the unused provision be reserved for future use instead of just including it repeatedly in the annual \$29 billion provision for works projects? I meant that if the actual expenditure this year is \$10 billion less than that of the original estimates, the estimates for next year should be increased correspondingly by \$10 billion to catch up with the works in delay; and
- (d) The estimated expenditure on infrastructure projects is \$21.8 billion for 2008-09, which is \$7.2 billion less than \$29 billion. What are the reasons for this? Will the estimates for next year be increased to \$36.2 billion correspondingly?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The \$12 billion refers to expenditure to be incurred by Category A projects in the Public Works Programme during 2007-08 and forms only part of the estimated expenditure on infrastructure projects for that year. The estimated capital works expenditure in 2007-08, including expenditure under block allocations and projects upgraded to Category A in 2007-08, has been revised to \$20.5 billion. This is slightly over the original estimate of \$20.4 billion.

Capital works expenditure tends to fluctuate from year to year in accordance with the actual amount of works executed. The lower spending in recent years is attributed largely to the fact that while many of the large scale projects were substantially completed in 2005 and 2006, the next batch of planned large scale projects did not commence as scheduled, as they require more time for completing the statutory procedures and for undertaking the necessary preparatory work including public engagement.

We are pressing ahead with the ten major projects announced by the Chief Executive in the 2007 Policy Address, which will sustain a high level of expenditure at their construction stage. At the same time we are also implementing other important projects to improve the quality of city environment, for example the drainage tunnel projects in Hong Kong West, Tsuen Wan and Lai Chi Kok; and the stages 3 and 4 of the watermains replacement and rehabilitation project.

The total value of the funding submissions to Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in the 2006-07 LegCo session amounted to \$26.2 billion. For the 2007-08 session, the funding proposals which we have submitted or aim to submit to PWSC are estimated to carry a total value of about \$45 billion (excluding the proposed \$21.6 billion upfront endowment to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority). Up to 26 March 2008, the total capital funding endorsed by PWSC is already \$27.6 billion. However, due to the expenditure pattern, the new projects to be approved in the 2007-08 LegCo session will not incur substantial sums of expenditure in 2008-09. Hence the estimate for 2008-09 will only be \$21.8 billion. We expect the capital works expenditure will pick up starting 2009-10 when these projects are in full swing.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K MAK

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 28 March 2008