

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

**Controlling Officer: Secretary General, Legislative Council Secretariat  
Session No. : 7**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">LC001</a>	1155	WONG Ting-kwong	112	General and Secretariat Services
<a href="#">LC002</a>	1156	WONG Ting-kwong	112	General and Secretariat Services

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

Reply Serial No.

LC001

Head : 112 Legislative Council  
Commission

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1155

Programme : (2) General and Secretariat Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary General, Legislative Council Secretariat

Director of Bureau : N/A

Question : In the 2008-09 financial year, the Legislative Council Secretariat will create seven posts to enhance the secretariat support and translation service for committees. Whether any assessment has been made to assess the workload to be increased in 2008-09, and how much provision is required for creating these posts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply : **Secretariat support provided by Council Business Division 3 (CBD3)**

In recent years, the servicing work of Council meetings has increased very substantially, both in terms of complexity and volume. Council meetings are longer; bills and Committee Stage amendments (CSAs) are more complex and controversial; there are more Members' CSAs; questions and motions are longer and more complex; there are many more amendments to motions; and there are many more procedural matters, etc. For instance:

- (a) In the current term (2004-08) of the Legislative Council, the average duration of a Council meeting was 9.4 hours, compared to 8 hours in the last term;
- (b) The number of CSAs processed in the current term was 404, compared to 288 in the last term;
- (c) The average number of words (Chinese version) in a question processed in the current term was 276, compared to 235 in the last term;

- (d) The average number of words (Chinese version) in a Member's motion (with no legislative effect) processed in the current term was 208, compared to 127 in the last term;
- (e) The total number of amendments to motions processed in the current term was 366, compared to 189 in the last term; and
- (f) The total number of revised amendments to motions processed in the current term was 844, compared to only 45 in the last term.

The manpower resources of CBD3 are insufficient to cope with the present workload. It is therefore necessary to create in the Division three additional posts (i.e. one Chief Council Secretary post, one Senior Council Secretary post, and one Administrative Assistant I post) with government funds to strengthen manpower support.

It is anticipated that the workload of CBD3 in the 2008-09 session will be at least as heavy as that in the current term.

#### **Translation service provided by Translation & Interpretation Division (TID)**

The increase in translation workload for 2008-09 is projected to be in the region of **2%**, taking into account further increase in demand for translation of committee papers. This is estimated on the basis of the trend of increase in workload; and the anticipated enhanced output by the additional staffing resources for other divisions of the Secretariat, in particular CBD3, Legal Service Division, Research and Library Services Division.

The increase in Hansard production workload for 2008-09 is projected to be in the region of **4.4%**, estimated on the basis of the trend of increase in workload.

Four additional posts (i.e. two Senior Translation Officer posts and two Translation Officer posts) will be created not only to cope with the anticipated increasing demand for translation and Hansard production services, but also to relieve the existing overstrained manpower situation.

### **Additional financial provision**

Three posts will be created in CBD3 with an annual provision of \$2.54 million, and four posts will be created in TID with an annual provision of \$3.06 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ RICKY C C FUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary General \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reply Serial No.

**LC002**

Head : 112 Legislative Council  
Commission

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1156

Programme : (2) General and Secretariat Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary General, Legislative Council Secretariat

Director of Bureau : N/A

Question : How many time-limited posts are estimated and required to be created in 2008-09? What is the cost involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply : In the 2008-09 financial year, four time-limited posts, with annual emoluments of \$2.57 million, will be created for overseeing and co-ordinating the planning and implementation of the reprovisioning of the Legislative Council Building and offices of the Legislative Council Secretariat to the new Legislative Council Complex at Tamar.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

**RICKY C C FUNG**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary General**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**18 March 2008**