

財經事務及庫務局

香港雪廠街
中區政府合署



FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE
TREASURY BUREAU

Central Government Offices,
Ice House Street,
Hong Kong

7 January 2009

Our ref. : FIN 37/7/2 Pt. 1
Your ref.: CB(3)/PAC/R51
Telephone no. : 2810 2283
Fax no. : 2596 0729

URGENT BY FAX

Ms Miranda HON
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Hon,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 51)**

Emergency ambulance service (Chapter 4)

Thank you for your letter of today requesting further information on the captioned subject.

In its submission for the 2005 Recurrent Expenditure Resource Allocation Exercise (RAE), the Fire Services Department (FSD) had not specifically made reference to the baseline daily ambulance availability (DAA) of "184 ambulances on the day shift and 100 ambulances on the night shift".

.... /

Our comment as recorded in para 4.12 of Chapter 4 of the above Audit Report takes into account the fact that FSD had created 28, 47 and 30 additional posts in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively (i.e. 105 new posts in total) and that these posts should in turn enable FSD to operate approximately four, seven and five additional shifts in the respective years (i.e. approximately 16 additional shifts eventually). Since FSD had indicated to us in 2005 that it was operating 281 ambulance shifts on average daily between January and June 2005, the additional shifts supported by the additional posts created should enable FSD to meet the baseline DAA of 184 day and 100 night ambulances (i.e. total of 284 ambulance shifts) mentioned in paragraph 4.12 of the Audit Report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernadette Linn".

(Ms Bernadette Linn)
for Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury

c.c. Director of Audit