

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Session No: 11**

| No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| <u>DEVB(W)001</u> | 2089 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)002</u> | 3730 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)003</u> | 3731 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)004</u> | 3732 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)005</u> | 3735 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)006</u> | 3873 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)007</u> | 1675 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)008</u> | 1676 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)009</u> | 1749 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)010</u> | 2660 | Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)011</u> | 2682 | Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)012</u> | 0110 | Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)013</u> | 2600 | Hon. LI Fung-ying | 159 | Intra-Governmental Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)014</u> | 2601 | Hon. LI Fung-ying | 159 | Intra-Governmental Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)015</u> | 1618 | Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)016</u> | 1331 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)017</u> | 1332 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)018</u> | 1731 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)019</u> | 1732 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)020</u> | 1733 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)021</u> | 3333 | Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla | 159 | Intra-Governmental Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)022</u> | 3491 | Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla | 159 | Intra-Governmental Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)023</u> | 3281 | Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, ALan | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)024</u> | 0037 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)025</u> | 0038 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)026</u> | 0039 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)027</u> | 0040 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |

| No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <u>DEVB(W)028</u> | 1237 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)029</u> | 1238 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)030</u> | 1239 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)031</u> | 1240 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)032</u> | 0901 | Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)033</u> | 0902 | Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)034</u> | 2605 | Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)035</u> | 3839 | Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)036</u> | 3840 | Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)037</u> | 0520 | Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)038</u> | 3004 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)039</u> | 3199 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)040</u> | 3200 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)041</u> | 3480 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)042</u> | 0019 | Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)043</u> | 0020 | Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)044</u> | 2471 | Hon. IP Wai-ming | 159 | Intra-Governmental Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)045</u> | 2472 | Hon. IP Wai-ming | 159 | Intra-Governmental Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)046</u> | 0046 | Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)047</u> | 1112 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)048</u> | 1113 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)049</u> | 1114 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)050</u> | 1115 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | 159 | Greening, Landscape and Tree Management |
| <u>DEVB(W)051</u> | 3745 | Hon. PAN Pey-chyou | 159 | Heritage Conservation |
| <u>DEVB(W)052</u> | 3874 | Hon. PAN Pey-chyou | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)053</u> | 3184 | Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson | 159 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)054</u> | 2681 | Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan | Various Head | CWRF Various Heads 703 -711 |
| <u>DEVB(W)055</u> | 1136 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 25 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)056</u> | 1137 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 25 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)057</u> | 1138 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 25 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)058</u> | 2580 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |

| No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| <u>DEVB(W)059</u> | 2665 | Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd | 25 | Facilities Development |
| <u>DEVB(W)060</u> | 1803 | Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond | 25 | Facilities Development |
| <u>DEVB(W)061</u> | 1474 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)062</u> | 0535 | Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)063</u> | 3590 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)064</u> | 0408 | Hon. LAU Wong-fat | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)065</u> | 0409 | Hon. LAU Wong-fat | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)066</u> | 0410 | Hon. LAU Wong-fat | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)067</u> | 2960 | Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam | 25 | Monitoring and Advisory Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)068</u> | 2961 | Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam | 25 | Facilities Development |
| <u>DEVB(W)069</u> | 1750 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | 25 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)070</u> | 1392 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | CWRF 703 | Buildings |
| <u>DEVB(W)071</u> | 1145 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 33 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)072</u> | 1146 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 33 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)073</u> | 1147 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 33 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)074</u> | 1483 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 33 | Slope safety and Geotechnical Standards |
| <u>DEVB(W)075</u> | 1484 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 33 | Slope safety and Geotechnical Standards |
| <u>DEVB(W)076</u> | 1486 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 33 | Slope safety and Geotechnical Standards |
| <u>DEVB(W)077</u> | 1241 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 33 | Greening and Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)078</u> | 2588 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 33 | Provision of Lands and Infrastructure |
| <u>DEVB(W)079</u> | 0525 | Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert | 33 | Provision of Lands and Infrastructure |
| <u>DEVB(W)080</u> | 0527 | Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert | 33 | Greening and Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)081</u> | 0528 | Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert | 33 | Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives |
| <u>DEVB(W)082</u> | 3597 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 33 | Slope safety and Geotechnical Standards |
| <u>DEVB(W)083</u> | 3601 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 33 | Greening and Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)084</u> | 3602 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 33 | Greening and Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)085</u> | 3603 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 33 | Greening and Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)086</u> | 3617 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 33 | Slope safety and Geotechnical Standards |
| <u>DEVB(W)087</u> | 3618 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 33 | Slope safety and Geotechnical Standards |
| <u>DEVB(W)088</u> | 0413 | Hon. LAU Wong-fat | 33 | Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives |
| <u>DEVB(W)089</u> | 3191 | Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson | 33 | |

| No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>DEVB(W)090</u> | 1391 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | CWRF 705 | Civil Engineering |
| <u>DEVB(W)091</u> | 1389 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | CWRF 707 | New Towns & Urban Area Development |
| <u>DEVB(W)092</u> | 1053 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | CWRF 705 | Civil Engineering |
| <u>DEVB(W)093</u> | 1056 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | CWRF 707 | New Towns & Urban Area Development |
| <u>DEVB(W)094</u> | 1057 | Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick | CWRF 707 | New Towns & Urban Area Development |
| <u>DEVB(W)095</u> | 1157 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 39 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)096</u> | 1158 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 39 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)097</u> | 1159 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 39 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)098</u> | 1804 | Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond | 39 | Stormwater Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)099</u> | 0342 | Hon. LEE Wing-tat | 39 | Stormwater Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)100</u> | 1565 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 39 | Stormwater Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)101</u> | 2962 | Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam | 39 | Stormwater Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)102</u> | 2963 | Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam | 39 | Stormwater Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)103</u> | 2964 | Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam | 39 | Stormwater Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)104</u> | 3185 | Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson | 39 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)105</u> | 1394 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | CWRF 704 | Drainage |
| <u>DEVB(W)106</u> | 2411 | Hon. WONG Kwok-kin | CWRF 704 | Drainage - 4162CD |
| <u>DEVB(W)107</u> | 1160 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 42 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)108</u> | 2975 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 42 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)109</u> | 2976 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 42 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)110</u> | 2608 | Hon. LI Fung-ying | 42 | Mechanical Installations Safety |
| <u>DEVB(W)111</u> | 2974 | Hon. LI Fung-ying | 42 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)112</u> | 3251 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 42 | Mechanical Installations Safety |
| <u>DEVB(W)113</u> | 3177 | Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson | 42 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)114</u> | 1504 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 60 | District and Maintenance |
| <u>DEVB(W)115</u> | 3047 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 60 | Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)116</u> | 3048 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 60 | Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)117</u> | 3049 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 60 | Technical Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)118</u> | 3050 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 60 | District and Maintenance |
| <u>DEVB(W)119</u> | 0048 | Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina | 60 | District and Maintenance |
| <u>DEVB(W)120</u> | 2088 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 194 | Subhead 000 |

| No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| <u>DEVB(W)121</u> | 3174 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 194 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)122</u> | 3175 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 194 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)123</u> | 3176 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 194 | Subhead 000 |
| <u>DEVB(W)124</u> | 3879 | Hon. WONG Kwok-hing | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)125</u> | 1943 | Hon. KAM Nai-wai | 194 | Customer Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)126</u> | 1378 | Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy | 194 | Customer Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)127</u> | 1328 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)128</u> | 1351 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)129</u> | 1352 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 194 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)130</u> | 2368 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)131</u> | 2369 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)132</u> | 2370 | Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)133</u> | 2537 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)134</u> | 2538 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)135</u> | 2539 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)136</u> | 2540 | Hon. CHAN Hak-kan | 194 | Customer Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)137</u> | 0900 | Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)138</u> | 3478 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)139</u> | 3479 | Hon. CHAN Tanya | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)140</u> | 0006 | Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)141</u> | 0007 | Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick | 194 | Customer Services |
| <u>DEVB(W)142</u> | 0008 | Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)143</u> | 2582 | Hon. PAN Pey-chyou | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)144</u> | 2583 | Hon. PAN Pey-chyou | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)145</u> | 3746 | Hon. PAN Pey-chyou | 194 | Water Supply: Planning and Distribution |
| <u>DEVB(W)146</u> | 3234 | Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson | 194 | |
| <u>DEVB(W)147</u> | 1388 | Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham | CWRF 709 | Waterworks |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)001

Question Serial No.

2089

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide details of the emergency response system established to facilitate prompt and effective response to serious tree incidents. What is the expenditure for the Administration to operate this system in 2010-11? How long did it take to handle these incidents under the system?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Development Bureau (DEVB) has set up an internal alert system, whereby the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Hong Kong Police Force, the 1823 Call Centre under the Efficiency Unit (EU) and the Highways Department (HyD) will notify the Tree Management Office (TMO) when a major tree failure involving the following occurs –

- (a) major injuries (i.e. the injured was admitted to hospital) or loss of human life;
- (b) substantial damage to properties; or
- (c) serious/complete blockage to main pedestrian/vehicular access.

Each tree management department is required to designate a departmental contact officer to liaise with TMO in handling emergency tree-related cases, and to put in place an effective mechanism for their internal communication and decision-making when a tree-related emergency situation occurs.

All tree management departments concerned are required to attend to the scene promptly. In addition, for tree-related cases involving major injuries or loss of human life, Head / Tree Management Office and TMO staff with certified arborist qualification will arrive at the scene as soon as possible after notification from FSD / Police / the 1823 Call Centre in EU / HyD to obtain first-hand information on the incident and to offer guidance to the tree management department concerned regarding the handling of the incident.

The resource requirement for handling of tree-related incidents is met by the existing resources of TMO and the tree management departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C S Wai

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)002

Question Serial No.

3730

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

After trees are planted, are there departments responsible for their maintenance and follow-up work? If yes, what are the staffing of these departments and the total expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Government adopts an “integrated approach” for the management of trees on government land. In essence, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there^(Note 1). A breakdown of the number of management staff of the eight major tree management departments is set out below –

| Department | Number of tree management staff (Note 2) |
|---|---|
| Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department | 86 |
| Architectural Services Department | 15 |
| Civil Engineering and Development Department | 12 |
| Drainage Services Department | 16 |
| Highways Department | 22 |
| Housing Department ^(Note 3) | 28 |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department | 210 |
| Water Supplies Department | 16 |

Note 1:

There are differences in the way that the trees planted on unallocated and unleased government land and that within government facilities are managed. There is a very large amount of unallocated and unleased government land (with a total area of some 33 000 hectares), spreading

across the territory. Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems and take follow-up action when discharging their day-to-day functions of land control and management and upon receipt of referrals and complaints.

Note 2:

Figures in this column include only the number of government staff involved in day-to-day tree management (on a full-time or part-time basis), but exclude the manpower temporarily deployed on a need basis. Figures in the column also exclude senior staff of the departments involved in tree management (particularly at the strategic level). In addition to the government staff, individual departments have also engaged contractors or non-government personnel to assist in tree management.

Note 3:

Excluding the frontline management staff in 160 public housing estates who also provide assistance.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)003

Question Serial No.

3731

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What is the cost of each tree planted by the Administration? What are the main species of the trees planted by the Government?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Government plants a large number of trees and seedlings of different species and sizes for different purposes (e.g. landscape enhancement, afforestation, erosion control, etc.). The unit cost of planting a tree or seedling depends on a number of factors (e.g. tree size and species, length of the establishment period, the need for soil improvement and tree mounting fixtures, etc.). As an indication, in 2010, the weighted average unit cost of planting a seedling was about \$16 and that of planting a tree (of size of heavy standard and above) was about \$1,500.

In 2010, the most common species of seedlings planted by government departments included Schima, Hong Kong Gordonia, Brisbane Box, Ear-leaved Acacia and Many-nerved Machilus whereas the most common species of trees planted included Myrobalan, Chinese Banyan, River Red Gum, Brisbane Box, Cadaga and Camel's Foot Tree.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Batch I Projects under the Revitalisation Scheme

| | Historic building (Grading) | Selected project | Selected non-profit making organisation | Approved capital cost ¹ (million) | Government subsidy ² required for operation of social enterprise (million) | Commencement of renovation works | Estimated completion of works | Job creation | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | During works period | Operation phase | |
| | | | | | | | | | Full-time | Part-time |
| 1. | Old Tai O Police Station (Grade 2) | Tai O Heritage Hotel | Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation Limited | \$69.13 | Not required | March 2010 | August 2011 | 103 | 10 | 10 |
| 2. | Fong Yuen Study Hall (Grade 3) | Tourism and Chinese Cultural Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum | Social Service Department, Yuen Yuen Institute | \$8.64 | \$1.9 | April 2011 | February 2012 | 21 | 6 | 40 |
| 3. | Lai Chi Kok Hospital (Grade 3) | Jao Tsung-I Academy / HK Cultural Heritage | Hong Kong Institution for Promotion of Chinese Culture | \$235.31 | \$2 | January 2011 | November 2011 (1 st phase – Jao's Exhibition Hall) October 2012 (2 nd phase – other works) | 195 | 53 | 47 |
| 4. | Lui Seng Chun (Grade 1) | HK Baptist University Chinese Medicine and Healthcare Centre | Hong Kong Baptist University | \$29.16 | \$2.6 | January 2011 | January 2012 | 41 | 27 | 0 |
| 5. | North Kowloon Magistracy (Grade 2) | SCAD HK Campus | SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited | Not required | Not required | December 2009 | July 2010 (works completed) | 220 | 147 | 67 |

¹ Money of the day prices.

² The subsidy covers projected operating deficits in the first two years of operation of the revitalised facility.

| | Historic building (Grading) | Selected project | Selected non-profit making organisation | Approved capital cost ¹ (million) | Government subsidy ² required for operation of social enterprise (million) | Commencement of renovation works | Estimated completion of works | Job creation | | |
|----|--------------------------------|------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | During works period | Operation phase | |
| | | | | | | | | | Full-time | Part-time |
| 6. | Mei Ho House (Grade 2) | City Hostel | Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association | \$220.33 | \$4.4 | December 2010 | July 2012 | 163 | 42 | 63 |
| | Total | | | \$562.57 | \$10.9 | - | - | 743 | 285 | 227 |

(b) The five buildings included under Batch II of the Revitalisation Scheme were the Old Tai Po Police Station, the Blue House Cluster, Stone Houses, the Former Fanling Magistracy, and the Old House at Wong Uk Village. Three non-profit-making organisations were selected to revitalise the first three buildings. The Advisory Committee on the Revitalisation of Historic Buildings did not recommend any proposals submitted for the Former Fanling Magistracy and the Old House at Wong Uk Village because the Committee considered that the proposals could not meet the high threshold required to justify the extent of Government support. The Secretary for Development accepted the Committee's recommendations to include the Former Fanling Magistracy in another round of applications in future whereas the declared monument of the Old House at Wong Uk Village should be kept intact. The estimated cost for the three selected projects is as follows:

Batch II Projects under the Revitalisation Scheme

| | Historic building (Grading) | Selected project | Latest estimated capital cost ³ (million) | Estimated Government subsidy ² required for operation of social enterprise (million) |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Old Tai Po Police Station (Grade 1) | The Green Hub for sustainable living | \$43.157 | \$1.84 |
| 2. | Stone Houses (Grade 3) | Stone Houses Family Garden | \$35.437 | \$2.328 |

³ Price as of September 2010.

| | Historic building (Grading) | Selected project | Latest estimated capital cost³ (million) | Estimated Government subsidy² required for operation of social enterprise (million) |
|----|---|-------------------------|--|---|
| 3. | Blue House Cluster (Blue House: Grade 1; Yellow House: Grade 3) | Viva Blue House | \$65.714 | \$4.168 |
| | Total | | \$144.308 | \$8.336 |

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)005

Question Serial No.

3735

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As reflected by the Indicators in this Programme, the Administration planted a total of 1.1 million trees and 6.7 million shrubs in 2010. What is the total number of trees felled in 2010 because of government works, including the number of valuable trees among them.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In 2010-11, 3 133 trees were removed, with compensatory planting, due to the implementation of public works projects. None of them were Old and Valuable Trees. There are established internal mechanisms governing tree removal in government works, whereby departments should consider transplanting first and tree removal with compensatory planting only as a last resort.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)006

Question Serial No.

3873

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech, the Government will “first review those locations outside Victoria Harbour which were previously considered for this purpose (reclamation). At the same time, we will conduct a comprehensive site search to identify other suitable locations.” Will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the locations that have been considered by the Administration for reclamation. What is its progress? What are the problems encountered?
- (b) how will the “comprehensive site search” be conducted? Are there any target areas or scope for the site search? What is the estimated expenditure and manpower required for the search?
- (c) if suitable sites are identified, how soon can they be available on the market or for use?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Previously considered reclamation sites are mainly located in the western part of the New Territories and the northern part of Lantau Island. As these sites were considered a number of years ago, we need to review them as part of the site search exercise as relevant information about these sites will have to be updated.
- (b) We plan to engage consultants to conduct the comprehensive site search on suitable sites outside the Victoria Harbour. We are currently drafting the scope of the consultancy and will have an estimate of the resources required after the scope is finalised.
- (c) We will carry out detailed engineering studies and public engagement exercise on the identified reclamation sites. We will consider a number of factors including engineering feasibility, cost-effectiveness and public acceptability, before deciding how to put the ideas into action. It is premature to ascertain at this early stage the approximate time required for making the sites available in the market .

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)007

Question Serial No.

1675

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 :

In paragraph 167 of the Budget Speech 2011-12, the Financial Secretary proposes to earmark an additional \$500 million to subsidise more revitalisation projects of historic buildings. In this connection, will the Administration advise:

- (a) whether the additional subsidy will be entirely injected into Batch III of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Scheme);
- (b) the historic buildings and the number of historic buildings it plans to conserve by the additional subsidy; and
- (c) the timetable for the launch of Batch III of the Scheme.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) The additional sum of \$500 million is earmarked for the implementation of more revitalisation projects of historic buildings, including Batch III of the Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme).
- (b) We will continue to identify suitable historic buildings for conservation and revitalisation. The number of historic buildings that could be conserved and revitalised with the additional sum of \$500 million will depend on a number of factors, e.g. the size, the conditions and the proposed usage of the buildings as well as site constraints.
- (c) We aim to launch Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme in mid-2011.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)008

Question Serial No.

1676

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 :

According to the Commissioner for Heritage's Office website last updated on 22 September 2010, the Government was identifying suitable historic buildings to be included in Batch III of Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme). However, the work associated with Batch III of the Scheme is not included in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12 of the branch. In this connection, will the Administration advise –

- (a) the reasons for not mentioning such work in the Estimates;
- (b) the expenditure and staff establishment for the work associated with Batch III of the Scheme in 2010-11;
- (c) the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for the work associated with Batch III of the Scheme in 2011-12; and
- (d) the progress of the preliminary work of Batch III of the Scheme.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) It is an on-going task of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) to take forward the conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings in Hong Kong through various means, including the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme). The identification of suitable historic buildings for the said purpose is an important step in the process. CHO's work with regard to the new Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme has been reflected in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12 in the Controlling Officer's Report, which mentions that we will take forward the conservation and revitalisation of other historic buildings in addition to those already identified.
- (b) & (c) The estimated expenditure for the conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings under Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme will only be available after the successful applicants have been selected. The capital cost of the revitalisation works will be charged to the uncommitted balance of the allocation earmarked for the revitalisation of Government-owned historic buildings, which has been increased by \$500 million as announced by the Financial Secretary in his 2011-12 Budget Speech. The internal work associated with Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme will be met by existing staff resources in CHO, the Antiquities and Monuments Office and other relevant departments.
- (d) We are considering the inclusion of suitable Government-owned historic buildings in Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme and are preparing the invitation for proposals

documents. We aim to invite revitalisation proposals for Batch III in mid-2011.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)009

Question Serial No.

1749

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In paragraph 31, 32 and 33 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary stated that the SAR Government will allocate about \$300 million in the Development Bureau to facilitate public discussion about the feasibility of reclamation as an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development. Will the Administration inform this Committee –

- (a) in light of the mounting public concern on natural conservation the measures that the Government will adopt to strike a balance between the aforementioned development proposals and natural conservation; and
- (b) details of the planning and engineering studies for the aforementioned reclamation and development?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) To explore different ways to increase the supply of land, we will initiate public discussion about the feasibility of reclamation on an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development by carrying out relevant studies and public engagement exercise. The concern on natural conservation, as well as other environmental implications that may arise from the new initiative, will be carefully considered in the engineering feasibility studies.
- (b) We plan to review the previously identified reclamation sites and carry out a comprehensive site search for other suitable locations. We will also conduct engineering feasibility studies including environmental assessments for identified reclamation sites. In regard to rock cavern development, we will carry out detailed studies with a view to formulating a strategic cavern development master plan and investigating the feasibility of relocating some above-ground government facilities to rock caverns.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)010

Question Serial No.

2660

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

Programme : (1) Water Supply
 (2) Heritage Conservation
 (4) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Development Bureau (Works Branch) and its departments for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2008-09 and 2010-11:

| Name of consultant | Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify)) | Title, content and objectives of project | Consultancy fee (\$) | Start Date | Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed) | Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why? |
|--------------------|---|--|----------------------|------------|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | | |

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2011-12? If yes, please provide the following information:

| Name of consultant | Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify)) | Title, content and objectives of project | Consultancy fee (\$) | Start Date | Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed) | For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2010-11, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why? |
|--------------------|---|--|----------------------|------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | |

- (c) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by :

Hon. Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

The consultancy studies commissioned by the Development Bureau (Works Branch) and its departments for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies are as follow:-

(a) Information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2008-09 and 2010-11 is given in the table below:

| Name of consultant | Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify)) | Title, content and objectives of project | Consultancy fee (\$) | Start Date | Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed) | Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why? |
|------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------|--|---|--|
| The University of Hong Kong | Invitation of quotation from selected consultants | Development strategy for professional resources of Hong Kong's construction and related engineering services sector. | 1,300,000 | August 2007 | Completed | The study findings will be taken into consideration when formulating the development strategy. | Information has been shared within the Government and stakeholders of the construction industry. |
| Hong Kong Architecture Centre Ltd. | Invitation of single quotation | Benchmark study on building controls to facilitate adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Hong Kong. The consultancy studied the building control mechanisms applicable to historic buildings in selected overseas countries. It also examined how building control measures could be improved to address the need for preserving the heritage value of historic buildings and meeting modern-day building requirements. | 390,000 | November 2007 | Completed | We have made reference to the recommendations in improving the building control measures applicable to the preservation and revitalisation of historic buildings. | We have not made public the consultancy report because of its technical nature. Its content is primarily for the consumption of professionals in the relevant field. Instead, we have shared the relevant information in the consultancy report with the parties concerned, including relevant departments and non-governmental organisations in the field of heritage conservation, as appropriate via workshops, meetings, etc. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------|---------------|-------------|---|---|
| Powersoft Consultancy Ltd. | Invitation of single quotation | Study on overseas experience of revitalisation of historic buildings and media strategies. The consultant studied the experience of seven overseas cities in revitalising historic buildings and made proposals on how such experience could be adopted in Hong Kong. | 248,000 | November 2007 | Completed | We have made reference to the recommendations in formulating our policy on the revitalisation of historic buildings and our publicity activities. | We have not made public the consultancy report because the study is primarily for the Government's internal reference when formulating relevant policies. Where appropriate, we have shared the relevant information in the study report with relevant departments and non-governmental organisations in the field of heritage conservation, via workshops, seminars, forums, etc. |
| Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd | Invitation of quotation from selected consultants | Advice on the Use of Eurocodes in Hong Kong - Feasibility Study | 1,216,900 | May 2008 | Completed | Works departments continue with the further investigation and trial as recommended in the study | We have shared the study findings with the industry including local universities, professional institutions and the Construction Industry Council |
| Mott MacDonald (previously known as Mott Connell) | Invitation of quotation from selected consultants | Consultancy on Developing a Sustainable Construction Management Framework for Public Works Projects. | 1,150,000 | December 2007 | In progress | Study is in progress and will be completed in 2011-12 | We will share the study findings within the Government and relevant stakeholders of the construction industry |
| Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd. | Open tender | Engineering Strategy on Total Water Management for Hong Kong - Feasibility Study | 4,000,000 | October 2005 | Completed | The strategy is being implemented and the progress was reported to the Development Panel of the Legislative Council on 25 May 2010. | The findings of the study have been released to the Legco and relevant stakeholders, including the Advisory Council on the Environment. |

(b) Information of projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2011-12.

| Name of consultant | Mode of award (open auction / tender / others (please specify)) | Title, content and objectives of project | Consultancy fee (\$) | Start Date | Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed) | For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2010-11, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why? |
|---|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Mott MacDonald (previously known as Mott Connell) | Invitation of quotation from selected consultants | Consultancy on Developing a Sustainable Construction Management Framework for Public Works Projects. | 1,150,000 | December 2007 | Study is in progress and will be completed in 2011-12 | We will share the study findings within the Government and relevant stakeholders of the construction industry |
| To be appointed | Invitation of quotation | Consultancy on the Study of Low Carbon Construction Measures in the Delivery of Construction Projects. | Not yet known | Second Quarter, 2011 | Under planning | Not applicable |
| To be appointed | Open tender | Consultancy on Public Engagement for Increasing Land Supply. | Not yet known | Third Quarter, 2011 | Under planning | Not applicable |

(c) Both the technical capability of the consultants and their fee proposals will be taken into account in considering the award of consultancies. The criteria adopted for the technical capability of consultants include (i) consultants' experience and knowledge; (ii) approach and methodology in conducting the study; and (iii) composition and quality of the team.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)011

Question Serial No.

2682

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In regard to the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement) and growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which the Development Bureau (Works Branch) and departments under its purview are or have been involved.

- (a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2008-09 to 2010-11, please provide information in the following format:

| Project/ programme title | Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement | Expenditure involved | Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved | Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date) | Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |

- (b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2011-12, please provide information in the following format:

| Project/ programme title | Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement | Expenditure involved | Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved | Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date) | Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | | |

- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of cross-boundary co-operation? If yes, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the past 3 years, and how much financial and manpower resources are earmarked in the 2011-12 Estimates?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2008-09 to 2010-11

| Project/ programme title | Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement | Expenditure involved | Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved | Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date) | Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works | Yes. A new boundary crossing point is proposed to be provided at Northeast New Territories. | We estimate to spend a total of \$78.8 million from 2009-10 to 2010-11 on the preliminary design and advanced construction works. | Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality | Preliminary design commenced in April 2009 and substantially completed in December 2010. | The public are consulted from time to time through communication with the relevant stakeholders and District Councils. Resources are included in the expenditure involved or absorbed by the Department. |

(b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2011-12

| Project/ programme title | Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement | Expenditure involved | Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved | Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date) | Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works | Yes. A new boundary crossing point is proposed to be provided at Northeast New Territories. | We estimate to spend \$122 million in 2011-12 on the detailed design and advanced construction works. | Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality | Detailed design is planned to commence in the second quarter of 2011. | The public are consulted from time to time through the relevant stakeholders and District Councils. Resources are included in the expenditure involved or absorbed by the Department. |

(c) No, there are no other modes of cross-boundary co-operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C S Wai

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)012

Question Serial No.

0110

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide the number of trees felled in 2009 and 2010 due to tree risk and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to 28 February 2011), the major departments with tree management responsibility, excepts Lands Department (LandsD), removed 4 586 and 5 792 trees with health or structural problems that posed risks to public safety. These figures do not include severely damaged trees that were removed after inclement weather .

LandsD removed 6 372 and 3 803 trees in 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to 28 February 2011) respectively. These figures include trees with health and structural problems that posed risks to public safety as well as severely damaged trees that were removed after inclement weather. LandsD does not separately maintain statistics on the number of trees with health and structural problems removed.

We observe that with the implementation of the new tree risk assessment arrangement in early 2010, while the overall annual caseload of tree removals in 2009-10 and 2010-11(up to 28 February 2011) were similar to that in previous years, the number of tree removal due to damage sustained under inclement weather has decreased whereas the number of trees with health or structural problems has increased. This reflects our more proactive approach to tree risk management, whereby our tree management departments seek to identify problematic trees posing risks to public safety through systematic tree risk assessment and community surveillance by way of tree-related complaints received from the public, and promptly address these risks. Problematic trees with health or structural problems are removed only after careful consideration of all relevant factors, of which protection of public safety is a priority concern. The expenditure on tree removal incurred by the departments concerned in 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to 28 February 2011) is not available as it is usually subsumed under the overall expenditure on vegetation management.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)013

Question Serial No.

2600

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

Programme : (4) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the Branch's continued collaboration with the Construction Workers Registration Authority to facilitate registration of construction workers and implementation of prohibitions under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance under this programme, please provide information on the amount of provision and staff establishment, and specific details.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The Construction Workers Registration Authority (CWRA) established under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (CWRO) (Cap. 583) is responsible for administering the Ordinance. CWRA are mainly funded by the levy collected in accordance with CWRO and registration fees. The Government does not need to make any financial provision for the related work in 2011-12. The Development Bureau has an in-house team with the following establishment working closely with CWRA to ensure the smooth implementation of the construction workers registration system. The annual staff cost is about \$2.4 million.

| <u>Post</u> | <u>% time spent for the related works</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Deputy Secretary | 5% |
| Principal Assistant Secretary | 20% |
| Chief Assistant Secretary | 30% |
| Assistant Secretary (1 no.) | 100% |
| Executive Manager (1 no.) | 100% |

Signature

Name in block letters

C S WAI

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)014

Question Serial No.

2601

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

Programme : (4) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the commencement of drafting of a bill to repeal in whole the existing Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance under this programme, please provide information on the amount of provision, staff establishment and details of the specific timetable and the content.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The Bill is based on the existing Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap 327) with enhanced regulatory measures to strengthen the registration regime of personnel engaged in lift and escalator works, increase the penalty levels of offences, and improve operational efficiency and enforcement effectiveness.

We have deployed internal resources to meet the workload arising from the drafting of the Bill and target to introduce the Bill to the Legislative Council in the second quarter of 2011.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)015

Question Serial No.

1618

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 :

It was mentioned in the 2008 Policy Address that the Government plans to designate Haw Par Mansion for development of wine-related businesses. What is its progress? How will the tender process regulate such development for commercial use? What is the progress and the timetable for commissioning the project? How will the project tie in with Hong Kong's development as a wine distribution hub?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Chief Executive mentioned in his 2008-09 Policy Address that the Government planned to designate Haw Par Mansion for commercial uses, including wine-related business. It was not the intention to confine the site exclusively to wine-related business. On 28 January 2011, Development Bureau launched an open tender exercise for the revitalisation of Haw Par Mansion based on a commercial mode of operation. The tender submission deadline is noon, 28 April 2011. Uses currently permitted for this site under the relevant Outline Zoning Plan include education centre/visitor centre, exhibition or convention hall, audio-visual recording studio, place of entertainment, place of recreation, sports or culture, eating place, hotel, shops and services, and training centre, etc. We adopt a two-envelope approach for tender assessment for Haw Par Mansion, taking account of both the technical proposals and the financial proposal. The assessment on the technical proposals covers the following key components, namely reflection of the heritage value and significance of Haw Par Mansion and opportunities for public access for appreciation, technical aspects, the business proposal and management capabilities. The tender submission with the highest overall score will be selected.

The date of commissioning of revitalised facilities at Haw Par Mansion can only be confirmed upon selection of the successful tender. For planning purpose, we expect that the revitalised facilities will commence operation in mid 2014 at the earliest, after the successful tenderer has satisfactorily restored, upgraded and renovated Haw Par Mansion for the relevant business operation.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)016

Question Serial No.

1331

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What are the reasons for the decrease in the number of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers to be planted in 2011 as compared with the number of all these three items planted in 2010 and of two of these items planted in 2009.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Government is committed to the sustainable development of a greener environment in Hong Kong. The notable increase in the number of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers in 2010, as compared with 2009, was mainly attributed to the completion of planting works in a number of open space projects in Tung Chung, Wong Tai Sin and Ma On Shan as well as the planting works implemented under the urban Greening Master Plans. The projected planting figures for 2011 reflects the estimated progress of planting works to be carried out. With the extensive greening carried out during the past decade, the Government is also putting more emphasis on the quality, rather than quantity alone, of our greening works.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)017

Question Serial No.

1332

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

How many training courses were organised by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in the financial year 2010-11? Had the Administration provided subsidy to the staff of consultants/contractors engaged by the Government for attending these courses?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section organises on an ongoing basis training courses on various aspects of greening and tree management regularly, with the assistance of either in-house or external trainers, for our executive departments to enhance their professional knowledge as well as their capability in discharging their responsibility in quality tree management and greening.

In 2010-11, the GLTM Section has organised 14 training courses covering diverse subjects on tree management and greening, e.g. tree risk assessment, tree pathology, identification of common tree species and tree problems, etc, for relevant government departments. About 6 600 training places have been made available to government officers and free of charge to the staff of the contractors/consultants engaged in government projects.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)018

Question Serial No.

1731

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 :

How long will it take for the Administration to complete the grading exercise for 1 440 historic buildings? What is the establishment required for the exercise?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Following the public consultation exercise carried out from March to September 2009 on the proposed grading of the 1 444 historic buildings which were mostly built before 1950, the independent expert panel formed under the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to assess the heritage value of the identified historic buildings has been reviewing the proposed grading in the light of the views and additional information received from the owners and the public before AAB is invited to consider and confirm the grading of the historic buildings.

As at 28 February 2011, AAB has confirmed the grading of 1 155 historic buildings. AAB will press ahead with the exercise as planned and aim to complete the grading exercise as soon as practicable. As this exercise involves further discussions with the owners of the historic buildings in some cases, we are unable to specify at this stage the completion date of the entire grading exercise.

One Assistant Curator I post and two Assistant Curator II posts of the AMO in the existing establishment are directly responsible for providing research and administrative support to the assessment and grading exercise.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)019

Question Serial No.

1732

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 :

Please provide details of the projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

There are six projects under Batch I and three projects under Batch II of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme). Details of these nine projects are at the Annex. These nine projects will provide a total of 923 jobs during the works period, and 334 full-time jobs and 240 part-time jobs during the operation phase. All nine projects are required to provide interpretation facilities as well as reasonable public access to facilitate public appreciation of the heritage value of the historic buildings concerned upon the commissioning of the revitalised facilities.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Batch I Projects under the Revitalisation Scheme

| | Historic building (Grading) | Selected project | Selected non-profit making organisation | Approved capital cost ⁴ (million) | Government subsidy ⁵ required for operation of social enterprise (million) | Commencement of renovation works | Estimated completion of works |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 7. | Old Tai O Police Station (Grade 2) | Tai O Heritage Hotel | Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation Limited | \$69.13 | Not required | March 2010 | August 2011 |
| 8. | Fong Yuen Study Hall (Grade 3) | Tourism and Chinese Cultural Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum | Social Service Department, Yuen Yuen Institute | \$8.64 | \$1.9 | April 2011 | February 2012 |
| 9. | Lai Chi Kok Hospital (Grade 3) | Jao Tsung-I Academy / HK Cultural Heritage | Hong Kong Institution for Promotion of Chinese Culture | \$235.31 | \$2 | January 2011 | November 2011 (1 st phase – Jao's Exhibition Hall) October 2012 (2 nd phase – other works) |
| 10. | Lui Seng Chun (Grade 1) | HK Baptist University Chinese Medicine and Healthcare Centre | Hong Kong Baptist University | \$29.16 | \$2.6 | January 2011 | January 2012 |
| 11. | North Kowloon Magistracy (Grade 2) | SCAD HK Campus | SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited | Not required | Not required | December 2009 | July 2010 (works completed) |
| 12. | Mei Ho House (Grade 2) | City Hostel | Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association | \$220.33 | \$4.4 | December 2010 | July 2012 |
| | Total | | | \$562.57 | \$10.9 | | |

⁴ Money of the day prices.

⁵ The subsidy covers projected operating deficits in the first two years of operation of the revitalised facility.

Batch II Projects under the Revitalisation Scheme

| | Historic building (Grading) | Selected project | Selected non-profit making organisation | Latest estimated capital cost⁶ (million) | Estimated Government subsidy² required for operation of social enterprise (million) | Estimated Commencement of renovation works | Estimated completion of works |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Old Tai Po Police Station (Grade 1) | The Green Hub for sustainable living | Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation | \$43.157 | \$1.84 | January 2012 | May 2013 |
| 2. | Stone Houses (Grade 3) | Stone Houses Family Garden | Wing Kwong So-Care Company Limited (Joint Applicant: Wing Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church Limited) | \$35.437 | \$2.328 | January 2012 | July 2013 |
| 3. | Blue House Cluster (Blue House: Grade 1; Yellow House: Grade 3) | Viva Blue House | St. James' Settlement (Joint applicants: Community Cultural Concern and Heritage Hong Kong Foundation Limited) | \$65.714 | \$4.168 | January 2012 | November 2013 |
| | Total | | | \$144.308 | \$8.336 | | |

⁶ Price as of September 2010.

Public education and publicity activities organised by the Commissioner for Heritage's Office and the Antiquities and Monuments Office in 2010-11

| Activities | Time | Number of participants |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Guided heritage tours for low-income families | April to November 2010 | 1 893 |
| Guided heritage tours for the disabled | November 2010 to February 2011 | 413 |
| Guided heritage tours of the Tai Tam waterworks (Part II) | December 2010 to February 2011 | 274 |
| Tours of various heritage sites organised by Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for schools, non-government organisations (NGOs) and the public | April 2010 to February 2011 | 33 218 |
| Heritage Tourism Expo (roving exhibition) | December 2010 to June 2011 | 29 990 <i>(as at end of February 2011)</i> |
| Educational workshops, public lectures and other special events organised by AMO for schools, NGOs and the public to promote heritage conservation | April 2010 to February 2011 | 6 751 |
| Heritage Symposium on heritage tourism | 4 December 2010 | 150 |
| Production of teaching kit on heritage conservation for the New Secondary School Liberal Studies curriculum | Launched in November 2010 | 1 034 copies distributed to 517 schools |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)022

Question Serial No.

3491

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

Programme : (4) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Budget proposed improvement to the salary of the construction personnel to attract young people to join the industry. It was also mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12 that the Administration would monitor the progress of various initiatives for uplifting the image of the construction industry etc. What is the estimated expenditure for strengthening the sense of belonging of construction personnel? What are the specific measures?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply :

We have launched various measures to uplift the image of the construction industry with a view to strengthening the sense of belonging of the construction personnel and attracting new people to join the industry. Amongst others, the Government is stipulating provisions in public works contracts requiring contractors to implement measures to improve the site operating environment, safeguarding construction site safety, improving site cleanliness and tidiness, and requiring contractors to provide uniform for site personnel. These measures will be pursued in the context of implementing capital works projects to be funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund. In addition, we have earmarked not more than \$20 million for launching an intensive promotion and publicity campaign in phases to promote the image of the construction industry.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)023

Question Serial No.

3281

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

Programme : (4) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 32 of his Budget Speech that the Government will “first review those locations outside Victoria Harbour which were previously considered for this purpose (reclamation). At the same time, we will conduct a comprehensive site search to identify other suitable locations.” In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the above list of locations that have been considered for reclamation; and
- (b) of the criteria and objective standards to be used in the comprehensive site search to determine the suitability of a location?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) Previous reclamation sites considered are mainly located in the western part of the New Territories and the northern part of Lantau Island.
- (b) The Civil Engineering and Development Department plans to commence a study in the third quarter of 2011 to review the previously considered reclamation sites and carry out a site search to identify other suitable locations. We will formulate relevant criteria and standards under the study to determine the suitability of a location. Further planning and engineering studies will then commence in due course on the potential sites identified. We will consider a number of factors, including engineering feasibility, cost-effectiveness and public acceptability, before making a decision.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)024

Question Serial No.

0037

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please set out in tabular form the names of the tree management departments, the number of trees under their management and the number of tree management staff (their total number and the number of staff with professional qualifications) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11).

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Government adopts an “integrated approach” for the management of trees on government land. In essence, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there. A breakdown of the number of trees under the purview of eight major tree management departments and the number of their management staff is set out below –

| Department | Number of tree | | | Number of tree management staff (Note 1) (Note 2) | | |
|---|----------------|---------|---------|--|---------|---------|
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
| Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) | N/A (Note 3) | | | 83(7) | 83(41) | 86(50) |
| Architectural Services Department | 200 000 | | | 8(0) | 8(0) | 15(4) |
| Civil Engineering Development Department (CEDD) ^(Note 4) | -- | 1 250 | 7 650 | 0(0) | 8(3) | 12(3) |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Drainage Services Department | 22 000 | 24 000 | 25 500 | 16(0) | 16(0) | 16(1) |
| Highways Department | 500 000 | | | 20(3) | 20(4) | 22(1) |
| Housing Department (Note 5) | 70 000 | 78 000 | 100 000 | 28(2) | 31(5) | 28(10) |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department | 760 000 | 760 000 | 700 000 | 122(47) | 122(71) | 210(101) |
| Water Supplies Department | 49 400 | | | 12(0) | 12(0) | 16(1) |

General Note:

There are differences in the way that the trees planted on unallocated and unleased government land and that trees planted within government facilities are being managed. There is a very large amount of unallocated and unleased government land (with a total area of 33 000 hectares), spreading across the territory. The Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems and take follow-up action when discharging their day-to-day functions of land control and management and on receipt of referrals and complaints.

Note 1:

Figures in this column include only the number of government staff involved in day-to-day tree management (on a full-time or part-time basis), but exclude the manpower temporarily deployed on a need basis. Figures in the column also exclude senior staff of the departments involved in tree management (particularly at the strategic level). In addition to the government staff, individual departments have engaged contractors or non-government personnel to assist in tree management.

Notes 2:

The figures within brackets indicate the number of tree management staff with professional qualification in arboriculture.

Note 3:

All trees in country parks are under the jurisdiction of AFCD. Due to the very large number of tree involved, AFCD is unable to provide a figure.

Note 4:

Since 2009-10, CEDD will be responsible for maintaining the trees planted under the urban Greening Master Plans up to 2013.

Note 5:

Excluding the frontline management staff in 160 housing estates who also provide assistance.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)025

Question Serial No.

0038

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide the following information on the expansion of the centralised tree support team in the Tree Management Office:

- (a) the existing manpower of the above support team and the manpower after its expansion and the number of its staff with professional qualifications;
- (b) the expenditure involved in the expansion of the team.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) As recommended by the Report of the Task Force on Tree Management, the Tree Management Office (TMO) has been established under the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in the Development Bureau as the central authority and focal point of coordination to ensure more effective implementation of the “integrated approach” to tree management. TMO also takes a policy lead in raising the level of professionalism in tree management work in Hong Kong. In support of this function, the TMO is staffed predominantly by officers with relevant professional expertise and experience in tree management. In particular, we created two Arborist posts on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms in April 2010 to reinforce arboricultural support across the tree teams in TMO. To enhance such support, we will create four additional Arborist/Assistant Arborist posts on NCSC terms starting from 1 April 2011. This team of six Arborists/Assistant Arborists, all with International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist qualification, will form an expanded centralised tree support team and will be flexibly deployed within TMO to assist in a variety of tasks requiring specialist arboricultural input.
- (b) The estimated expenditure on the four additional Arborist/Assistant Arborist posts in 2011-12 is \$1.67M.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)026

Question Serial No.

0039

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What is the total number of trees felled by the departments up to now since the establishment of the Tree Management Office in March 2010? How many of them are trees in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees? What are the reasons for felling these trees and the species involved? Has any fund been allocated for putting in place a mechanism to review whether the decisions of tree felling are justified?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

A breakdown of the trees removed by the works departments and major tree management departments, during the period from 1 April 2010 to 28 February 2011 is set out below –

| | |
|---|--------|
| (a) Number of tree removed under public works projects | 3 133 |
| (b) Number of tree removed due to health and structural problems which posed risks to public safety ^{Note 1} | 11 379 |
| (c) Of (b), number of Old and Valuable Trees removed: | 5 |

Note 1

This figure includes the removal of tree damaged under inclement weather.

For tree removals in category (a), all departments are required to ensure that no trees are unnecessarily removed and that tree removal will only be considered as a last resort under special circumstances.

For category (b), apart from emergency removal of trees due to damage sustained under inclement weather, all the other trees were removed after careful consideration of all relevant factors, of which protection of public safety is a priority concern. The main species involved were *Acacia confusa*, *Bauhinia blakeana*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, etc.

There are established mechanisms governing tree removals under both category (a) and category (b). The Tree Management Office will sample check these tree removal cases to ensure compliance of the prevailing requirements and to uphold professional handling of these cases. The expenditure incurred will be met by existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)027

Question Serial No.

0040

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What is the total number of outsourced contractors or landscape contractors engaged by the Administration for tree pruning at present?

- (a) What are the coverage of these contracts and the expenditure involved?
- (b) In the past, were there cases of termination of contracts due to improper pruning? Apart from enhanced training, how can the Administration ensure proper pruning of trees by these contractors? Is there any mechanism in place for surprise checks? If yes, what are their frequencies, results and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) Under the “integrated approach” to tree management, departments are responsible for maintaining the trees located on the land or facility falling within their respective purview. Tree management departments may engage contractors to assist in tree maintenance in the following manner -
- (i) directly engage horticulture contractors for carrying out maintenance work on the trees under their purview (including tree pruning); or
- (ii) engage term maintenance contractors for the management of the relevant facility, who may in turn engage specialist landscape contractors, as required, for tree maintenance (including tree pruning). As at 28 February 2011, the eight major tree management departments engaged a total of 48 horticulture contractors and term maintenance contractors. The total estimated expenditure of the major tree management departments on these horticulture contracts and specialist landscape contractors in 2010-11 is \$ 283 million.
- (b) In 2010-11, up to 28 February 2011 none of the horticulture contracts or specialist landscape contracts was terminated due to improper tree pruning. To enhance awareness of proper tree pruning practices, the Tree Management Office (TMO) under the Development Bureau has promulgated a set of general guidelines on tree pruning, based on best practices in arboriculture, for reference by departments with tree management responsibility. These

guidelines were often included in the service specifications of contracts involving tree maintenance.

TMO will continue to work with the tree management departments to raise the level of the professionalism in tree maintenance work (including tree pruning). It is a prevailing practice that tree management departments conduct routine site inspection to ascertain the quality of tree works conducted by their contractors. Upon completion of tree pruning by a contractor, staff of relevant tree management department will inspect the works before confirming works acceptance. Substandard work will be reflected in the performance appraisal on the contractor and where the circumstances so warrant, the departments concerned will issue warning letters to poor-performing contractors. Such adverse assessment/comments will affect the chance of the contractor in serving future government contracts.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)028

Question Serial No.

1237

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

How much resource has been earmarked in 2011-12 for the departments to purchase tools or equipment for use in tree inspection? Please give the number of such tools and equipment now available in these departments? What is their state of wear and tear?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

Broadly speaking, there are two categories of tools and equipment for use in tree inspections :

- (a) advanced equipment, i.e. resistograph and sonic tomograph; and
- (b) other handheld tools and equipment such as measuring tape, mallet, thin long metal pole, electric torch, binoculars, etc.

As at 28 February 2011, the main tree management departments, together with the Tree Management Office in Development Bureau, had a total of 47 resistographs and 37 sonic tomographs, of which eight resistographs and two sonic tomographs were purchased in 2010-11. All of them were in good condition. For 2011-12, among the afore-mentioned bureau / departments, Leisure and Cultural Services Department has earmarked \$600,000 for the procurement of resistographs. For other handheld tools and equipment, they are very large in quantity and are generally inexpensive. We do not have statistics on them. User bureau/departments will make purchases, whether to increase the inventory or for replacement due to normal wear and tear, having regard to operational need.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)029

Question Serial No.

1238

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

How many complaints on problematic trees had the “Government Hotline 1823” received in the past 3 years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11)? What is the percentage of these calls as against the total number of calls received by the above hotline? Has the Administration earmarked resources to set up another dedicated complaint channel? The Administration has also mentioned that it will take the lead in resolving complex cases. How is “complex cases” defined? What is the workflow for processing these cases?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

Statistics on the enquiries and complaints received by the 1823 Call Centre from 2008-09 to 2010-11 concerning tree management are set out below:

| | 2008-09 ^{Note 1} | 2009-10 | 2010-11 (up to 28.2.2011) |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of enquiries and complaints received by the “1823” Call Centre concerning tree management ^{Note 2} | 14 000 (0.53%) | 8 870 (0.37%) | 7 860 (0.37%) |

Note 1 Prior to the implementation of the improved complaint handling mechanism on tree management in July 2009, enquiries and complaints on tree management were subsumed under the broader category of vegetation management.

Note 2 The figures in brackets denote the percentage of the total number of enquiries and complaints received by the “1823” Call Centre.

The “1823” Call Centre operates round-the-clock, with the capability to receive public complaints via telephone, fax, email and mail. With a dedicated section for handling tree-related enquiries and complaints, the “1823” Call Centre is an effective platform for the public to lodge enquiries and complaints concerning tree management. Since July 2010, new "Tree Care Report" standard

forms (including e-forms and forms for download) are available on the tree website (www.trees.gov.hk) for members of the public to report suspected problematic trees to the Tree Management Office (TMO) for follow-up action by departments. We will continue to look out for opportunities to further enhance the channels for the public to lodge tree-related complaints and enquiries.

TMO takes the lead in resolving complex tree cases, which tree management departments may not be able to deal with on their own, e.g. cases requiring specialised arboricultural expertise, trees of special interest to the community, cases involving cross-departmental implications, etc. When such cases are brought to TMO's attention or if TMO comes across such cases in the course of its day-to-day work, TMO will proactively liaise with the tree management department concerned in ascertaining the facts of the case, exploring possible solutions and analysing their respective pros and cons, and providing advice on the implementation of the identified solutions.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)030

Question Serial No.

1239

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please explain the reasons for the decrease in the number of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers to be planted in 2011-12 as compared with the actual number planted in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Government is committed to the sustainable development of a greener environment in Hong Kong. The notable increase in the number of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers in 2010, as compared with 2009, was mainly attributed to the completion of planting works in a number of open space projects in Tung Chung, Wong Tai Sin and Ma On Shan as well as the planting works implemented under the urban Greening Master Plans. The projected planting figures for 2011 reflects the estimated progress of planting works to be carried out. With the extensive greening carried out during the past decade, the Government is also putting more emphasis on the quality, rather than quantity alone, of our greening works.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)031

Question Serial No.

1240

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, the Branch will “conduct a survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong, with priority given to areas with high pedestrian/vehicular flow”. What are the specific plans? When will the survey commence? What are the manpower and resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong seeks to obtain basic information (such as location, species and size) of roadside trees on unallocated and unleased government land, and involves an initial assessment of the health and structural conditions of these trees for further follow-up action as necessary. We will give priority to areas with high pedestrian / vehicular flow in carrying out the survey.

Unallocated and unleased government land falls under the purview of the Lands Department. Due to the extensive geographical spread of such land, the Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems in routine control/management functions and upon referrals and complaints, and take follow-up action. While a large number of roadside trees are already under the care of other tree management departments such as Leisure and Cultural Services Department, we see merits in building up a more comprehensive inventory of roadside trees that encompasses those trees on unallocated and unleased government land as well. The tree data collected from the survey will, in due course, be stored in the electronic tree management information system now under development. With the new tree inventory, the Lands Department would be able to handle tree-related complaints and referrals more efficiently and effectively in future. It will also help build up a database of problematic trees under purview of the Lands Department as recommended in the Report of the Task Force on Tree Management.

We plan to embark on the survey, with the assistance of consultants, in the latter half of 2011. The Tree Management Office (TMO) is drawing up the detailed service scope and requirements for the survey. The estimated cost of the survey will be worked out when we have more clearly defined the service scope and requirements. TMO and relevant departments will absorb the manpower requirements arising from the survey with their existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)032

Question Serial No.

0901

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

It is mentioned in paragraph 31 of the Budget Speech that in the 2011-12 Budget, the Administration will allocate about \$300 million for the Development Bureau to “explore ways to increase the supply of land, i.e. reclamation on an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, and to initiate public discussion about the feasibility of these new options by carrying out relevant studies and public engagement exercises for the next few years.” Will the Administration set out the work schedule for the next few years, the target reclamation areas and the locations of the rock caverns? As the Secretary for Development said after the announcement of the Budget, the land on which existing government facilities are located will be made available for use after their relocation to rock caverns. How many lots of land can be released? Where are their locations? What are the target lots and their estimated land value upon release. Are they enough to cover the cost for developing rock caverns and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply :

The Civil Engineering and Development Department plans to commence a study to conduct a comprehensive search for suitable sites for reclamation outside the Victoria Harbour. The study will also review and select suitable existing government facilities that can potentially be relocated to rock caverns. The study will commence in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in 2012.

Depending on the outcome of the study and public engagement exercise, further planning and engineering studies will commence in due course. Information about the lots of land to be released, their locations, estimated land value and development cost is not available at this stage.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)033

Question Serial No.

0902

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

It is mentioned in paragraph 31 of the Budget Speech that in the 2011-12 Budget, the Administration will allocate about \$300 million for the Development Bureau to “explore ways to increase the supply of land, i.e. reclamation on an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, and to initiate public discussion about the feasibility of these new options by carrying out relevant studies and public engagement exercises for the next few years.” After the rock caverns are developed for relocation of government facilities, which existing government sites are expected to be released? What are the criteria for considering its residential/commercial/composite use? How many units can be built if they are developed into residential buildings and what are the plans and the completion dates?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply :

The Civil Engineering and Development Department plans to commence a study which will, among other things, review and select suitable existing government facilities that can potentially be relocated to rock caverns. The study will commence in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in 2012.

Depending on the outcome of the study and public engagement exercise, further planning and engineering studies will commence in due course. Information on specific government facilities proposed to be relocated, the after-use of the sites released and the programme of development is not available at this stage.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)035

Question Serial No.

3839

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As mentioned in the 2011-12 Budget Speech, the Government will first review those locations outside Victoria Harbour which were previously considered for reclamation. Will the Government advise the locations that had been considered for reclamation, the reasons for not selecting them, the pros and cons of the options, the expenditure involved and any follow-up actions if considered and their outcomes. What is the estimated expenditure for the review? When will it be completed? Is there any target for the extent of reclamation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply :

Reclamation sites previously considered are mainly located in the western part of the New Territories and the northern part of Lantau Island. We need to consider a number of factors, including engineering feasibility, cost-effectiveness and public acceptability before deciding on the site selection. Most of these sites were considered years ago. Given the lapse of time, we plan to commence a study to review these sites and conduct a comprehensive site search to identify other suitable locations. We do not have a target for the extent of reclamation at this stage.

We are currently drafting the scope of the study and will have an estimated expenditure after the scope is finalised. The study is planned to commence in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in 2012. Depending on the outcome of the study and public engagement exercise, further planning and engineering studies will commence in due course.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)036

Question Serial No.

3840

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

It is mentioned in the 2011-12 Budget Speech that on reclamation, the Administration will conduct, at the same time, a comprehensive site search to identify other suitable locations. When will the search be conducted; what is its scheduled completion date and how will it be conducted? Will urban redevelopment, resumption of rural areas and development of closed area be considered in the course of the search? What are the estimated expenditure and staffing required for the search?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply :

We plan to engage a consultant to conduct a comprehensive site search of suitable reclamation sites. The site search is tentatively planned to commence in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in 2012. We are currently drafting the scope of the consultancy and will have an estimate of the resources required after the scope is finalised. The site search does not cover urban redevelopment, resumption of rural areas and development of closed area.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)037

Question Serial No.

0520

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

It is mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech 2011-12 that on reclamation, the Administration will first review those locations outside Victoria Harbour which were previously considered for this purpose. At the same time, the Administration will conduct a comprehensive site search to identify other suitable locations. Will the Government inform this Committee of the locations that have been included for consideration? Is the Tsuen Wan Bay among one of those considered?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

To explore new ways to increase the supply of land, we will initiate public discussion about the feasibility of reclamation on an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour. Previous reclamation sites considered are mainly located in the western part of the New Territories and the northern part of Lantau Island. We will review these sites and conduct a comprehensive site search to identify other suitable locations. In regard to Tsuen Wan Bay, it is within the limits of Victoria Harbour and will not be considered in the current exercise.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)038

Question Serial No.

3004

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) The Development Bureau indicated that it will “establish an emergency response system to facilitate prompt and effective response to serious tree incidents.” What are the details of the “emergency response system”? What is the scope of work under the system? How much resources will the Bureau allocate to implement the proposal?
- (b) The Development Bureau indicated that it will “develop a new electronic tree management information system” Will the information in the new system be made available for public inspection? What is the estimated expenditure for developing the new system?
- (c) Apart from developing a database of important and/or problematic trees, does the Bureau have any plan to develop a database of all trees in Hong Kong? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?
- (d) The Bureau indicated that it will expand the centralised tree support team in the Tree Management Office. What are the details? What are the duties of the centralised tree support team? Does the Bureau have any plan to provide additional staff for the team? What is the expenditure involved?
- (e) When will the Bureau plan to launch the survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong? How long will the survey take? How will the Bureau handle the data collected by the survey? Will the results of the survey be made available for public inspection? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) The Development Bureau (DEVB) has set up an internal alert system whereby the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Hong Kong Police Force, the 1823 Call Centre under the Efficiency Unit (EU) and the Highways Department (HyD) will notify the Tree Management Office (TMO) when a major tree failure involving the following occurs –
 - (i) major injuries (i.e. the injured was admitted to hospital) or loss of human life;
 - (ii) substantial damage to properties; or
 - (iii) serious / complete blockage to main pedestrian / vehicular access.

Each tree management department is required to designate a departmental contact officer to liaise with TMO in handling emergency tree-related cases, and to put in place an effective

mechanism for their internal communication and decision-making when a tree-related emergency situation occurs.

All tree management departments concerned are required to attend to the scene promptly. In addition, for tree-related cases involving major injuries or loss of human life, Head / Tree Management Office and TMO staff with certified arborist qualification will arrive at the scene as soon as possible after notification from FSD / Police / the 1823 Call Centre in EU / HyD to obtain first-hand information on the incident and to provide guidance to the tree management department concerned regarding the handling of the incident.

The resource requirement for handling of tree-related incidents is met by the existing resources of TMO and the tree management departments.

- (b) In collaboration with the tree management departments and EU, TMO is developing a new electronic tree management information system for individual tree management departments to maintain records of trees under their respective purview (including information such as species, size, location and health / structural conditions as well as tree care records). Tree management departments will input relevant tree data into the system upon its commissioning. The system is primarily intended as an internal administrative system to support the departments concerned in the effective discharge of their tree management responsibilities. Relevant tree information will be made available to the public through appropriate means, e.g. information on Old and Valuable Trees, stonewall trees and trees which have undergone detailed tree inspection and which require continuous monitoring will continue to be released to the public through the Tree Register at www.trees.gov.hk. The estimated cost of the electronic tree management information system is \$9.9 million.
- (c) Given the vast number of trees in Hong Kong, there would be practical difficulties in setting up a database of all trees in the territory. Based on a tree risk management approach, tree management departments will instead give priority to trees in areas with high pedestrian / vehicular traffic. With the commissioning of the new electronic tree management information system in the first half of 2012, tree management departments will be able to input data of trees under their purview to gradually build up a departmental tree inventory over time.
- (d) As recommended by the Report of the Task Force on Tree Management, TMO has been established under the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in DEVB as the central authority and focal point of coordination to ensure more effective implementation of the “integrated approach” to tree management. TMO also takes a policy lead in raising the level of professionalism in tree management work in Hong Kong. In support of this function, TMO is staffed predominantly by officers with relevant professional expertise and experience in tree management. In particular, we created two Arborist posts on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms in April 2010 to reinforce arboricultural support across the three teams in TMO, e.g. providing arboricultural input for the formulation of guidelines and tree care measures, conducting tree inspections in connection with tree-related complaints and audit of tree risk assessment carried out by departments, carrying out research, etc. To enhance such support to TMO, we will create four additional Arborist / Assistant Arborist posts on NCSC terms starting from 1 April 2011. This team of six Arborists / Assistant Arborists will form an expanded centralised tree support team and will be flexibly deployed within TMO to assist in a variety of tasks requiring specialist arboricultural input. In addition to the tasks mentioned above, the expanded team will also assist in quality assurance for the roadside tree survey which we plan to launch in the latter half of this year, sample checking tree removals and tree pruning works carried out by departments, analysing tree failure cases to identify improvement measures, etc. The estimated expenditure on the four additional Arborist /

Assistant Arborist posts in 2011-12 is \$1.67 million.

- (e) We plan to commence the roadside tree survey in Hong Kong in the latter half of 2011. The survey aims to obtain basic information (such as location, species and size) of roadside trees on unallocated and unleased government land under the purview of the Lands Department, and involves an initial assessment of the health and structural conditions of these trees for necessary further follow-up actions. Priority will be given to areas with high pedestrian / vehicular flow.

Due to the extensive geographical spread of such land, the Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems in routine control / management functions and upon referrals and complaints, and take follow-up action. While a large number of roadside trees are already under the care of other tree management departments such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, we see merits in building up a more comprehensive inventory of roadside trees that encompasses those trees on unallocated and unleased government land as well. The tree data collected from the survey will, in due course, be stored in the electronic tree management information system now under development. With the new tree inventory, the Lands Department would be able to handle tree-related complaints and referrals more efficiently and effectively in future. It will also help build up a database of problematic trees under Lands Department's purview as recommended in the Report of the Task Force on Tree Management. TMO is now drawing up the detailed service scope and requirements of the survey. When such details are available, we will be able to work out the estimated cost of the survey and the project duration.

Relevant tree information will be made available to the public through appropriate means, e.g. information on trees which have undergone detailed tree inspection and which require continuous monitoring will continue to be released to the public through the Tree Register at www.trees.gov.hk.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)040

Question Serial No.

3200

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Does the Development Bureau have any plan to employ more staff for the two offices under the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section? If yes, please list out in detail the additional posts to be created, the ranks and duties of these posts and relevant expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The Tree Management Office (TMO) under the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section will create one Arborist post and three Assistant Arborist posts on non-civil service contract terms in 2011-12.

These additional staff will provide support to various aspects of the work of the TMO requiring specialist arboricultural input, e.g. providing arboricultural input for the formulation of guidelines and tree care measures, conducting tree inspections in connection with tree-related complaints and audit of tree risk assessment carried out by departments, carrying out research, quality assurance for the planned roadside tree survey, performing sample checking on tree removals and tree pruning works carried out by departments, analysing tree failure cases to identify improvement measures, etc. The expenditure on these additional posts is \$1.67 million in 2011-12.

We do not have plans to increase the establishment of the Greening and Landscape Office in 2011-12.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)042

Question Serial No.

0019

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Will the Administration inform this Committee of: the total number of enquiries and complaints received on tree management by the Administration in 2010-11; and among them the number of enquiries and complaints handled; the number of follow-up cases; the number of outstanding cases; the number of trees removed; and the main reasons for making the final decision of tree removal?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

A breakdown of enquiries and complaints concerning tree management received by the “1823” Call Centre, the major tree management departments and the Tree Management Office in Development Bureau from 1 April 2010 to 28 February 2011 is as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| (a) Number received in 2010-11 | 11 904 |
| (b) Number of cases completed out of the number received in 2010-11 | 10 635 (Note 1) |
| (c) Number of cases being processed out of the number received in 2010-11 | 1 269 (Note 1) |

Note 1: As of 28 February 2011.

For the completed cases, 4 505 trees were removed. These trees were removed due to health or structural problems (including fungal infection, cavity, root failure, etc.), which posed risks to public safety.

There are established mechanism in the tree management departments governing the removal of trees under their care. Trees are removed only after careful consideration of all relevant factors, of which protection of public safety is a priority concern.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)043

Question Serial No.

0020

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the staff establishment and expenditure of the Greening and Landscape Office and the Tree Management Office respectively in 2010-11 and the coming year; and the number of Certified Arborists (and staff with such qualification) they employ?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

As at 11 March 2011, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section in Works Branch of the Development Bureau has 23 civil service posts and three non-civil service contract (NCSC) posts as follows –

| | Civil Service posts | NCSC Posts |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| Greening and Landscape Office | 7 | 0 |
| Tree Management Office | 9 | 3 |
| Common to Greening and Landscape Office and Tree Management Office | 7 | 0 |

Seven posts provide administrative support and 19 posts filled by professional officers. Of the 18 professional posts that are currently filled, 14 post-holders are International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists. Among these ISA Certified Arborists, ten of them have more than one professional qualification in arboriculture, such as ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor, ISA Certified Municipal Specialist and Professional Tree Inspection (LANTRA).

Four new posts will be created for the Tree Management Office in 2011-12, all of which will be filled by ISA Certified Arborists.

The estimated total expenditure of the GLTM Section in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is \$31.1 million and \$47.3 million respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)044

Question Serial No.

2471

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

It is mentioned in paragraph 73 of the Budget Speech that in the last Budget \$100 million was earmarked to support the Construction Industry Council to train more skilled staff and attract more people to join the construction industry. Please provide details of the work on this in the last financial year. How many people have been attracted to the industry? How much of the funding of \$100 million has been used?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

We secured a one-off funding of \$100 million in May 2010 to enhance the local construction manpower. Not less than \$80 million has been earmarked for supporting the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its training and trade testing services. With the funding, CIC has launched the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS) and skills enhancement courses, introduced the advanced training course for senior construction workers, started preparing an enhanced training programme for construction supervisor and provided subsidy for fees of trade tests and specified training courses. We have also earmarked not more than \$20 million for launching an intensive promotion and publicity campaign in phases to uplift the image of the construction industry with a view to attracting more people to join the construction industry.

About \$1.4 million has been expended up to February 2011 for reimbursing CIC the training allowance, and subsidy for fees of trade tests and specified training courses. A further \$0.4 million has been spent on the promotion and publicity campaign. All in all, we estimate that about \$2 million of the \$100 million funding would be expended in 2010-11.

We are not able to ascertain the number of new entrants attracted to the industry because the figure will be affected by a number of factors such as the prevailing economic climate, job opportunities in the construction and other sectors, volume of public and private sector developments and wage trend in coming years.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)045

Question Serial No.

2472

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding attracting more people to join the construction industry in the coming year, how many new entrants will the Administration expect to attract? Apart from the Construction Industry Council, will the Administration consider to work with related trade unions to attract more people to the industry?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

In order to attract more people to join the construction industry, we secured a one-off funding of \$100 million in May 2010 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its training and trade testing services, and to enhance promotion and public education to attract more people to join the industry. However, we are not able to estimate the number of new entrants that could be attracted to the industry because it will be affected by a number of factors such as the prevailing economic climate, job opportunities in the construction and other sectors, volume of public and private sector developments and wage trend in coming years.

Separately, apart from CIC, we have been working with other stakeholders of the industry, including MTR Corporation Limited, professional bodies, trade associations and workers unions, in various initiatives to attract more people to join the industry. We will continue to adopt this collaborative approach in the years to come.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)046

Question Serial No.

0046

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The estimated number of participants in public education and community involvement activities organised by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTM) in 2011 is 3 500, which is higher than the actual number of participants of 2 290 in 2010. What are the objectives of these activities and the manpower and expenditure involved? Is the increase in the number of participants due to GLTM's provision of training to the staff of consultants/contractors engaged by the Government?

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

In 2011-12, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section will continue to organise a variety of public education and community involvement activities to enhance public awareness of proper tree management, enlist community support in greening the environment and encourage community surveillance of trees in the neighbourhood. The public education and community involvement activities under planning include roving exhibitions, school talks, district-based seminars on tree care and surveillance of trees in the community, seminars on tree management for practitioners and property owners, publication of a quarterly greening newsletter, dissemination of information through a dedicated greening website (www.devb.gov.hk/greening), planting activities, etc. Some of these activities will be organised in collaboration with other departments, such as Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

With an increase in the number of public education and community involvement activities to be organised in 2011-12, we expect a corresponding increase in the number of participants, which does not include the estimated number of participants (whether government staff or the staff of contractors/consultants engaged by Government) in training courses separately organised by the Tree Management Office (TMO) under the GLTM Section on various aspects of tree management.

The estimated expenditure for these activities in 2011-12 is about \$2 million. We will meet the manpower requirements with existing resources in the GLTM Section.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C S Wai

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

Date _____

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)047

Question Serial No.

1112

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 :

In the Estimates, the provision under the Programme of Heritage Conservation has been substantially increased by \$15.5 millions (48.7%). The Administration explained that it was mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for implementing projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Scheme). As shown by the information provided by the Administration, the cumulative total number of projects included under the Scheme for 2009-10 was six and the actual cumulative number for 2010-11 was nine. However, the estimated cumulative number for 2011-12 is still nine. Will the Administration explain the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimated provision while there is no increase in the cumulative number of projects for 2011-12?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

There are six Batch I projects and three Batch II projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme). Government provides financial assistance, as necessary, to the selected non-profit-making organisations to meet the start-up cost and any operating deficits in the first two years of operation of the revitalised facilities. Some Batch I projects requiring such financial assistance will be completed by end-2011 or early 2012 and the financial assistance will become payable in 2011-12. The increase in expenditure under Programme (2) Heritage Conservation in 2011-12 is attributable to the anticipated payment of the afore-mentioned financial assistance, the preparation of resource kits and application documents for additional historic buildings to be conserved and revitalised, the management expenses for historic buildings awaiting revitalisation under the care of the Development Bureau, the organisation of a large-scale heritage symposium in late 2011 and other publicity activities throughout 2011-12.

We will continue to identify historic buildings for inclusion in the Revitalisation Scheme. Allowing time for the submission for proposals and the assessment process, we envisage that the selection results for the next batch will only be available by mid-2012. We therefore maintain the cumulative number of projects under the Revitalisation Scheme at nine in 2011-12.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)048

Question Serial No.

1113

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 :

The Administration pointed out that assistance would be offered and economic incentives explored as appropriate to facilitate conservation of privately owned historic buildings. Will the Administration explain clearly with examples the kind of assistance as appropriate to be provided and the form of economic incentives to be explored?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

Under the new heritage conservation policy announced by the Chief Executive in October 2007, the Administration acknowledges the need to provide suitable economic incentives to encourage private owners to preserve historic buildings in their ownership. The type and extent of economic incentives are determined on a case-by-case basis. The form of economic incentive should commensurate with the heritage value of the historic building in question. We will also take into account other relevant factors, including planning parameters, land status and condition, the financial implications to the Government, if applicable, as well as the special circumstances of each case. Examples of economic incentives offered by the Government for previous preservation-cum-redevelopment projects include -

- (a) the preservation of King Yin Lei at 45 Stubbs Road was achieved through a non-in-situ land exchange with the previous owner;
- (b) the preservation of all four historic buildings in the Central compound of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (HKSKH) involved a transfer of part of the proposed development to another site owned by HKSKH;
- (c) the preservation of Jessville at 128 Pokfulam Road involved the partial uplifting of the Pokfulam Moratorium; and
- (d) the preservation of the historic portion of a Chinese shophouse at 179 Prince Edward Road West involved a minor relaxation of the plot ratio of the site.

In addition to economic incentives, we also provide financial assistance for the maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings as well as technical advice on the conservation of such buildings. The Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau and the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will continue to proactively reach out to owners of private historic buildings to discuss the availability of such

economic incentives and assistance.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)049

Question Serial No.

1114

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In the Estimates, the provision under the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Programme will be substantially increased by \$16.2 million (52.1%) for meeting requirements for conducting the survey of roadside trees, expanding the centralised tree support team in the Tree Management Office, and providing enhanced training to personnel engaged in landscape and tree management work. Will the Administration advise whether the training will include organising tree management courses with the Institute of Landscape Architects and tertiary institutions for professionals and the public to promote public education and awareness of tree management in private estates? What will be the establishment of the Tree Management Office after expansion and what is the size of increase in comparison with the existing establishment? How can the Administration ensure that the establishment is adequate to cope with the ever-increasing workload in urban greening, including the establishment of a tree database, enhanced education and training, and emergency response to serious tree incidents, while ensuring at the same time service quality and efficiency not to be affected?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

In order to raise the awareness of professionals and the public of proper tree management in private developments, the Tree Management Office (TMO) will continue to organise public education activities such as talks and seminars and disseminate relevant information through the dedicated greening website (www.devb.gov.hk/greening). TMO will collaborate with professional institutes and tertiary education institutions, where appropriate, in organising these activities. In addition, to nurture a quality tree management workforce in the territory, TMO aims to enhance the training opportunities available to the private sector through close liaison with local tertiary education institutions, the Vocational Training Council, the Construction Industry Council Training Academy and other self-financing continuing education arms of tertiary education institutions.

The establishment of the TMO will increase from 12 posts to 16 posts with effect from 1 April 2011, representing an increase of four posts. TMO has been established under the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in Development Bureau as the central authority and focal point of coordination to ensure more effective implementation of the “integrated approach” to tree management. TMO also takes a policy lead in raising the level of professionalism in tree management work in Hong Kong. While executive functions in tree management will continue to be carried out by relevant departments in accordance with the established “integrated approach”, the setting up of TMO has contributed to more focussed efforts in the sharing of experience and expertise in tree management across departments, the handling of complex tree-related cases (such

as those with cross-departmental implications) and deliberations on strategic issues related to quality tree management. This has in turn enabled tree management departments to discharge their tree care responsibilities more efficiently and effectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)050

Question Serial No.

1115

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

Programme : (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What is the progress of the review on the removal of trees and compensatory planting by the Administration? Does the survey of roadside trees include the record of trees removed not for the purpose of works? Do the trees to be planted in 2011-12 include compensatory planting for these trees? Please provide details. If they are not included, does the Administration have any plan for compensatory planting after the removal of sick trees?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

There are currently internal guidelines and instructions on tree preservation (covering, among others, the handling of proposed tree removal and the requirement for compensatory planting). We are reviewing these guidelines and instructions in consultation with departments concerned and aim to complete the review within 2011-12.

The survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong seeks to obtain basic information (such as location, species and size) of roadside trees on unallocated and unleased government land, and involves an initial assessment of the health and structural conditions of these trees for further follow-up action as necessary. We will give priority to areas with high pedestrian / vehicular flow in carrying out the survey. This survey will not cover trees that have been removed for reasons other than public works. The projected number of trees to be planted in 2011-12 does not include compensatory planting for these trees. While compensatory planting for removal of trees on government land due to poor health is not mandatory under the prevailing arrangement, we encourage tree management departments to consider the feasibility of replacement planting on a case-by-case basis, taking account of relevant factors such as availability of growing space, the amenity value of replacement planting in public parks, etc.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)052

Question Serial No.

3874

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

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As mentioned in paragraph 33 of the Budget Speech, “the geology of Hong Kong is extremely suitable for developing rock caverns”. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the estimated number of rock caverns initially considered suitable for development;
- (b) the areas of land that can be developed from these rock caverns; and
- (c) the estimated time required from study to actual development, and the expenditure of the study?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

The strong granitic and volcanic rocks that form 80% of the land area of Hong Kong offer a great opportunity for cavern development. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) plans to commence a study to review and select suitable existing government facilities that can potentially be relocated to rock caverns. The study will commence in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in 2012.

Depending on the outcome of the study and public engagement exercise, further planning and engineering studies will commence in due course. Information on the number of rock caverns considered suitable for development, the land area that can be developed and the time required for development is not available at this stage.

CEDD is currently drafting the scope of the study and will have an estimate of the expenditure after the scope is finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C S Wai

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date _____

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)053

Question Serial No.

3184

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Units (ITMUs) in government departments:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- (c) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMUs? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (e) Has the effectiveness of ITMUs been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the

Development Bureau (Works Branch) (DEVB(WB)) in 2011-12 is \$16.5 million which is 6% higher than the estimated expenditure in 2010-11. The increase of 6% in 2011-12 is mainly due to the full year effect for filling a vacant post and increased temporary staff expenses.

(b) The major on-going projects in 2011-12 are listed below:

| Project | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Civil service Staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | |
| Support of Business Applications and Operations | 2 | 0 | 9 | 8.5 |
| Support of IT Infrastructure and Facilities | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Support of Business Strategy and Information Management | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

In addition, a new project in 2011-12 funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation Subhead A007GX is listed below:

| Project | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) | Implementation schedule |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Civil service staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | | |
| Tree Information System | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9.9 | 2011-12 |

(c) Tree Information System above is to support our efforts in promoting initiatives related to e-engagement and opening up of public sector information. The estimated expenditure funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation Subhead A007GX is about \$9.9 million. The project requires internal redeployment of one man-year of civil service staff. The system is expected to be launched in 2011-12.

(d) The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the ITMU are as follows:

| Grade | Establishment | Strength | Vacancy |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|---------|
| Analyst/Programmer | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Total | 5 | 5 | 0 |

The present set-up and establishment are considered appropriate and adequate. There is no need to increase the manpower at this moment.

(e) Under the existing governance mechanism, we have established the Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan of

DEVB(WB) each year to review the performance of IT Management Unit. The overall result was satisfactory in 2010, which was the same as the previous year.

Signature

Name in block letters

C S Wai

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)054

Question Serial No.

2681

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708(Capital
Subventions), 709 and 711

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please list out in terms of “man-years” the number of job opportunities for professional/technical staff and labourers provided in 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively under the Public Works Programme (Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711).

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In 2010-11, the projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711 of the Capital Works Programme will provide a total of 62 500 man-years of job opportunities (comprising 6 600 for professional/technical staff and 55 900 for labourer). In 2011-12, the job opportunities provided by these Heads of the Capital Works Programme will be increased to 63 600 man-years (comprising 6 700 for professional/technical staff and 56 900 for labourer).

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C S Wai

Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

18 March 2011

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)055

Question Serial No.

1136

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by NCSC staff | | | | |
| Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff | | | | |
| - \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| - \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| - number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| - number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of NCSC staff | | | | |
| - 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| - 3 – 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| - 1 – 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| - less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs of the department, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

| Job nature | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| Professional | 30 (+3.4%) | 29 (+81.3%) | 16 |
| Technical & inspectorate | 10 (-16.7%) | 12 (+200.0%) | 4 |
| General administration | 10 (+11.1%) | 9 (+12.5%) | 8 |
| Total: | 50 (0%) | 50 (+78.6%) | 28 |

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$ M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$ M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$ M) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$19.98 (+11.3%) | \$17.95 (-12.1%) | \$20.42 |

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

| Monthly salary | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| \$30,001 or above | 33 (+13.8%) | 29 (+81.3%) | 16 |
| \$16,001 to \$30,000 | 10 (-28.6%) | 14 (+16.7%) | 12 |
| \$8,001 to \$16,000 | 7 (0%) | 7 (-) | 0 |
| \$6,501 to \$8,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,001 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,000 or less | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 50 (0%) | 50 (+78.6%) | 28 |
| Less than \$5,824 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,824 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Length of services | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| 5 years or above | 0 (-100.0%) | 5 (-28.6%) | 7 |
| 3 years to less than 5 years | 10 (0%) | 10 (-) | 0 |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | 18 (+500.0%) | 3 (-82.4%) | 17 |
| Less than 1 year | 22 (-31.3%) | 32 (+700.0%) | 4 |
| Total: | 50 (0%) | 50 (+78.6%) | 28 |

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 (-25.0%) | 8 (-55.6%) | 18 |

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 (+1800.0%) | 1 (-87.5%) | 8 |

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2.7% | 2.7% | 1.6% |

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3.1% | 2.0% | 2.3% |

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

| Meal break | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| Paid meal break | 44 (+7.3%) | 41 (+70.8%) | 24 |
| Unpaid meal break | 6 (-33.3%) | 9(+125.0%) | 4 |
| Total: | 50 (0%) | 50 (+78.6%) | 28 |

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

| Working days | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| 5 working days per week | 50 (0%) | 50 (+78.6%) | 28 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 (-) | 0 (-) | 0 |
| Total: | 50 (0%) | 50 (+78.6%) | 28 |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in items (b), (d), (e) and (g), the figures are made based on part-year information of 2010-11.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)056

Question Serial No.

1137

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of contracts with employment agencies | () | () | () | () |
| Contract sum paid to each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Number of agency workers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by agency workers | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of agency workers | | | | |
| - \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| - \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| - number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| - number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of agency workers | | | | |
| - 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| - 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| - 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| - less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Architectural Services Department has not procured any agency service from 2008-09 to 2010-11. We have no plan to procure agency service in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)057

Question Serial No.

1138

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information :

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of outsourced service contracts | () | () | () | () |
| Total expenditure for outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each outsourced service provider | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology) | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers | | | | |
| - \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| - \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| - \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| - number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| - number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of outsourced workers | | | | |
| - 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| - 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| - 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| - less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year change.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Architectural Services Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, customer services, property management services and information technology. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| 4 (-55.6%) | 9 (0%) | 9 |

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$ M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$ M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$ M) |
| 18.41 (+1.1%) | 18.21 (+31.4%) | 13.86 |

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

| Duration of service | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 0 (-) | 0 (-) | 0 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 (-66.7%) | 3 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 3 (-50.0%) | 6 (+50.0%) | 4 |
| Over 2 years | 1 (-50.0%) | 2 (0%) | 2 |
| Total: | 4 (-55.6%) | 9 (0%) | 9 |

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| 65 (+22.6%) | 53 (+12.8%) | 47 |

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

| Nature of service contracts | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| | Number of workers | | | | | |
| Customer services | 4 | (0%) | 4 | (-) | 0 | |
| Property management | 1 | (0%) | 1 | (-) | 0 | |
| Security | 10 | (0%) | 10 | (-28.6%) | 14 | |
| Cleansing | 8 | (0%) | 8 | (0%) | 8 | |
| Information technology | 42 | (+40.0%) | 30 | (+20.0%) | 25 | |
| Others (please specify) | 0 | (-) | 0 | (-) | 0 | |
| Total: | 65 | (+22.6%) | 53 | (+12.8%) | 47 | |

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

For service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. For 2010-11 (up to December 2010), the minimum monthly salaries specified in the contracts ranged from \$5,269 to \$6,810.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3.6% | 2.9% | 2.6% |

(i) **Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department**

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2.8% | 2.1% | 1.6% |

(j) **Meal break for outsourced workers**

The outsourced workers are employed by the contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) **Number of outsourced workers against working days** ^{Note 1}

| Working days | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| 5 working days per week | 1 (0%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| 6 working days per week | 15 (0%) | 15 (-21.1%) | 19 |
| Others ^{Note 2} | 2 (0%) | 2 (0%) | 2 |
| Total: | 18 (0%) | 18 (-18.2%) | 22 |

Note 1: For workers of service contracts on security and cleansing only.

Note 2: The workers are only required to provide services once a week.

Figures in () denote year-on-year change. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in item (b), the figures are made based on part-year information of 2010-11.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)058

Question Serial No.

2580

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 : During 2011-12, the Architectural Services Department will promote roof greening and vertical greening, and enhance practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works. Please provide details of the work involved; of the respective number of government buildings expected to be covered by the roof greening and vertical greening schemes and of the respective estimates for implementing the schemes; of the number of staff to be employed and the estimated number of man-months of employment to be created by the Administration.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Promotion of roof greening and vertical greening, and enhancement of practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works in 2011-12

It is the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)'s established practice to promote roof greening and vertical greening and to enhance the practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in our projects, including entrusted projects.

As an on-going initiative, ArchSD will continue to enhance greening and landscaping through maximisation of greenery coverage, including roof greening and vertical greening. In 2011-12, ArchSD will continue to include roof greening where practicable in the new government buildings which have usable roof area and to encourage the management departments of existing government buildings to consider installation of green roofs whenever there are major works involving the roofs of the buildings concerned. ArchSD will also continue to explore opportunities for vertical greening in new government buildings and, with the accumulation of experience of successful installations, will extend the recommendation of vertical greening to management departments of existing buildings whenever practicable.

On the enhancement of practices on tree management, ArchSD will pursue the various initiatives following the policy directives and guiding requirements from the Tree Management Office of Development Bureau in managing the trees under the department's jurisdiction. ArchSD will continue to carry out tree risk assessment in 2011-12 for the trees under its maintenance jurisdiction and those within the construction sites of its new works projects.

As government's technical adviser, ArchSD promotes best practices in greening, landscaping and tree management to government departments and quasi-government organisations on subvented projects.

ArchSD liaises closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry and, where opportunities arise, will conduct seminars and workshops for experience sharing.

- (b) Number of government buildings with roof greening and vertical greening works to be completed in 2011-12, the associated expenditure, and the number of jobs to be created

In 2011-12, 27 government buildings will be completed with roof greening works at an estimated cost of \$35 million and 13 government buildings will be completed with vertical greening works at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

In 2011-12, the number of jobs to be created will be 56 (equivalent to 672 man-months) for roof greening and eight (equivalent to 96 man-months) for vertical greening.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)059

Question Serial No.

2665

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please advise the following :

- (a) The details of the work on promotion of roof greening and vertical greening, and the enhancement of practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works in 2010-11 and 2011-12.
- (b) Currently, how many buildings are owned by the government? What is the average greening ratio in these buildings?
- (c) Did the Administration implement roof greening and vertical greening projects in all new government buildings in the past three years? What is the average greening ratio in these new buildings?
- (d) Did the Administration examine the feasibility of implementing the above greening projects for existing buildings in the past three years? How many greening projects have been implemented for existing buildings in each of the respective years?
- (e) How many buildings have already implemented roof greening and/or vertical greening projects? What was the energy savings achieved after the greening of these buildings?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

- (a) It is the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)'s established practice to promote roof greening and vertical greening and to enhance the practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in our projects, including entrusted projects.

(i) Promotion of Roof Greening and Vertical Greening

In 2010-11, ArchSD has continued to include roof greening where practicable in new government buildings which have usable roof area, and encourage the management departments of existing government buildings to consider the installation of green roofs whenever there are major works involving the roofs of the buildings concerned. ArchSD has also continued to explore opportunities for vertical greening in new government buildings and, with the accumulation of experience of successful installations, has encouraged the management departments of existing government buildings to consider installing vertical greening whenever practicable. In 2011-12, ArchSD will continue to encourage roof greening and vertical greening wherever practicable when giving advice to other government bureaux/departments, and to monitor the performance of roof greening and vertical greening applications in our projects.

(ii) Enhancement of Practices on Greening, Landscaping and Tree Management

As an ongoing initiative, ArchSD will continue to enhance greening and landscaping through maximisation of greenery coverage, including roof greening and vertical greening. On the enhancement of practices on tree management, ArchSD will pursue the various initiatives following the policy directives and guiding requirements from the Tree Management Office of Development Bureau. ArchSD will continue to carry out tree risk assessment in 2011-12 for the trees under its maintenance jurisdiction and those within the construction sites of its new works projects. ArchSD will continue to liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry and, where opportunities arise, will conduct seminars and workshops for experience sharing.

- (b) Currently, ArchSD maintains about 8 000 government buildings and facilities. We do not have statistics on the average greening ratio of these buildings.
- (c) In the last three financial years (from 2008-09 to 2010-11), ArchSD has been implementing roof greening and vertical greening on new government buildings wherever practicable. Although we have no statistics on the average greening ratio for all new government buildings, we have started compiling statistics on new projects that can achieve at least 20% site coverage of greenery for site areas larger than 1 000 m². In 2010, there were six new projects with a site area larger than 1 000 m² and all six projects achieved greening for over 20% of the site coverage.
- (d) In the last three financial years (from 2008-09 to 2010-11), ArchSD examined the feasibility of installation of green roofs as part of the works for existing government buildings where there are major works involving the roof of the building concerned. The number of projects with roof greening in existing government buildings completed in the recent three financial years are :

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of green roofs completed in existing government building | 17 | 14 | 31 |

With the accumulation of experience in successful installation of vertical greening, we will recommend management departments to consider installation of vertical greening in existing buildings whenever practicable.

- (e) From 2001 to March 2011, ArchSD completed roof greening on 100 new buildings and 65 existing buildings and vertical greening on 14 new buildings. Energy is saved as a result as the greenery can reduce the solar heat transfer to buildings. The amount of energy saved depends on the shape of the building and the sun path over it, depth of the insulating planting soil and the type of greening. Roof greening and vertical greening are usually implemented along with other energy-saving measures (e.g. installation of energy efficient lighting and appliances). We do not, therefore, have statistics on the energy saving effect of the greening measures alone.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)060

Question Serial No.

1803

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Government has been actively promoting roof greening and vertical greening and enhancing practices on greening, landscaping and tree management for government building works in recent years. Please provide a breakdown of the number of buildings that have undertaken the greening works and the expenditure involved by districts in the past two years.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The number of new government buildings that were completed with greening works as well as existing government buildings with greening works undertaken by the Architectural Services Department by districts and the expenditure involved in the past two years are given below -

| Region | District | 2009-10 | | 2010-11 | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | No. of buildings | Greening Expenditure (\$ Million) | No. of buildings | Greening Expenditure (\$ Million) |
| Hong Kong Island | Central & Western | 3 | 1.46 | 5 | 3.84 |
| | Eastern | 5 | 2.02 | 11 | 11.59 |
| | Southern | 3 | 5.10 | 4 | 2.15 |
| | Wan Chai | 2 | 0.81 | 4 | 3.00 |
| Kowloon | Kowloon City | 1 | 0.60 | 4 | 1.02 |
| | Kwun Tong | 3 | 13.31 | 3 | 0.69 |
| | Sham Shui Po | 6 | 2.44 | 4 | 0.74 |
| | Wong Tai Sin | 1 | 7.00 | 3 | 5.53 |
| | Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 0.01 | 1 | 0.30 |

| Region | District | 2009-10 | | 2010-11 | |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | No. of buildings | Greening Expenditure (\$ Million) | No. of buildings | Greening Expenditure (\$ Million) |
| New Territories | Islands | 2 | 11.80 | 4 | 14.39 |
| | Kwai Tsing | 3 | 3.30 | 0 | 0 |
| | North | 3 | 1.17 | 5 | 8.98 |
| | Sai Kung | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sha Tin | 2 | 0.24 | 2 | 7.25 |
| | Tai Po | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.78 |
| | Tsuen Wan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.36 |
| | Tuen Mun | 1 | 0.25 | 3 | 2.78 |
| | Yuen Long | 1 | 0.04 | 5 | 3.76 |
| Total | | 37 | 49.55 | 60 | 67.16 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)061

Question Serial No.

1474

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 :

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12 that the Department will enhance existing and develop new information systems in the coming year. Please give an account of the time required for developing the new system, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in enhancing existing system and developing new system respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2011-12, the Architectural Services Department plans to implement the following projects for the two new information systems :

- (i) Development of Extranet to provide a platform for information sharing by consultants and contractors under management of Architectural Services Department; and
- (ii) Development of Knowledge Management Portal to improve knowledge management and facilitate knowledge transfer.

The two projects are targeted to be completed by December 2011 and March 2012 respectively. The total estimated cost for developing the new systems is \$5.8 million.

As for the enhancement of existing information systems in 2011-12, this includes enhancing :

- (i) the Automated Communication, Technical Information and Operations Network System;
- (ii) the Repair Call Centre computer system; and
- (iii) the Asset Information System.

The total estimated cost for enhancing the existing information systems is \$9.1 million.

Both the development of new information systems and enhancement of existing information systems will be carried out by Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund and outsourced contractors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 14 March 2011

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)062

Question Serial No.

0535

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 has indicated that in 2011-12, it will promote roof greening and vertical greening, and enhance practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the expenditures involved in the above initiatives, and what government buildings in which greening practices will be enhanced in the coming three years (2011-12 to 2013-14).

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : It is the established practice of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to promote roof greening and vertical greening and to enhance the practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in our projects, including entrusted projects.

As government's technical adviser, ArchSD will continue to promote best practices in greening, landscaping and tree management to government departments and quasi-government organisations on subvented projects.

ArchSD will also continue to liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry and, where opportunities arise, to conduct seminars and workshops for experience sharing.

Existing staff are deployed to provide the technical advisory services on greening, landscaping and tree management and there is no separate breakdown of manpower or expenditures involved.

In the coming three financial years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14), greening works will be implemented in various types of new government buildings such as crematoria, schools, joint-user complexes, fire stations, police stations, hospitals, cruise terminal building, government offices and open space projects; and roof greening works will also be implemented in existing government buildings as far as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)063

Question Serial No.

3590

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 and vertical greening, and enhance practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works in the coming year. In this connection, what are the specific work plans for implementing the above tasks? Will these tasks be implemented in collaboration with the Tree Management Office? What are the expenditure involved and details of each task?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply : It is the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)'s established practice to promote roof greening and vertical greening and to enhance the practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in our projects, including entrusted projects.

As an on-going initiative, ArchSD will continue to enhance greening and landscaping through maximisation of greenery coverage, including roof greening and vertical greening. In 2011-12, ArchSD will continue to include roof greening where practicable in new government buildings with usable roof area and encourage the management departments of existing government buildings to consider installation of green roofs whenever there are major works involving the roofs of the buildings concerned. ArchSD will also continue to explore opportunities for vertical greening in new government buildings and, with the accumulation of experience of successful installation, will recommend the installation of vertical greening to the management departments of existing government buildings whenever practicable.

On the enhancement of tree management practices, ArchSD will pursue various initiatives following the policy directives and guiding requirements from the Tree Management Office of Development Bureau.

As government's technical adviser, ArchSD will continue to promote best practices in greening, landscaping and tree management to government departments and quasi-government organisations on subvented projects.

ArchSD will also continue to liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry and, where opportunities arise, to conduct seminars and workshops for experience sharing.

Existing staff are deployed to provide the technical advisory service on greening, landscaping and tree management and there is no separate breakdown of manpower or expenditures involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)064

Question Serial No.

0408

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 : Regarding the function to give advice on matters related to heritage conservation, what is the existing staffing? What is the estimated total expenditure for next year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply : A dedicated Heritage Unit (the Unit) in the Architectural Services Department (the Department), comprising ten officers at the professional level in relevant professional disciplines, provides advisory service in support of government's work on heritage conservation. The Unit will continue providing the service with the same establishment at an estimated expenditure of \$7.6 million in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)066

Question Serial No.

0410

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 encourages participation in the Considerate Contractor Site Award Scheme to promote environmental awareness and performance. What is the estimated expenditure of this Scheme in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply : The Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme (the Scheme) is organised by the Development Bureau. The assessments required for the Scheme are covered by the existing resources for routine safety inspections and reporting. No additional funding is required from Architectural Services Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)067

Question Serial No.

2960

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 advises on matters related to heritage conservation. As there are many historic buildings and heritage items of conservation value all over Hong Kong, what are the work plan of the Architectural Services Department on heritage conservation and the expenditure involved this year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will continue providing advisory service to the Development Bureau in support of government's work on heritage conservation, such as the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme for privately owned historic buildings and other revitalisation projects. In 2010-11, a dedicated Heritage Unit (the Unit) in ArchSD, comprising ten officers at the professional level in relevant professional disciplines, has been providing the service. The Unit will continue providing the service with the same establishment at an estimated expenditure of \$7.6 million in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)068

Question Serial No.

2961

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : The Architectural Services Department will undertake the planning and implementation of government facilities in Kai Tak, including the Cruise Terminal, government offices, schools and recreational facilities. What are the respective expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Architectural Services Department will undertake various building projects under the Kai Tak Development programme. The progress and expenditure of these projects are as follows :

| Project | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$ Million) | Progress |
|---|---|---|
| Cruise Terminal Building | 1,800 | Construction works was commenced in May 2010 for completion in mid 2013. |
| Fire station-cum-ambulance facility at Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay | 13 | Detailed design is underway. The Government plans to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) in July 2011. Subject to funding approval of the FC, construction works will be commenced in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in mid 2013. |

As regards other government projects including Kai Tak Government Offices, schools, parks, open spaces, etc, these are at preliminary feasibility/public engagement/design development stages, and the cost estimates are not yet available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)069

Question Serial No.

1750

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : In 2011-12, the Architectural Services Department will increase 12 non-directorate posts. What are the justifications for such an increase? What is the actual expenditure involved? Please also provide a breakdown for the 12 posts including their ranks and salaries, and responsibilities of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will create 13 posts in 2011-12, offset by deletion of one post. Among the 13 newly created posts, ten posts are time-limited in nature and three are permanent posts. The details of the ranks, salaries and responsibilities are as follows :

(A) Time-limited posts

| Rank | Number of post | NAMS* per officer (\$) for (A) | Justification/Job responsibility | Duration |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| (1) Architect / Assistant Architect | 1 | 550,050 | To provide professional support to Security Bureau in the implementation of projects for improvement of residential drug treatment and rehabilitation services. | Time-limited for 3 years |
| (2) Maintenance Surveyor | 3 | 698,340 | To implement retrofitting works for improving barrier-free facilities in existing government premises and facilities. | For each rank, 2 time-limited posts for 4 years and 1 time-limited post for 3 years |
| (3) Clerk of Works | 3 | 486,180 | | |
| (4) Assistant Clerk of Works | 3 | 305,520 | | |
| Subtotal for (A) | 10 | | | |

* NAMS = Notional Annual Mid-point Salary

(B) Permanent posts

| Rank | Number of post | NAMS* per officer (\$) for (B) | Justification/Job responsibility |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| (1) Senior Training Officer | 1 | 730,680 | To enhance staff training and development function; and to sustain the momentum for continuous improvement in the long run. |
| (2) Landscape Architect/Assistant Landscape Architect | 1 | 533,880 | To implement risk assessment programme for trees under ArchSD's portfolio of existing government premises and facilities. |
| (3) Field Officer I | 1 | 404,520 | |
| Subtotal for (B) | 3 | | |

* NAMS = Notional Annual Mid-point Salary

Total number of time-limited and permanent posts :

(A) + (B) = 13 posts

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 14 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)070

Question Serial No.

1392

Head : Head 703 – Buildings

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the latest estimates by Administration about approved projects under Head 703, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- (a) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- (b) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- (c) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

On present projection, 36 on-going projects in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 703 will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc., which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc., are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to ensure the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 703 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval of FC must be sought under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions, site constraints, etc., which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title

Director of Architectural Services

Date

18 March 2011

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead 000 Operational Expenses
(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by NCSC staff | | | | |
| Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 – 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 – 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. Wong Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed under the recurrent expenditure of the Department is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs of the department, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

| Job nature | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| Professional | 21(-12.5%) | 24(+26.3%) | 19 |
| Technical and inspectorate | 7(-22.2%) | 9(-43.8%) | 16 |
| General administration | 6(0%) | 6(+100.0%) | 3 |
| Total: | 34(-12.8%) | 39(+2.6%) | 38 |

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$million) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$million) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$million) |
|--|---|---|
| 9.5 (-19.5%) | 11.8 (-25.8%) | 15.9 |

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

| Monthly salary | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| \$30,001 or above | 16(+23.1%) | 13(+30.0%) | 10 |
| \$16,001 to \$30,000 | 10(-37.5%) | 16(-5.9%) | 17 |
| \$8,001 to \$16,000 | 8(-20.0%) | 10(-9.1%) | 11 |
| \$6,501 to \$8,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,001 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,000 or less | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 34 (-12.8%) | 39 (+2.6%) | 38 |
| Less than \$5,824 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,824 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Length of services | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 3 years to less than 5 years | 1 (0%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | 14(+55.6%) | 9(-43.8%) | 16 |
| Less than 1 year | 15(-40.0%) | 25(+92.3%) | 13 |
| Total: | 34 (-12.8%) | 39 (+2.6%) | 38 |

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
| 8(-27.3%) | 11(-38.9%) | 18 |

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
| 11(+22.2%) | 9(+12.5%) | 8 |

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| 2% | 2% | 2% |

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
| 1.5% | 1.4% | 1.9% |

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| <u>Meal Break</u> | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| Paid meal break | 29 (0%) | 29(+45.0%) | 20 |
| Unpaid meal break | 5(-50.0%) | 10(-44.4%) | 18 |
| Total: | 34 (-12.8%) | 39 (+2.6%) | 38 |

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| <u>Working days</u> | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 29(-6.5%) | 31(+40.9%) | 22 |
| 6 working days per week | 5(-37.5%) | 8(-50.0%) | 16 |
| Total: | 34 (-12.8%) | 39 (+2.6%) | 38 |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in items (b), (d) and (e), the figures are made based on part-year information of 2010-11.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead 000 Operational Expenses
(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of contracts with employment agencies | () | () | () | () |
| Contract sum paid to each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Number of agency workers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by agency workers | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of agency workers | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of agency workers | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15 (-6.3%) | 16 (+45.5%) | 11 |

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

| Contract sum | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| Less than \$0.5 million | 14 (+7.7%) | 13 (+62.5%) | 8 |
| \$0.5 million to \$1 million | 1 (0%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| Over \$1 million | 0 (-100.0%) | 2 (0%) | 2 |
| Total: | 15 (-6.3%) | 16 (+45.5%) | 11 |

| Duration of services | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 1 (-) | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 14 (-12.5%) | 16 (+77.8%) | 9 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 0 | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 |
| Over 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 15 (-6.3%) | 16 (+45.5%) | 11 |

(c) Commission paid to EAs

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the departments to specify the amount or the rate of commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of workers | 28 (-46.2%) | 52 (+18.2%) | 44 |

| Job category of workers ^{Note} | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Backend office support | 22 (-15.4%) | 26 (-23.5%) | 34 |
| Technical services | 6 (-76.9%) | 26 (+160.0%) | 10 |
| Total: | 28 (-46.2%) | 52 (+18.2%) | 44 |

Note Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

All our contracts made with EAs from 2008-09 to 2010-11 did not involve the supply of non-skilled workers.^{Note} For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers and we do not have information about the salary of the agency workers. Since April 2010, we have also specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April to December 2010, the minimum monthly wages specified in the contracts ranged from \$6,800 to \$8,116.

Note: As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement also applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.6% | 3.0% | 2.5% |

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.4% | 0.7% | 0.5% |

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days

| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | |

| <u>Working days</u> | <u>Number of workers</u> | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 5 working days per week | 28 (-46.2%) | 52 (+18.2%) | 44 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 28 (-46.2%) | 52 (+18.2%) | 44 |

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)073

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

Question Serial No.

1147

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead 000 Operational Expenses
(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of outsourced service contracts | () | () | () | () |
| Total expenditure for outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each outsourced service provider | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology) | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. Wong Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as cleansing and security, information technology, etc. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the Department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 45 (-18.2%) | 55 (+19.6%) | 46 |

(b) Total value of outsourced service contracts

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$million) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$million) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$million) |
|--|---|---|
| 20.3 (-49.8%) | 40.4 (+134.9%) | 17.2 |

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

| Duration of service | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 5 (+25.0%) | 4 (0%) | 4 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 40 (-20.0%) | 50 (+19.0%) | 42 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 |
| Over 2 years | 0 (-100%) | 1 (0%) | 0 |
| Total: | 45 (-18.2%) | 55 (+19.6%) | 46 |

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers^{Note 1}

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 143 (-18.8%) | 176 (+6.0%) | 166 |

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature^{Note 1}

| Nature of service contracts | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Cleansing | 15 (0%) | 15 (0%) | 15 |
| Security | 76 (+15.2%) | 66 (+3.1%) | 64 |
| Information Technology | 11 (+57.1%) | 7 (+75.0%) | 4 |
| Technical service | 25 (-7.4%) | 27 (-6.9%) | 29 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----|
| General administration support | 12 (-75.5%) | 49 (+11.4%) | 44 |
| Others (e.g. staff training) | 4 (-66.7%) | 12 (+20.0%) | 10 |
| Total: | 143 (-18.8%) | 176 (+6.0%) | 166 |

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

For service contracts on office cleansing and security, the contractors are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. For 2010-11 (up to December 2010), the minimum monthly salaries specified in the contracts ranged from \$6,310 to \$6,585.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower to perform the required service. As long as the requirements of the government departments (including any specified number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work on the contract or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. As outsourced workers are employees of the contractors subject to their deployment, we do not have information on their years of service.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers^{Note 1} against the total staff in the Department

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| 8.1% | 10.0% | 9.5% |

(i) Percentage of value of outsourced service contracts against the total staff costs in the Department

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
| 3.2% | 4.7% | 2.0% |

(j) Meal break for outsourced workers

The outsourced workers are employed by the contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) Number of outsourced workers against working days^{Note 2}

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
| Working days | Number of workers | | |
| 5 working days per week | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 |
| 6 working days per week- | 91 (+12.3%) | 81 (+2.5%) | 79 |
| Total: | 91 (+12.3%) | 81 (+2.5%) | 79 |

Note 1: Only the employees known to the Department are counted

Note 2: For workers of service contracts on security and cleansing only

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in item (b), the figures are made based on part-year information in 2010-11.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)074

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

Question Serial No.

1483

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding Programme (4), please provide the following information:

| | Up to 31 December 2008 | Up to 31 December 2009 | Up to 31 December 2010 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total number of registered government slopes and man-made slopes | | | |
| Total number of registered government retaining walls | | | |
| Total number of registered private slopes and man-made slopes | | | |

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Civil Engineering and Development Department maintains a Catalogue of Slopes which broadly covers man-made slopes and retaining walls in Hong Kong. The numbers of registered slopes and retaining walls in the Catalogue are as follows:

| | Up to 31 December 2008 | Up to 31 December 2009 | Up to 31 December 2010 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total number of registered government man-made slopes | 36 165 | 36 260 | 38 330 |
| Total number of registered government retaining walls | 4 235 | 4 240 | 4 310 |
| Total number of registered private man-made slopes and retaining walls | 18 850 | 18 900 | 19 820 |

Name in block letters

C K HON

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date

18.3.2011

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) Please provide the number of accidents and casualties on government slopes, man-made slopes and retaining walls in the past three years (i.e. 2008-2010).
- (b) Please provide the number of accidents and casualties on private slopes and man-made slopes in the past three years (i.e. 2008-2010).

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Over the past three years, the number of reported landslides occurred on registered government and private man-made slopes and retaining walls are as follows:

| Year | Number of reported landslides on registered government man-made slopes and retaining walls | Number of reported landslides on registered private man-made slopes and retaining walls | Total number of reported landslides |
|------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2008 | 369 | 65 | 434 |
| 2009 | 51 | 14 | 65 |
| 2010 | 104 | 12 | 116 |

Whilst we do not have statistics of the number of injuries arising from the reported landslides, there was one landslide in 2008 involving private land and government land which resulted in two fatalities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 17.3.2011

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the raising of public awareness of landslide danger arising from man-made slopes and natural terrain as mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, please advise on the specific implementation details of the new public education campaign and the expenditure involved in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Under the public education campaign on the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to raise public awareness on landslide risks arising from man-made slopes and natural terrain, the major activities in 2011-12 include the production of a new TV Announcement of Public Interests (TV API) on slope safety, a tree planting event, school talks, field trips for secondary school teachers, media briefings and roving exhibitions in popular shopping centres. The estimated expenditure for the campaign is about \$1.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 17.3.2011

**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 construction of the cycle tracks in the New Territories, has the Administration reserved any resources to improve the facilities of the existing cycle tracks? If yes, which sections of cycle tracks will be improved, and what are the details of the improvement plans and the commencement dates of the works? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The cycle track network project in the New Territories includes improvement works to some arterial sections of the existing cycle tracks in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sheung Shui, Fanling, Tai Po and Sha Tin, about 40 kilometres in total length. These improvement works include local widening to meet current standards, connecting intermittent sections as far as possible, provision of additional bicycle parking areas, sitting-out areas and signages. To enable early enjoyment by the public, we have scheduled to complete the improvement works in phases. Construction of the eastern section of the cycle track from Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan already commenced in May 2010 for completion in 2013. We are also working on the detailed design of the western section from Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui which will be completed by 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)079

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

Question Serial No.

0525

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 :

It is stated that the Government will continue the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories in 2011-12. Will the Government inform this Committee of the details of these sections? What is the present progress and the anticipated date of completion?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The New Territories cycle track network comprises a backbone with a total length of about 82 kilometres made up of two sections, viz (i) Tuen Mun - Ma On Shan section which starts from Tuen Mun in the west and connects via Yuen Long, Sheung Shui, Fanling, Tai Po and Sha Tin to Ma On Shan in the east; and (ii) Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section. There are also several branching off sections. To enable early enjoyment by the public, we schedule to take forward the implementation of the cycle track network in phases. The current status and anticipated completion dates for sections of the network under investigation or design are as follows:

(a) Backbone

| Section | Current status | Anticipated completion of current activity |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui | Detailed design in progress | Early 2012 |
| Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun | Investigation/preliminary design in progress | End 2011 |

(b) Branching Off Sections

| Section | Current status | Anticipated completion of current activity |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Ting Kok Road to Sam Mun Tsai | Investigation/preliminary design in progress | Mid 2011 |
| Tin Shui Wai to Nam Sang Wai | Investigation/preliminary design in progress | Early 2012 |
| Tai Tung to Sai Kung | Investigation/preliminary design in progress | Early 2012 |
| Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Tan | Investigation/preliminary design in progress | Early 2012 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 17.3.2011

**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 :

Under the indicators in this Programme, the estimated expenditure in 2011 on greening works implemented under the Greening Master Plans (GMPs) is \$50 million, representing a decrease of \$81.4 million from the actual expenditure of \$131.4 million in 2010. Will the Government inform this Committee of the reasons for such a significant decrease in the expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Implementation of the recommended greening measures under the Greening Master Plans for Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Western District, Southern District and Eastern District was in full swing in 2010. This was reflected by the relatively high level of expenditure of \$131.4 million for the indicator on "expenditure on greening works implemented under greening master plans" for 2010. The estimated expenditure of \$50 million for 2011 is based on the planned volume of greening works to be implemented under the afore-mentioned Greening Master Plans that year in accordance with the project implementation programme.

Some of the recommended greening measures under the afore-mentioned Greening Master Plans have not proceeded as planned due to local objections, obstruction by underground utilities and the need to interface with various railway projects which are under implementation. We are identifying alternative greening locations for those planting proposals that encounter site constraints, local objections and project interface issues. The expenditure on such greening works will be duly reflected in the actual spending for 2011 and the planned spending for future years when we have firmed up the alternative greening proposals and the revised planting programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

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

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

Programme : (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under the indicators of this Programme, the estimated number of blasting activities in 2011 is 6 050, nearly a double of 3 213 in 2010. The Government stated that the significant increase in the number of blasting activities is related to new railway tunnel projects. Will the Government inform this Committee of the anticipated locations and time for conducting the blasting works in 2011-2012? Does the Government have any measures to reduce vibration and noise caused by blasting and will it conduct regular inspection on the building structures near the blasting areas?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The increase in the number of blasting activities in 2011-2012 is mainly related to new and on-going drainage, sewerage and railway tunnel projects scattering mainly in urban districts. The projects involved include Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel, Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A, MTRC West Island Line and MTRC South Island Line on Hong Kong Island; Lai Chi Kok Transfer Scheme and MTRC Kwun Tong Extension Line in Kowloon; Tsuen Wan Drainage Tunnel in the New Territories and MTRC Express Rail Line which straddles between Kowloon and the New Territories.

The time for conducting blasting works varies among different projects and could change from time to time to suit individual works programmes. The project proponents will consult the local community on the relevant details before the commencement of any blasting activities.

Regarding the vibration and noise that may be caused by blasting activities, there are already stringent measures in place to ensure that they will fall within acceptable and approved limits. These include pre-blasting assessments, condition surveys of neighbouring structures, vibration and noise monitoring and inspections by the site staff of the project proponents. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), in collaboration of the Buildings Department, review and approve these measures before issuing any blasting permits. CEDD will also carry out audit inspections of blasting projects to check for compliance with all the measures and conduct independent vibration and/or noise monitoring where necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development _____

Date _____ 18.3.2011 _____

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2011-12, will the Civil Engineering and Development Department input resources to study the risks of boulders falling from the slope near Zheng Sheng College in Lantau and the landslide risks of the slopes nearby? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In 2010, the Government completed improvement works on five man-made slopes and seven boulders on the hillside in the vicinity of the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres of Christian Zheng Sheng Association, in which Zheng Sheng College is located. The works have significantly enhanced slope safety at the existing facilities of the centre. In 2011-12, the relevant government departments will carry out site inspection in the area and no major slope works are envisaged to be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

**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 Department will continue to implement the greening measures recommended in the greening master plans for urban areas in the coming year. In this connection, what specific work plan does the Department have to implement the above work? Will any co-operation with the Tree Management Office be involved? What are the estimated expenditures and details involved in the work?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

We will continue to implement the greening works recommended in the greening master plans (GMPs) for Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Western District, Southern District and Eastern District in 2011-12. The estimated expenditure of the works up to the end of 2011-12 is about \$191 million. The works involve mainly planting and establishment of trees and shrubs as well as the associated landscape works and irrigation facilities. We have been working closely with the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under the Development Bureau on the implementation of the GMPs, to achieve a holistic greening approach through embracing adequate space allocation for new planting, proper selection of planting species as well as quality landscape design and planting practices in the upstream and proper vegetation management in the downstream.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

**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 :

Does the Department have any plan of employing additional landscape architects? What are the details of the relevant positions, ranks and estimated expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

To enhance professional support to our Landscaping Unit, we plan to create one additional Senior Landscape Architect post in 2011-12 for three years for strengthening landscape architectural input for infrastructure projects including Kai Tak Development, Central Reclamation Phase III, Wanchai Development Phase II, etc. so as to meet the heightened aesthetic and landscape standards. The full-year estimated expenditure for the post, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, is \$1 million. Funding has been earmarked in the Estimates for 2011-12 and will be reflected in the Estimates of subsequent years accordingly.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

**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 :

Does the Department have any plan of procuring new equipment for tree inspection or tree rehabilitation for the Landscaping Unit? If yes, what are the equipment and quantity to be procured and what are the estimated expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

As we have outsourced assessment of tree health and tree rehabilitation work to our contractors, we do not have plans to purchase new equipment for such tasks in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Will the Civil Engineering and Development Department redeploy resources to review the guidelines on slope safety and other geotechnical works so that all government and private slope improvement works are required to be carried out by way of non-shotcrete method?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The prime objective of slope upgrading and improvement works is public safety. We will continue to promote the use of vegetation cover for man-made slopes in conjunction with slope upgrading and improvement works so as to improve the environment. However, when the provision of vegetated cover is impracticable, shotcrete could not be ruled out as a last resort for slope safety reasons.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Units (ITMUs) in government departments:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- (c) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMUs? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (e) Has the effectiveness of ITMUs been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure of the Computer Services Unit (CSU) of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) in 2011-12 is about \$17 million, which is comparable with the estimated expenditure of \$16.7 million in 2010-11.
- (b) The major on-going work in 2011-12 is listed below:

| Work | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Civil service staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | |
| Procurement and maintenance of hardware, software and IT system, system improvement and training | 10 | 0 | 9 | 17 |

Apart from the above-mentioned services funded by the Department's operational expenses, the CSU also supports other computerisation initiatives in CEDD which are funded by block allocation A007GX of Head 710 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund. On-going initiatives of the latter include provision of remote access to confidential mails, development of the Greening Master Plans Information System, and the revamp of the basic module of the Raingauge System of the Geotechnical Engineering Office, with a total estimated expenditure of \$4.8 million in 2011-12. These initiatives are scheduled for completion at different stages from 2011 to 2014. There is no new initiative for 2011-12.

- (c) CEDD has been taking measures to promote e-engagement and opening up of information on various major development projects such as Kai Tak Development, new development areas in the New Territories as part of the project implementation and also on the Slope Information System. No separate provision is itemized for the purpose. We shall continue to take such measures for future projects.
- (d) The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the CSU is as follows:

| Grade | Establishment | Strength | Vacancy |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|---------|
| Engineer | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Analyst/Programmer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Technical Officer | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 10 | 0 |

There will be no increase in manpower in 2011-12 as the current establishment is considered adequate.

- (e) The Information Technology Management Committee of CEDD reviews the manpower resources and the development plan of the CSU every year. Regular meetings are also held between the CSU and the user representatives to assure the effectiveness of its services and enhance the services. Based on the review, we are satisfied with the effectiveness of CSU.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

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

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Head Subhead :
705 - Civil Engineering

Programme : Public Works Programme

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development,
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, and
Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Head 705, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- a) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- b) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- c) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

On present projection, of the on-going projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 705, we anticipate that the project 5233DS-Sludge Treatment Facilities will be completed in end 2014, ahead of the original anticipated completion date of 2016 as stated in the submission to the Finance Committee (FC), due to the contractor's latest programme to complete works at an earlier date. Another 13 on-going projects will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective FC papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to ensure the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these 13 on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 705 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some

returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions, site constraints, etc., which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

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

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead :
Head 707 - New Towns and Urban
Area Development

Programme : Public Works Programme

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development, and
Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Head 707, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- d) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- e) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- f) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

On present projection, of the on-going projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 707, we anticipate that the project 7705CL - Hang Hau Tsuen Channel at Lau Fau Shan will be completed in end 2012, ahead of the original anticipated completion date in June 2013 as stated in the submission to the Finance Committee (FC), due to more favourable site conditions encountered. Another 11 on-going projects will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective FC papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to ensure the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these 11 on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 707 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for

unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions, site constraints, etc., which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)092

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

Question Serial No.

1053

Head : 705 - Civil Engineering
Infrastructure Civil Engineering - Multi-purpose

Subhead 5046CG Greening master plans for
(No. & title) : Kowloon West, Kowloon East and
Hong Kong Island - works for
remaining urban areas

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Administration stated that the approved project estimate of “Greening master plans for Kowloon West, Kowloon East and Hong Kong Island - works for remaining urban areas” is \$466 million whereas the actual expenditure is only \$42.169 million up to 31 March 2010 and the estimated expenditure in 2011-12 is only \$21 million. What is the time table for using the remaining fund of around \$402.8 million? How can the progress of works be expedited?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

Of the approved project estimate of \$466 million for 5046CG “Greening master plans for Kowloon West, Kowloon East and Hong Kong Island - works for remaining urban areas”, lower tender prices and miscellaneous reductions (e.g. corresponding reduction in provisions in contingency and contract price fluctuations, etc.) have resulted in a substantial saving of \$188.2 million. Of the remaining \$277.8 million, we estimate to spend \$170.2 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and another \$21 million in 2011-12.

Some of the recommended greening measures under the Greening Master Plans have not proceeded as planned due to local objections, obstruction by underground utilities and the need to interface with various railway projects which are under implementation. We are identifying alternative greening locations for those planting proposals that encounter site constraints, local objections and project interface issues. The expenditure on such greening works and the timing of expenditure can only be confirmed when we have firmed up the alternative greening proposals and the revised planting programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K HON _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development _____

Date _____ 18.3.2011 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)094

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

Question Serial No.

1057

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 7741CL - Kai Tak development -
Head 707 - New Towns and Urban (No. & title) : stage 1 advance infrastructure
Area Development works for developments at the
southern part of the former runway

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The Administration stated that the approved project estimate of "Kai Tak development - stage 1 advance infrastructure works for developments at the southern part of the former runway" is \$539.6 million, whereas the actual expenditure is only \$49 million plus up to 31 March 2010 and the estimated expenditure in 2011-12 is only \$104.6 million plus. What is the time table for using the remaining \$380 million plus? How can the progress of works be expedited?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The stage 1 advance infrastructure works for developments at the southern part of the former runway commenced in September 2009. The actual expenditure in 2009-10 is about \$49 million and the estimated expenditure in 2010-11 is \$130 million. For 2011-12, we forecast to spend about \$105 million. The remaining expenditure of about \$256 million will be incurred between the years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 to tie in with the progress of the construction works scheduled for completion by 2013 to meet the commissioning of the first cruise terminal berth.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C K HON

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

17.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)095

Question Serial No.

1157

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by NCSC staff | | | | |
| Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 – 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 – 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs of the department, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

| Job nature | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| Professional | 24 (+20.0%) | 20 (+11.1%) | 18 |
| Technical & inspectorate | 26 (-29.7%) | 37 (-2.6%) | 38 |
| General administration | 21 (-8.7%) | 23 (-65.2%) | 66 |
| Total: | 71 (-11.3%) | 80 (-34.4%) | 122 |

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13.4 (-33.7%) | 20.2 (-40.1%) | 33.7 |

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

| Monthly salary | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| \$30,001 or above | 25 (+25.0%) | 20 (+11.1%) | 18 |
| \$16,001 to \$30,000 | 21 (-19.2%) | 26 (-31.6%) | 38 |
| \$8,001 to \$16,000 | 25 (-26.5%) | 34 (-48.5%) | 66 |

| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| \$6,501 to \$8,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,001 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,000 or less | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 71 (-11.3%) | 80 (-34.4%) | 122 |
| Less than \$5,824 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,824 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| <u>Length of services</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| 5 years or above | 24 (-4.0%) | 25 (-61.5%) | 65 |
| 3 years to less than 5 years | 6 (-45.5%) | 11 (-56.0%) | 25 |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | 28 (+180.0%) | 10 (-41.2%) | 17 |
| Less than 1 year | 13 (-61.8%) | 34 (+126.7%) | 15 |
| Total: | 71 (-11.3%) | 80 (-34.4%) | 122 |

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10 (-56.5%) | 23 (-17.9%) | 28 |

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No record | No record | No record |

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3.7% | 4.1% | 6.1% |

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

| 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7 (-56.3%) | 16 (0%) | 16 |

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

| Contract sum | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| Less than \$0.5 million | 7 (-56.3%) | 16 (+6.7%) | 15 |
| \$0.5 million to \$1 million | 0 | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 |
| Over \$1 million | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 7 (-56.3%) | 16 (0%) | 16 |

| Duration of services | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 5 (-28.6%) | 7 (+75.0%) | 4 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 2 (-75.0%) | 8 (-27.3%) | 11 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| Over 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 7 (-56.3%) | 16 (0%) | 16 |

(c) Commission paid to EAs

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the

departments to specify the amount or the rate of commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

| | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of workers | 8 (-65.2%) | 23 (-14.8%) | 27 |

| Job categories of workers <u>Note</u> | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Backend office support | 8 (-55.6%) | 18 (+12.5%) | 16 |
| Technical services | 0 (-100%) | 5 (-54.5%) | 11 |
| Total: | 8 (-65.2%) | 23 (-14.8%) | 27 |

Note: Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

All our contracts made with EAs from 2008-09 to 2010-11 did not involve the supply of non-skilled workers, save for a contract involving one non-skilled worker with current monthly wage at \$7,183.^{Note} For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers and we do not have information about the salary of the agency workers. Since April 2010, we have also specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April to September 2010, the minimum monthly wages specified in the contracts ranged from \$7,183 to \$7,397.

Note: As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement also

applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the department or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers against the total number of staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.4% | 1.2% | 1.4% |

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.4% |

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days

| | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Working days</u> | <u>Number of workers</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 8 (-63.6%) | 22 (-15.4%) | 26 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 (-100%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| Total: | 8 (-65.2%) | 23 (-14.8%) | 27 |

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)097

Question Serial No.

1159

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of outsourced service contracts | () | () | () | () |
| Total expenditure for outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each outsourced service provider | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology) | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7 (-22.2%) | 9 (+125.0%) | 4 |

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0.60 (+13.2%) | 0.53 (-39.1%) | 0.87 |

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

| <u>Duration of service</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 3 (-57.1%) | 7 (- n.a.) | 0 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 4 (+300.0%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 (-66.7%) | 3 |
| Over 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 7 (-22.2%) | 9 (+125.0%) | 4 |

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7 (-50.0%) | 14 (+180.0%) | 5 |

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

| Nature of service contracts | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Customer services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Property management | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Security | 3 (-62.5%) | 8 (+166.7%) | 3 |
| Cleansing | 4 (-33.3%) | 6 (+200.0%) | 2 |
| Information technology | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Others (please specify) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 7 (-50.0%) | 14 (+180.0%) | 5 |

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

The contractors are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. For 2010-11 (up to December 2010), the minimum monthly salaries specified in the contracts ranged from \$5,499 to \$7,470.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.36% | 0.72% | 0.25% |

(i) Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.11% | 0.07% | 0.11% |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)100

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

1565

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011–12, it is stated that the Department will continue with the construction of drainage channels at upper Lam Tsuen River, upper Tai Po River and She Shan River at Tai Po. What are the scheduled completion dates for the above works? During the rainy season in 2011, what short-term measures will be implemented to reduce the possibility of flooding in nearby villages due to construction works?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The river improvement works at upper Lam Tsuen River, upper Tai Po River and She Shan River in Tai Po are scheduled for completion by mid 2012. The rivers will have been widened and deepened substantially before the onset of the rainy season in 2011 and Drainage Services Department will arrange to remove all construction materials and temporary works within the rivers. In the interim, we will protect the partially completed river banks against erosion and will provide additional drainage pipes underneath the existing crossings to avoid blockages.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____

Director of Drainage Services

Date _____

21 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)101

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Question Serial No.

2962

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Drainage Services Department is carrying out the construction of drainage channels at upper Lam Tsuen River, upper Tai Po River and She Shan River at Tai Po, and the design and construction of other flood prevention projects in flood prone areas. Please advise on the progress of the above works and the targets for this year.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

Up to the end of February 2011, we have completed 64% of the river improvement works at upper Lam Tsuen River, upper Tai Po River and She Shan River at Tai Po. We target to substantially complete the drainage improvement works to the three rivers by mid 2012.

For the other major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas, the progress and target to be achieved are set out in the table below:

| PWP No. | Project Title | Progress Up to the End of February 2011 and Target Completion Date |
|----------------|--|---|
| 4103CD | Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island—Hong Kong West drainage tunnel | We have completed 72% of the drainage tunnel. We target to substantially complete the drainage improvement works by mid 2012. |
| 4104CD | Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island—western lower catchment works | We have completed 44% of the drainage improvement works in Northern Hong Kong Island. We target to substantially complete the drainage improvement works by end 2012. |
| 4109CD | Drainage improvement works in Shuen Wan, Tai Po | We have completed 26% of the drainage improvement works in Shuen Wan. We target to substantially complete the drainage improvement works by mid 2013. |
| 4111CD | Drainage improvement in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi—Tsuen Wan drainage tunnel | We have completed 39% of the drainage tunnel. We target to substantially complete the drainage improvement works by mid 2012. |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)102

Question Serial No.

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department

Subhead :

2963

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

During 2011-12, the Drainage Services Department will continue with the planning and upgrading of the stormwater drainage systems and implement by stages the proposed improvement works. Please advise on the progress of and the expenditure involved for the above improvement works. What are the targets for the planning and upgrading of the stormwater drainage systems for this year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

In 2011-12, we will continue with the upgrading of the stormwater drainage systems at various parts of the territory under more than 15 on-going projects involving a total project cost of about \$8 billion and estimated expenditure of about \$1.7 billion in 2011-12. We anticipate that a majority of these projects will be completed by 2013. In addition, we are currently undertaking the planning and design of various stormwater drainage projects in different parts of the territory. Amongst these projects, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road and the construction of Happy Valley underground stormwater storage scheme in 2011-12. The estimated total cost of these two projects amounts to about \$2.7 billion, with an estimated expenditure of about \$17 million in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____

Director of Drainage Services

Date _____

21 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)103

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Question Serial No.

2964

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

During 2011-12, the Drainage Services Department will continue with the review of the drainage master plans for the northern and northwest New Territories. What are the details of the latest progress and content of the review?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

Drainage Services Department has commissioned a consultancy to carry out a review on the performance of the existing drainage systems in Yuen Long and North District and their capacities to cope with future developments in these areas. Necessary drainage improvement measures will be proposed to enhance the flood protection capacity. The consultants have completed the assessment of the performance of the existing drainage systems and are formulating necessary drainage improvement schemes. The consultancy work is scheduled for completion in end 2011.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 21 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)104

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Question Serial No.

3185

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the Department:

- a. What is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- b. What specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- c. Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- d. What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMU? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- e. Has the effectiveness of ITMU been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply:

- a. The estimated expenditure for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) in 2011-12 is \$11.88 million which is comparable with the actual expenditure in 2010-11 of about \$12 million.

- b. The major on-going projects in 2011-12 are listed below:

| Project | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Civil service staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | |
| Support of Business Applications and Operations | 3.25 | 4 | 1 | 3.87 |
| Support of IT Infrastructure and Facilities | 0.25 | 0 | 4 | 5.17 |
| Support of Business Strategy and Information Management | 3.5 | 0 | 3 | 2.84 |

There is no new initiative for 2011-12.

- c. DSD has been taking measures to promote e-engagement and opening up of public sector information on various drainage or sewerage projects as part of the project implementation. No separate provision is itemized for such purpose. Due consideration will continuously be given to carry out such measures in promulgating new projects or any new initiatives as appropriate for the department in future.
- d. The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the ITMU are as follows:

| Grade | Establishment | Strength | Vacancy |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Senior Engineer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Engineer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Systems Manager | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Analyst Programmer I | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Analyst Programmer II | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Senior Technical Officer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Technical Officer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 7 | 7 | 0 |

There will be no increase in manpower in 2011-12 as the current establishment is adequate to support the ongoing management of IT infrastructure and systems for the department.

- e. The department has established an Information Technology Management Committee chaired by the Deputy Director to regularly review the manpower resources, development plan and services provided by the Unit. The Unit is also under regular audit review by the external Integrated Management System auditors. These reviews confirm that the quality objectives are met in delivering the service.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)105

Question Serial No.

1394

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 704 – Drainage

Subhead :

Programme : Public Works Programme

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Regarding the latest estimates by Administration about approved projects under Head 704, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- (a) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- (b) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- (c) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

On present projection, 16 on-going projects in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 704 will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to ensure the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 704 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground

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

DEVB(W)106

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead: 4162CD
Head 704 - Drainage

Question Serial No.

2411

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated that the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road—stage 1 would commence in 2011-12. What is the scheduled completion date for the works? For the Kai Tak Nullah project as a whole, apart from stage 1, what other stages of the works have yet to be completed? When will they commence? How many job opportunities and man-months of employment are estimated to create at different stages of the works?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

The reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah will be implemented in stages, details of which are as follows –

| Project | Description | Actual/ planned start date | Planned completion date |
|---|---|--|---|
| 4162CD (Part-upgrading from 4140CD) | Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road – stage 1 (The project involves the construction of advance works comprising a box culvert at Prince Edward Road East and road widening at Choi Hung Road near Po Kong Village Road.) | August 2010 (Actual) | End 2012 |
| 4140CD | Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road – remaining works | End 2011 / Early 2012 (subject to completion of design works/ investigation and funding approval by the | Phased completion from end 2015 onwards Whole project completion in mid-2017 |

| Project | Description | Actual/ planned start date | Planned completion date |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| | | Finance Committee) | |
| 4159CD | Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah from Tung Kwong Road to Prince Edward Road East | 2014-15 (subject to completion of design works/ investigation and funding approval by the Finance Committee) | End 2017 |

We estimate that the proposed works under **4162CD** will create about 106 jobs (86 for labourers and 20 for professional/technical staff) providing a total employment of 2 100 man-months. For **4140CD** and **4159CD**, they are under detailed design and investigation stages respectively. The estimates of job creations and employment opportunities arising from these two projects will be available upon completion of the detailed design.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 21 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)107

Question Serial No.

1160

Head : 42 - Electrical and Mechanical Services

Subhead (No. & title):

Department

000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by NCSC staff | | | | |
| Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | | | | |
| Length of service of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 – 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 – 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs of the department, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

| Job nature | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| Professional | 6 (+100.0%) | 3 (+200.0%) | 1 |
| Technical & inspectorate | 4 (0%) | 4 (0%) | 4 |
| General administration | 8 (-20.0%) | 10 (0%) | 10 |
| Total: | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3.6 (+28.6%) | 2.8 (-17.6%) | 3.4 |

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

| Monthly salary | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| \$30,001 or above | 4 (+33.3%) | 3 (0%) | 0 |
| \$16,001 to \$30,000 | 9 (+28.6%) | 7 (+16.7%) | 6 |
| \$8,001 to \$16,000 | 5 (-28.6%) | 7 (-22%) | 9 |
| \$6,501 to \$8,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,001 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,000 or less | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total: | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |
| Less than \$5,824 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,824 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| <u>Length of services</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| 5 years or above | 6 (+50.0%) | 4 (-33.3%) | 6 |
| 3 years to less than 5 years | 3 (-25.0%) | 4 (+100.0%) | 2 |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | 4 (-20.0%) | 5 (0%) | 5 |
| Less than 1 year | 5 (+25.0%) | 4 (+33.3%) | 2 |
| Total: | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 (0%) | 1 (+100.0%) | 0 |

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Information not available | Information not available | Information not available |

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4.8% | 4.6% | 4.4% |

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2.3% | 1.4% | 1.7% |

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

| <u>Meal break</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| Paid meal break | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |
| Unpaid meal break | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

| <u>Working days</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 18 (+5.9%) | 17 (+13.3%) | 15 |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in items (b), (d) and (e), the figures are made based on part-year information of 2010-11.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen

Post Title:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date:

17 March 2011

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) **The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)**

| 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 (0%) | 5 (0%) | 5 |

(b) **Contract sums and duration of services**

| Contract sum | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| Less than \$0.5 million | 4 (0%) | 4 (+33.3%) | 3 |
| \$0.5 million to \$1 million | 1 (0%) | 1 (-50%) | 2 |
| Over \$1 million | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 5 (0%) | 5 (0%) | 5 |

| Duration of services | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 1 (0%) | 1 (0%) | 1 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 4 (0%) | 4 (0%) | 4 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 5 (0%) | 5 (0%) | 5 |

(c) **Commission paid to EAs**

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the departments to specify the amount or the rate of commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

| | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of workers | 39 (0%) | 39 (+11.4%) | 35 |

| Job categories of workers ^{Note} | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Backend office support | 39 (0%) | 39 (+11.4%) | 35 |
| Technical services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 39 (0%) | 39 (+11.4%) | 35 |

Note: Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

All our contracts made with EAs from 2008-09 to 2010-11 did not involve the supply of non-skilled workers.^{Note} For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers and we do not have information about the salary of the agency workers. Since April 2010, we have also specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April to September 2010, the minimum monthly wages specified in the contracts ranged from \$6,800 to \$8,000.

Note: As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement also applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10.4% | 10.7% | 9.6% |

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.2% | 1.2% | 1% |

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days

| <u>Working days</u> | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of workers</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 39 (0%) | 39 (+11.4%) | 35 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 39 (0%) | 39 (+11.4%) | 35 |

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen

Post Title:

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date:

17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)109

Question Serial No.

2976

Head : 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of outsourced service contracts | () | () | () | () |
| Total expenditure for outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each outsourced service provider | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology) | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 (0%) | 2 (0%) | 2 |

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0.53 M (-18.5%) | 0.65 M (+3.2%) | 0.63 M |

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

| <u>Duration of service</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 1 (-50%) | 2 (+100%) | 1 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 1 (+100%) | 0 (-100%) | 1 |
| Over 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 2 (0%) | 2 (0%) | 2 |

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7 (0%) | 7 (0%) | 7 |

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

| Nature of service contracts | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Customer services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Property management | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Security | 3 (0%) | 3 (0%) | 3 |
| Cleansing | 4 (0%) | 4 (0%) | 4 |
| Information technology | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Others (please specify) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 7 (0%) | 7 (0%) | 7 |

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

The contractors are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. For 2010-11 (up to December 2010), the minimum monthly salaries specified in the contracts ranged from \$5,900 to \$7,100.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2% | 2% | 2.1% |

(i) Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% |

(j) Meal break for outsourced workers

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) Number of outsourced workers against working days

| <u>Working days</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of workers</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 working days per week | 7 (0%) | 7 (0%) | 7 |
| Total: | 7 (0%) | 7 (0%) | 7 |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in item (b), the figures are made based on part-year information in 2010-11.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date:

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)110

Head : 42- Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

2608

Programme : (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The number of lifts and escalators inspections in year of 2011 was lower than that of years 2009 and 2010. With numerous lift incidents, will the Administration consider to increase the number of inspections in order to ensure the safety of lifts and escalators? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

Since 2009, we have stepped up the level of inspection from one-out-of-ten to one-out-of-seven so as to enhance safety of lifts and escalators. The estimated number of inspections in 2011 (9 100 nos) is at the same level of inspection as in 2010 (9 107 nos), and both meet the one-out-of-seven inspection rate. The comparatively higher inspection number of 9 888 in 2009 as a result of additional lift inspections carried out for lifts under Tenants Purchase Scheme estates of the Housing Authority, which was successfully completed in 2009. In addition to stepping up inspection, other enhancement measures such as enhancing the code of practice for lift and escalator works, disclosure of contractor's performance, and enhancing publicity, have been gradually put in place to enhance lift and escalator safety in Hong Kong. Besides, we plan to introduce a Bill to repeal the existing Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap 327) to strengthen regulatory control over the safety of lifts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Chan Hung-Cheung, Stephen

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB (W) 111

Head : 42- Electrical and Mechanical
 Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational
 Expenses

Question Serial No.

2974

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The revised estimate for Mandatory Provident Fund contribution under personnel related expenses for the year 2010-11 has exceeded the original estimate by \$106 000. What is the reason for this? If the increased expenses are for the employment of additional staff, please provide information as to the number of staff employed, and the posts and job duties involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The increase of \$106,000 in the revised estimate for the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contribution under personnel related expenses for the year 2010-11 is due to the MPF contribution for 16 civil servants newly posted to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in 2010. The details of the 16 staff are tabulated below :

| Rank | Number of staff | Job Duties | New / Vacant Post |
|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|
| Electrical and Mechanical Engineer | 2 | Strengthening the regulatory control on lift safety | Vacant post |
| | 1 | Strengthening the regulatory control on lift safety | New post |
| | 1 | Enforcing the builders' lifts and towers working platform safety | Vacant post |
| | 1 | Administering the Fresh Water Cooling Towers Scheme | Vacant post |
| | 1 | Regulating the tramway and peak tram safety | Vacant post |
| Building Services Engineer | 1 | Administering energy efficiency projects | Vacant post |

| | | | |
|--|----|--|-------------|
| Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer | 1 | Enforcing the Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance | Vacant post |
| | 1 | Enforcing the Gas Safety Ordinance | Vacant post |
| Assistant Electrical Inspector | 1 | Administering the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme | Vacant post |
| | 1 | Executing the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations and carrying out inspections of electrical installations | Vacant post |
| Assistant Mechanical Inspector | 1 | Handling applications relating to builders' lifts and tower working platforms and applications for registration of vehicle mechanics | Vacant post |
| | 1 | Enforcing the Gas Safety Ordinance | Vacant post |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 2 | Performing clerical duties | Vacant post |
| Motor Driver | 1 | Performing driving duties | Vacant post |
| Total no. of posts : | 16 | | |

Signature :

Name in block : CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen
letters

Post Title : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date : 18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)112

Head : 42- Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3251

Programme : (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) In the financial year of 2010-11, what measures has the Administration implemented to enhance the safety of lifts? What is the expenditure?
- (b) Will the Government consider increasing the resources to step up the inspection for all lifts in Hong Kong in order to ensure the safety of lifts?

Asked by : Hon. Tanya CHAN

Reply :

- (a) In 2010-11, we continue to step up the level of lift inspection from one-out-of-ten to one-out-of-seven. In addition to stepping up lift inspection, we have gradually put in place a series of lift safety enhancement measures, including the enhancement of the Code of Practice for Lift Works, disclosure of lift contractors' performance, and strengthening of publicity and public education on lift safety. To strengthen regulatory control over the safety of lifts, we are working on a Bill to repeal the existing Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327) with a view to introducing the Bill to the Legislative Council in mid-2011. The estimated expenditure involved in regulating and enhancing the safety of lifts and escalators in 2010-11 is about \$30 million.
- (b) Eight new posts comprising one engineer and seven inspectorate posts were created in 2010-11 to step up lift inspection and undertake other enhancement measures. We will deploy existing resources to continue the enhancement measures in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Chan Hung-Cheung, Stephen _____

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services _____

Date _____ 17 March 2011 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

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

DEVB(W)113

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical
Services Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

3177

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the department:

- a. What is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- b. What specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- c. Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- d. What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMU? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- e. Has the effectiveness of ITMU been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply:

- a. The estimated expenditure for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in 2011-12 is about \$3.6 million which is the same as the estimated expenditure in 2010-11.

b. The major on-going projects of ITMU in 2011-12 are listed below:

| Work | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Civil service staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | |
| Support of Business Applications and Operations | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3.6 |

In addition, new projects in 2011-12 funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation Subhead A007GX are listed below:

| Project | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated Expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) | Completion date |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | Civil service staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | | |
| Data Management System for Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.5 | December 2011 |
| Data Management System for Mandatory Building Energy Code | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5.7 | July 2013 |

- c. Both of the two new projects above have incorporated the e-engagement and the relevant costs have been included in the project expenditures.
- d. The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the ITMU are as follows:

| Grade | Establishment | Strength | Vacancy |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Systems Manager | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Senior Information Technology Officer | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 3 | 0 |

The present setup and establishment are considered appropriate and adequate. There is no need to increase the manpower at this moment.

- e. Under the existing governance mechanism, we have established the Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan of ITMU every year. We also conduct regular review to gauge the quality of services provided by the ITMU to assure its effectiveness and enhance the services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Chan Hung-cheung, Stephen

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 18 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)114

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1504

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide details about the estimated amount of resources to be invested in improving the safety and appearance of roadside slopes in 2011-12 financial year, as well as the number of works projects and locations involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for improving the safety and appearance of roadside slopes in 2011-12 is about \$53 million, involving slopes at the following locations:

Improving Safety and Appearance

| Location | No. of works projects involved |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Central | 1 |
| Sheung Wan | 1 |
| Wan Chai | 1 |
| Sai Wan Ho | 2 |
| Tai Hang | 1 |
| Big Wave Bay | 1 |
| Chung Hom Kok | 1 |
| Kennedy Town | 2 |
| Pok Fu Lam | 2 |
| Red Hill | 1 |
| Repulse Bay | 3 |
| Stanley | 3 |
| Wong Chuk Hang | 2 |
| Cheung Sha Wan | 1 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 |

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

DEVB(W)115

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3047

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the streetscape improvement and greening measures to be taken by the Department and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

It is our practice to explore the possibility of undertaking streetscape enhancement and greening in conjunction with our maintenance and minor improvement works. Streetscape enhancement work usually includes upgrading of pavement, lighting, street furniture etc. as well as related greening works where feasible. The expenditure for these streetscape enhancement and greening works in 2011-12 is estimated at about \$43 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 18 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)116

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3048

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Prior to greening or tree planting, will the Department consider the suitability of works to be carried out or the species of trees to be planted?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Department considers all relevant factors, such as the planting location, site conditions, the planting objective, etc., before proceeding to greening and tree planting. Site constraints, e.g. proximity to services or safety issues such as sight-lines and visibility for vehicles or pedestrians, are particularly relevant considerations in the greening works carried out by Highways Department.

As regards the selection of tree species, an important principle is selecting the right tree for the right place so that the selected species will perform satisfactorily over time. Criteria including pollution tolerance, growth form, rooting typology, shading ability, seasonal interest, maintenance requirements will be taken into account in the species selection process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 18 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)117

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3049

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Are there any arborists currently being employed by the Highways Department to carry out works relating to tree planting, pruning or removal? If yes, please inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Highways Department engages term contractors for carrying out vegetation management works, including tree planting, pruning and removal. The terms contractors may hire tree specialists such as certified arborists to carry out necessary arboricultural works, including tree risk assessment and tree works such as pruning. The estimated expenditure in 2011-12 for engaging tree specialist service in vegetation maintenance work is \$6.6 million. Currently, 22 officers in Highways Department are engaged in vegetation management duties, including managing these term contractors. Among them, six are landscape architects of whom one is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 18 March 2011

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

DEVB(W)118

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3050

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) the measures to be taken by the Highways Department (HyD) to improve the safety and appearance of slopes, as well as the expenditure involved;
- (b) the number of slopes on which tree planting or greening works relating to the improvement in appearance will be carried out, as well as the expenditure involved; and
- (c) the number of staff in HyD responsible for managing trees at the roadside or on the slopes on Hong Kong Island at present, and whether HyD will consider allocating more resources for tree management.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) The Highways Department (HyD) will upgrade those roadside slopes of which the factor of safety is not up to standard. On completion of the structural upgrading, HyD will also take the opportunity to enhance their appearance. The slope appearance improvement works include measures for improving planting opportunities on slope and appearance of hard slope surfaces. The expenditure involved in upgrading works and appearance improvement works for 2011-12 is estimated at about \$53 million.
- (b) HyD will carry out tree planting or greening work for about 50 slopes in 2011-12 at an estimated expenditure of about \$6 million.
- (c) A Senior Landscape Architect (SLA) is responsible for maintaining and managing vegetation on roadside slopes under HyD's responsibility. The SLA is supported by Landscape Architects (LA) and site staff. For Hong Kong Island, the supporting staff consist of a team of one LA and three site staff working full time and another team of one LA and three site staff on a part-time basis. In addition, HyD has engaged contractors to assist in tree management. We do not have plans to create additional posts in 2011-12 to undertake tree management responsibility.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)120

Question Serial No.

2088

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 223 Purchase of Water

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the purchase of water, the Administration estimates that the expenditure in 2011-12 is \$3,344 million. Comparing with the expenditure of \$3,182 million in 2010-11, there is an increase of more than \$100 million. What is the reason for that? Since water is precious resource, does the Administration have any plan to encourage the public to conserve water? If so, what are the details? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the purchase of water in 2011-12 is based on the annual lump sum prices set out in the current agreement for the purchase of Dongjiang water. The increase in the estimated expenditure is a reflection of the general increase in these agreed annual lump sum prices from 2009 to 2011.

We have been implementing the Total Water Management Strategy since 2008, of which promotion for conservation of precious water resources is a key element. We have focussed our efforts on school students including distributing an information kit to all primary schools, preparing a set of teaching kit for secondary schools, conducting talks and roving exhibitions at schools and organising the water conservation ambassadors selection scheme for primary students. In addition, we have organised a water conservation design competition among students of tertiary educational institutions, catering service sector and property management sector. We will also continue with our on-going water conservation publicity and public education activities, which include broadcasting announcements of public interest on television and radio, distributing leaflets and posters as well as arranging regular exhibitions, talks and seminars. Apart from the above, we have implemented a voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme to facilitate the public to select water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)121

Question Serial No.

3174

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by NCSC staff | | | | |
| Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff | () | () | () | () |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of NCSC staff | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 – 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 – 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs, we are unable to provide the information for 2011-12.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

| Job nature | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| Professional | 6 (-25.0%) | 8 (-38.5%) | 13 |
| Technical & inspectorate | 5 (0%) | 5 (-68.8%) | 16 |
| General administration | 78 (-11.4%) | 88 (+4.8%) | 84 |
| Total: | 89 (-11.9%) | 101 (-10.6%) | 113 |

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 17.5 (-33.2%) | 26.2 (-33.3%) | 39.3 |

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

| Monthly salary | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of NCSC staff | | |
| \$30,001 or above | 12 (0%) | 12 (-20.0%) | 15 |
| \$16,001 to \$30,000 | 8 (-33.3%) | 12 (-53.8%) | 26 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| \$8,001 to \$16,000 | 69 (-10.4%) | 77 (+10.0%) | 70 |
| \$6,501 to \$8,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,001 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 (-100.0%) | 2 |
| \$5,000 or less | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 89 (-11.9%) | 101 (-10.6%) | 113 |
| Less than \$5,824 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \$5,824 to \$6,500 | 0 | 0 (-100.0%) | 2 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 (-100.0%) | 2 |

| <u>Length of services</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| 5 years or above | 49 (+22.5%) | 40 (-29.8%) | 57 |
| 3 years to less than 5 years | 9 (-60.9%) | 23 (+4.5%) | 22 |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | 20 (+150%) | 8 (-60.0%) | 20 |
| Less than 1 year | 11 (-63.3%) | 30 (+114.3%) | 14 |
| Total: | 89 (-11.9%) | 101 (-10.6%) | 113 |

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15 (-11.8%) | 17 (-45.2%) | 31 |

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No record | No record | No record |

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2.0% | 2.2% | 2.5% |

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.7% | 1.9% | 2.8% |

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

| <u>Meal break</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| Paid meal break | 66 (-10.8%) | 74 (-14.0%) | 86 |
| Unpaid meal break | 23 (-14.8%) | 27 (0%) | 27 |
| Total: | 89 (-11.9%) | 101 (-10.6%) | 113 |

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

| <u>Working days</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of NCSC staff</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week ^(Note) | 89 (-11.9%) | 101 (-10.6%) | 113 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 89 (-11.9%) | 101 (-10.6%) | 113 |

Note: Including staff who are rostered to work shift for 5 days or less in a week

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in items (b), (d) and (e), the figures are made based on part-year information of 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)122

Question Serial No.

3175

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of contracts with employment agencies | () | () | () | () |
| Contract sum paid to each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each employment agency | () | () | () | () |
| Number of agency workers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by agency workers | | | | |
| Monthly salary range of agency workers | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of agency workers | | | | |
| • 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| • 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| • 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| • less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

| 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12 (0%) | 12 (+9.1%) | 11 |

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

| Contract sum | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| Less than \$0.5 million | 0 (-100.0%) | 1 (-50.0%) | 2 |
| \$0.5 million to \$1 million | 3 (0%) | 3 (-25.0%) | 4 |
| Over \$1 million | 9 (+12.5%) | 8 (+60.0%) | 5 |
| Total: | 12 (0%) | 12 (+9.1%) | 11 |

| Duration of services | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 1 (-50.0%) | 2 (0%) | 2 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 10 (+25.0%) | 8 (+33.3%) | 6 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 1 (-50.0%) | 2 (-33.3%) | 3 |
| Over 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 12 (0%) | 12 (+9.1%) | 11 |

(c) Commission paid to EAs

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the departments to specify the amount or the rate of commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on

the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

| | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of workers | 128 (+5.8%) | 121 (-17.7%) | 147 |

| Job categories of workers ^{Note} | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Backend office support | 32 (+6.7%) | 30 (-46.4%) | 56 |
| Technical services | 96 (+5.5%) | 91 (0%) | 91 |
| Total: | 128 (+5.8%) | 121 (-17.7%) | 147 |

Note: Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

All our contracts made with EAs from 2008-09 to 2010-11 did not involve the supply of non-skilled workers. ^{Note} For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers and we do not have information about the salary of the agency workers. Since April 2010, we have also specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April to September 2010, the minimum monthly wages specified in the contracts ranged from \$7,183 to \$7,523.

Note: As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement also applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers ^{Note} against the total number of staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2.6% | 2.5% | 2.2% |

Note: For full-time workers only.

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

| 2010-11 (up to 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1% | 1% | 0.8% |

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days ^{Note}

| <u>Working days</u> | 2010-11 (as at 30.9.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of workers</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 118 (+5.4%) | 112 (+8.7%) | 103 |
| 6 working days per week | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 118 (+5.4%) | 112 (+8.7%) | 103 |

Note: For full-time workers only.

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)123

Question Serial No.

3176

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

| | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of outsourced service contracts | () | () | () | () |
| Total expenditure for outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Duration of service for each outsourced service provider | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers | () | () | () | () |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology) | () | () | () | () |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers | | | | |
| • \$30,001 or above | () | () | () | () |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| • \$5,000 or below | () | () | () | () |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824 | () | () | () | () |
| number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 | () | () | () | () |
| Length of service of outsourced workers | | | | |
| (a) 5 years or above | () | () | () | () |
| (b) 3 - 5 years | () | () | () | () |
| (c) 1 - 3 years | () | () | () | () |
| less than 1 year | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers with paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers without paid meal break | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 5 days per week | () | () | () | () |
| Number of workers working 6 days per week | () | () | () | () |

Figures in () denote year-on-year increase/decrease changes

Asked by :

Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, information technology support, etc. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 45 (-16.7%) | 54 (+17.4%) | 46 |

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 41.5 (-21.0%) | 52.5 (+6.7%) | 49.2 |

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

| <u>Duration of service</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of contracts | | |
| 6 months or less | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 6 months to 1 year | 12 (0%) | 12 (+140%) | 5 |
| Over 1 year to 2 years | 28 (-24.3%) | 37 (+2.8%) | 36 |
| Over 2 years | 5 (0%) | 5 (0%) | 5 |
| Total: | 45 (-16.7%) | 54 (+17.4%) | 46 |

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers ^{Note}

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 253 (+7.7%) | 235 (+10.8%) | 212 |

Note : Only those contracts with specified number of staff to be provided are counted.

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

| Nature of service contracts | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of workers | | |
| Customer services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Property management | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Security | 104 (+7.2%) | 97 (+4.3%) | 93 |
| Cleansing | 56 (+7.7%) | 52 (+4%) | 50 |
| Information Technology | 13 (+44.4%) | 9 (+50%) | 6 |
| Drivers | 72 (0%) | 72 (+14.3%) | 63 |
| Logistics (Store support) | 8 (+60%) | 5 (-) | 0 |
| Total: | 253 (+7.7%) | 235 (+10.8%) | 212 |

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

For service contracts on security, cleansing and logistics, the contractors are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. For 2010-11 (up to December 2010), the minimum monthly salaries specified in the contracts ranged from \$5,001 to \$8,000.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

| 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5.6% | 5.2% | 4.6% |

(i) Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) |
| 4.1% | 3.8% | 3.5% |

(j) Meal break for outsourced workers

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) Number of outsourced workers against working days

| <u>Working days</u> | 2010-11 (as at 31.12.10) | 2009-10 (as at 31.3.10) | 2008-09 (as at 31.3.09) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Number of workers</u> | | |
| 5 working days per week | 125 (+9.6%) | 114 (+16.3%) | 98 |
| 6 working days per week | 128 (+5.8%) | 121 (+6.1%) | 114 |
| Total: | 253 (+7.7%) | 235 (+10.8%) | 212 |

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in item (b), the figures are made based on part-year information in 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)124

Question Serial No.

3879

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 :

- (a) It is mentioned in paragraph 72 of the Budget Speech that “water mains in various districts will be replaced and rehabilitated”. Could the authorities please advise the progress of the replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains in the past 3 years? Is the progress of the programme as expected?
- (b) Regarding the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, what is the specific target for next year and the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) What is the authorities’ expected completion date of the entire replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains and can the replacement work be expedited in light of the aging of water mains?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) In the past three financial years (2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11), we replaced and rehabilitated about 1075 km of aged water mains throughout the territory. The progress is on schedule.
- (b) In 2011-12, a total of about 330 km of water mains is planned to be replaced or rehabilitated. The estimated expenditure under the water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme in 2011-12 is \$2.2 billion.
- (c) The replacement and rehabilitation programme was originally planned for implementation in stages over a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. Since 2005, we have redeployed more resources and compressed the works programme to advance the target completion date of the entire project by 5 years, i.e. completion by 2015.

The programme is very much fast-tracked taking note of the various constraints like the need to minimise traffic impacts, extensive roadwork coordinations and congested underground utilities. We will however keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and reschedule to bring forward the works of those aged water mains in need of earlier replacement or rehabilitation.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)125

Question Serial No.

1943

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 implementation of the meter replacement programme and improvements to the Customer Care and Billing System, please advise:

- (a) the annual progress, the expenditure and manpower involved in the above two projects respectively in the past three years;
- (b) the future work plans, the expenditure and manpower involved respectively.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-Wai

Reply :

- (a) In 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11, we replaced respectively 250 000, 210 000 and 210 000 aged water meters. The respective expenditure was \$48 million, \$41 million and \$41 million. About 80% of the meters replaced was carried out through our contractors and the remainder by our in-house staff. In each of the past three financial years, about 50 staff were deployed on the task.

In respect of the billing system, we incurred \$3.5 million, \$0.2 million, and \$1.4 million for improvement of the Customer Care and Billing System by the maintenance contractor of the billing system in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, and deploy eight staff on a part-time basis to supervise the contractor's work.

- (b) We will continue to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2011-12 with similar staff deployment and expenditure.

Further enhancement to the billing system will continue in 2011-12 with similar staff deployment. A higher estimated expenditure for the enhancement of about \$15 million is earmarked for the procurement of hardware and software upgrades.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)126

Question Serial No.

1378

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In matters requiring special attention in 2011-12, regarding the on-going meter replacement programme, please provide details including the number of old meters replaced and the number of complaints on meters received in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11); the number of meters to be replaced in 2011-12 and the time schedule. Please also provide the expenditure and manpower involved in the meter replacement programme in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11) and the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11, we replaced respectively 250 000, 210 000 and 210 000 aged water meters. The respective expenditure was \$48 million, \$41 million and \$41 million. About 80% of the meter replacement works was carried out through contractors and the remainder by our in-house staff. In each of the past three financial years, about 50 staff were deployed on the task. We will continue to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2011-12 with similar staff deployment. The number of disputes over the accuracy of the water meters received in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) were 519, 687 and 499 respectively. Of these cases, there were 40, 47 and 26 cases in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) respectively which required downward adjustment of the bill amounts. The remaining cases did not involve inaccuracy of the water meters requiring bill adjustment.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)127

Question Serial No.

1328

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 :

a. How many water main burst cases were recorded in the past three financial years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11)? How much fresh water was lost due to the bursting of water mains? What was the expenditure involved?

b. How many kilometres of water mains were replaced and rehabilitated in the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

(a) The details of water main burst cases in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) are shown in the table below -

| Year | Number of water main burst cases | Estimated quantity of fresh water lost (cubic metres) | Cost (\$) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 2008-09 | 1323 | 125 000 | 875,000 |
| 2009-10 | 988 | 97 000 | 679,000 |
| 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) | 576 | 77 000 | 539,000 |

- (b) The lengths of water mains replaced and rehabilitated in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) are 306, 459 and 284 kilometres respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)128

Question Serial No.

1351

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 :

- a. What is the definition of leakage of water mains? What are the causes of leakage?
- b. The leakage rate of water mains in 2009 and 2010 was 21% and 20% respectively. Is the leakage of water mains in Hong Kong serious or normal as compared with international standards or other major regions?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) Water main leakage is the seeping of water from an in-service pressurised water main. There are many factors contributing to water leakage including high operating pressure, aging, corrosion and external disturbance.
- (b) Compared with the water mains leakage rate of some major regions, for example, United Kingdom at 23.5% and United States of America at 14.7%, the water mains leakage rate of Hong Kong is considered to be at a medium level.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)129

Question Serial No.

1352

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 700

General Non-recurrent Expenditure

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2010-11, there is a general non-recurrent expenditure of \$9,700,000 in Water Supplies Department. What is the purpose of the said expenditure? Why the provision for the item is estimated to be zero in 2011-12?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2010-11, the Water Supplies Department has carried out a pilot scheme to explore the practicality and effectiveness of applying the technology of sensor leakage detection of in-service pressurized water mains in Hong Kong. The funding requirement for the pilot scheme under Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent is \$9.7 million. There is no such funding requirement in 2011-12 upon completion of the pilot scheme in 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)130

Question Serial No.

2368

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 operation and maintenance of the fresh and salt water supply and distribution systems, does the Administration maintain detailed information on the distribution of fresh water mains in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department maintains detailed records of its fresh and salt water mains in a computerised geographic information system to facilitate operation and maintenance of the water mains.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)131

Question Serial No.

2369

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 :

Generally speaking, in case of burst water mains, how long does it take for the Water Supplies Department on average to turn off the stopcock of the pipe concerned, to repair/replace the pipe and restore fresh water supply to the affected area?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2010-11 (up to 28 February 2011), the average time taken for turning off valves to enable repair / replacement work of a burst water main was 1.8 hours, while the average time for repairing or replacing the relevant section of the burst water main was 8.6 hours. For cases affecting fresh water supply, the average time for resuming the service of the burst water main concerned was 4.2 hours.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)132

Question Serial No.

2370

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 handling of burst water mains, has the Water Supplies Department set a performance target for urgent repairs? If yes, please advise the details? If no, will the Department consider setting a performance target for urgent repairs so as to minimize the effect on the public?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department has set performance pledges relating to emergency water main burst repair work in respect of -

- (a) the time for isolation of the burst main – this refers to the time for shutting off valves to enable repair work; and
- (b) the duration of supply interruption – this refers to the time taken for resuming the service of the burst water main.

Details are as follows -

| Services | Targets |
|---|---|
| Time for isolation of burst main upon receipt of report | |
| - for pipe diameter up to 300mm | (i) 94% within 1.5 hours (ii) 75% within 1 hour and 15 minutes |
| - for pipe diameter above 300mm to 600mm | (i) 94% within 2.5 hours (ii) 75% within 2 hours |
| Maximum duration of supply interruption due to fresh water main burst | 85% within 8 hours 70% within 7 hours |

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)133

Question Serial No.

2537

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 :

Could the Administration please list out by district the number of cases of leakage of water mains, the number of people affected and the average time taken for the completion of the repairs of water mains in the 18 districts in Hong Kong in 2010-11?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The number of water main leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong in 2010-11 up to end February 2011 is tabulated below –

| District | Number of water main leakage cases |
|---------------------|---|
| Central and Western | 836 |
| Eastern | 383 |
| Islands | 299 |
| Kowloon City | 571 |
| Kwai Tsing | 307 |
| Kwun Tong | 388 |
| North | 869 |
| Sai Kung | 1 053 |
| Sha Tin | 432 |
| Sham Shui Po | 360 |
| Southern | 378 |
| Tai Po | 517 |
| Tsuen Wan | 415 |
| Tuen Mun | 675 |
| Wan Chai | 510 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 168 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 560 |
| Yuen Long | 2 615 |

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Total | 11 336 |
|--------------|---------------|

We did not retrieve the number of households in the areas affected for record purpose, noting that any water stoppages were to be resumed the soonest possible.

The average time taken for the completion of the repair of the leaking water mains was 2.5 hours.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)134

Question Serial No.

2538

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 were the total amounts of fresh water wasted due to the leakage of water mains in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) respectively? Has the Administration set any specific targets to reduce the leakage rate of water mains?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The leakage rates for 2008, 2009 and 2010 are 21.8%, 21% and 20% respectively. The leakage rate over the past years is on a decreasing trend and a target of 15% by 2015 is set. The Department will continue enhancing its multi-pronged approach including water mains replacement and rehabilitation, pressure management and leakage detection to reduce leakage rate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)135

Question Serial No.

2539

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 implementation of the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme, please advise this Committee:

- (a) To date, how many manufacturers, importers and related operators have participated in the Scheme? How many types of water efficient products are available on the market in total? Please list out the products by category.
- (b) Are there any cases of withdrawal of products from the Scheme? If yes, what are the number of cases and products concerned respectively?
- (c) What is the number of random checks made by the authorities on the products participated in the Scheme? Has the water efficiency of any product been found incompatible with its labelling? If yes, what are the number of the cases and products concerned respectively?
- (d) Please provide details on the next phase of the Scheme, including the implementation schedule, products to be included in the Scheme, the expenditure involved and promotion strategy.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) We have launched the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) for showers for bathing and taps. Up to 7 March 2011, 21 importers of showers for bathing and 5 importers of taps have participated in the Scheme with 133 showers for bathing and 34 taps registered respectively.
- (b) There has not been any cases of withdrawal of products from the WELS.
- (c) We carry out random half-yearly inspections on showers for bathing and taps registered under the WELS at retail outlets or product showrooms. So far, no

incompatibility or unauthorised use of the WELS label has been found.

- (d) We will launch the schemes on washing machines and urinals in March 2011 and early 2012 respectively, with an estimated cost of \$4.2 million. We will continue to arouse public attention to water conservation by promotion of the benefits of using different water efficient products through various means including TV and radio announcements, leaflets, posters and bus-body advertisements.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)136

Question Serial No.

2540

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As indicated by the Water Supplies Department, the accuracy rate of water meters was about 94% in 2009 and 2010, which was way below 100% set by the target, what were the reasons? Apart from replacing old water meters, what specific plans do the authorities have to enhance the overall accuracy of water meters?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The "accuracy of water meters" refers to the percentage of water meters of which the accuracy of registered readings is within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption. Due to mechanical wear and tear, aged water meters become less accurate in registering the amount of water used. Replacement of aged meters is the most cost effective way to enhance their overall accuracy.

The target 100% represents the long-term goal that 100% of our water meters can attain the accuracy level within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption. With regular replacement of aged water meters over the years, 92.7% of the water meters attained this level of accuracy in 2006, improving to 94.8% in 2010. We will strive to sustain the improvement by continuing with the meter replacement programme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)137

Question Serial No.

0900

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 223 Purchase of Water

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

There is an increase of 5.1% in the recurrent estimated expenditure for the purchase of water in 2011-12 as compared with the revised estimate in 2010-11. This increase is lower than the 6.3% increase between the revised estimate for the purchase of water in 2010-11 and the actual expenditure for the purchase of water in 2009-10. What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po Paul

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the purchase of water in the financial year of 2011-12 is based on the annual lump sum prices for the calendar years of 2009, 2010 and 2011 set out in the current agreement for the purchase of Dongjiang water. There is a general increase in these annual lump sum prices from 2009 to 2011. As the current Dongjiang water supply agreement covers the period up to the end of the calendar year of 2011 only, the actual purchase price of Dongjiang water for the last quarter of 2011-12 (i.e. from 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012) will be subject to the new Dongjiang water supply agreement, which is to be negotiated and agreed between Guangdong and Hong Kong this year. For the purpose of budgeting, the purchase price for the last quarter of 2011-12 is assumed to stay at the same price level as the first three quarters of 2011-12, thereby resulting in a lower percentage of overall increase for 2011-12 when compared with the corresponding percentage for 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)138

Question Serial No.

3478

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What was the number of cases of burst and leakage of water mains handled by the Department respectively in 2010? What was the Department's estimated total amount of lost fresh water caused by the incidents? What was the cost involved? Will the Administration adjust the progress of the water mains replacement works and deploy suitable resources as support in light of the above situation and statistics? If yes, what are the relevant work plan, work schedule and estimated expenditure? If no adjustments will be made, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

With service reservoirs located on high altitude for supply to premises at different levels, water mains in Hong Kong are operating under a relatively high water pressure and the associated water mains leakage is more an operational constraint than a loss. In 2010, there were 671 burst incidents and 12 460 leak incidents. The fresh water leakage rate was 20% while the water lost through fresh water main bursts was about 96 000 cubic metres, which was estimated to cost \$672,000 based on the average production cost. The Water Supplies Department has been adopting a multi-pronged approach including water mains replacement and rehabilitation, pressure management and leakage control to reduce leakage. As a result, the leakage rate over the past several years is on a decreasing trend and a target of 15% is set for 2015.

The water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme was originally planned for implementation over a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. Since 2005, we have redeployed more resources to advance the completion of the programme by five years, i.e. completion by 2015. The programme is very much fast-tracked taking note of the various constraints like the need to minimise traffic impacts, extensive roadwork coordinations and congested

underground utilities. We would however keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and reschedule the work programme to bring forward the works of those aged water mains in need of earlier replacement or rehabilitation.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)139

Question Serial No.

3479

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 2010, what was the total quantity of the discharge of water to the sea due to overflow from our reservoirs? What was the loss as a result of this? In view of this, in 2011-12, will the Government discuss with the mainland authorities to adjust the amount of Dongjiang water supplied to Hong Kong so as to reduce the government expenditure? If so, what are the details? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In 2010, the total quantity of reservoir overflow was about 25 million cubic metres. The overflow mainly occurred in small reservoirs during heavy rainstorms, which is quite unavoidable given their limited storage capacities. Such overflow does not involve any Dongjiang water and is really an operational constraint rather than a loss. The current Dongjiang water supply agreement already has provisions for adjusting the daily supply rate of Dongjiang water according to our need for better control of the storage level of our large reservoirs in which Dongjiang water is stored.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)140

Question Serial No.

0006

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 bursting or apparent leaking of water pipes, could the Authorities advise this Committee: listing out by district in accordance with the demarcation of district councils the number of cases of bursting or apparent leaking of fresh water pipes and salt water pipes in the past year (i.e. 2010-11); the main cause of bursting or apparent leaking after investigations; the longest and average hours of suspension of water supply affecting the general public as a result; and the longest and average time taken by the Department's staff for attending urgent repairs upon the outbreak of the incidents?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The number of fresh and salt water main burst and leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong in 2010-11 up to end February 2011 is tabulated below -

| District | Number of water main burst and leakage cases | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Water main bursts | Water main leakage |
| Central and Western | 14 | 836 |
| Eastern | 16 | 383 |
| Islands | 0 | 299 |
| Kowloon City | 49 | 571 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 307 |
| Kwun Tong | 94 | 388 |
| North | 9 | 869 |
| Sai Kung | 15 | 1 053 |
| Sha Tin | 60 | 432 |

| District | Number of water main burst and leakage cases | |
|---------------|--|--------------------|
| | Water main bursts | Water main leakage |
| Sham Shui Po | 63 | 360 |
| Southern | 46 | 378 |
| Tai Po | 22 | 517 |
| Tsuen Wan | 6 | 415 |
| Tuen Mun | 27 | 675 |
| Wan Chai | 15 | 510 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 15 | 168 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 73 | 560 |
| Yuen Long | 20 | 2 615 |
| Total | 576 | 11 336 |

The main causes for the water main bursts and leakage were high operating pressure, aging, corrosion and external disturbance.

For water main bursts, in 2010-11 (up to end February 2011), the average and longest time for resuming water supply in respect of fresh water main were 4.2 and 23.3 hours respectively, and those of salt water main were 10.3 and 54.1 hours respectively. For water main leakage, the average and longest time for resuming water supply in respect of the fresh water main in 2010-11 were 1.7 and 42 hours respectively, and those of salt water main were 6.3 and 69.0 hours respectively. The cases with longer time for resuming the water supply service were isolated cases involving congested ground condition with lots of pipes and trunks of the utility companies, requiring breaking of large concrete blocks, fabrication of special pipe fittings to suit site conditions, and laying of by-pass water mains.

The average and longest time taken by the staff of the Water Supplies Department for attending to urgent repairs upon receipt of report on water main burst were 0.4 hour and 2.4 hours respectively. The case with the longest time was an isolated case, where the concerned water main was located in a remote part of the territory without vehicular access.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)141

Question Serial No.

0007

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Could the Administration advise this Committee: the number of cases received by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) from registered consumers querying the accuracy of water meters and requesting water meter tests in 2010-11; the number of bills requiring adjustments due to inaccuracy of water meter as confirmed in the follow-up investigation of the water meter and the amount involved; were the newly replaced water meters involved in the problematic water meters; did the Department investigate the causes of the inaccuracy of the water meters; if yes, what were the causes?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Out of the 6.9 million water bills issued by the WSD for 2010-11 up to end February 2011, there were 499 cases of dispute over the accuracy of water meters, wherein the registered consumers requested for meter testing. After testing and follow-up investigations, 26 cases were found involving inaccuracy of water meters which required downward adjustment of the bills amounting to \$246,608 in total. No newly replaced water meter was involved in these cases, whilst subsequent investigation revealed that the inaccuracy of the inaccurate water meters concerned was due to wear and tear.

Signature

L T MA

Name in block letters

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)142

Question Serial No.

0008

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 :

Could the Administration advise this Committee: the proportion of the sources (i.e. locally collected rainwater and purchased Dongjiang water) of fresh water supply in Hong Kong in the past year (i.e. 2010-11); the latest cost comparison between the locally collected rainwater, Dongjiang water purchased from the Mainland and the production of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

From 1 April 2010 to 27 February 2011, the amount of rainwater collected locally and the amount of water imported from Dongjiang were 217 million cubic metres (25.3%) and 640 million cubic metres (74.7%) respectively. The proportion is therefore about 1 to 3. The unit costs of fresh water supply with source from locally collected rainwater is about \$3.6/m³ and that from Dongjiang water is \$7.5/m³. The estimated unit cost of supplying reclaimed water suitable only for non-potable use using reverse osmosis technology on secondary treated effluent with high saline content is around \$9.0/m³.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)143

Question Serial No.

2582

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 :

Under this programme, the authorities have indicated that the 4th stage of the works of the replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains will commence in 2011-12. What are the details of the works concerned? What districts are included? When will the works be expected to complete? What is the expenditure involved? During the implementation of the works, how many posts and man-months of job opportunities will be created?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

The first phase of works under Stage 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme will commence construction in March 2011. The works will involve replacement and rehabilitation of about 500 kilometres (km) of aged water mains in various districts throughout the territory. We estimate that this phase of the R&R works will cost about \$6.3 billion and will create about 1 440 jobs, providing a total employment of 73 800 man-months.

The remaining phase of works under Stage 4 of the R&R programme involving replacement and rehabilitation of about 350 km of aged water mains throughout the territory is still in the design stage. Subject to the completion of the design works and the approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence this remaining phase in 2012-13 for completion by 2015.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)144

Question Serial No.

2583

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 :

Under this programme, the authorities have indicated that the 2nd and 3rd stages of the construction works of the replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains will continue in 2011-12. What are the details of the works concerned? What districts are included? When will the two stages of works be expected to complete? What is the expenditure involved respectively? How many job opportunities and man-months will be created by the two stages of works respectively ?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

Stages 2 and 3 of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme involve replacement and rehabilitation of about 750 km and 800 km of aged water mains in various districts throughout the territory, which are planned to complete by June 2011 and December 2013 respectively. We estimate that the expenditures for Stages 2 and 3 works in 2011-12 will be about \$491 million and \$1,284 million respectively. The estimated numbers of jobs created by Stages 2 and 3 works are 1 080 and 1 900 respectively, providing total employment of 48 500 man-months and 109 000 man-months respectively.

Signature

L T MA

Name in block letters

Director of Water Supplies

Post Title

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)145

Question Serial No.

3746

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 authorities' expected leakage rate of water mains was 19% in 2011. What are the districts that the authorities expect to have the most serious cases of leakage? How many cubic metres of fresh water are lost due to the leakage of water mains each year and what is the value involved? What is the expenditure for urgent repairs of leaking water mains each year?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

With service reservoirs located at high altitude for water supply to premises at different levels, water mains in Hong Kong are operating under a relatively high water pressure which renders them more susceptible to leakage. Therefore, water mains leakage is considered more an operational constraint rather than a loss. The average annual expenditure for repair of water mains leakage was about \$80 million in the past three years.

As water leakage has occurred in various districts in the territory, there is no definite pattern as to where serious cases occur. We will continue our water mains replacement and rehabilitation works, pressure management and leakage control to minimise water leakage throughout the territory.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)146

Question Serial No.

3234

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Units (ITMUs) in government departments:

- (a) is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- (b) specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- (c) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMUs? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (e) Has the effectiveness of ITMUs been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by :

Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure of Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of Water Supplies Department in 2011-12 is about \$23 million which is comparable with the actual expenditure in 2010-11 of \$22.9 million.
- (b) The major on-going projects in 2011-12 are listed below:

| Project | No. of staff required in 2011-12 (see Note below) | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Civil service Staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | |
| Support of Business Applications and Operations | 10 | 2 | 5 | 23 |
| Support of IT Infrastructure and Facilities | | | | |
| Support of Business Strategy and Information Management | | | | |

Note: The team of staff shown is the current set up of the ITMU involved on a shared basis to take forward the work of the Unit. Further breakdown into individual items is not available.

In addition, new projects in 2011-12 funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 – Computerisation Subhead A007GX are listed below:

| Project | No. of staff required in 2011-12 | | | Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M) | Implementation Schedule |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Civil service staff | Non-civil service contract staff | Staff of outsourced service provider | | |
| Enhancement of the Maintenance Works Management System | The implementation of these projects are outsourced to contractors and are supervised by a team of in-house staff. Further breakdown into individual items is not available because the staff are involved on a shared basis. | | | 1.5 | 2012-13 |
| Enhancement of the Laboratory Information Management System | | | | 0.4 | 2011-12 |
| Enhancement of the Mobile Geographical Information System | | | | 0.3 | 2011-12 |
| Enhancement of the Electronic Mark Plant Circulation | | | | 1.7 | 2012-13 |

- (c) To promote communication with the public through electronic means, we have been disseminating and sharing information with public through our departmental website on the internet with channels provided for enquiries. The expenditure involved has been included in our departmental expenditure.
- (d) The ITMU has ten permanent civil servant posts, two NCSC and five outsourced staff. There is no vacancy in ITMU. The existing staff resource is considered adequate to deal with the workload of the unit. There is no need to increase the manpower in 2011-12.
- (e) Under the existing governance mechanism, we have established the Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan of ITMU every year. We will continue to review the quality of services provided by the ITMU to assure its effectiveness and enhance the services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)147

Question Serial No.

1388

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 709 – Waterworks

Subhead :

Programme : Public Works Programme

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the latest estimates by Administration about approved projects under Head 709, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- (a) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- (b) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- (c) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

On present projection, six on-going projects in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 709 will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to accomplish the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 709 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions,

site constraints, etc., which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011
