

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment
Session No. : 1**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-ENB01	S001	WONG Kwok-hing	42	Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
S-ENB02	S002	WONG Kwok-hing	44	Noise
S-ENB03	S003	WONG Kwok-hing	44	Noise
S-ENB04	S067	WONG Kwok-hing	44	Air

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ENB02

Question Serial No.

S002

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the timetable for constructing the noise barrier at Heng Fa Chuen in Chai Wan?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok- hing

Reply :

The Highways Department is assessing the technical feasibility of retrofitting noise barriers at the Island Eastern Corridor near Heng Fa Chuen. The plan is to complete the assessment by mid 2012. Subject to confirmation of the technical feasibility, we will bring forward the project according to the established mechanism and procedures of the Public Works Programme, and work out the construction timetable in the light of the progress.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

15 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ENB03

Question Serial No.

S003

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the timetable for constructing the noise barrier at Chai Wan Road in Chai Wan?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Regarding the noise barrier retrofit works of the section of Chai Wan Road, the consultant engaged by the Highways Department (HyD) proposed a combination of semi-enclosure and cantilevered noise barriers, and relocating the bus stop nearby to make available space for the retrofitting of noise barriers. To update residents of Eastern District on the conceptual design and the related works of the noise barriers, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the HyD had briefed the Eastern District Council on several occasions. The latest update was on 2 February 2012. The EPD and HyD will endeavour to bring forward the noise barrier retrofit works according to the established mechanism and procedures of the Public Works Programme, and work out the construction timetable in the light of the progress.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

15 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ENB04

Question Serial No.

S067

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding “continue to encourage franchised bus companies to deploy environment-friendly buses at busy corridors”, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) When the pre-trial work on electric buses will be completed; and
- (b) What measures have been taken to encourage bus companies and the transportation industry to use electric vehicles.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Government has earmarked \$180 million for franchised bus companies to purchase 36 electric buses for trial runs on a number of routes to assess their performance in different conditions. We are working with the franchised bus companies on the trial arrangement with an aim to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee towards the middle of this year for starting the trial around the end of 2013. The trial will last for two years to allow a comprehensive assessment of the operational efficiency and performance of the buses. An interim review will be carried out about one year after the start of the trial.
- (b) The Government has also set aside \$300 million under the Pilot Green Transport Fund to support the transport sector to test out green and innovative transport technologies, including electric vehicles (EVs). As at the end of February 2012, we approved 24 applications involving the trial of electric buses, electric goods vehicles as well as hybrid goods vehicles, involving a sum of more than \$60 million. Moreover, the Government has extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till the end of March 2014. The Government has also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs as from 18 June 2010, such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

14 March 2012