

Legislative Council Panel on Security

Immigration Service Training School and Perowne Immigration Centre at Castle Peak Road, Tuen Mun

This paper informs Members of the progress of the construction project of the new Immigration Service Training School and the Immigration Processing Centre and provides details of additional staff costs to be incurred in these facilities.

Background

2. The meeting of the Security Panel on 4 March 1999 supported in principle the construction of a permanent Immigration Service Training School and Immigration Processing Centre with detention facilities at part of the ex-military site of Perowne Barracks, Castle Peak Road. The Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on the staff costs for these new facilities, and a breakdown on the costs of the staff establishment of the Correctional Services Department currently managing the Victoria Immigration Centre.

3. The scope of the project comprises the construction, on a reserved site of about 15 500 square meters at Castles Peak Road, of the new Immigration Service Training School and Perowne Immigration Centre. The project will be implemented in two stages comprising -

(a) Stage 1 - pre-contract works

- (i) demolition of the existing structures and site works on spot;
- (ii) site formation, piling works and substructure works; and
- (iii) consultancy services, including drafting services for architectural and structural detailed design drawings of the main works, and site supervision of item (ii) above.

(b) Stage 2 - main works

These are essentially the construction of the superstructure for the new training school and the new processing centre.

4. At the above meeting, Members were informed of the Administration's intention to submit the item to the Public Works Sub-Committee (PWSC) and the Finance Committee (FC) in April and May 1999 respectively for funding approval for partial upgrading to Category A for part of the pre-contract preparatory works set out in para 3(a) above i.e. site investigation, design of geotechnical works for site formation, and survey works. The submission to the PWSC and FC on partial upgrading was subsequently withheld because the agenda of these meetings was over-subscribed. To avoid delay, part of the works relating to site investigation, contaminated land assessment, and site asbestos survey were eventually funded under the block allocation, Subhead 3100GX "Project feasibility studies, minor investigations and consultants' fees for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme", without recourse to seeking funding from the FC. The site investigation was completed in December 2000, and the contamination land assessment and asbestos survey will be completed in March 2001.

Staff establishment of the Perowne Immigration Centre

5. Currently, 70 posts in the Immigration Department are responsible for the processing, repatriation, and removal of immigration offenders in the Victoria Immigration Centre inside the Victoria Prison. Another 178 posts ¹ in the Correctional Services Department (incurring an annual staff cost of some \$84 million) are responsible for the management, operation, patrolling and related custodial duties of the Victoria Prison which has 380 penal places ². A breakdown of the annual staff costs of the Correctional Services Department posts at the Victoria Prison is at Annex A. Among these 380 penal places, 300 have been reserved for immigration detainees.

6. Upon the construction of the Perowne Immigration Centre, the Victoria Immigration Centre will be relocated to the Perowne

¹ The figure was 182 posts when we last reported the situation at the meeting of the Security Panel on 4 March 1999. Since then, four posts in the Victoria Prison have either been redeployed or identified as savings under the "Containing the size of civil service" exercise.

² Since we last reported the situation at the meeting of the Security Panel on 4 March 1999, 2 additional penal places were added to the original 378 places.

Immigration Centre, and the Victoria Prison will no longer function as a reception centre for immigration detainees. All the above 70 Immigration posts will continue to perform their current duties in the Perowne Immigration Centre. We estimate that the Immigration Department will require 163 additional posts at an annual staff costs of some \$66 million to take up the management, operation, patrolling, and related custodial duties of the Perowne Immigration Centre which will hold 400 detainees. A breakdown of the annual staff costs of the additional Immigration posts is at Annex B. The manning scale will be similar to that currently deployed by the Correctional Services Department at the Victoria Prison. Staff of the Correctional Services Department currently engaged in duties relating to the Victoria Immigration Centre will continue to work in the Victoria Prison.

7. The 300 places in the Victoria Prison presently taken up by the immigration detainees will be released for accommodating prisoners to alleviate the overcrowding situation in other prisons. The release of these penal places for housing prisoners is expected to alleviate by 3 percentage points of the problem of overcrowdedness in the prisons in 2004. (As at early February 2001, the average overcrowding rate for the prisons is 16%.) Further, with the operation of the Perowne Immigration Centre, the number of immigration detainees to be released on recognisance owing to inadequate detention places in the Victoria Prison and the consequential rate of absconding may be reduced³.

Staff establishment of the Immigration Service Training School

8. Currently, the establishment of the Immigration Service Training School Section and the Recruitment Section comprise 33 and 9 posts respectively⁴.

9. With the completion and operation of the permanent Immigration Service Training School, staff currently working under the Immigration

³ Between 1 November 1994 and 31 December 2000, some 57 583 immigration offenders were released from the Victoria Immigration Centre on recognisance due to prison overcrowding. Among them, 1106 (2%) had absconded while only 596 of them were eventually apprehended again and removed afterwards.

⁴ The Recruitment Section is responsible for launching recruitment exercises, conducting interviews, and related administration duties. The Immigration Service Training School Section is responsible for the administration and delivery of training courses. Both sections are under the line management of the Training Sub-division of the Immigration Department.

Service Training School Section and the Recruitment Section will continue to be deployed in their current duties. Seven additional posts incurring an additional annual staff costs of some \$4.8 million will be required to deal with the administration and management of the newly established facilities in the school complex (e.g. residential facilities, swimming pool, and departmental archive), to conduct additional training courses, and to deal with related administration duties. A breakdown of the annual staff costs at the existing training school and the Recruitment Section, and the additional annual staff costs required for the permanent training school plus Recruitment Section is at Annex C.

Way forward

10. The Administration plans to seek the PWSC's recommendation to the FC in April 2001 on the upgrading of part of the project (6GD) to Category A at an estimated cost of \$74.2 million for carrying out the rest of the pre-contract works set out in para 3(a) above which are required before the actual construction of the training school and processing centre. After the completion of these works, the Architectural Services Department will conduct the detailed project design, pending which an accurate estimation of costs of construction will be made. The recurrent costs of the project will then be subject to further scrutiny.

11. Subject to the funding approval, demolition and site works will start in May 2001 and be completed in September 2001. Site formation, piling works and substructure works and the site supervision of these works will start in October 2001 and be completed in September 2002. Drafting services for architectural and structural detailed design drawings will commence in July 2001 and be completed in August 2002. The main works (stage 2 works in para 3(b) above) including the construction of the superstructure for the new training school and processing centre are scheduled to commence in October 2002 and be completed in May 2004.

Security Bureau
February 2001

Breakdown of the annual staff costs for the establishment of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) at the Victoria Prison (VP)

Rank	Existing no. of CSD posts at the VP	Annual staff costs (\$)
Superintendent	1	1,476,132
Chief Officer	1	1,287,516
Principal Officer	8	8,989,440
Officer	14 *	12,662,496
Assistant Officer I	58 *	30,609,384
Assistant Officer II	83	25,686,840
Instructor	2	695,592
General and common grade staff	11	3,017,664
Total	178	84,425,064

Note

1. (*) 3 of the Officer posts and 13 of the Assistant Officer I posts are assigned with the duties of registered nurse.
2. "General and common grade staff" comprises Clerical Officer, Assistant Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Supplies Supervisor II, Office Assistant, and Workman II.
3. The above establishment does not include one Medical & Health Officer post seconded from the Department of Health.

**Breakdown of the annual staff costs for the establishment of the
Immigration Department at the Victoria Immigration Centre (VIC)
and the additional staff costs for the proposed
Perowne Immigration Centre (PIC)**

Rank	Existing no. of posts at the VIC	Annual staff costs (\$)	Additional no. of posts for the PIC	Additional annual staff costs (\$)
Assistant Principal Immigration Officer	1	1,387,620	1	1,387,620
Chief Immigration Officer	2	2,402,640	1	1,201,320
Senior Immigration Officer	7	7,477,680	5	5,341,200
Immigration Officer	20	16,998,720	8	6,799,488
Chief Immigration Assistant	8	4,395,264	8	4,395,264
Senior Immigration Assistant	7	2,894,640	26	10,751,520
Immigration Assistant	8	2,136,768	84	22,436,064
General and common grade staff	17	4,170,588	13	3,310,740
Medical & Health Officer	0	-	1	1,394,016
Registered Nurse	0	-	16	8,983,104
Net Total	70	41,863,920	163	66,000,336

Note "General and common grade staff" comprises Clerical Officer, Assistant Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary II, Office Assistant, Motor Driver, Workman II, and Supplies Supervisor II.

Breakdown of the annual staff costs for the existing Immigration Service Training School and the proposed permanent Immigration Service Training School (including the Recruitment Section)

Rank	Existing no. of posts	Annual staff costs (\$)	Additional no. of posts	Additional annual staff costs (\$)
Assistant Principal Immigration Officer	1	1,387,620	0	-
Chief Immigration Officer	2	2,402,640	0	-
Senior Immigration Officer	12	12,818,880	2	2,136,480
Immigration Officer	12	10,199,232	2	1,699,872
Senior Immigration Assistant	0	-	2	827,040
General and common grade staff	15	3,820,668	1	133,236
Net Total	42	30,629,040	7	4,796,628

Note "General and common grade staff" comprises Clerical Officer, Assistant Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Special Driver, Workman II, Office Assistant, and Photographer II.