

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 96

Question Serial No.

0135

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What are the 511 posts to be deleted from the establishment? Please state the staffing situation of those posts before 1 January 2000 (e.g. up to what time were those posts still filled and when were they left vacant.).
- (b) What are the reasons for deleting those posts? Please explain in detail for each group.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

- (a) The 511 posts include 199 butcher grades posts, 168 general grades posts (e.g. Executive Officers, Chinese Language Officers, Office Assistants, etc), 136 artisan and workman grades posts and 8 common grades posts. All these posts were filled as at 31 December 1999.
- (b) There is no operational need for the above posts. The 206 abattoir staff (comprising 199 from the butcher grades and 7 from the artisan and workman grades) were staff of the Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir which was closed in October 1999. The remaining 305 staff are no longer required as a result of the re-organisation of municipal services and they will be transferred to other departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Sarah WU

Post Title _____
Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 101

Question Serial No.

0140

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead(No. & title) : 149 General departmental expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Does the Government have any plan to adopt, for the purpose of cost saving, the proposal put forward by the Audit Commission regarding cost-effectiveness in the management of the fleet of refuse collection vehicles? If so, what are the details of the plan and how will it affect the staff concerned?

Asked by : The Honourable CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

We have taken on board recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 33 regarding refuse collection service of the former Urban Services Department. These include a freeze of the procurement of refuse collection vehicles for two years, a re-examination of the work values for planning refuse collection routes, a review of the relief ratios for refuse collection vehicles, stopping further recruitment of permanent Workmen II, use of technology to monitor refuse collection, reduction of 47 refuse collection routes which led to a recurrent saving of \$80 million per annum and drawing up a plan for contracting out its refuse collection service. Meanwhile, all affected staff in the refuse collection teams have been redeployed to undertake other duties in our department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 114

Question Serial No.

0826

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000 - 2001

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: (a) What are the principles, criteria and data the Department used in setting the targets and indicators for assessing the performance of the services under the four programmes?

(b)

If the two Provisional Municipal Councils and/or the other Government departments previously responsible for the services under the four programmes of the Department have set any performance targets and/or indicators, please make a comparison between the old and new performance targets and/or indicators.

Asked by: Dr the Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Reply:

(a)

In setting targets and indicators for assessing the performance of services under the four programmes, we are guided by the principle of maximizing and making the best use of both human and financial resources in order to deliver our services in a most efficient and cost-effective way. The data we use include community demand for various services, past performance and statistics on complaints, etc. Our objective is to set out clear, transparent and measurable targets/indicators which the public can monitor.

(b) Following the reorganisation of municipal services, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has, since 1 January 2000, taken up various functions and duties previously performed by the two Municipal Services Departments and other Government departments, including the Department of Health and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. In devising our targets/indicators for 2000-01, we have made reference, where applicable, to those previously set by the two Provisional Municipal Councils and other relevant departments. We have also drawn up new targets/indicators based on new programme areas. For these reasons, it is difficult and not very meaningful to make a direct comparison of all our targets/indicators for 2000-01 with previous targets/indicators.

Signature

Name in block letters

Miss Sarah WU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB97

Question Serial No.

0136

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the earmarked provision for hiring contract staff? How does it compare with last year's provision?
- (b) Will there be any downward adjustment in the salary of contract staff next year so as to save cost? If yes, what is the percentage adjustment? What percentage did the salary of contract staff account for in the general departmental expenses last year? And how much will it account for next year?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

- (a) The provision for hiring contract staff in 2000-01 is \$79 million. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is a newly established department which has taken up various functions and duties previously performed by the two Municipal Services Departments, the Department of Health and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. It is therefore considered inappropriate to directly compare the provision with that of last year.
- (b) The remuneration package for contract staff is determined with regard to the employment market and recruitment situation. For 2000-01, the provision for contract staff as a percentage of the provision for departmental expenses is 7.8%. For reasons similar to those stated in part (a), it is considered inappropriate to directly compare the percentage of salary of contract staff of the department with that of last year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 111

Question Serial No.

1254

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000 - 2001

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Whilst it is understandable that a new department could not have its own previous data to calculate and to account for its proposed targets and performance indicators, yet the Government must have relevant data of food and environmental hygiene gathered from the Department of Health and the two disbanded municipal departments. Could the Department, therefore, provide quantifiable data that could help the public to judge whether the provision being sought is more cost-efficient than under the previous mechanism?

Asked by: Dr the Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply:

In setting targets/indicators for 2000-01, our principle has always been to maximise and make the best of both our manpower and financial resources in order to deliver our services in a most cost efficient and effective manner. Following the reorganisation of municipal services, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has, since 1 January 2000, taken up various functions and duties previously performed by the two Municipal Services Departments and other Government departments, including the Department of Health and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. In devising our targets/indicators for 2000-01, we have made reference, where applicable, to those previously set by the two Provisional Municipal Councils and other relevant departments. We have also drawn up new targets/indicators based on new programme areas. For these reasons, it is difficult and not very meaningful to make a direct comparison of all our targets/indicators for 2000-01 with previous targets/indicators.

Signature

Name in block letters

Miss Sarah WU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 125

Question Serial No.

0827

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 149 General departmental expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01 for Programme (2) states that the department will make visible improvements in public cleansing. Please inform this Council

- how much resource will be allocated on improving public cleansing in 2000?
- what actions will be taken to achieve "make visible improvements in public cleansing" especially on tourist areas?

Asked by : The Hon Howard Young, J.P.

Reply :

The Department has earmarked \$1,988.8 million for the provision of public cleansing services in 2000-01. We aim to achieve visible improvements in public cleansing including tourist areas by

- (a) reviewing the standard of cleanliness and related performance pledges such as the frequencies for streets to be swept, litter containers to be emptied and toilets to be cleansed;
- (b) incorporating penalty clauses in all cleansing contracts for markets and public toilets to ensure that contractors' performance is up to the required standard;
- (c) conducting surprise site inspections to check and monitor performance; and
- (d) taking prompt actions in response to complaints.

Signature

Name in block letters

Miss Sarah WU

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date

March 2000