

Bureau Serial No.

HAB001(HQ1)

Question Serial No.

0061

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 5304 Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) The estimate for Programme (4) for the new financial year has increased by 2.66 times. What are the posts involved?
- (b) The authority explains that the increase in provision under this programme is due to the transfer of provision from the Social Welfare Department for organising youth development programmes. In this connection, will there be any changes in the implementation and vetting procedures of these youth development programmes? If so, what are the changes involved?

Asked by : The Hon Cheng Kai-nam, JP

Reply :

- (a) There will not be any increase or decrease in the number of posts. The increase in provision is for expenses for youth development programmes.
- (b) The main increases arise from the transfer of the administration of subventions to uniformed groups and miscellaneous group and community work services provided by the Hong Kong Award for Young People and the Agency for Volunteer Service from the Social Welfare Department to the Home Affairs Bureau. These uniformed groups and youth organisations will continue to operate the youth development programmes previously funded by the Social Welfare Department. No significant changes in the implementation and vetting procedures are envisaged.

Signature

Name in block letters

David H T LAN

Post Title

Secretary for Home Affairs

Date

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB006(HQ3)

Question Serial No.

0089

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme :District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Under the key performance measures in respect of district and community relations, the Bureau estimated that there would be a decrease in the "statutory and charitable funds income" in 2000. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : The Hon. Cheng Kar-foo

Reply :

\$66 million represents the total incomes of eleven trust funds. The incomes of these trust funds consist of dividends from shares, interest from bonds and bank deposits and donations. The amounts which can be generated each year are influenced by factors beyond the control of Home Affairs Bureau or the relevant boards and committees.

2. The estimate for 2000 was prepared at a time when the actual figure for 1999 was not yet available. Our forecast then was that it should be slightly better than the original estimate of \$65 million for 1999. Given the 1999 actual figure, the estimate of \$66 million for 2000 is conservative. We shall do our best to generate a total income higher than the figure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 007 (HQ4)

Question Serial No.

90

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: 53 Home Affairs Bureau

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The Bureau indicated that during 2000-01, activities would be organized to celebrate the Millennium. What are these activities ? And what is the estimated total expenditure for each of these activities ?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

In 2000/01, the Millennium Celebrations Office has planned to organize the following 8 significant community, youth, cultural and sports events of policy implications: -

- (a) Coming of Age Ceremony (4 May 2000)
- (b) French Riding Performance (12-14 May 2000)
- (c) Opening of the Chi Lin Nunnery (18 May 2000)
- (d) Children's Reading Pledge (June to late 2000)
- (e) International Harmony/Asian Extravaganza (August 2000)
- (f) 100 Years of Hong Kong Fashion Exhibition (August-September 2000)
- (g) International Basketball Cup (2-6 September 2000)
- (h) European Christmas Carnival (December 2000 to early 2001)

In addition, there are at present four confirmed capital projects to be completed in year 2000/2001:

- (i) Chinese Cuisine Training Institute
- (j) International Wetland Park
- (k) Hong Kong Heritage Museum

(1) Hong Kong Museum of History

Other than staff cost, expenses incurred for activities (a) to (h) from the Millennium Celebrations Office are estimated to be in the region of \$1 million as funding is mainly from private sponsorship. Average expenditure for each activity is around \$100,000 mainly incurred for logistic, publicity, transport arrangements, etc. As to items (i) to (l), funding is from capital works programme under respective Policy Bureaux.

Signature _____

Name in block letters DAVID H. T. LAN, JP

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 10 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB008
(CS1)

Question Serial No.

0091

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53 Government Secretariat

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Culture

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : (a) The Culture Section of the Home Affairs Bureau has taken up the funding responsibility for the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society. How much funding will the Culture Section provide to each society for 2000/01? How do these subventions compare with those provided by the Provisional Urban Council for 1998/99 and 1999/2000?

(b) What are the estimated staffing level and expenditure required to provide secretariat and administrative support to the Culture and Heritage Commission?

Asked by : The Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

(a) Government provision to the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society (HKAFS) and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society (HKPS) for 2000/01 will be \$16.12 million and \$64.6 million respectively.

For the HKAFS, the provision of \$16.12 million for 2000/01 is similar to that for 1999/2000 provided both by the then Provisional Urban Council (PUC) (\$7.8 million) and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) (\$8.32 million). The total provision for 1998/99 provided by the then PUC (\$8.617 million) and the HKADC (\$8.32 million) is \$16.937 million.

As regards the HKPS, the provision of \$64.6 million for 2000/01 will be generally in line with the amount of \$64.566 million for 1999/2000 provided by the then PUC. The provision for 1998/99 is \$68.714 million.

As in the case of other subvented bodies, funding for both HKAFS and HKPS is subject to the Government's Enhanced Productivity Programme.

- (b) Within the Culture Section of the Home Affairs Bureau, one Administrative Officer Staff Grade 'C' and one Senior Administrative Officer will be deployed to provide secretariat support to the Culture and Heritage Commission (CHC). Apart from secretariat support to the CHC, this team is also responsible for arts and culture policy as well as matters relating to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Hong Kong Arts Centre. The Bureau has earmarked \$2 million in the 2000/01 budget to cover the general administrative expenses (researches, publication of reports, etc) of the CHC.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: David H T Lan

Post Title: Secretary for Home Affairs

Date: 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB022(HQ5)

Question Serial No.

0216

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 5303 District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : How much will the Home Affairs Bureau spend on promoting harmonious living between residents of urban area and rural area in the new year?

Asked by : The Hon Lau Wong-fat

Reply :

One of our policy objectives is to maintain a harmonious community where residents living in both urban and rural areas may participate in the affairs of the community and have a strong sense of commitment to its well-being. We aim to achieve this objective through various means, including the organisation of community building programmes. In 2000-01, \$431.3 million has been earmarked for the Home Affairs Department to promote community involvement activities and public participation in community affairs. The sum included in the 2000-01 Estimates cover also staff costs and general departmental expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 023 (HQ6)

Question Serial No.

0217

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: 5303 District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : During 2000-01, the Home Affairs Bureau will organize various activities to celebrate the millennium. Please provide the details of these activities and the expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

In 2000/01, the Millennium Celebrations Office has planned to organize the following 8 significant community, youth, cultural and sports events of policy implications: -

- (a) Coming of Age Ceremony (4 May 2000)
- (b) French Riding Performance (12-14 May 2000)
- (c) Opening of the Chi Lin Nunnery (18 May 2000)
- (d) Children's Reading Pledge (June to late 2000)
- (e) International Harmony/Asian Extravaganza (August 2000)
- (f) 100 Years of Hong Kong Fashion Exhibition (August-September 2000)

- (g) International Basketball Cup (2-6 September 2000)
- (h) European Christmas Carnival (December 2000 to early 2001)

In addition, there are at present four confirmed capital projects to be completed in year 2000/2001 :

- (i) Chinese Cuisine Training Institute
- (j) International Wetland Park
- (k) Hong Kong Heritage Museum
- (l) Hong Kong Museum of History

Other than staff cost, expenses incurred for activities (a) to (h) from the Millennium Celebrations Office are estimated to be in the region of \$1 million as funding is mainly from private sponsorship. Average expenditure for each activity is around \$100,000 mainly incurred for logistic, publicity, transport arrangements, etc. As to items (i) to (l), funding is from capital works programme under respective Policy Bureaux.

Signature _____

Name in block letters DAVID H.T. LAN, JP

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 11 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB025
(CS2)

Question Serial No.

0298

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53 Government Secretariat: Home Affairs bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

(16) What is the estimated expenditure of the Home Affairs Bureau for Hong Kong's bid to host the Asian Games?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat, G.B.S., J.P.

Reply :

We have engaged financial consultants to help us draw up a projected budget for hosting the 2006 Asian Games. Once the consultants have delivered their findings, we shall arrange to brief the relevant Panel of the Legislative Council on the related costs. We expect to conduct such a briefing in April.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

David H T LAN

Secretary for Home Affairs

16 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB030(CS3)

Question Serial No.

0399

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 53 Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

When will the review of the licensing of entertainment services begin? How long is it expected to take? What is the estimated expenditure for the review process?

Asked by : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, S.B.S, J.P.

Reply:

We will shortly begin the initial process in respect of the study. The study should be completed within the financial year 2000-01. As the study is expected to be conducted "in-house" by the Management Services Agency, the Home Affairs Bureau and other government agencies, we envisage that there would be no significant resource implications for the review process.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

David H T LAN

Post Title:

Secretary for Home Affairs

Date:

16 March, 2000

Question Serial No.

0417

Bureau Serial No.

HAB031
(HQ7)

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53 - GS : Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 5303 District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The approved provision for District and Community Relations is \$41.6 million for 1999-2000 and the revised provision is \$62.1 million.

Please explain why the revised provision has increased by almost 50% over the approved estimate; and why the estimate for 2000-01 drops significantly by 38.2% to 38.4 million.

Asked by : The Hon Bernard Chan

Reply :

The 1999-2000 approved provision for District and Community Relations is \$41.6 million, which has not included the capital expenses of the commitments for the National Day Celebration in 1999 and the Millennium Celebration. These items were subsequently approved by Secretary for the Treasury under delegated authority during the course of 1999-2000 when the programme details had been worked out. As such, there is a significant increase in provision for 1999-2000 Revised Estimates in respect of Programme 3.

As regards a decrease in the provision in 2000-01 for Programme 3, it is partly due to the reduced cashflow for the Millennium Celebration from \$8.6 million in 1999-2000 to \$1.4 million in 2000-01. In addition, as programme details for the Celebration of the third anniversary of HKSAR establishment and the National Day Celebration in 2000 have yet to be finalised when the 2000-01 Estimates are prepared, commitments for these two projects have not been included in 2000-01 Estimates. This also accounts for a drop in the provision for 2000-01 Estimates when compared with the 1999-2000 Revised Estimates for this Programme. We will seek funding approval for these two activities in the usual manner when details have been finalised.

Signature

Name in block letters

DAVID H T LAN

Post Title

Secretary for Home Affairs

Date

Bureau Serial No.

HAB037
(HQ8)

Question Serial No.

0757

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 53 - Government Secretariat : Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please explain in detail the ways in which the Government follows up the recommendations made by the Inter-departmental Working Group to improve the current law affecting persons live on alimony? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In the light of the views provided by the Legislative Council, Provisional District Councils, Non-government organisations and professional bodies, the inter-departmental working group has been considering what improvements to make to the current law and administrative measures affecting persons who live on alimony. It will finalise its recommendations as soon as possible. After the Administration has endorsed the recommendations of the inter-departmental working group, we shall inform the relevant panel of the Legislative Council and other interested organisations of the recommendations, the ways in which they will be implemented and what additional sources (if any) are required to implement the recommendations. At this juncture, no additional sources have been included in the draft Estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB038
(HQ9)

Question Serial No.

0758

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 53 – Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please explain in detail the plan of the Home Affairs Bureau to review the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance in 2000-01 and its resource implications.

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The current review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance seeks to address the operational difficulties encountered since its commencement in December 1996 and put beyond doubt the meanings of particular provisions. The proposed amendments to the Ordinance arising from the review will mainly be of a technical nature and will not involve major policy changes.

The matters under consideration include, for example, whether the guidelines issued by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (“PC”) should have legal effect on not only data users but also data subjects, whether the term “direct marketing” used in the Ordinance should include the offering of social services to persons in need of such services and whether personal data transferred to the Public Records Office should be exempted from the provision in the Ordinance which prevents such transfer. One proposal which has policy implications relates to the question whether parents should have the right to access the personal data of their children. On this proposal, we have been consulting organisations representing social workers, doctors, teachers, parents and children.

We intend to consult the relevant panel of the Legislative Council before introducing any legislative amendments. We hope to be able to finalise the proposals within the year 2000.

The review itself does not entail any additional resources. We shall examine the resource implications of the amendment proposals after the proposals have been finalised. In the meantime, no additional resources have been proposed in the draft Estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB039(HQ10)

Question Serial No.

0759

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 5304 Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Please state the amount of provision in 1999-2000 for youth development programmes that were originally organised by the Social Welfare Department. Please also make a comparison with the corresponding figure for this year (2000-2001) and provide an analysis.

Asked by : Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

Reply :

The provision to be transferred from Social Welfare Department to Home Affairs Bureau arises from the transfer of the administration of subventions to uniformed groups from the former to the latter. The amount in 2000-2001 comprises –

- (a) \$43,181,000, being subventions to uniformed groups, Hong Kong Award for Young People and Agency for Volunteer Service for organising youth development activities; and
- (b) \$930,000, being expenses related to the subventions to these groups.

The transfer is cost neutral and does not involve significant changes in the planning, operation or nature of the youth development programmes that have been and will continue to be provided by these groups.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>David H T LAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Secretary for Home Affairs</u>
Date	<u>March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HAB040
(CS4)

Question Serial No.

0760

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53 Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide an analysis of the financial provisions to the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) for the past 3 years (1998-2001). How will the Bureau Secretary assess the effectiveness of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) in the promotion of sports? What is the percentage of staff remuneration in the total expenditure of the Board? Does the Board have any plans to reduce its staff?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, J.P.

Reply :

The recurrent subventions to the SDB over the past three years have been as follows –

1998-99	\$192.781 million
1999-2000	\$200 million
2000-01	\$195.19 million

We assess the effectiveness of the Board's work in promoting sport by considering the number of programmes organised and the participation therein, the percentage of expenditure made available to National Sports Associations, and the number of events

supported locally. As well as promoting sport, the Board also plays a key role in training Hong Kong's top athletes for major international competitions, and we monitor the achievements of local athletes in the international sports arena.

For 2000-2001 we estimate the SDB's payroll and related expenses as follows –

- administration and public relations: \$15.4 million (5.3% of expenditure budget)
- commercial activities: \$14.6 million (5.0 % of budget)
- sports development and promotion: \$25.6 million (8.8% of budget)
- elite training programme: \$68.4 million (23% of budget)

In the past two years the Board has adopted a policy of zero growth in permanent staff headcount. In 2000-01 savings of \$0.62 million on staff expenditure will contribute to an overall EPP saving of \$3.48 million. With the implementation of the new sports administration structure, the Board is looking at the potential for reducing its permanent staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB041
(CS5)

Question Serial No.

0761

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53 Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Culture

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide the figures in respect of the subventions to the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society for the past 3 years (1998-2001). What will be the criteria used by the Bureau Secretary to evaluate the future subventions to the society? What mechanism will be put in place to monitor the effectiveness of its use of subventions and the completion of its constitution/ re-organisation of the board of directors?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye

Reply :

The subventions to the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society (HKPS) for the past 3 years (1998-2001) are as follows: -

	<u>\$(M)</u>
1998/1999	: 68.7
1999/2000	: 64.56
2000/2001	: 64.6

We are in the process of discussing a service agreement with the HKPS with performance targets and indicators. The future performance of the HKPS will be assessed according to its achievement of the targets and indicators, and this will form the basis of evaluation for future subventions. The "Guidelines on the Management and Control of Government Subventions" which are applicable to all Government subvented bodies will be adopted in the vetting of HKPS' budgets and monitoring of its

use of subventions. As in the case of other subvented bodies, funding for HKPS would also be subject to Government's Enhanced Productivity Programme.

With the dissolution of the former Provisional Urban Council, which used to appoint six members to the General Committee responsible for the day to day operation of the HKPS, there is a need to reconsider the composition of the Committee. HKPS is in discussion with the Administration on this matter.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB042
(CS6)

Question Serial No.

0762

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53 Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Culture

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please analyse and compare the financial provisions provided to the Arts Development Council (ADC) for the past 3 years. Will the Bureau Secretary review the effectiveness of the ADC in carrying out its work? Will the Council's resources for its research programmes be re-allocated to the Culture and Heritage Commission after it is established? How much are the existing resources of the Council?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee

Reply :

Recurrent subvention provided by Government to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (ADC) in the past three years increased from \$82.3 m in 1997-98 by 33% to \$109.7 m in 1998-99 and by a further 3.4% to \$113.4 m in 1999-2000. The provision for 1999-2000 has taken account of the EPP (Enhanced Productivity Programme) requirement which applies across the board to all subvented bodies. In addition, disbursements of \$29.9 m in 1997-98, \$24.2 m in 1998-99 and \$12.9 million (up to February 2000) from the Arts and Sport Development Fund were allocated to the ADC to support eligible arts projects.

The ADC is an independent body with its own Secretariat. The Home Affairs Bureau has been working closely with the ADC to ensure that it carries out its work smoothly and effectively.

Apart from providing secretariat support, the Home Affairs Bureau has earmarked \$2m in the 2000-01 budget to cover the general administrative expenses, including research projects, of the Culture and Heritage Commission (CHC). In 1999-2000, the ADC spent some \$0.7 m on research projects. ADC is not required to reallocate its resources for research programmes to the CHC after CHC's establishment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ David H T LAN _____

Post Title _____ SHA _____

Date _____ March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

HAB043(HQ11)

Question Serial No.

0763

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 5304 Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Please give details on the subsidy given to youth organisations for organising study tours for young people to the Mainland and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : The Hon Lee Cheuk-yan, JP

Reply :

The Community Participation Scheme for Organising Study Tours to the Mainland is organised by Home Affairs Bureau on the advice of the Commission on Youth. The Scheme aims at providing opportunities for young people to visit the Mainland with a view to enhancing their understanding of the history, culture and the political, economic and social systems of China, and to cultivate a sense of belonging among themselves.

It was first introduced in 1998 when we provided subsidies of about \$6 million to enable non-governmental organisations to organise 82 study tours involving 4,000 young people. In 1999, \$8 million have been approved to subsidize 165 applications under the Scheme, enabling 5,400 young people to participate in these sponsored tours.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>David H T LAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Secretary for Home Affairs</u>
Date	<u>March 2000</u>

Question Serial No.

HAB044(HQ12)

Bureau Serial No.

764

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53 - GS : Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 5303 District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : a) Under Programme (3), 42 temporary posts will be created to undertake specific projects during 2000-01, what are these specific projects? Please give breakdown on the temporary posts to be created and duties to be performed.

b) It is estimated that 9 opinion surveys, same as last year, will be conducted in 2000. Please give details including financial provision for each survey.

Asked by : Hon Howard Young

Reply : a) Out of the 42 temporary posts, 27 will be created for organising activities to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the National Day in 2000, and the remaining 15 for organising projects and activities to celebrate the new Millennium.

The 42 posts include the following:

- (i) 1 Administrative Officer of Staff Grade C rank;
- (ii) 4 Chief Executive Officers;
- (iii) 6 Senior Executive Officers;
- (iv) 4 Executive Officers I;
- (v) 2 Executive Officers II;
- (vi) 2 Personal Secretaries I;
- (vii) 6 Personal Secretaries II;
- (viii) 1 Clerical Officer;
- (ix) 10 Assistant Clerical Officers;
- (x) 5 Clerical Assistants; and

(xi) 1 Workman II.

The activities to be organised in 2000-01 to celebrate the Millennium include:

- (i) the Coming of Age Ceremony on 4 May 2000;
- (ii) the French Riding Performance from 12 to 14 May 2000;
- (iii) the Opening of the Chi Lin Nunnery on 18 May 2000;
- (iv) the Children's Reading Pledge from June to late 2000;
- (v) the International Harmony/Asian Extravaganza in August 2000;
- (vi) the 100 Years of Hong Kong Fashion Exhibition from August to September 2000;
- (vii) the International Basketball Cup from 2 to 6 September 2000; and
- (viii) the European Christmas Carnival from December 2000 to early 2001.

Other than the above activities, a number of capital projects have been launched in order to make the new Millennium more memorable. The projects, which will be completed in 2000-2001 include:

- (i) the establishment of the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute;
- (ii) the building of the International Wetland Park;
- (iii) the construction of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; and
- (iv) the construction of the Hong Kong Museum of History.

As regards the activities to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, we have initially planned to organise a flag-raising ceremony in the morning, a community participation activity in the daytime and a banquet/dinner in the evening on 1 July 2000. The detailed programme of these celebration activities has yet to be firmed up.

As regards the celebration of the National Day in 2000, the activities under planning include: a flag-raising ceremony in the morning and a celebration show in the evening on 1 October 2000. The details of these activities have yet to be worked out.

(b) Details of the 9 opinion surveys to be conducted in 2000 are:

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u>
1) Six regular bi-monthly telephone opinion surveys conducted by Opinion Survey Unit, Div. V of Home Affairs Bureau	\$0.48 million

- 2) Three opinion surveys to be contracted out to private research institutes:
- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| a) Opinion Survey on Civic Education 2000 | \$0.20 million |
| b) Opinion Survey on Voting Behaviour of the 2000 LegCo Election | \$0.20 million |
| c) Opinion Survey on Gambling | \$0.30 million |
| Total: | <hr/> \$1.18 million |

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<hr/> DAVID H T LAN
Post Title	<hr/> Secretary for Home Affairs
Date	<hr/> March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB045(HQ13)

Question Serial No.

0765

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead : 270 Activities to promote equal opportunities

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In November 1999, the Administration attended the UN hearing of Hong Kong's report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In the estimate for 2000-01, it has set aside a provision of \$3.1m under Subhead 270 "Activities to promote equal opportunities" for organising promotional activities on equal opportunities. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- a. The number of government officials attending the hearing and the total expenses (excluding the printing costs) involved?
- b. Will provisions be reserved under Subhead 270 for organising promotional activities on the ICCPR and publishing the text of the said Covenant and the Government's report on the Covenant? If so, what are the respective amounts of provisions reserved? How many promotional activities will be organised? Also, how many copies of the covenant and report under the Covenant will be produced? Will there be an increase or a decrease in the number of copies to be

produced this year as comparing with last year? In what ways will the Covenant and report produced in the current year be promoted?

- c. Will provisions be reserved under Subhead 270 for allocation to non-governmental organisations' (NGOs') upon applications for organising promotional activities on the ICCPR? If so, what is the quota available for application by the NGOs? How much each NGO may apply for?
- d. Will provisions be reserved under Subhead 270 for implementing the recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Committee in relation to the ICCPR? If so, what is the amount of provision available for each recommendation? In what ways each recommendation be implemented?

Asked by : Hon Emily Lau

Reply :

- a. Ten Government officials attended the hearing. The total expenses incurred were \$466,000.
- b. Subhead 270 is created for organising activities for the promotion of equal opportunities. This is ancillary to – and in accordance with – the provisions of the ICCPR and other human rights treaties. We have not reserved funds under this subhead specifically for the promotion of the ICCPR. But a promotional leaflet and booklet designed for that purpose will be published later this year. The costs will be met from the Information Services Department's General Publicity Vote. The initial cost of publishing the Covenant itself and our reports under the Covenant and other treaties is met in the year of publication from "General Departmental Expenses" (Subhead 149). Thus, the ICCPR report was paid for in 1998-99 when we issued 3,500 copies. Our practice is to make subsequent reprints on a demand basis. However, we still have stocks of the

Covenant and the report. All are readily accessible on our homepage. So we do not envisage a need to re-print them in the near future. Should we do so, the costs will be absorbed under "General Departmental Expenses".

- c. As stated in (b) above, Subhead 270 does not cover the promotion of the ICCPR. The Funding Scheme under this Subhead is for community-based, NGO-run, projects for the promotion of equal opportunities in the areas of race and sexual orientation.
- d. The recommendations of the Human Rights Committee cover several different policy areas. The relevant bureaux are examining the recommendations under their purview. It will be for them to determine what, if any, follow-up action may be appropriate and the resources, if any, that may be necessary for that purpose. Any such resources would need to be met under the appropriate subhead. As far as the Home Affairs Bureau is concerned, any follow-up work will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

DAVID H T LAN

Post Title

Secretary for Home Affairs

Date

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB046(HQ14)

Question Serial No.

766

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead : 270 Activities to promote equal opportunities

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in the Estimates of Expenditure for 2000-01, the Administration undertakes to address the question of racial discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation through administrative and educational measures. A sum of \$3,100,000 has also been reserved under Subhead 270 Activities to promote equal opportunities for organising activities to promote equal opportunities. Could the Administration inform this Committee :

- (a) Of the provision under Subhead 270, how much will be reserved for organizing promotional activities on equal opportunities for people of different races and sexual orientations? How many projects are involved and what are their contents? What are the administrative measures to be adopted to eliminate these two forms of discrimination? What are the expenses involved?
- (b) Of the provision under Subhead 270, will there be any allocation for application by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to promote awareness of equal opportunities for people of different races and sexual orientations? If so, what is the quota available to NGOs for application? How much may each NGO apply for?
- (c) Of the provision under Subhead 270, will there be any allocation for conducting reviews and studies on legislation in the areas of discrimination on the grounds of race, age and

sexual orientation? If so, how much will be reserved for each area?

- (d) Of the provision under Subhead 270, will there be any allocation for organising activities to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of age, sex, disability and family status, and for organising activities to promote the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)? If so, how much will be allocated for each type of promotional activity? How many projects can be organised for each type of activity and what are their contents?
- (e) Of the provision under Subhead 270, will there be any allocation for application by NGOs to organize activities to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of age, sex, disability and family status, and to promote the ICESCR, the CAT, the CRC and the ICERD? If so, what is the quota available to NGOs for application in respect of each type of activity? How much may each NGO apply for?

Asked by : Hon Emily Lau

Reply :

- (a) We plan to spend \$2.5 million under Subhead 270 on the promotion of equal opportunities in the areas of race and sexual orientation. The programmes will include the Equal Opportunities (Race and Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme; Announcements of Public Interest on television; advertisements on public transport; promotional leaflets, posters and booklets; exhibitions; and production of "Guide to Services in Hong Kong" for migrant workers. The Funding Scheme is among the administrative measures through which we are addressing the issues. Past examples include the Codes of Practice Against Discrimination in Employment on the grounds of Race and Sexual Orientation which we published in 1998. This year we have reserved \$1.5 million for the Funding Scheme.

- (b) The Funding Scheme referred to in (a) above is specifically designed to encourage NGOs to initiate community-based projects for the promotion of equal opportunities in the areas of race and sexual orientation. We do not set a quota on the number of such projects or on the amount of each application (though, to encourage wider participation, we ask NGOs not to pitch their bids much over \$100,000). Nor are the amounts allocated to the two areas of discrimination distributed on the basis of a pre-determined ratio. The amount granted for each project will depend on the number of applications and the merits of the individual proposals. By way of illustration, a total of 20 projects were funded under the 1999-2000 Scheme. Of those, 14 (costing a total of \$725,710) related to race; six (costing a total of \$360,000) related to sexual orientation.
- (c) The ambit of this subhead covers activities for the promotion of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and of equal opportunities in the areas of race and sexual orientation; age discrimination falls under the Education and Manpower Bureau. Therefore we have not reserved any amount under this subhead for the review and study of anti-discrimination legislation. Any such activities could be carried out within other existing resources.
- (d) The ambit of this subhead is explained in (c) above. It does not cover the promotion of the ICESCR, the CAT, or the CRC. Discrimination on the grounds of disability and age is under the respective purview of the Health and Welfare Bureau and the Education and Manpower Bureau. The promotion of the ICESCR, the CAT and the CRC will be met from other existing resources.
- (e) The ambit of this subhead is explained in (c) above. As explained in

(a) above, we have set aside \$1.5 million under this subhead for a Funding Scheme for NGOs to apply for funds to organise activities in the areas of race and sexual orientation which could include promotion of the ICERD. In view of the ambit of this subhead, no resources have been allocated under it for NGOs to organise activities related to the other subjects mentioned in this part of the question.

Signature

Name in block letters

DAVID H T LAN

Post Title

Secretary for Home Affairs

Date

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 047
(HQ15)

Question Serial No.

0767

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The provision of \$3.1M under Subhead 270 (Activities to promote equal opportunities) in the Estimate for 2000-01 is to meet expenses incurred in organizing activities to promote equal opportunities which include activities to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Could the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) What is the amount out of the total provision under Subhead 270 to be used for promoting CEDAW? With this provision, how many activities will be organised? What are the details and expenditure of each of these activities?
- (b) Will there be any provision for publishing copies of text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Government's report on CEDAW? If so, what is the amount of the provision? With this provision, how many copies of CEDAW and the report may be published? What is the increase or decrease in number as compared with that of the last year? How will the Government promote CEDAW and the report published this year?
- (c) Will there be any provision for promoting and consulting the public on the establishment of a central mechanism for coordinating women affairs so as to implement Recommendations 67 and 68 on CEDAW made by the UN Committee? If so, what is the amount involved? How will the recommendations be implemented?
- (d) Will there be any provision for reviewing legislation on marital rape and other forms of sexual violence so as to implement Recommendations 73 and 74 on CEDAW made by the UN Committee? If so, what is the amount involved? How will the recommendations be implemented?
- (e) Will there be any provision for reviewing legislation which guarantees women's right to equal pay for equal work in order to implement Recommendations 81 and 82 on CEDAW made by the UN Committee? If so, what is the amount involved? How will the recommendations be implemented?
- (f) Will there be any provision for reviewing the reservations and amending all those ordinances that are inconsistent with CEDAW, including those on immigration, provident fund, small house policy, pregnancy and religious organizations, etc., in order to implement Recommendation 83 on CEDAW made by the UN Committee? If so, what is the amount involved? How will the

recommendation be implemented?

- (g) Will there be any provision for holding open consultative meetings with the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to implement Recommendations 81 and 82 on CEDAW made by the UN Committee? If so, what is the amount involved? How will the recommendations be implemented?
- (h) Will there be any provision for application by the NGOs to promote CEDAW? If so, what will be the quota available to the NGOs for application? How much may each NGO apply for?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Reply :

(a) Under Subhead 270, \$600,000 has been earmarked for the promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). For this purpose, a number of publicity and educational programmes are being planned for 2000-01, including production and distribution of promotional materials, such as booklet, chess set and CD-ROM, and staging of exhibitions and seminars.

(b) In the past two years, 10,000 and 3,500 copies of CEDAW and HKSARG's Initial Report on CEDAW were printed respectively for distribution to members of the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, the then Municipal Councils and District Boards, as well as women's groups, public libraries, universities, social organisations and interested individuals. In addition, we have also put them on HAB's homepage for wider access by the public. The two documents are still in stock, but we would keep in view the need for reprinting them in 2000-01. The cost will be absorbed within the provision mentioned in Part (a).

(c) – (g) Various Bureaux are responsible for considering the subject matters in the recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that fall under their purview. As the review is still on-going and any follow up action deemed necessary thereafter would be carried out by the relevant Bureaux, it is up to them to consider whether resources need to be allocated to follow up those recommendations. As far as the Home Affairs Bureau is concerned, we have not included provision in the Estimates specifically for following up the recommendations. If the review should result in Home Affairs Bureau introducing new measures, we shall examine the resources implications of those measures and consider the best way forward. Within the Home Affairs Bureau, the work of conducting the review is carried out, among other duties, by one Principal Assistant Secretary, two Administrative Officers, one Assistant Clerical Officer and two secretarial staff. Together they entail an annual recurrent cost of \$3.4 million.

(h) No provision is reserved under this Head to provide financial assistance to NGOs. However, promotional materials referred to in Part (a) above can be made available to NGOs for the promotion of CEDAW.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ David H T LAN

Post Title _____ Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 048
(HQ16)

Question Serial No.

0768

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : In the report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women submitted to the United Nations in 1999, the Government indicated that policy groups comprising senior officers of various bureaux under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration would coordinate the work on women affairs. Could the Government inform this Committee:

- a. whether provision will be reserved for the policy groups to undertake activities for promoting women's interests? If so, what is the amount of the provision, the number of activities to be undertaken and the details of each activity?
- b. what is the increase or decrease in the amount of provision for this year as compared with that of last year and what are its effects on these activities?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Reply :

(a) & (b). The Government attach great importance to women issues and are committed to promoting the interests of women, addressing their needs and concerns, in addition to seeking remedial measures to eliminate discrimination against women. Issues of concern are deliberated and followed up at different fora within the Administration. Policy Secretaries together with Department Heads are responsible on an on-going basis for developing policy and legislative initiatives, securing the necessary resources and implementing them to meet the changing needs of women under their respective policy and programme areas. Where necessary, particularly in issues involving several bureaux, the matter could be referred to the Policy Groups chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration for consideration. No provision is therefore reserved under this Head for the purpose stated in the question.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB051
(SDB1)

Question Serial No.

0835

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 177-Subventions: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 415-Hong Kong Sports Development Board

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- 1) Starting from 2000, two corporations will cease to provide sponsorship amounting to \$1.66m for 6 sports programmes which were organised for mass participation. Will the Hong Kong Sports Development Board allocate a portion of its resources to organise sports programmes for mass participation? If it will, how much will be the resources? Will the authorities continue to seek funding support from other corporations for sponsoring sports activities for the mass public? If it will, what is the target aimed to be achieved?

Asked by : Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply :

Under the new framework for sports administration, the SDB will focus on supporting programmes which will develop performance and promote competitive athletes. Sports promotion and mass participation activities will be primarily the responsibility of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Both the SDB and the LCSD will seek sponsorship for their respective range of sports activities, although no specific target has been set for this in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Appendix 2

Bureau Serial No.

HAB052
(SDB2)

Question Serial No.

0836

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 177-Subventions: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 415-Hong Kong Sports Development Board

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As indicated in the analysis of financial provision, the operating expenses of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board have been reduced after the implementation of the Enhanced Productivity Programme.(EPP) Will the Government inform this council of the actual effectiveness of the EPP and the respective savings achieved in respect of staff expenses and activities' fees?

Asked by : Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply :

The implementation of the EPP has led to savings totalling \$3.48 million in the SDB's recurrent expenditure, made up of

- staff expenses : \$0.62 million
- travelling expenses:\$1.43 million
- other operating expenses: \$1.43 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 16 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB053
(PCO1)

Question Serial No.

0837

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 177 – Subventions: Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission, Office
of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In relation to the work of the Privacy Commissioner's Office ("PCO"), the figures shown under the items "handling public complaints" and "handling public enquiries" (including those shown in the sub-items thereunder) for 2000 represent a decrease in terms of the handling time and the quantity of cases when compared with the figures for 1999. What are the reasons for the decrease? Is it a reflection of the Office's staff shortage or of a decline in its efficiency?

Asked by : The Hon Lau Hon-chuen

Reply :

The figures referred to in the question are presumably those appearing in paragraph 92 under the heading "Targets". The PCO's actual performances in "handling public complaints" and "handling public enquiries" in 1999 exceed the targets. However, whether or not it can do so again in 2000 depends on factors beyond its control, such as the number and complexity of complaints and enquiries. Therefore, no change is proposed to the existing targets.

Bureau Serial No.

HAB053
(PCO1)

Question Serial No.

0837

In fact, as shown in the figures under the heading "Indicators", the workload and output in 2000 are expected to be greater than those in 1999. The PCO will absorb the increase within its existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB054(SDB3)

Question Serial No.

0982

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 177—Subventions: Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 415—Hong Kong Sports Development Board

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Starting from 2000, two corporations will cease to provide sponsorship amounting to \$1.66m for 6 sports programmes which were organised for mass participation. Will the Government inform this Council of how the resources hitherto provided for the aforesaid programmes will be redeployed?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

The resources previously provided for the six discontinued sports programmes have been redeployed to strengthen support for the National Sports Associations; to enhance coach education and development; and to organise development programmes aimed at raising performance standards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 14 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB055
(SDB4)

Question Serial No.

0983

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 177—Subventions: Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 415—Hong Kong Sports Development Board

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Government anticipates that the number of participants in sports programmes will be decreased from the actual figure 286 605 in 1999 to the planned figure 90 000 in 2000.

- (1) What are the grounds for this anticipation?
- (2) The change of this performance target will drastically reduce about 200 000 participants in programmes organised by the Sports Development Board. How will this affect the interests of the mass public?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-Ian

Reply :

(1) In 1999 some 200,000 participants were involved in the 6 sports programmes under the Go! Sport initiative. Due to the discontinuation of sponsorship for these programmes and the change of focus for the SDB to concentrate on sports development, these promotional programmes will not be undertaken by the Board in 2000, but will become the responsibility of the LCSD.

(2) Under the new structure for sports administration, the SDB will focus on supporting programmes which will develop performance and produce competitive athletes. Promotional and mass participation programmes will be taken up by the LCSD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 14 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB050(HQ18)

Question Serial No.

1002

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme (3) :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : As at 31 March 2000, there are 15 temporary posts at non-directorate level on the establishment of the Bureau. It is also estimated that in 2000-2001, the number of short-term temporary posts to be created for varying short durations for various specific projects will increase to 41. In addition, a temporary post at directorate level will be created for a period of 6 months. What specific projects will be undertaken by the holders of these 42 temporary posts? How many temporary staff will each of these specific projects require?

Asked by : The Hon. Emily Lau Wai-hing, JP

Reply : Out of the 42 temporary posts, 27 will be created for organising activities to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the National Day in 2000, and the remaining 15 for organising projects and activities to celebrate the new Millennium.

The activities to be organised in 2000-01 to celebrate the Millennium include:

- (ix) the Coming of Age Ceremony on 4 May 2000;
- (x) the French Riding Performance from 12 to 14 May 2000;
- (xi) the Opening of the Chi Lin Nunnery on 18 May 2000;
- (xii) the Children's Reading Pledge from June to late 2000;
- (xiii) the International Harmony/Asian Extravaganza in August 2000;
- (xiv) the 100 Years of Hong Kong Fashion Exhibition from August to September 2000;
- (xv) the International Basketball Cup from 2 to 6 September 2000;
and
- (xvi) the European Christmas Carnival from December 2000 to early 2001.

Other than the above activities, a number of capital projects have been launched in order to make the new Millennium more memorable. The projects, which will be completed in 2000-2001 include:

- (v) the establishment of the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute;
- (vi) the building of the International Wetland Park;
- (vii) the construction of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; and
- (viii) the construction of the Hong Kong Museum of History.

As regards the activities to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, we have initially planned to organise a flag-raising ceremony in the morning, a community participation activity in the daytime and a banquet/dinner in the evening on 1 July 2000. The detailed programme of these celebration activities has yet to be firmed up.

As regards the celebration of the National Day in 2000, the activities under planning include: a flag-raising ceremony in the morning and a celebration show in the evening on 1 October 2000. The details of these activities have yet to be worked out.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	DAVID H T LAN
Post Title	Secretary for Home Affairs
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 083
(HQ19)

Question Serial No.

1067

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It states that the Bureau will continue its efforts to address the question of racial discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation through administrative and education measures. Please advise:

1. What are, if any, the current administrative and education measures to address the question of racial discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.
2. The budget spending on race discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation respectively?
3. What are those additional administrative and education measures planned to be implemented in 2000-2001?
4. What performance targets and indicators does HAB rely on to assess

the results of those measures?

Asked by : Hon Christine Loh

Reply :

1. The measures have included an Equal Opportunities (Race and Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme; Announcement of Public Interests on TV; advertisements on public transport; promotional leaflets, posters and booklets; exhibitions; and production of "Guide to Services in Hong Kong" for migrant workers. We have also produced discrete Codes of Practice Against Discrimination in Employment on the grounds of Race and Sexual Orientation.
2. We plan to spend \$2.5 million under Subhead 270 on the promotion of equal opportunities in respect of race and sexual orientation. We treat this as a single item and do not have a pre-determined apportionment between the amounts allocated to race and to sexual orientation.
3. The measures listed in paragraph 1 will continue.
4. It is difficult, if not impossible, to measure the result of our efforts in quantifiable terms, as discrimination is ultimately a matter of attitude and perception. Our programme is for the long-term and is designed gradually to foster a culture of mutual respect and tolerance among all our people. As experience elsewhere clearly

demonstrates, it would be unrealistic to expect to see quick and measurable results in the short-term.

Signature _____

Name in block letters DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB084 (HQ20)

Question Serial No.

1068

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 53 - Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (2) Information Policy

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : It states that the HAB will formulate and develop policy in respect of information; and promote the use of the Internet for the dissemination of government information. Please advise:

1. The estimate on the programme (2) is the same as 1999-2000. Why there is no need to increase the budget in this area?
2. What measures, if any, will be taken to help the visually-impaired persons to access the Internet for government information and the amount of fund is expected to be spent on them?

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

Question 1

There is no need to increase the budget in this area because Home Affairs Bureau has been undertaking the work in question for several years and any increase in workload in the year 2000/01 (e.g. the plan to advise departments and co-ordinate their efforts on making their homepages more accessible to the visually-impaired) can

be absorbed by existing resources. It should be noted that the costs involved in maintaining and improving the homepages are borne from individual departments' allocations and not HAB's.

Question 2

The revised Guidelines on Dissemination of Information Through Government Homepages issued in July 1999 to all departments draws attention to the need to enhance accessibility by the visually impaired. In order to study how this can best be done, Home Affairs Bureau, Health and Welfare Bureau, Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau, Information Services Department and Information Technology Services Department have joined a pilot scheme to revamp their homepages to facilitate access by the visually impaired. The revamping will be completed by the end of March 2000. The Hong Kong Blind Union has been giving advice and feedback on the revamped homepages. A seminar for webmasters of Government homepages will be held in May 2000 with a view to drawing departments' attention to the need to enhance the accessibility of their homepages and advising them how they can improve in this aspect. The speakers will include representatives of the Hong Kong Blind Union and Equal Opportunities Commission.

In the light of the pilot scheme and the seminar, we shall decide how best to bring the matter forward and consider the resource implications. In the meantime, no additional resources have been proposed in the draft Estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 085
(HQ21)

Question Serial No.

1269

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The relevant United Nations committees have made comments and recommendations on the reports submitted by the Government in respect of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In this regard, what is the amount of resources allocated by the Government for following up these recommendations?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP

Reply :

Various Bureaux are responsible for considering the subject matters in the recommendations made by the relevant United Nations committees that fall under their purview. As the review is still on-going and any follow up action deemed necessary thereafter would be carried out by the relevant Bureaux, it is up to them to consider whether resources need to be allocated to follow up those recommendations. As far as the Home Affairs Bureau is concerned, we have not included provision in the Estimates specifically for following up the recommendations. If the review should result in Home Affairs Bureau

introducing new measures, we shall examine the resources implications of those measures and consider the best way forward. Within the Home Affairs Bureau, the work of conducting the review is carried out, among other duties, by two Principal Assistant Secretaries, one Senior Administrative Officer, two Administrative Officers, one Senior Executive Officer, one Executive Officer I, two Assistant Clerical Officers and five secretarial staff. Together they entail an annual recurrent cost of \$7.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters David H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB086(CS7)

Question Serial No.

1299

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 53—Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Culture

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The financial provision for 2000-01 under the Programme (6) is \$33.4m, 49.9% higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. Apart from subventions to Hong Kong Philharmonic Society and Hong Kong Arts Festival Society, how much of the provision will be distributed to promote and develop the arts and culture in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon Howard YOUNG, J.P.

Reply :

The \$33.4 m increase in provision for 2000-01 under programme (6) is mainly due to the taking over of funding responsibility for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society and Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd., partly offset by the transfer of the Antiquities and Monuments Office to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Apart from services provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Government supports the promotion and development of arts and culture mainly through funding support to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. For 2000-01, recurrent subvention to the two bodies amounting to \$295 m has been included under Head 177.

Signature :

Name in block letters : David H T LAN

Post Title : SHA

Date : March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB087
(HQ22)

Question Serial No.

1342

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 53 – Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (1) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The matters requiring special attention in 2000 include the review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. What are the contents, scope and timetable of the review to be conducted? Will there be any public consultation? When will the review be expected to complete? And how much resources will be needed?

Asked by : The Hon HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The current review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (“PDPO”) seeks to address the operational difficulties encountered since its commencement in December 1996 and put beyond doubt the meanings of particular provisions. The proposed amendments to the Ordinance arising from the review will mainly be of a technical nature and will not involve major policy changes. The matters under consideration include, for example, whether the guidelines issued by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (“PC”) should have legal effect on not only data users but also data subjects, whether the term “direct marketing” used in the

Ordinance should include the offering of social services to persons in need of such services and whether personal data transferred to the Public Records Office should be exempted from the provision in the Ordinance which prevents such transfer.

As the vast majority of the amendment proposals under consideration are of a technical nature, there is no plan to conduct public consultation. One of the proposals, concerning the right of parents to access the personal data of their children, has policy implications. We have been consulting organisations representing social workers, teachers, doctors, parents and children on the proposal. We intend to consult the relevant panel of the Legislative Council on all the proposals before introducing any legislative amendments. We hope to be able to finalise the proposals within the year 2000.

The review itself does not entail any additional resources. We shall examine the resource implications of the amendment proposals after the proposals have been finalised. In the meantime, no additional resources have been proposed in the draft Estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DAVID H T LAN

Post Title Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 024
(HAD 3)

Question Serial No.

0157

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6303 Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The Home Affairs Department will greatly increase the number of projects under the Rural Public Works (RPW) programme in the new year. Please list out the types of projects to be carried out.

Asked by : The Hon LAU Wong-fat, G.B.S., J.P.

Reply :

The types of projects to be carried out in the financial year 2000-01 under the RPW programme are summarized as follows :

Types of projects	Percentage
Footpath / footbridge / country trail	36%
Drainage / channel / stream course improvement	20%
Van track / bridge	10%
Rainshelter / sitting-out-area / pavilion	8%
Embankment	3%
Others (e.g. projects for a combination of purposes such as improvement to water supply system and footpath ; slope improvement works ; village notice boards ; fences, etc)	23%

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 020
(HAD 1)

Question Serial No.

0193

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) : 531 Subventions to district sports and arts associations

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With respect to Subhead 531, please specify the estimated amount of provision to be allocated to each district as subvention to district sports and arts associations.

Asked by : The Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply :

Each district will be granted a maximum total of \$200,000 for the subvention of the district arts association (\$100,000) and the district sports association (\$100,000) for promoting district-based arts and sports activities. In the case of Yau Tsim Mong district, an additional \$100,000 will be allocated since there were three district arts and/or sports associations established in the former Yau Tsim and Mong Kok districts before their merging into one district.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 021
(HAD 2)

Question Serial No.

0194

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 215 Environmental improvement and community involvement projects

Programme : 6303 Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

(a) Please provide the provision of each District Council to carry out minor environmental improvement projects in the new financial year.

(b) Please list out the ambit and project ceiling for the minor works programmes in the urban districts.

Asked by : The Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply :

(a) Based on local needs, funds are allocated to the District Councils (DCs) for carrying out Minor Environmental Improvement (MEI) projects. Their estimated expenditure for 2000-01 is as follows -

Is	K&T	N	SK	ST	TM	TP	TW	YL	C&W	E	KC	KT	S	SSP	WC	WTS	YTM
3.2	0.9	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.1	0.5	2.2	2.1	0.55	1.5	1.8	0.79	0.65	0.4	1.45	0.85	1

Note : figures in \$ million

b) In the urban districts, minor works projects can be carried out by the Urban District Offices under the DC MEI and the new Urban Minor Works (UMW) Programmes. Their ambit and project ceiling are as follows -

DC MEI Programme

Ambit : To provide a prompt remedy to urgent local problems, such as minor works to ameliorate crime black spot conditions, remove eyesores, improve minor access roads and paths and put temporary vacant land to community use.

Ceiling : \$600,000

UMW Programme

Ambit : To improve local facilities, the living environment and hygiene conditions of the urban areas, including improvement to local roads, walkways and trails, back lanes and hygiene blackspots, and the provision of recreational and leisure facilities, amenity planting, and construction of rainshelters.

Ceiling : \$15,000,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 026
(HAD 4)

Question Serial No.

0295

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) : 215 Environmental improvement and community involvement projects

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : What is the total amount of funds allocated to the 18 District Councils by the Home Affairs Department in 2000-01? What is the corresponding figure in 1999-2000? If the amount has been increased, please give the reasons. If reduced, please also give the reasons.

Asked by : Dr the Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The total allocation of District Council (DC) funds for 2000-01 is \$143 million, representing an increase of 10% (\$13 million) over the allocation of \$130 million for 1999-2000. With the establishment of the DCs on 1 January 2000, the DCs play an enhanced role in advising the Government on district matters, monitoring the delivery of municipal services, and promoting district leisure and cultural activities. The provision of additional funding to DCs is to enable them to organise more community involvement projects related to leisure and cultural activities at district level.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: 6303 Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

On the key performance measures in respect of local environmental improvements:

- (a) The total number of PDB/DC Minor Environmental Improvement (MEI) projects to be carried out in 2000-01 is 336, i.e. 34 less than that in 1999-2000. What is the reason for the decrease?
- (b) The number of Local Public Works (New Works) projects to be carried out in 2000-01 is only 77, representing a significant decrease of 243 as compared with 320 in 1999-2000. What is the reason for this big drop?
- (c) The Department will not implement any Urban Fringe Improvement (UFI) project in 2000-01. Why is it so? What are the criteria for deciding on the implementation of UFI projects?

Asked by : Dr the Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply :

- (a) Although the number of projects to be carried out in 2000-01 is slightly less than in 1999-2000, the provision sought under the PDB/DC MEI projects will be \$24.9 million compared with \$21.5 million actually spent in 1999-2000. The number of projects varies from year to year, having regard to local demand, scope and costs of projects, as well as manpower resources available to carry out these projects.

- (b) The Home Affairs Department has introduced a Rural Public Works (RPW) programme in 1999-2000 for which \$100 million is available, to replace the Local Public Works (New Works) and the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (Minor Works) programmes. The 77 items in 2000-01 are the remaining projects currently under construction and have to be paid out under the Local Public Works (New Works) programme in the financial year 2000-01.
- (c) The Urban Fringe Improvement (UFI) works in the urban fringe areas (rural areas within or near new town boundaries) are now subsumed under the Rural Public Works (RPW) programme. The only remaining UFI project was originally scheduled for implementation in 2000-01, but now has been rescheduled to start in 2001-02 for technical reasons.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 028
(HAD 6)

Question Serial No.

0297

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: 6305 Territory Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : In the Estimates, it is pointed out that the provision for 2000-01 is \$1 million higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000, which is mainly due to the need to examine an increasing number of research, survey and study projects. Please list out the research, survey and study projects to be examined during 2000-01 and their expected completion dates.

Asked by : Dr the Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The Home Affairs Department is required to give comments / assessments / local feedback on memoranda, papers and reports covering a wide range of boards, committees, study groups and ad hoc/regular meetings overseeing planning and development matters at both the headquarters and district levels. Based on our experience, the estimated number of research, survey and study projects to be examined in 2000-01 are -

Committees / Boards / Meetings	No. of paper / study materials
Committee on Planning and Land Development	45
Town Planning Board	592
Metro Planning Committee	270
Rural and New Town Planning Committee	671
Others	22
Total	1 600

The agenda items and titles of the papers and reports, etc are under the responsibility of the respective policy secretaries.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 066
(HAD 7)

Question Serial No.

0860

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) The Government has been emphasizing that the District Councils will play an enhanced consultative role after the dissolution of the Municipal Councils. Why is it that in 2000, the estimated numbers of District Council consultation on territory-wide and district issues are more or less the same as those in 1999 or perhaps even smaller?
- (b) Bearing in mind that the operation of Provisional District Boards was suspended between October and December 1999, why is the estimated number of District Council community involvement projects just a little higher than that in 1999?

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (a) In view of the enhanced role of the District Councils, it is estimated that consultations on territory-wide issues and district issues for 2000 will increase by 36% and 29% respectively over those in 1999. Details are as follows:

<u>Consultations</u>	1999 (<u>Actual</u>)	2000 (<u>Estimate</u>)	% Change <u>over 1999</u>
Territory-wide issues	433	587	+36%
District issues	1 690	2 175	+29%

- (b) The estimated number of community involvement projects to be organized in 2000 will increase by 12% over 1999, as follows:

1999	2000	% Change
------	------	----------

	<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Estimate)</u>	<u>over 1999</u>
Community Involvement Projects	6 294	7 053	+12%

The estimated increase is much greater than the year-on-year increase from 1996 to 1999 which ranges from 1% to 4.9%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 067
(HAD 8)

Question Serial No.

0861

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Over the past 3 years, the number of target buildings identified for building management purpose has been on the increase, and their actual number in 1999 was more than the estimated figure. In what way will the Department speed up the process of tackling the problems faced by these target buildings and what will be the additional resources involved?

Asked by : Dr the Hon TANG Siu-tong, J.P.

Reply :

The increase in the actual number of "target buildings" over the estimates in 1999 was mainly because two additional Building Management Co-ordination Teams were formed in 1999 for Yuen Long and Southern Districts. The Administration will continue to adopt a concerted and proactive approach to improve the management of these "target buildings". The Building Management Co-ordination Teams of the District Offices will continue to work closely with the relevant Departments to co-ordinate efforts to help and secure the co-operation of the owners and occupants to carry out the improvements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 068
(HAD 9)

Question Serial No.

0862

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The average usage rates of the multi-purpose halls in community centres/community halls have always been low (about 60%). Has the Administration any plan to boost their usage rates?

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The average utilization rates of individual centres vary depending on the location of the venue and availability of similar facilities in the vicinity. Generally speaking, utilization is heavier during evenings and weekends. This is because most people are at work or in school during the daytime. In this connection, it may be noted that the average utilization rate of all community halls and community centres has been consistently over 80% during the evening hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. during weekdays. Similarly, the facilities are heavily used during Saturday afternoons and evenings, with 70-85% utilization. These utilization rates cannot be regarded as low.

Over the years, government has endeavoured to improve the utilization of community centres and community halls by encouraging local organizations, and especially NGOs which are accommodated in the community centres, to make more and better use of the facilities available. Management committees established under District Councils also play an important role in promoting better utilization through the local community network. As a result, average utilization has steadily improved from 51% in 1995 to 62% in 1999. Our efforts will continue.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 069
(HAD 10)

Question Serial No.

0863

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The number of rates exemption applications processed in relation to Heung Yee Kuk and rural matters in 1999 was far below that of 1998. What are the reasons for this? Will the Administration review the present manpower resources in view of the drop in the number of applications?

Asked by : The Hon MA Fung-kwok

Reply :

The reduction in the number of cases processed in 1999 as compared with 1998 is mainly due to the availability of additional resources through internal redeployment to clear the backlog cases in 1998.

Regular reviews of staffing requirements have been carried out and in line with the workload, staff have been redeployed within the department to meet other commitments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 070
(HAD 11)

Question Serial No.

0864

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6303 Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What is the reason for the big drop in the estimated provision (\$14.6 million) for the Local Public Works (New Works) projects in 2000, as compared with that in 1999 (\$35.9 million)?

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Home Affairs Department has introduced a Rural Public Works (RPW) programme in 1999-2000 for which \$100 million is available, to replace the Local Public Works (New Works) and the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (Minor Works) programmes. The \$14.6 million provision sought under the Local Public Works (New Works) Programme is only for the payment of the remaining projects currently under construction in the financial year 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 071
(HAD 12)

Question Serial No.

0865

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: 6303 Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In para 19 under the Brief Description, the Home Affairs Department indicates that Local Public Works projects have been included under Rural Public Works Programme, but there are still 77 Local Public Works (New Works) projects which bid for separate provision in the 2000 Estimates. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : The Hon FUNG Chi-kin

Reply :

The 77 projects are the remaining projects currently under construction and have to be paid out under the Local Public Works (New Works) programme in the financial year 2000-01. \$14.6 million is made available for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 072
(HAD 13)

Question Serial No.

0866

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) : 531 Subventions to district sports and arts associations

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please give details of the new Subhead 531 "Subventions to district sports and arts associations".

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Provision under Subhead 531 is to fund a Community Sports Subvention Scheme and a Community Arts Subvention Scheme. Each district will be granted a maximum total of \$200,000 for the subvention of the district arts association (\$100,000) and the district sports association (\$100,000) for promoting district-based arts and sports activities. In the case of Yau Tsim Mong district, an additional \$100,000 will be granted since there were three district arts and/or sports associations established in the former Yau Tsim and Mong Kok districts respectively before their merging into one district.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 073
(HAD 14)

Question Serial No.

0876

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) Is there any provision for conducting research and review on the enhanced function of District Councils in the Estimates for 2000-01? If so, what is the amount of the provision? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Is there any provision for conducting research on the direct election of District Council Members in the Estimates for 2000-01? If so, what is the amount of the provision? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : The Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, S.C., J.P.

Reply :

The Home Affairs Department will assist in the review of the role and composition of the District Councils coordinated by the Home Affairs Bureau. The work will be carried out by existing staff and relevant expenses will be met from within the resources of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 074
(HAD 15)

Question Serial No.

0880

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) : 106 Temporary staff

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) With respect to Subhead 106 Temporary staff, it is pointed out that the decrease of \$3,579,000 (10.0%) against the revised estimate for 1999-2000 is mainly due to the signing of a new contract which reduces the costs of employment of security guards to manage community centres/halls. Would the Government inform this Committee the means by which the said costs were reduced?
- (b) At present, are security guards of community centres/halls employed on a contracting-out basis? If so, are there any requirements on the minimum pay for those employed by the contractors? And if so, what are the specific requirements?
- (c) At present, what is the average monthly salary of security guards manning community centres/halls under the Home Affairs Department?

Asked by : The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The answers to the questions are as follows:

- a) The lower costs for provision of security guard services were obtained by a change of contractors as a result of open tender of the services in 1999.

- b) The contracts for services are made directly with the security guard companies. There are no stipulations in the contracts regarding the level of pay for individual security guards.
- c) We have no information on the salaries of security guards who are employed by the contractors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 075
(HAD 16)

Question Serial No.

0979

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

(A) The average usage rate of multi-purpose halls in community centres and community halls is at present about 60%. What are the average usage rates of multi-purpose halls in community centres and community halls for the following periods of time? What measures will the Administration take to boost the usage rate of these facilities? Will such measures require the input of additional resources?

(1) Monday to Friday

- (a) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- (b) 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- (c) 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(2) Saturday and Sunday

- (a) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- (b) 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- (c) 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

The utilization rates during the periods stipulated are as follows:

Monday to Friday

<u>Time</u>	<u>average utilization rate</u>
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	66%
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	61%
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	75%

Saturday and Sunday

<u>Time</u>	<u>average utilization rate</u>
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	57%
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	65%
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	52%

Over the years, government has endeavoured to improve the utilization of community centres and community halls by encouraging local organizations, and especially NGOs which are accommodated in the community centres, to make more and better use of the facilities available. Management committees established under District Councils also play an important role in promoting better utilization through the local community network. As a result, the average utilization of community halls and community centres has improved steadily from 51% in 1995 to 62% in 1999. These efforts will continue and no additional resources are required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 076
(HAD 17)

Question Serial No.

0980

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Can the Administration tell the Committee how many suggestions did the Provisional District Boards/District Councils raise on territory-wide issues and district matters respectively in 1998 and 1999 after being consulted by the authorities concerned? How many of these were accepted for implementation by the Government?

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

In 1999, the Provisional District Boards (PDBs) were consulted and offered advice on 433 territory-wide issues and 1 690 district issues. In 1998, the PDBs were consulted on 461 territory-wide issues and 1 996 district issues. Policy bureaux and departments have ensured that the advice of the PDBs are taken into account in policy formulation and in the implementation process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 077
(HAD 18)

Question Serial No.

0981

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The number of mutual aid committees (MACs) dropped from 3 830 in 1998 to 3 750 in 1999. Can the Government tell the Committee how many new MACs were formed in 1999? How many were dissolved and why? Will the resources for this item be cut because of the drop in the number of MACs?

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

In 1999, 66 new MACs were formed and 146 old MACs were de-registered. De-registration of existing MACs was due largely to the conversion of the MACs concerned into Owners' Corporations or as a result of the demolition of the buildings concerned.

The small reduction in the total number of MACs does not give rise to savings in the use of resources. Efforts will continue to be made in forming more MACs. There is, therefore, no proposal to reduce the level of provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 078
(HAD 19)

Question Serial No.

0991

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The financial provision for 2000-01 is HK\$38.7 million (8.9%) higher than 1999-2000. Apart from the additional payment for DC Vice-chairmen and allowance to DC members, the additional provision is due to the creation of 18 posts for DC Secretariats.

- What kinds of the posts are they?
- What are they responsible for?
- Will the scope of services provided to DC members be increased?

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

Reply :

The additional provision is to allow the creation of an additional post for each District Council (DC) Secretariat, up to the level of Executive Officer or equivalent. The additional resources are to strengthen the administrative support within the DC Secretariat due to the DC's increased involvement in monitoring environmental hygiene services at the district level and in the promotion of district cultural, recreational and sports activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 079
(HAD 20)

Question Serial No.

0992

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) The provision for Programme (2) is \$14.8 million (3.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. One of the reasons is the increased provision for the implementation of community involvement projects. Please give details and the expenditure breakdown on these projects?
- (b) What is the financial provision for 2000-01 for promoting public participation in community affairs and district activities? What are the targets of these promotional activities?

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

Reply :

- (a) The total allocation of District Council (DC) funds for 2000-2001 will be increased by \$13 million (10% higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000). With the establishment of the DCs on 1 January 2000, the DCs play an enhanced role in advising the Government on district matters, monitoring the delivery of municipal services and promoting district leisure and cultural activities. The provision of additional funding (\$13 million) to the 18 DCs is to enable them to organise more community involvement projects related to leisure and cultural activities at the district level.

- (b) The total allocation of DC funds for 2000-2001 is \$143 million, of which \$118 million is estimated to be used for promoting public participation in community affairs and district activities as advised by the DCs. The types of projects include district fight crime activities, district fire safety activities, healthy living, promotion of Basic Law, festival celebration, district festivals, arts and sports festivals, elderly services and rehabilitation services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 080
(HAD 21)

Question Serial No.

0993

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6304 Licensing

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Estimated provision for 2000-01 is HK\$43.5 million. How much resource will be distributed for investigating and taking enforcement action against unlicensed guesthouses? How many unlicensed guesthouses have been successfully prosecuted in 1999 and what is the target for 2000-01?

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

Reply :

It is estimated that about 20% of the financial provisions in 2000-01 will be earmarked for investigating and taking enforcement actions against unlicensed guesthouses.

In 1999, the Office of the Licensing Authority carried out 70 investigations into suspected unlicensed guesthouses. The operators and keepers of five unlicensed guesthouses were successfully prosecuted. We will continue to step up enforcement actions against unlicensed guesthouses under the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance in 2000-01, by conducting blitz operations, deploying undercover agents, conducting night patrols and weekend inspections. With these initiatives and the experiences accumulated in previous prosecution actions, we hope to achieve a higher prosecution rate in 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 081
(HAD 22)

Question Serial No.

1037

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) : 531 Subventions to district sports and arts associations

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With respect to the new Subhead 531 Subventions to district sports and arts associations, what are the respective numbers of new Community Sports Subvention Scheme and Community Arts Subvention Scheme which the Government intends to fund in the coming year?

Asked by : The Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

Provision under Subhead 531 is to fund two new subvention schemes, namely, the Community Sports Subvention Scheme and Community Arts Subvention Scheme. Each district will be granted a maximum total of \$200,000 for the subvention of the district arts association (\$100,000) and the district sports association (\$100,000) for promoting district-based arts and sports activities. In the case of Yau Tsim Mong district, an additional \$100,000 will be granted since there were three district arts and/or sports associations established in the former Yau Tsim and Mong Kok districts respectively before their merging into one district.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 088
(HAD 23)

Question Serial No.

1069

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : It states that the Home Affairs Department is prepared to establish centres for foreign domestic helpers. Please advise:

1. The budget spending on the establishment of the centres;
2. What are purposes of establishment of the centres?
3. Where are the centres and when will they be operated?
4. The estimated number of foreign domestic helpers who would benefit from the centres.

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply : To cater for the needs of foreign domestic helpers and relieve the impact of their gathering at certain popular locations, Home Affairs Department (HAD) has established a number of centres for them to gather and carry out activities on their rest days. There are at present one full-time centre (in Kennedy Town) and six Sunday-only activity centres operating in selected school premises (in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Kowloon Tong, Causeway Bay and two in North Point). The centres are financed and managed by the Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust, a non-profit-making organization formed by a group of Philippine businessmen in Hong Kong. The centres are currently serving 11 538 individual members and 374 association members.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 089
(HAD 24)

Question Serial No.

1300

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6301 District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the undertakings announced by the Chief Executive in his 1998 Policy Address, could the Administration inform this Council in what ways Home Affairs Department can help District Councils enhance their role in district administration and what financial resources will be needed?

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

Reply :

The Home Affairs Department will help to enhance the role of District Councils (DCs) in the following ways : -

- (a) We will provide an additional funding of \$13 million to DCs in 2000-01 to promote district level leisure and cultural activities;
- (b) We have obtained approval of the Finance Committee (FC) to include \$35 million in the 2000-01 Capital Works Reserve Fund for implementing a new Urban Minor Works Programme (UMW). DC Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen will be invited to join the Central Steering Committee on UMW and District Working Groups to oversee the implementation of the programme and offer advice to resolve local issues;
- (c) We have obtained FC's approval for a total of \$33.2 million additional funding to increase DC Members' accountable allowance and to provide a special allowance for DC Vice-Chairmen;
- (d) We have invited DC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to join the District Management Committees (DMCs) to enhance communication between DCs and Government departments;

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 090
(HAD 25)

Question Serial No.

1301

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under Programme (2), the actual usage rate of multi-purpose halls in the community centers and community halls are 61.7% and 61.9% respectively in 1999. It is estimated that average usage rate of multi-purpose halls will be 60% only in 2000.

- a) What are the reasons for the lower usage rate?
- b) What kinds of activities are being held in these community centers and community halls?
- c) Will the Administration consider taking measures to increase the usage rate?

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

Reply :

The average utilization rates of community centres and community halls over the past two years have been consistently estimated at 60%. The slight marginal increase in actual utilization during this period does not, at this stage, justify an adjustment of the estimated figure.

Community halls and community centres provide a focal point for community building activities undertaken by Government and local community organizations, such as voluntary agencies, mutual aid committees and owners' corporations. Activities held in these venues include social groups and civic education activities, training courses, meetings, celebration events, recreation and sports activities. They also provide temporary shelter for people in need during natural disasters, emergency situations and inclement weather.

Over the year, government has endeavoured to improve the utilization of community centres and community halls by encouraging local organizations, and especially NGOs which are accommodated in the community centres, to make more and better use of the facilities available. Management committees established under District Councils also play an important role in promoting better utilization through the local community network. As a result, the average utilization of community halls and community centres has improved from 51% in 1995 to 62% in 1999. Our efforts will continue.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 091
(HAD 26)

Question Serial No.

1302

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: 6303 Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) With regard to the key performance measures of local environmental improvements, the estimate number of local public works (new works) projects will have a dramatic drop from 320 in 1999 to 77 in 2000 and the estimate provision is 59% lower than the actual provision for 1999. What accounts for this drop ?
- (b) The estimate number of squatter area improvement projects will be 5 in 2000. What kinds of the improvement projects are they and the expenditure breakdown on each project ?

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

Reply :

- (a) The Home Affairs Department has introduced a Rural Public Works (RPW) programme in 1999-2000 for which \$100 million is available, to replace the Local Public Works (New Works) and the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (Minor Works) programmes. The 77 items in 2000-01 are the remaining projects currently under construction and have to be paid out under the Local Public Works (New Works) programme in the financial year 2000-01.

- (b) Through the Squatter Area Improvements (SAI) projects, minor improvement works in squatter areas such as improvements to pedestrian walkways and repair of footpaths not covered by the Housing Department are carried out. Five projects will be carried out in 2000. The number varies from year to year based on the projected requirements of the districts. The average cost per project is about \$0.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS SHELLEY LAU _____

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 092
(HAD 27)

Question Serial No.

1335

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : At present, the average usage rate of Community Centres/Halls under the Home Affairs Department is just about 60%. Has HAD conducted any review to identify ways to boost the usage rate? If so, when was the review last conducted? What were the findings and effect of the review? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Dr the Hon TANG Siu-tong, J.P.

Reply : The average utilization rates of individual centres vary depending on the location of the venue and availability of similar facilities in the vicinity. Generally speaking, utilization is heavier during evenings and weekends. This is because most people are at work or in school during the daytime. In this connection, it may be noted that the average utilization rate of all community halls and community centres has been consistently over 80% during the evening hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. during weekdays. Similarly, the facilities are most heavily used during Saturday afternoons and evenings, with 70-85% utilization. These utilization rates cannot be regarded as low.

The utilization of community centres and community halls is monitored on a continuing basis by District Offices and District Councils. Efforts have been and will continue to be made to improve the utilization rates where necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 093
(HAD 28)

Question Serial No.

1341

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 63 Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In the Estimates for 2000, how much will be reserved for the provision of services to help new arrivals from the Mainland to integrate into the society and what services will be provided for them? As compared with 1999, what is the difference in the amounts of allocation?

Asked by : The Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Reply :

\$5.97 million is provided under Head 63 for the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to carry out necessary work to monitor and assess the provision of services for new arrivals from the Mainland in order to facilitate their integration into the community. The provision is the same as that in 1999-2000, due to the salary freeze of the civil service.

Apart from HAD, other Government departments, including Education Department, Social Welfare Department and Labour Department, have been providing various services for new arrivals with funding under their respective heads of expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS SHELLEY LAU

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB002(HQ2)

Question Serial No.

0064

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 53-GS: Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme (3): District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Home Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : a) Please state the purposes of creating 42 temporary posts for varying short duration, their distribution and the expenditure involved.

- b) In the coming year, the Bureau will organise projects to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the National Day and the Millennium. What are the details of the projects, the expenditure to be incurred and the manpower arrangement for these projects?

Asked by : The Hon. Gary, Cheng Kai-nam, JP

Reply : a) Out of the 42 temporary posts, 27 will be created for organising activities to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the National Day in 2000, and the remaining 15 for organising projects and activities to celebrate the new Millennium.

The 42 posts include the following:

- (xii) 1 Administrative Officer of Staff Grade C rank;
- (xiii) 4 Chief Executive Officers;
- (xiv) 6 Senior Executive Officers;
- (xv) 4 Executive Officers I;
- (xvi) 2 Executive Officers II;
- (xvii) 2 Personal Secretaries I;
- (xviii) 6 Personal Secretaries II;
- (xix) 1 Clerical Officer;
- (xx) 10 Assistant Clerical Officers;
- (xxi) 5 Clerical Assistants; and
- (xxii) 1 Workman II.

The total expenditure incurred for the creation of these 42 posts is around \$7.1 million.

- b) The activities to be organised in 2000-01 to celebrate the Millennium include:

- (xvii) the Coming of Age Ceremony on 4 May 2000;
- (xviii) the French Riding Performance from 12 to 14 May 2000;
- (xix) the Opening of the Chi Lin Nunnery on 18 May 2000;
- (xx) the Children's Reading Pledge from June to late 2000;
- (xxi) the International Harmony/Asian Extravaganza in August 2000;
- (xxii) the 100 Years of Hong Kong Fashion Exhibition from August to September 2000;
- (xxiii) the International Basketball Cup from 2 to 6 September 2000; and
- (xxiv) the European Christmas Carnival from December 2000 to early 2001.

Other than the above activities, a number of capital projects have been launched in order to make the new Millennium more memorable. The projects, which will be completed in 2000-2001 include:

- (xxv) the establishment of the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute;
- (xxvi) the building of the International Wetland Park;
- (xxvii) the construction of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; and
- (xxviii) the construction of the Hong Kong Museum of History.

Activities (i) to (viii) above will be funded through a combination of sponsorships mainly from the community and partly from the remaining amount of about \$1 million in our millennium project vote. Funding for capital projects (ix) to (xii) above will be provided under the capital works programmes within the purview of the respective policy bureaux.

As regards the manpower arrangement for these Millennium celebrations, activities (i) to (viii) will be co-ordinated by the Millennium Celebrations Office staffed by the 15 temporary posts mentioned in part (a) of the reply. The staff cost involved is around \$1.7 million. The manpower requirements for capital projects (ix) to (xii) will fall under the purview of the respective policy bureaux.

As regards the activities to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, we have initially planned to organise a flag-raising ceremony in the morning, a community participation activity in the daytime and a banquet/dinner in the evening on 1 July 2000. The estimated expenditure is roughly \$5 million. The detailed programme of these celebration activities has yet to be firmed up. Approval for funding will be sought when the programme details are available.

As regards the celebration of the National Day in 2000, the activities under planning include: a flag-raising ceremony in the morning and a celebration show in the evening on 1 October 2000. It is estimated that the expenditure involved will be around \$9 million. The details of these activities have yet to be worked out. Once we have a firmer proposal, the necessary funding approval will be sought.

Regarding the manpower arrangements for the celebration of the Third Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day Celebration in 2000, the celebration activities for both occasions will be organised and coordinated by the Celebration Co-ordination Office to be set up upon creation of the 27 temporary posts mentioned in part (a) of the reply. The total staff cost involved is estimated to be about

\$5.4 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	DAVID H T LAN
Post Title	Secretary for Home Affairs
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 003
(LCSD1)

Question Serial No.

0065

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 95 Leisure And Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title) :
Department

Programme : 9503 Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Please give details (including ranks and salaries) of the 73 proposed posts for the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HM), the new Hong Kong Museum of History (MH) and the Hong Kong Film Archive (FA) scheduled for opening in 2000-01. Had the former municipal councils discussed the proposals? If so, has the LCSD taken into account of the councils' views?

Asked by : The Hon MA Fung Kwok

Reply : The staffing proposals for HM and MH are in line with the former municipal councils' decisions. The staffing proposal for FA has not been discussed by the Provisional Urban Council. Details are as follows :

<u>Post</u>	<u>HM</u>	<u>MH</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>NAMS (\$ per post)</u>
Technical Officer I		1		386,280
Assistant Manager	2	3	1	336,900
Assistant Curator II		2		336,900
Executive Officer II			1	336,900
Technical Officer II		4		252,120
Senior Cultural Services Assistant	2			217,680
Cultural Services Assistant I	11	2	1	181,920
Cultural Services Assistant II	7		6	133,380
Assistant Clerical Officer	2	3	6	181,920
Supplies Supervisor II		1		181,920
Clerical Assistant	2	4	2	141,840
Motor Driver	1	1		151,140
Foreman	1			171,600
Senior Artisan	1			181,920
Artisan	3	1		151,140
Workman II	2			119,760
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Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 004
(LCSD2)

Question Serial No.

0066

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In respect of the personal emoluments:

- a) the Leisure and Cultural Services Department expects to delete 204 surplus permanent posts on 1 April 2000. How many surplus posts will still remain after these deletions? Does the Department have any plan to delete the remaining surplus posts? What kind of short-term duties are being taken up by the existing surplus?
- b) the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will create 754 permanent posts during 2000-01. What are the details of these new posts?
- c) the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will have a net increase of 550 permanent posts. Has the Department considered deploying the existing surplus staff to fill these posts?

Asked by : The Hon MA Fung-kwok

Reply :

- a) After the deletion of 204 surplus posts on 1 April, there will still be 20 surplus departmental grade posts in the department. These posts will be deleted as the surplus staff are reabsorbed into the regular permanent establishment of the department through wastage or creation of posts. Pending the deletion of these posts, the surplus staff will continue to be gainfully deployed on ad hoc duties relating to support services at stadia, the 'Healthy Exercises for All' programme, the licensing of amusement premises, etc.
- b) Details of the 754 posts budgeted for 2000-01 are as follows:

1	Assistant Recreation and Sport Officer I
1	Assistant Recreation and Sport Officer II
1	Amenities Officer I
4	Amenities Officer II
2	Senior Amenities Assistant
12	Amenities Assistant I
19	Amenities Assistant II
14	Amenities Assistant III
3	Manager, Cultural Services
8	Assistant Manager Cultural Services
23	Assistant Librarian I
30	Assistant Librarian II

1	Assistant Curator I
3	Assistant Curator II
5	Senior Cultural Services Assistant
15	Cultural Services Assistant I
26	Cultural Services Assistant II
2	Senior Technical Officer (Cultural Services)
3	Technical Officer I (Cultural Services)
7	Technical Officer II (Cultural Services)
1	Foreman
22	Senior Artisan
135	Artisan
2	Executive Officer II
24	Clerical Officer
209	Assistant Clerical Officer
129	Clerical Assistant
2	Typist
2	Personal Secretary II
1	Supplies Supervisor II
2	Analyst / Programmer II
1	Photographer II
2	Motor Driver
33	Workman I
9	Workman II

Of these posts:

- 583 are for new facilities (e.g. the Hong Kong Central Library, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Tsung Kwan O Public Library, Film Archive and Leisure Centre on Sai Wan Ho Reclamation, Homantin Leisure Centre, Tseung Kwan O Indoor Recreation Centre and Swimming Pool) and improvement of existing services (e.g. enhancement of safety at swimming pools); and
 - the remaining 171 are to accommodate surplus general grades staff in the civil service in place of LCSD's contract staff whose contracts are due to expire in the next financial year. The need to provide for these general grades staff is however under review and the actual number of posts required will be subject to the outcome of this review.
- c) As a general rule, re-deployment of staff will be considered first before filling the posts with new recruits.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB005
(LCSD3)

Question Serial No.

0067

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 95

Subhead: 001 Salaries

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) plans to create 303 posts in connection with the opening of the Hong Kong Central Library and Tseung Kwan O Library in 2000-01. What are the details of the posts to be created? Regarding the proposal of creation of posts, did the former municipal councils discuss the issue at their relevant meetings? If so, did LCSD take into account the views of the Councils and make necessary amendments?

Asked by: The Hon MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

Details of posts to be created for the new Hong Kong Central Library and Tseung Kwan O Public Library are given below:

<u>Hong Kong Central Library</u>		<u>Tseung Kwan O Public Library</u>	
Assistant Librarian I	22	Assistant Librarian I	1
Assistant Librarian II	26	Assistant Librarian II	2
Manager, Cultural Services	2	Senior Cultural Services Assistant	1
Assistant Manager, Cultural Services	2	Cultural Services Assistant I	1
Assistant Curator I	1	Cultural Services Assistant II	7
Assistant Curator II	1	Clerical Officer	1
Senior Technical Officer (Cultural Services)	2	Assistant Clerical Officer	9
Technical Officer I(Cultural Services)	2	Total :	22
Technical Officer II(Cultural Services)	3		
Photographer II	1		
Analyst/Programmer II	2		
Clerical Officer	22		
Assistant Clerical Officer	102		
Total:	188		
Grand Total : 210			

The remaining 93 posts are for other new public libraries such as Tsing Yi Public Library, Sam Ka Tsuen Public Library, Chai Wan Public Library and Fu Shan Public Library, and for accommodating surplus clerical grade staff from other departments in place of contract staff in public libraries. The need for these posts will be subject to very close scrutiny before they are eventually created..

The former Provisional Urban Council noted in March 1999 that a total of 200 posts would be required for the Hong Kong Central Library, and 12 posts have been approved and created so far.

Creation of new posts for the new Tsing Yi Public Library is in line with the Provisional Regional Council's decision in December 1998. Proposals for other new libraries have not been discussed by former Municipal Councils.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>PAUL S W LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Leisure and Cultural Services</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 009
(LCSD004)

Question Serial No.

0145

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- 1) a) Of the creation of 550 posts to the establishment, what kinds of post are they?
- b) What are the reasons for the creation of such posts? Please specify for each group of posts.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- 1) a) A total of 754 new posts have been budgeted for creation in the department in 2000-01 as detailed below:

1	Assistant Recreation and Sport Officer I
1	Assistant Recreation and Sport Officer II
1	Amenities Officer I
4	Amenities Officer II
2	Senior Amenities Assistant
12	Amenities Assistant I
19	Amenities Assistant II
14	Amenities Assistant III
3	Manager, Cultural Services
8	Assistant Manager Cultural Services
23	Assistant Librarian I
30	Assistant Librarian II
1	Assistant Curator I
3	Assistant Curator II
5	Senior Cultural Services Assistant
15	Cultural Services Assistant I
26	Cultural Services Assistant II
2	Senior Technical Officer (Cultural Services)
3	Technical Officer I (Cultural Services)
7	Technical Officer II (Cultural Services)
1	Foreman

22	Senior Artisan
135	Artisan
2	Executive Officer II
24	Clerical Officer
209	Assistant Clerical Officer
129	Clerical Assistant
2	Typist
2	Personal Secretary II
1	Supplies Supervisor II
2	Analyst / Programmer II
1	Photographer II
2	Motor Driver
33	Workman I
9	Workman II

These will be partially offset by the deletion of 204 surplus posts on 1 April 2000 arising from the reorganization of the municipal services but were retained temporarily to accommodate the surplus staff pending posting. The net number of additional posts budgeted for creation is 550.

b) Of the 754 new posts budgeted:

- 583 are for new facilities (e.g. the Hong Kong Central Library, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Tsueng Kwan O Public Library, Film Archive and Leisure Centre on Sai Wan Ho Reclamation, Homantin Leisure Centre, Tseung Kwan O Indoor Recreation Centre and Swimming Pool) and improvement of existing services (e.g. enhancement of safety at swimming pools); and
- the remaining 171 are required to accommodate surplus general grades staff in the civil service in place of LCSD's contract staff whose contracts are due to expire in the next financial year. The need to provide for these general grades staff is however under review and the actual number of posts required will be subject to the outcome of this review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 010
(LCSD5)

Question Serial No.

0146

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure & Culture Subhead (No. & title) :
Services Department

Programme : 9501 Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Among the 184 newly created posts, how many are to be filled by contract staff and how many by permanent staff? For contract staff, what are their salaries and terms of appointment?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

A total of 279 new posts have been budgeted for creation for the recreation and sports programme area. These will be partially offset by the deletion on 1.4.2000 of 95 surplus posts arising from the re-organisation of the municipal services but were retained to accommodate the surplus staff pending posting. Of the 279 budgeted posts :-

- 60 are general grade posts which will be filled by permanent general grade staff posted to the department by the General Grades Office.
- 219 are departmental grade posts. Of these :-
 - 74 are in promotion ranks. They will be filled by promotion of permanent staff in the department.
 - The remaining 145 posts will be in recruitment ranks. These, together with the 74 consequential vacancies from promotion, will be filled by non-civil service contract staff.

The salaries of the non-civil contract staff are determined in accordance with the guidelines in Civil Service Circular No. 2/99. In other words, their pay should be determined by reference to the employment market and recruitment situation and, in any case, should not be higher than the minimum salary of comparable civil service ranks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

LCS 012

Question Serial No.

0153

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure & Culture Subhead (No. & title) : 149 General
Services Department departmental expenses

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Have the salaries for the contract staff been reduced in order to achieve savings in expenditure? If so, what is the reduction involved? What is the change in the proportion of their salaries to the general departmental expenses?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

According to the guideline in Civil Service Bureau Circular No. 2/99 issued in January 1999 on the employment of non-civil service contract staff, pay for these staff should be determined having regard to the employment market and recruitment situation. In any case, the pay should not be more than the minimum salary of comparable civil service ranks or ranks of comparable level of responsibilities. Since the guideline was introduced, 271 new contract staff have been employed in the department. They are receiving pay at a rate which is in line with that of the current market situation, that is, around 70%-75% of the minimum salary of comparable civil service ranks. The resultant savings amount to \$13.8 million per annum or 0.6% of the general departmental expenses budgeted for 2000-2001.

The above arrangement does not apply to the 241 contract staff appointed before the issue of the guideline, and the salaries of these contract staff have not been reduced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date _____

Bureau Serial No.

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 95 Leisure and Subhead : (a) 240 Recreation and sports activities,
Cultural Services programmes, campaigns and exhibitions
Department (b) 368 Leisure and culture subsidy schemes
Programme : 9501 Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- (a) What are the estimates for the recreation and sports activities organised by the Government for this year and what are the expenses incurred for each programme?
- (b) What are the estimates for providing subsidies to local bodies for organising leisure activities and what are the expenses incurred for each programme?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The budget for organising recreation and sports activities for 2000-01 is \$102 million. Allocation of \$90.8 million will be used for organising a total of 22,000 programmes, including aquatic activities, fitness programmes, team games, etc. The remaining \$11.2 million will be provided for organising territory-wide projects and major events, including masters games, corporate games, a 'healthy exercise for all' campaign, etc.
- (b) LCSD administers two subsidy schemes for providing subsidies to local bodies for organising leisure activities. They are the Sports Subsidy Scheme (SSS) and the District Festivals Subsidy Scheme (DFSS). The SSS is established to finance local sports associations for organising sports training schemes, local sports competitions and international sports competitions held locally. The DFSS is established to give financial assistance to district bodies for organising district festivals and other large-scale festive events in celebration of traditional festivals such as Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival. The allocations for SSS and DFSS in 2000-01 are \$40.4 million and \$18.7 million respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul S W LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 012
(LCSD7)

Question Serial No.

0148

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Subhead :
Services Department

Programme : 9501 Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is mentioned in the Controlling Officer's report that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department aims at improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the provision of leisure services. Please explain the specific plans involved.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

To improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the provision of leisure services, reviews have been carried out to streamline procedures with a view to reducing operating costs. The Department is also exploring ways to improve usage of the existing leisure facilities. New initiatives including a 'healthy exercise for all' campaign, district sports teams and age group competitions will be launched to encourage public participation in sport. In addition, the Department is considering extending the contracting out of the management of leisure facilities. A trial scheme to contract out the management of the Tuen Mun Butterfly Beach Indoor Recreation Centre was launched in February this year. A review will be conducted to determine the applicability of this scheme to other leisure venues.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 013
(LCSD8)

Question Serial No.

0149

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 9503 Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : What monuments are included in the monuments restoration works and what are the total estimated costs involved?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Three monuments are included in the monuments restoration works for 2000-01 and the total estimated cost is \$9.13 million, as follows :

- (a) Lik Wing Tong Study Hall in Kam Tin, Yuen Long (\$2.53 m);
- (b) Tin Hau Temple in Causeway Bay (\$2.5m); and
- (c) Hau Mei Fung Ancestral Hall, Kam Tsin Tsuen, Sheung Shui (\$4.1m)

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 014
(LCSD9)

Question Serial No.

0150

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 9503 Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : What are the contents of the "Friends of Heritage" programme and what are the total estimated costs involved?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The "Friends of Heritage" programme aims at cultivating public interest in Hong Kong's cultural heritage. It provides a channel for members of the public to participate in the work and activities of the Antiquities and Monuments Office, such as assisting in archaeological excavations and guiding field trips, tours and exhibitions. Upon satisfactory completion of a qualifying period of voluntary work, applicants will be admitted as formal members of "Friends of Heritage". The programme was launched in 1997 with a grant of HK\$150,000 from the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust. The grant covers operating costs including production of publicity materials and organization of training courses and heritage tours for members.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 015
(LCS D10)

Question Serial No.

0151

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead(No. &
title) :

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Are there any provisions earmarked for the implementation of corporatization programme for the three performing companies under the former Urban Council? For example, provisions earmarked for the operation of the performing companies.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

For 2000/2001, a provision of \$115.8M has been earmarked for the operation of the three performing companies, viz, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre and Hong Kong Dance Company. It is planned to corporatise these companies in late 2000 or early 2001. Upon corporatization of the three performing companies, the Government will continue to provide funding support to enable their continuous operation and development. However, their funding needs can only be ascertained when their new boards of directors are set up.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 016
(LCSD11)

Question Serial No.

0152

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : What is the total amount of additional expenditure expected to be incurred after the setting up of the Culture and Heritage Commission in the coming year?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Expenses related to the setting up of the Culture and Heritage Commission are to be provided under the Home Affairs Bureau, not the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Apart from providing secretarial support to the Commission, the Home Affairs Bureau has earmarked \$2 million under Head 53 in the 2000/01 budget to cover other related administrative expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB017
(LCSD12)

Question Serial No.

0153

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure & Culture Subhead (No. & title) : 149 General
Services Department departmental expenses

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Have the salaries for the contract staff been reduced in order to achieve savings in expenditure? If so, what is the reduction involved? What is the change in the proportion of their salaries to the general departmental expenses?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

According to the guideline in Civil Service Bureau Circular No. 2/99 issued in January 1999 on the employment of non-civil service contract staff, pay for these staff should be determined having regard to the employment market and recruitment situation. In any case, the pay should not be more than the minimum salary of comparable civil service ranks or ranks of comparable level of responsibilities. Since the guideline was introduced, 271 new contract staff have been employed in the department. They are receiving pay at a rate which is in line with that of the current market situation, that is, around 70%-75% of the minimum salary of comparable civil service ranks. The resultant savings amount to \$13.8 million per annum or 0.6% of the general departmental expenses budgeted for 2000-2001.

The above arrangement does not apply to the 241 contract staff appointed before the issue of the guideline, and the salaries of these contract staff have not been reduced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 018
(LCSD13)

Question Serial No.

0190

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What are the construction cost as well as the recurrent cost of the Leisure Centre on Sai Wan Ho Reclamation ? How do the facilities of the Leisure Centre differ from those of the ordinary indoor games halls ?

Asked by : The Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Reply :

The Leisure Centre on Sai Wan Ho Reclamation is an integral part of a capital works project 43 RG – Film Archive & Leisure Centre on Sai Wan Ho Reclamation. The approved project estimate as a whole is \$602.9 million. The construction cost of the Leisure Centre alone is estimated to be in the region of \$300 million. The annual recurrent costs are \$9 million. In addition to those facilities commonly found in indoor games halls which include a multi-purpose hall and arena, a table-tennis room, a children's playroom, a dancing room, a fitness room and a cafeteria, the Leisure Centre will also provide indoor leisure pools, an indoor bowling green and indoor golf facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 029
(LCSD15)

Question Serial No.

0280

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Does the Administration have any plan to contract out the work of venue management? If yes, how much resources can thus be saved?

Asked by : The Hon Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

Reply :

Many aspects of the work of venue management have already been contracted out, such as cleaning, security, operation of sound and audio-visual equipment, catering service, maintenance of building and specialized equipment, piano tuning etc. As these services were either contracted out right from the opening of the venues or have been provided by contractors for a long time, there are no actual figures to illustrate the amount of resources thus saved. However, it is estimated that savings would be in the region of 30 - 40%. The Department is actively exploring the feasibility of further contracting out more aspects of the work of venue management, such as stage services and operation and maintenance of electrical and stage lighting equipment currently undertaken by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 033
(LCSD17)

Question Serial No.

0373

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 95 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Regarding the proposal of the outward transfer of the Music Office to 'an established institution'

- (1) what are the details of the outward transfer?
- (2) in what way does the transfer affect the target of its service?
- (3) in what way does the transfer affect the future expenditure on the provision of this service?

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

1. The Consultancy Report by Mr. Albert C.C. Lam released in April 1999 recommended that the Music Office (MO), together with its existing services and activities, should be transferred to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (APA). The Report also recommended that sufficient funding should be provided by the Government to enable the APA to employ the music professional staff of the MO and recruit a reasonable number of administrative staff to support the service of the transferred MO. APA has indicated interest in exploring the possibility of transfer. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department is currently following up the issue with the APA.
2. The proposed transfer will not affect MO's target services of promoting general music education in the community, especially among youths, including the provision of instrumental music training for those aged between 6 and 23.
3. It is expected that if the transfer is implemented as proposed, savings could be achieved from replacing the existing civil services posts of supporting staff by contract staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	PAUL S W LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
Date	17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Regarding the enhancement of the self-learning role of public libraries,

1. What are the details of the work involved?
2. Who are the target groups of the service? Please list them out by age, sex and educational background.
3. What is the estimated number of potential users for the services?
4. What is the amount of provision allocated for this item of work in the coming financial year?

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

1. Details of the work related to the enhancement of the self-learning role of public libraries are as follows:
 - (i) Enhancing the information services
 - a. To set up a Central Reference Library of six subject departments in the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL);
 - b. To develop a subject specialization scheme for the major libraries;
 - c. To provide a business and industry library in the City Hall Public Library;
 - d. To provide an education resources centre in the Kowloon Public Library; and
 - e. To further develop the Arts Library into an Arts Resources Centre.
 - (ii) Enhancing the use of information technology
 - a. To provide more multi-media work-stations for CD-ROM or online Internet searches;
 - b. To upgrade the existing computerization systems; and
 - c. To set up a digital library in HKCL to provide remote access to multimedia information, CD-ROM and online databases.

- (iii) Promoting reading among children and youths
 - a. To organise a wide range of extension activities;
 - b. To launch a territory-wide reading programme, group registration for library cards in schools and language learning workshops in the libraries in cooperation with the Education Department; and
 - c. To set up a youth library in HKCL.
- (iv) Further enhancing user education and marketing of services
 - a. To provide a wide range of user education programmes such as training sessions on the use of Internet and CD-ROM databases; and
 - b. To publish a library newsletter to further publicize the library services and facilities.
- (v) Improving the accessibility of library services by extending the opening hours of the study rooms with effect from April 2000.

2.-3. Public library services are provided free of charge to all sectors of the community of Hong Kong. Any member of the public can make use of the services provided by the public libraries and holders of library cards can also borrow library materials for home use. At present, the public libraries have 2.4 million of registered borrowers with library cards.

4. Excluding the expenditure on capital works items, the provision allocated in the coming financial year for enhancing the self-learning role of the public libraries is about \$303.92 million as detailed below :-

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------|
| (i) | Enhancing the information services (to be absorbed under the annual book vote) | \$110m |
| (ii) | Enhancing the use of information technology | \$185m |
| (iii) | Promoting reading among children and youths (excluding the expenditure on setting up a youth library which is covered under the annual book vote) | \$ 7m |
| (iv) | Improving the accessibility of library services | \$1.92m |

Signature	
Name in block letters	PAUL S W LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 035
(LCSD19)

Question Serial No.

0398

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Subhead (No. & title) :
Services Department

Programme : 9501 Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will examine new trends and development in recreation and amenities and introduce new facilities. Please state the specific scope involved. Please also state how long it will take to complete the work and the costs required.

Asked by : The Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP

Reply :

A major policy review will be conducted from April to December 2000 to examine recreation trends and developments in order that appropriate new leisure facilities will be provided to meet the rising expectations of the community. The review will include examining the current Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines on Recreation and Open Space, the provision of leisure facilities and their usage, the provision of leisure facilities by the private sector as well as international trends and standards. Studies will also be carried out on the development of golfing facilities in Hong Kong and to further identify recreational opportunities for families. These studies and review will be carried out by deploying existing resources and no additional expenditure is anticipated.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 036
(LCSD20)

Question Serial No.

0415

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Subhead (No. & title) : --
Services Department

Programme: 9502 Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

During 2000-01, the department will conduct a comprehensive survey of trees for the preservation of trees and the expansion of planting programmes. Please give details of the survey to be conducted in terms of resources requirement and time frame. Have there been similar surveys conducted before?

Asked by : The Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will conduct a survey to identify the species, dimensions, numbers and locations of trees growing within its recreational facilities. Existing park staff will be deployed to carry out the survey which will take about nine months. No additional staff or resources will be involved. A similar survey on roadside trees was carried out in 1994 for the purpose of devising long term planning of tree planting and maintenance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG
Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Post Title _____

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB094
(CS8)

Question Serial No.

0740

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 703 - Buildings

Subhead : 3002RO Consultants fee
for Urban Council projects

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Although the Urban Council has already been dissolved, there is still an estimated sum of about \$260,000 to be spent on "Consultants' fees for Urban Council projects" in 2000-01. What are the reasons ?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The sum of \$260,000 is required to cover the outstanding payments for consultancy services for ex-Provisional Urban Council projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 056
(LCSD21)

Question Serial No.

0828

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : (a) When will the Yuen Long Theatre be formally opened to the public? What are the scope of facilities and the construction cost involved? What is its estimated expenditure in 2000-01? Can it accommodate arts programmes of an international level?

(b) Please provide specific details as well as the expenditure required for the special arts festival "Celebration of Hong Kong Performing Arts – A Tribute to the New Millennium". In what way does this Festival differ from the Hong Kong Arts Festival?

Asked by : The Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP

Reply :

(a) The Yuen Long Theatre will be officially opened in mid-May 2000. It is a medium-sized venue comprising a 923-seat auditorium, an exhibition area, a dance studio and other ancillary facilities. Its construction cost is \$565 million and the estimated venue operating expenditure for 2000/01 is \$34.9 million. The auditorium is of an international standard and suitable for staging world class cultural programmes.

(b) A provision of \$20M has been earmarked to meet the programme and publicity costs of the festival "Celebration of Hong Kong Performing Arts: A Tribute to the New Millennium" which will take place from late October 2000 to early February 2001. The Festival is a special event organised to celebrate the new Millennium. It will include a total of 16 programmes in 69 performances and a wide range of educational and promotional activities. All these programmes are created, produced and performed by local artists. The Hong Kong Arts Festival, on the other hand is an annual event which has become an important regular feature in the cultural calendar of Hong Kong. It presents artists from around the world and the best of local talent. For 2000, the Hong Kong Arts Festival features 36 programmes in 127 performances operating at a total budget of \$59.6M.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Paul S W LEUNG

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 057

(LCSD22)

Question Serial No.

0829

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Subhead (No. & title) : --
Services Department

Programme: 9502 Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide details of “comprehensive survey of trees” and the resources involved.

Asked by : The Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will conduct a survey to identify the species, dimensions, numbers and locations of trees growing within its recreational facilities. Existing park staff will be deployed to carry out the survey which will take about nine months to complete. No additional staff or resources will be involved. The purpose of the survey is to devise long term planning of tree planting and maintenance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB058
(LCSD23)

Question Serial No.

0830

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Subhead (No. & title) :
Services Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The 1999-2000 financial figures provided by the Administration for all the programmes under this Head only represent the provision required for the first 3 months in 2000 following the establishment of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. As a result, no comprehensive comparison can be made. Will the Administration please provide the former Provisional Municipal Councils' (PMCs) consolidated estimates of financial provision under these five programmes for the whole year of 1999-2000? Please also make an analysis and provide a comparison against the financial provision for 2000-01 (in the same format as shown on p.207 – 211).

Asked by : The Hon Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

Reply :

As the PMCs were financially autonomous, their estimates are not directly comparable to those of a Government department. The provision for 2000-01 reflects the requirements of the new Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to maintain a broadly similar level of service to that of the PMCs, plus earmarked growth in 2000-01. It has also taken into account savings arising from reorganisation of municipal services. It does not however include services provided by other Government departments, for example, building services provided by Architectural Services Department. The provisions for computerisation, plant and equipment, and capital works projects are funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Moreover, since the re-organisation on 1.1.2000, the new department has taken up the responsibilities for the Antiquities and Monuments Office and Books Registration Office. An analysis of financial provisions by Programme is as follows:

-

PMCs Estimate <u>1999/2000</u> \$M	LCSD Estimate <u>2000/01</u> \$M
---	---

Programme

(1)	Recreation and Sports	2,957.0	2,235.0
(2)	Horticulture and Amenities	865.5	572.8
(3)	Heritage and Museums	686.3	476.0
(4)	Performing Arts	1,404.7	1,128.8
(5)	Public Libraries	885.7	680.8
		6,799.2	5,093.4

A detailed breakdown of the provision by Subheads is appended below:-

		PMCs Estimate 1999/2000 \$M	LCSD Estimate 2000/01 \$M
	I – Personal Emoluments		
001	Salaries and on-costs	2,786.1	2,080.2
002	Allowances	130.7	99.6 Note 1
003	Job-related allowances	44.6	33.8
		2,961.4	2,213.6
	III – Departmental Expenses		
102	Technical Services Agreement	48.6	65.4 Note 2
149	General departmental expenses	2,779.1	2,145.3 Note 3
		2,827.7	2,210.7
	IV – Other Charges		
205	Publicity	73.3	83.0 Note 4
239	Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions	199.4	220.0
240	Recreation and sports activities, programmes, campaigns and exhibitions	102.2	106.0
241	Library materials and multi-media services	96.7	110.0
242	Artefacts and museum exhibitions	19.3	40.0 Note 2
		490.9	559.0
	V – Subventions		
368	Leisure and culture subsidy schemes	143.1	66.7 Note 5
		143.1	66.7
	Total, Recurrent Account	6,423.1	5,050.0
	Total, Capital Account	376.1	43.4 Note 6
	Total Expenditure	6,799.2	5,093.4

Note 1 – The decrease is due to streamlining of staffing structure and tighter control over the grant of allowances e.g. acting pay and overtime allowance etc.

Note 2 – The increase is due to the commissioning of new facilities e.g. Yuen Long Theatre, HK Heritage Museum etc.

Note 3 – The decrease is due to the transfer of provisions to other Government departments e.g. building maintenance to Architectural Services Department, office rentals to Government Property Agency etc.

Note 4 – The increase is due to the Millennium celebrations and commissioning of

new venues.

Note 5 – The decrease is due to the transfer of subventions to other departments e.g. HK Philharmonic Society to Home Affairs Bureau and District Sports Association Subvention Scheme to Home Affairs Department.

Note 6 – The provisions for computerisation projects, acquisition of major plant and equipment, minor building works etc. are funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 059
(LCSD24)

Question Serial No.

0831

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title) :
Department

Programmes : 1-5

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to the Analysis of Staffing Provision of the five programmes as shown on page 207, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will create 550 new posts. Please provide relevant organization charts in respect of these new posts and explain why some of these services cannot be undertaken by contract staff or contracted out. Does the Department have any plan to contain the increase in civil service posts? Regarding Programme (1), when will the Recreation and Sport Officer and Amenities Office grades be merged?

Asked by : The Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

Reply :

A total of 754 new posts have been budgeted in 2000-01. Of these:

- 583 are for new facilities (e.g. the Hong Kong Central Library, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Tsung Kwan O Public Library, Film Archive and Leisure Centre on Sai Wan Ho Reclamation, Homantin Leisure Centre, Tseung Kwan O Indoor Recreation Centre and Swimming Pool) and improvement of existing services (e.g. enhancement of safety at swimming pools); and
- the remaining 171 are required to accommodate surplus general grades staff in the civil service in place of LCSD's contract staff whose contracts are due to expire in the coming financial year.

The 754 budgeted posts will be partly offset by the deletion of 204 posts which became surplus as a result of the reorganization but were retained temporarily to accommodate the surplus staff pending redeployment. The net number of additional posts budgeted for creation is 550.

The actual creation of the budgeted posts will be subject to the strictest scrutiny of the Departmental Establishment Committee machinery. In addition, the department will make every effort to contain overall establishment growth by:

- meeting additional staffing requirements through redeployment of existing staffing resources as far as possible;
- identifying scope for procedure streamlining and efficiency gain; and
- contracting-out or corporatisation of services and other initiatives for productivity gain.

Detailed recommendations for merger of the Recreation and Sport Officer and Amenities Officer grades have been drawn up and staff consultation is now underway. When finalised, the recommendations will be forwarded to the Civil Service Bureau, the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service, and the Finance Committee for consideration. We hope that the package will be approved for implementation within the new financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : (a) What are the principles, criteria and data adopted by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department when setting the targets and indicators in relation to the performance measures of the five programmes under its purview?

(b) If the former Provisional Municipal Councils and/or other government departments responsible for the relevant areas of work in the past had previously set performance targets and/or indicators for corresponding areas of work under the aforesaid five programmes, please list out and compare the respective new and old targets and/or indicators.

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

Reply : (a) In setting targets and indicators for its performance in relation to the five programmes of activities under its purview, the LCSD had made reference to the general principles and criteria adopted by the former Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs). The new Department is now reviewing the different policies and practices of the PMCs with a view to providing quality services to the public on the one hand, and achieving maximum cost-effectiveness on the other.

(b) A few major performance indicators of work are listed below: -

<u>Indicators</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Programme (1) : Recreation and Sports		
no. of recreation and sports activities organized	20 982	22 000
no. of participants in recreation and sports activities	1 216 000	1 250 000
no. of swimming pool complex	34	35
Programme (2) : Horticulture and Amenities		
no. of plants provided	1 655 000	2 100 000
no. of greening activities organized	520	590
no. of horticultural activities organized	340	350
Programme (3) : Heritage and Museums		
Heritage		
no. of seminars/conferences/workshops/exhibitions/ heritage tours	138	140

<u>Indicators</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
no. of buildings assessed by the Antiquities Advisory Board	7	25
<i>no. of historical buildings restored or maintained</i>	11	12

Museums

no. of visitors to museums/exhibitions	3 124 000	3 300 000
no. of lectures/demonstrations/seminars/workshops/film and audio-visual shows	7 800	8 400
no. of museums	10	13

Programme (4) : Performing Arts

no. of cultural and entertainment presentations	3 050	3 100
total attendance of cultural and entertainment presentations	2 063 000	2 120 000
no. of participants at instrumental music training classes	4 800	5 200

Programme (5) : Public Libraries

no. of books and audio-visual materials in stock	7 600 000	8 300 000
no. of registered readers	2 320 000	2 470 000
no. of libraries	66	68

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 062
(LCSD27)

Question Serial No.

0893

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Subhead (No. & title) : --
Services Department

Programme : 9502 Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Why is there a need to conduct a comprehensive survey of trees ? What is the estimated cost for the proposal ?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The reasons for conducting a comprehensive survey of trees are to collect data on the species, dimensions, numbers and locations of existing trees to facilitate planning of tree planting, management and maintenance programmes and to develop a tree inventory. The department will deploy existing park staff to carry out the survey which will take about nine months to complete. No additional staff or resources will be involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 063
(LCS28)

Question Serial No.

0894

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title) :
Department
Programme : 2 – Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Of the net deletion of 6 posts under this programme, what kinds of posts are they? Will there be any staff laid off as a result of the deletion? Of the proposed creation of 45 permanent posts, what kinds of posts are they? Are all the staff for these posts to be recruited on pensionable terms?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

A total of 45 new posts have been budgeted for new recreational facilities (e.g. Homantin Leisure Centre, Ma On Shan Sports Ground, Jordan Valley Playground) in 2000-01 as detailed below:

1	Amenities Officer II
3	Amenities Assistant I
5	Amenities Assistant II
7	Amenities Assistant III
6	Artisan
6	Workman I
17	Clerical Assistant

The creation of these posts will be subject to the scrutiny by the Departmental Establishment Committee machinery.

Of the 45 posts, 14 are in promotion ranks and will, if created, be filled by promotion within the department. The remaining 31 posts are in the recruitment ranks. These, together with the 14 vacancies consequential on promotion, will be filled by non-civil service contract staff.

The 45 budgeted posts will be more than offset by the deletion of 51 posts which became surplus as a result of the recent reorganization of municipal services but were retained temporarily to accommodate the surplus general grades staff pending redeployment. The net number of posts to be deleted is 6. These surplus staff

will be returned to their respective grade management for redeployment to other departments. No staff will be laid off.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB095
(CS9)

Question Serial No.

0895

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 703 - Buildings

Subhead : 3370RO Hammer Hill Road
District Park

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : An allocation of \$350,000 is reserved for building Hammer Hill Road District Park (an outstanding project of the ex-Urban Council) in 2000-01. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$177,050,000 if it is to start in the fourth quarter of the 2000-01 financial year (p.48 of Vol. 2 of Estimates). How much does the Authority plan to spend in building the Hammer Hill Road District Park as a whole? The whole project will be divided into how many stages? What are the construction items and total cost of each stage?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The estimated cost of 3370RO - Hammer Hill Road District Park is \$177.05 million in money-of-the-day prices. At present, the layout plan of the park is being reviewed to take into account the ambience of the adjoining Chi Lin Nunnery. The project is not planned for phased development.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB064
(LCSD29)

Question Serial No.

0994

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Leisure and Subhead (No. & title) : 205 Publicity
Cultural Services
Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

(a) Under Subhead 205 Publicity, \$83,000,000 will be provided to promote and publicize leisure and cultural activities, facilities, venues.

- What kinds of promotion activities will be held?
- What is the provision for each activity?
- What are the performance targets of these activities?

(b) Under Sub-head (603) 002 and 003, \$800,000 had been approved for purchasing inflatable motor boats for patrol in Southern beaches and Sai Kung, when will the equipments be put into operation?

Asked by : The Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

Reply :

(a) The leisure and cultural facilities /activities will be promoted through the following channels:

Category	<u>Provision (\$M)</u>
(i) Electronic media	12.3
(ii) Printed media	22.1
(iii) Outdoor advertising (e.g. MTR, bus, tram, Star Ferry & banners)	12.8
(iv) Roving exhibitions, promotional displays and roadshows	3.1
(v) Publications (e.g. posters, leaflets, newsletters & design fees)	32.7
Total	83.0

These promotion activities are meant to boost attendance. Our targets for some of our major activities are as follows:

	<u>No. of Service Activities</u>	<u>Target Audience / Visitors/Participants</u>
(i) District recreation and sports programmes (including National Day Recreation and Sports Carnival, Corporate Games, Masters Games, "Healthy Exercise for All" Campaign,, District Competitions, Learn to Swim Classes, Fitness Classes etc.)	22 000	1 250 000
(ii) Sports Subsidy Scheme to subvent national sports	5 000	300 000

	associations to organise sports development programmes and competitions		
(iii)	District Festivals Subsidy Scheme to subvent district organisations to organise district festivals and large scale events in celebration of traditional festivals	110	2 100 000
(iv)	Horticultural and greening activities (including the Hong Kong Flower Show and Green Hong Kong Campaign)	940	515 000
(v)	Cultural and entertainment programmes (including regular cultural presentations, arts festivals, an international film festival, regular entertainment programmes in the districts, major festive carnivals in the parks, educational programmes at schools, music camps and carnivals)	8 400	2 200 000
(vi)	Museum and heritage activities (including exhibitions, guided tours and extension activities)	13 180	3 500 000
(vii)	Public library extension activities (including a literature festival and territory-wide reading programme for children and youth)	14 800	8 450 000
(viii)	Promotion of use of the libraries and good reading habits	NA	2 470 000 (Registered Readers)

Promotion activities are also essential to publicize and market the following new facilities to be opened in 2000-01:

- Hong Kong Central Library and other two new libraries
- Hong Kong Museum of History
- Hong Kong Heritage Museum
- Museum of Coastal Defence
- Yuen Long Theatre
- Hong Kong Film Archive

(b) The four inflatable motor boats for patrol in Southern beaches and Sai Kung will be put into operation in July 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

 Director of Leisure and
 Post Title Cultural Services

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB 065
(LCSD30)

Question Serial No.

1059

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 95 Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : 9503 Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Regarding the 53 museum exhibitions in 2000/01 :

- (a) What are their categories? Please list them out;
- (b) What are the criteria and mechanism for determining the exhibition programmes?

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- (a) The 53 museum exhibitions planned for 2000 can be classified into the following five categories:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number</u>
Visual Arts	19
Antiquities	7
History	15
Science and Technology	10
Film	2

- (b) The museums plan their exhibition programmes according to their respective roles, functions and missions. Some exhibitions are produced in-house; others secured from other museums and cultural organizations. The same criteria of artistic, historical, cultural and educational values as adopted by the former municipal councils are used for determining the exhibition programmes. The museums will also consult expert advisers as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 17 March 2000

- (b) It is estimated that about 790 non-profit-making organizations will receive subsidy under Subhead 368 to organise and participate in about 5,400 activities and events in 2000-01.
- (c) The two former Provisional Municipal Councils decided separately in 1999 to produce a book about the history of municipal services in Hong Kong. Two separate items were subsequently entered into the department's Capital Account for 2000-2001. However, on closer examination of the two projects, it is found more appropriate to produce a single publication to cover the establishment of the Municipal Councils, their development and achievements over the years. The book is expected to be published in early 2002. An editorial committee has been set up comprising Professor S.Y.ZEE, Mr. CHIANG Sai-cheong, Ms. Carlye TSUI, Mr. WONG Kwok-hing and Mr. LAI Hok-lim. They are not provided with any remuneration for the service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Paul S W LEUNG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB096
(CS10)

Question Serial No.

1086

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 703 - Buildings Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food
Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : As regards the estimated provision of \$1,944,190,000 under the Capital Works Reserve Fund in 2000-01 to meet the expenditure of on-going and new projects related to municipal services :

- a. apart from the approved projects, what are the new projects for which the provision has not yet been approved by the Finance Committee; and
- b. does the provision cover all the capital works projects of the two Provisional Municipal Councils that the Administration has committed to undertake ? If not, please give details of the projects that are not covered by the provision.

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply : Besides the completed and on-going ex-municipal council projects for which funding was approved by the Finance Committee (FC) on 17.12.1999, eight additional projects were approved by FC on 10.3.2000.

The following four projects are still outstanding -

- (i) 3012NM - Urban Council Stanley Complex
- (ii) 3045RG - Tai Kok Tsui Complex, phase 2
- (iii) 3368RO - Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground
- (iv) 3370RO - Hammer Hill Road District Park

Funding has been set aside in the draft estimate for implementation of these four projects. Pending a review of their project scope and consultation with the relevant parties, these projects will be put to the Public Works Subcommittee/FC for funding approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB-100(SWD4)

Question Serial No.

0940

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : \$46.4m of NGO subvention will be transferred to HAB. We would like to know from which services these resources are drawn and the implications of such transfer of resources on these services.

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The Fundamental Expenditure Review (FER) on Youth in 1999 recommends, among other things, the transfer from Social Welfare Department (SWD) to Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) youth development services under the policy purview of HAB, namely uniformed organization services, the Hong Kong Award for Young People, and the Miscellaneous Group and Community Services of Agency for Volunteer Service. The objective is to enable HAB to achieve a better coordinated youth development programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 April 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB-097(SWD1)

Question Serial No.

1060

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : According to the existing policy of the Social Welfare Department, Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDP) are provided in "public housing estates affected by redevelopment". With regard to the clearance and redevelopment of North Point Estate revealed earlier, will the authority concerned arrange for the deployment of a NLCDP project team to serve the estate? If yes, what is the earliest possible time for the provision of such services by the project team? If no, why?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The Executive Council decided in 1995 that existing Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) will be terminated upon clearance of their serving areas and in the absence of new priority areas. A new priority area must fulfil the following criteria. First, the area must have a population between 3000 and 15000. Second, the area must not be due for clearance within 3 years. Third, the area is classified as a low income area.

The North Point Estate has a population of 6100 as at March 2000 but its final evacuation date for clearance falls in February 2002, which is less than 3 years away. The eligibility of the North Point Estate for the provision of the NLCDP will be examined by the Committee on NLCDPs chaired by the Home Affairs Bureau with representatives from the Housing Department, Hong Kong Council of Social Service and Social Welfare Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 April 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB-098(SWD2)

Question Serial No.

1198

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The Government will set up 12 teams under the Integrated Neighbourhood Projects in Targeted Old Urban Areas in 2000-01 (Plan), whereas only 8 teams are set up in 1999-2000 (Estimate). What are the reasons?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : Under the current policy, new Integrated Neighbourhood Projects (INPs) will be set up as required only when resources from existing Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) are released upon redevelopment clearance of their serving housing areas.

Owing to clearance slippages, only 8 INPs were set up in 1999-2000 with the remaining 4 teams deferred to be set up in 2000-01. Taking into account the overall clearance plans in 2000-01, a total of 12 teams will be formed including the 4 teams slipped from 1999-2000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 April 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HAB-099(SWD3)

Question Serial No.

1320

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Please state why the Government plan to cut 9 teams of the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects in 2000-01.

Asked by : The Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The Executive Council decided in 1995 that existing Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) will be terminated upon clearance of their serving areas and in the absence of new priority areas. On the basis of this policy, 6 NLCDPs are planned to be terminated in 2000-01.

The Audit Commission Report No. 29 published in October 1997 pointed out that those existing NLCDPs serving a population below 3000 needed to be critically examined. It was subsequently agreed with the operating non-governmental organizations concerned that those NLCDPs serving a population below 1800 should be terminated. As a result, another 3 NLCDPs are expected to be terminated in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 April 2000