

Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office
[File name: S-BJO-e1.doc]

Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-BJO 001	S006	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	35	Liaison
S-BJO 002	S014	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	35	Liaison

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-BJO 001

Question Serial No.

S006

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

Please provide details of the following:

- (a) the breakdown of the number of enquiries, requests for assistance and complaints received in 2002 according to case types and the authorities to which cases were referred (including the authorities in Hong Kong and the Mainland); and
- (b) the level of manpower involved in handling the above cases.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

(a) In 2002, the Beijing Office handled a total of 774 public enquiries and requests for assistance, including 381 public enquiries and 393 requests for assistance. The breakdown is as follows:

(1) Public Enquiries

Nature	No.
Trade- and business-related enquiries	38
Seeking information about the HKSAR Government or organizations in Hong Kong	55
Seeking information about the Mainland	18
Miscellaneous enquiries or expression of views	214
Initial enquiries relating to requests for assistance	56
Total	381

(2) Requests for Assistance

Nature	No.
Business and trade disputes	78
Complaints relating to real property in the Mainland	82
Complaints against the Mainland's administrative, law enforcement and judicial agencies	150
Others	83
Total	393

We referred the above assistance-seeking cases to more than 10 ministries and departments of the central authorities (including the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the State Letters and Complaints Bureau), about 30 local authorities (such as letters and complaints bureaux, public security authorities, procuratorates and courts of various localities) and 6 HKSAR Government departments and NGOs (such as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Hong Kong Red Cross). As for public enquiries, our staff had been able to provide answers to most of the questions and supply the necessary information. No referrals were necessary.

(b) Handling of the above cases took up about 20% of the workload of one Administrative Officer and one Assistant Trade Officer respectively.

Signature Signed on the Chinese version

Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 28.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-BJO 002

Question Serial No.

S014

Head:35 Government Secretariat :Beijing Subhead:
Office

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

This is a further follow-up question to Q.S. no. 1090 (reply serial no. BJO-010) regarding the site for permanent office, please give the exact location of the site, the area of the new office and the area of the current rented office. If more space is to be provided, please give reasons. When will the new office be ready for occupation?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Since the process of site clearance and compensation negotiation with sitting landlords and tenants is underway, it is not appropriate for us to announce the details, lest it may increase the difficulty of land acquisition. The area of the current rented office is about 1 700 square metres. The land area of the permanent office is approximately 1 900 square metres, giving a floor area of 2 200 square metres which is in line with the approval by Finance Committee in May 2000. The increase in floor area is mainly due to the need to provide facilities to support a stand-alone building (such as plant room), and storage of exhibition and promotion campaign materials. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we expect the new office to be ready for occupation in the second half of 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Bowen LEUNG

Post Title _____ Director, Beijing Office

Date _____ 28.3.2003