

**examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs  
Session No. : 5 File name : S-CAB-e1.doc**

<b>Reply Serial No.*</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">S-CAB001</a>	Oral	Young, Howard	163	Electoral Services

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB001

Question Serial No.

Oral Question

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead(No. & title) : 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect of the 2003 District Councils (DC) election, the Administration to explain the justification for the 10-month duration of the six posts created in 2003-04 for demarcation of constituencies, and preparation of electoral guidelines as specified in item 3 of Table (A) of the Administration's response (CAB019), having regard to the fact that the DCs election would have concluded in 2003.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply : We require six civil service time-limited posts in 2003-04 for 10 months to reinforce the executive support to the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) for the conduct of the 2003 DCs election.

(a) For the first six months from April to September 2003

They will be responsible for the demarcation of constituencies and the preparation of electoral guidelines for the 2003 DCs election, including the conduct of public consultation on the proposed guidelines. Our target is to submit recommendations to the Chief Executive (CE) on the demarcation of constituencies on or before 27 May 2003, and to issue the finalised electoral guidelines by September 2003.

(b) For the remaining four months from October 2003 to January 2004

On completion of the tasks in (a) above, the civil service time-limited posts will be deployed to provide extensive support in handling election-related complaints and in compiling a report on the DCs election.

According to the electoral guidelines, we need to follow up on any election-related complaints received from the commencement of the nomination period up to 45 days after the polling date of the election. Based on past experience, we estimate that we will likely need to handle about 3,000 complaints in the coming election.

As for report compilation, as requested by law we need to submit to the CE a report on the election within three months of the conclusion of the election.

To carry out these two tasks within the relevant timeframe, we need to establish a team of ten, comprising the aforesaid six posts and another four posts to be created for five months in 2003-04. The latter four posts have been mentioned in table A(5) in my reply to Question Serial No. 0614.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 28 March 2003