

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

**[Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs]
[Session No. : 19] [File name : S-HAB-e.doc]**

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

Reply Serial No.

S-HAB001

Question Serial No.

Oral

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

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : The Administration undertook to consider the re-deployment of one Senior Government Counsel post from the Department of Justice to the Home Affairs Department to facilitate the provision of legal advice and staff training in relation to the implementation of the Building Management Ordinance.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : We have considered the suggestion that the Senior Government Counsel (SGC) post be created in Home Affairs Department (HAD) and not the Department of Justice (DoJ). We maintain that creating the post in DoJ will ensure better support and back up services for and supervision of the SGC. In addition to benefitting from the wide range of services provided by DoJ, HAD will benefit from the dedicated service of the SGC on building management. The SGC advises HAD staff on the interpretation of the provisions of the Building Management Ordinance (BMO) and the amendment exercise to the BMO, as well as assists in the training programmes for HAD staff. We believe that DoJ, including the SGC dedicated to providing legal advice on building management issues, can provide us with the necessary services we require.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss JANET WONG

Post Title Director of Home Affairs (Atg)

Date 29.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

S-HAB002

Question Serial No.

S037

Head : 74 – Information Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (4) Civic Responsibility

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : In response to the question on Announcements of Public Interest (APIs) on Article 23 of the Basic Law, the Secretary for Security told Members (reply serial no. SB002) at the Special Finance Committee Meeting on 24 March 2003 that the time slots for broadcast of APIs on television and radio were allocated by the Director of Information Services. With respect to this, will the Director of Information Services inform this Council of :

- (1) the number and timing of API time slots allocated by each television and radio station in 2002/03 and 2003/04;
- (2) the number and timing of API time slots by policy area under bureau in 2002/03 and 2003/04; the criteria of and procedures for allocating these time slots; and
- (3) the number and timing (in chronological order) of API time slots by subject matter (e.g. Article 23 of the Basic Law, Atypical Pneumonia etc.) during the period from February to end of April 2003. Will the Administration consider increasing the broadcast of APIs on Atypical Pneumonia? If so, what are the details; if not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

- (1) Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) are broadcast on 13 television and 12 radio channels. The Government has one minute of airtime per broadcasting hour on each of the TV and radio stations except Cable TV. The latter broadcasts one minute of APIs every two hours.
- (2) In 2002/03, the total airtime for TV APIs was 74,000 minutes and radio APIs 105,000 minutes. Airtime slots are categorized under different campaign themes, so there are no statistics for API timeslots by policy area. The main publicity programmes for 2002/03 include Fire Safety, Promotion of Services, Fight Crime, Anti-Narcotics, Brand Hong Kong, Waste Reduction, Road Safety, Healthy Ageing, Village Representative Election, Prevention of Dengue Fever and Promotion of Basic Law 23. Major ones in 2003/04 will include the Prevention of Atypical Pneumonia, District Council Elections, New Identity Card, Prevention of Dengue Fever, Service Promotion, Fight Crime, Road Safety, Fire Safety, Brand Hong Kong, Healthy Ageing and Promotion of Basic Law. The Information Services Department arranges the scheduling in consultation with the Policy Bureaux, Government Departments or Non-Government Organisations concerned. The frequency of APIs is decided on the basis of a number of factors such as the scale and duration of the publicity campaign, level of public concern, seasonal and incidental considerations.

- (3) For February and March 2003, the total airtime for TV APIs would be 12,000 minutes and radio APIs 17,000 minutes. The airtime was mainly allocated to Basic Law Article 23, Prevention of Dengue Fever and Brand Hong Kong. Please see breakdown below.

	Allocated TV Airtime (Minutes)	Allocated Radio Airtime (Minutes)
Basic Law Article 23	656	961
Prevention of Dengue Fever	691	893
Brand Hong Kong	407	-
Prevention of Atypical Pneumonia (19-31 March)	1,323	1,401

Airtime has been allocated increasingly to broadcasting APIs on the prevention of Atypical Pneumonia since 19 March. Currently, almost all timeslots are given to this subject.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title DIS

Date 29.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

S-HAB003

Question Serial No.

Oral

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

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In response to the 2003-04 estimated expenditure of \$28 million for outsourced management service of sports centres, the Administration undertook to provide further information in respect of the number of sports centres to be serviced, the number of staff and salary involved and their duties.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) At present, management services of six sports centres are outsourced to the private sector, namely, Butterfly Beach Sports Centre in Tuen Mun, Chun Wah Road Sports Centre in Kwun Tong, Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre in Sham Shui Po, Chuk Yuen Sports Centre in Wong Tai Sin, and Quarry Bay Sports Centre and Island East Sports Centre in Eastern District. The estimated expenditure of \$28 million in 2003-04 for outsourcing the management services of the six sports centres includes staff wages and other expenses which the contractors have to undertake in relation to the daily operation of the centres, such as stores and equipment, minor repairs work, utility charges and other sundry expenses required.
- (b) The number of staff required in each venue varies with the facilities provided. The Department has specified in the contracts the minimum number of staff required for each venue and the contractors are at liberty to provide additional staff as they see fit.

The total number of staff currently required under the existing contracts to man the six sports centres (in two shifts) is 105, with breakdown as follows:

Venue	No of Staff (in two shifts)
Butterfly Beach Sports Centre	10
Chun Wah Road Sports Centre	14
Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre	14
Chuk Yuen Sports Centre	15
Quarry Bay Sports Centre	15
Island East Sports Centre	37
Total	105

- (c) The contracts for the sports centres at Chun Wah Road, Cheung Sha Wan, Chuk Yuen, Quarry Bay and Island East were awarded before 26 May 2001. Contractors are not required to provide employment information for their employees. Hence contractors did not provide information as to the wage they offered to their employees. As regards the management contract for the Butterfly Beach Sports Centre which was renewed in February 2002, salary offered by the contractor is \$5,250 per month for a non-skilled worker (working an average of 8 hours per day and 26 days per month).
- (d) Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the existing contracts, the contractors are required to provide adequate staff in taking up duties related to the daily operation of the venues, for example, handling counter and telephone enquiries, booking of facilities and collection of hiring fees, daily cleansing of the whole venue, security and crowd control, setting up and dismantling of equipment, maintenance of equipment, operation of plants, providing horticultural maintenance to landscaped areas (if provided), lifesaving and first-aid services (where appropriate), compiling management reports, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 31 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

S-HAB004

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In response to Hon. Andrew CHENG's enquiry on the initiatives for promotion of sports among students, the Administration undertook to provide information on the fee-exemption scheme for schools to use the sports facilities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department during non-peak hours.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In order to maximize the use of sports facilities and encourage students to be more active in sports, the Department has implemented the Free Use Scheme to allow schools, national sports associations, district sports associations and subvented non-governmental organizations to use selected sports facilities free of charge during non-peak hours. The sports facilities covered by the Scheme include main arena and activity rooms of sports centres, squash courts, hockey pitches, outdoor bowling greens and obstacle golf course.

The Department has been in close liaison with schools to encourage them to participate more actively in the Scheme. To encourage schools to make the best use of the Scheme, the booking procedure has been streamlined in May 2002 to allow schools to block book the selected facilities for the whole school year. Free use bookings will be confirmed in one go to facilitate schools to plan their activities. For the school term in 2002-03, applications from schools for free use of main arena and activity rooms have increased by 37% and 64% respectively.

In addition, the Department has implemented the School Sports Programme (SSP) to provide opportunities for students to involve continuously in sports. There has been an overwhelming response from schools to the SSP. In 2003-04, about 4 000 SSP activities will be organized for 400 000 students from 800 schools.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 31 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

S-HAB005

Question Serial No.

Oral

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

At the request of Hon Andrew CHENG, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on the 10 pilot projects referred to in paragraph 8 of the speaking notes of the Secretary for Home Affairs, highlighting those which were outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils, if any.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

We are still working on the proposals and shall brief the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs on 11 April 2003 with more details.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 31 March 2003