

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

**[Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security]
[Session No. : 6] [File name : S-SB-e1.doc #]**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB001

Question Serial
No.

S004

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

How much resources have been used in 2002-03 and are expected to be used in 2003-04 by the Government to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law? How much manpower (number of officers involved and their ranks as well as their responsibilities) and resources have been used to produce the Consultation Document, compendium of submissions and related CD-ROMs? How many related publications have been produced?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

Funds have been set aside for creating a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer (Staff Grade C) for the period January to July 2003 to consolidate and prepare legislative proposals for implementing Article 23 of the Basic Law, and to follow up on matters arising from the relevant Bills Committee. The emoluments involved amount approximately to \$700,000. Other related research and support work has been and will be absorbed by the Security Bureau and Department of Justice with existing resources.

The quantity and costs of the consultation document, compendium of submissions, bills and related publications produced in connection with Article 23 of the Basic Law are set out below:

Item	Quantity	Cost (\$)
Consultation Document and Summary	◆ 71 000 ■ 39 000 (Consultation Document) ■ 32 000 (Summary)	480,000 (approx.)
5 designs of leaflets – ◆ Proposals to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law	◆ 1 659 200 ■ 321 500	600,000 (approx.)
◆ Myths and Facts	■ 531 500	
◆ Protecting Freedom of Speech	■ 406 400	

◆ Way Forward	■ 331 800	
◆ National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill: Overview	■ 68 000	
Compendium of Submissions	◆ 15 000 (Volume 1) ◆ 40 sets (Volumes 2 to 19)	330,000 (approx.)
National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill and Explanatory Notes	◆ 62 000 ■ 27 000 (Bill) ■ 35 000 (Explanatory Notes)	160,000 (approx.)
Collection of existing statutory provisions relevant to the National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill	◆ 1 000	60,000 (approx.)
Give-aways and display materials publicizing Article 23 of the Basic Law	◆ Producing display materials and arranging displays and venues	50,000 (approx.)
Total:		1,680,000 (approx.)

Signature _____

Name in block letters TONG HIN-MING,
TIMOTHY

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Security (Acting)

Date 29.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB002

Question Serial
No.

S003

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please list the number of juveniles arrested for crimes in 2002 by the type of crimes.
- (b) What measures and resources are available in 2003-04 to combat juvenile crimes?
- (c) How many sergeant rank officers are now deployed for secondary school liaison in various police districts and how many secondary schools do they cover?
- (d) How many sergeant rank officers are now deployed for primary school liaison in various police districts and how many primary schools do they cover?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

- (a) Please see Annex 1 for juveniles (aged 7-15) arrested in 2002 by the type of crimes.
- (b) In 2003-04, the Police will continue to prevent juvenile crimes through strategies worked out and implemented in line with the Government's multi-agency approach.

The Police will help juveniles strengthen ties with their families, schools and community through programmes which encourage them to lead a healthy life and to be more aware of their civic responsibilities. In addition to the "Junior Police Call Scheme", the Police participate in various multi-agency initiatives, including the "Smart Teen Challenge Camp" co-ordinated by Police Headquarters. Juvenile programmes are also organised at Police regional and district levels.

Police will continue to raid and search black spots selling psychotropic drugs to curb drug abuse amongst youngsters. To take timely and effective actions against youths at risk, the Police will patrol youngsters' hangouts and gather intelligence on juvenile crimes through various channels and mount strategic undercover operations to counter the triad influence on youngsters.

The Police will work with the Social Welfare Department to map out the "Family Conference". Also, the Police will continue to co-operate with other Government departments (such as the Education and Manpower Bureau) and non-governmental organisations involved in the "Community Support Service Scheme" to refer juvenile offenders under Superintendent Discretion Scheme for suitable services so as to reduce the chances of relapse. In addition, the Police will distribute to juvenile offenders guides to counselling services.

Since these services fall under the Programme of Prevention and Detection of Crime, no specific breakdown is available in respect of the expenditure in this area.

- (c) The Police deploy 33 sergeants as “Secondary School Liaison Officers” in various police districts to enhance communication with 520 secondary schools throughout the territory. Their duties are :-
- (1) to disseminate crime prevention messages to the students through conducting seminars on the importance of positive values and community spirit and through leading group discussions on the seriousness of committing crime;
 - (2) to act as role model for secondary school students so as to help them develop positive values and realize the importance of maintaining discipline; and
 - (3) to work actively in partnership with schools, social workers and parents to help and support students at risk to stay away from crime.

Please see Annex 2 for the deployment of Secondary School Liaison Officers in various police districts.

- (d) The Police deploy 25 sergeants in various police districts as School Liaison Officers who serve 815 primary schools as well as other educational institutions such as tertiary institutions. Their duties are :-
- (1) to establish and maintain, through regular visits, close liaison with teachers and youth organisations in schools;
 - (2) to give talks in schools and conduct discussions with students on the consequences of committing crime to bring home crime prevention messages;
 - (3) to initiate and co-ordinate schools visits to Police formations; and
 - (4) to assist the Junior Police Call and Youth Liaison Officer in the promotion of Junior Police Call activities in schools

Please see Annex 2 for the deployment of School Liaison Officers in various police districts.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police (Ag)

Date 29 March 2003

Juveniles (aged 7 – 15) Arrested For Crime In 2002 By Type Of Crimes

Type of Crimes	Persons Arrested in 2002
<u>VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST PERSON</u>	
1 Rape	7
2 Indecent Assault	84
3 Murder & Manslaughter	2
4 Attempted Murder	0
5 Wounding	104
6 Serious Assault	563
7 Assault on Police	6
8 Kidnapping & Child Stealing	0
9 Cruelty to Child	0
10 Criminal Intimidation	51
<u>VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</u>	
11 Robbery with Firearms/Arms	0
12 Robbery with Pistol Like Object	0
13 Other Robberies	468
14 Aggravated Burglary	0
15 Blackmail	116
16 Arson	26
TOTAL FOR VIOLENT CRIMES (1 – 16)	1 427
<u>BURGLARY, THEFT & HANDLING STOLEN GOODS</u>	
17 Burglary with Breaking	60
18 Burglary without Breaking	40
19 Theft (Snatching)	55
20 Theft (Pickpocketing)	5
21 Theft (Shop Theft)	1 897
22 Theft from Vehicle	47
23 Taking Conveyance without Authority	14
24 Abstracting of Electricity	0
25 Theft from Construction Site	3
26 Other Miscellaneous Thefts	833
27 Handling Stolen Goods	47
<u>FRAUD & FORGERY</u>	
28 Deception	24
29 Business Fraud	0
30 Forgery and Coinage	3
<u>SEXUAL OFFENCES</u>	
31 Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	50
32 Keeping Vice Establishments	0
33 Procuration, Abduction of Female	1
34 Unnatural Offences	2

35 Other Offences against Public Morality	4
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Juveniles (aged 7 – 15) Arrested For Crime In 2002 By Type Of Crimes (Cont'd)

Type of Crimes	Persons Arrested in 2002
<u>SERIOUS NARCOTICS OFFENCES</u>	
36 Manufacturing of Dangerous Drugs	0
37 Trafficking in Dangerous Drugs	21
38 Possession of Dangerous Drugs	33
39 Other Serious Narcotics Offences	0
<u>OFFENCES AGAINST LAWFUL AUTHORITY</u>	
40 Mislead/Give False Information To Police	29
41 Perjury	1
42 Resisting Arrest	4
43 Escape and Rescue	0
44 Other Offences against Lawful Authority	1
<u>SERIOUS IMMIGRATION OFFENCES</u>	
45 Aiding And Abetting of Illegal Immigrants	0
46 Using ID Card Relating to Another	18
47 Other Serious Immigration Offences	2
<u>MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES</u>	
48 Criminal Damage	131
49 Other Offences Against Person	7
50 Disorder/Fighting in Public Place	87
51 Offences Against Public Order	152
52 Unlawful Society Offences	172
53 Money Lending	0
54 Serious Gambling Offence	1
55 Conspiracy	14
56 Object Dropped from Height	11
57 Other Crimes	20
TOTAL FOR OTHER CRIMES (17 – 57)	3 789
<u>PREVENTIVE CRIMES</u>	
58 Possession of Arms and Ammunition	1
59 Possession of Offensive Weapon	70
60 Going Equipped for Stealing	37
61 Possession of Unlawful Instrument	3
62 Tampering with Vehicle	4
63 Unlawful Pawning Offence	0
64 Loitering	4
TOTAL FOR PREVENTIVE CRIMES (58 – 64)	119
TOTAL FOR ALL CRIMES	5 335

Deployment of Secondary School Liaison Officers and School Liaison Officers

District	No. of Secondary School Liaison Officers	No. of School Liaison Officers
Eastern	2	1
Central	1	1
Wan Chai	2	1
Western	2	2
Wong Tai Sin	2	1
Sau Mau Ping	1	1
Kwun Tong	2	1
Sham Shui Po	2	2
Kowloon City	3	2
Yau Tsim	1	1
Mong Kok	1	1
Tuen Mun	2	2
Yuen Long	2	2
Tai Po	3	2
Border	0 (Note)	1
Sha Tin	3	2
Kwai Tsing	2	1
Tsuen Wan	2	1
Total	33	25

(Note: No Secondary School Liaison Officer in Border district which has only one secondary school. The work is taken up by the School Liaison Officer.)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB003

Question Serial
No.

S009

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please state the number of cases handled by the Complaints Against Police Office in 2001-02, the manpower required and the expenditure incurred.
- (b) Please state the estimated strength and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office for 2003-04.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) The number of cases handled by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) in 2001-02 was 3 246.

The establishment of CAPO in 2001-02 was as follows :-

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Establishment</u>
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	4
Chief Inspector	14
Senior Inspector	23
Station Sergeant	10
Sergeant	66
Police Constable	6
Senior Police Translator	2
Police Translator I	17
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Clerical Assistant	14
Personal Secretary II	4
Senior Typist	3
Typist	10
Workman II	3

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The actual expenditure of CAPO in 2001-02 was \$64 m.

(b) The estimated establishment of the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) for 2003-04 is as follows :-

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Establishment</u>
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	4
Chief Inspector	14
Senior Inspector	23
Station Sergeant	10
Sergeant	65
Police Constable	5
Senior Police Translator	2
Police Translator I	4
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Clerical Assistant	14
Personal Secretary II	4
Senior Typist	3
Typist	10
Workman II	3
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The estimated expenditure for CAPO for 2003-04 is \$58.5 m.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai
Post Title Commissioner of Police (Ag)
Date 29 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB004

Question Serial
No.

S013

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

This is a further question to Reply Serial No SB038, Question Serial No 0804. In relation to the 4 581 DNA samples collected from suspects, convicted persons and other people as at 31.12.2002, please give the number of cases which were solved as a result of using the DNA samples.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Since the enactment of the law relating to DNA on 1.7.2001, the Police have successfully identified 58 crime suspects based on the records of the DNA profile databank as at 31.12.2002.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police (Ag)

Date 29 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB005

Question Serial
No.

S018

Head: 708 - Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment Subhead(No. & title): 8063YU, 8068YU, 8075YU, 8076YU, 8077YU, 8079YU, 8086YU

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The following communications systems are going to be replaced/procured :-

Procure radio systems for Marine Headquarters and Crime Wing, beat radio system for Mass Transit Railway Tseung Kwan O Extension Line, improve exclusive radio system for the airport, replace radio system for Crime Wing Headquarters, replace command and control communication system for Operations Department and beat radio system for interim use on West Rail, Kowloon section

- (a) Please list details of the expenditure including consultancy fees, development fees, maintenance/operating fees and administration fees for each project.
- (b) When designing the above communications systems, has consideration been given to develop the radio spectrum or communication equipment working platform within a interoperability framework to minimize the fees for designing, development and maintenance and at the same time enable the departments to communicate direct with each other when needed in order to enhance the working efficiency and coordination capability among the government departments? If yes, what are the estimated savings and the extent of efficiency enhancement? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

- (a) Please see Annex for details of the expenditure for the above systems.
- (b) In view of the development of digital radio technology and the popularity of open standards, the concept of interoperability framework and common platform has been adopted as an integral constituent in the design and specifications of the police communications systems. There are two major communications equipment platforms used by the Police Force :-
- (1) TETRA digital communications platform for Crime Wing: This is built to the strictest security standards to meet the operational needs of Crime Wing. Three systems are now using this platform: Subhead 8063YU "New radio system for Marine Region", Subhead 8068YU "New radio system for Crime Wing of the Hong Kong Police Force" and Subhead 8077YU "Replacement of Crime Headquarters radio system"

- (2) TETRA digital communications platform for Operations Department used by frontline uniformed police officers including Emergency Unit, Traffic Police and Police Tactical Unit: This is built with security facilities to meet the operational needs of uniformed police officers of the Operations Department. Two systems are going to use this platform: Subhead 8079YU “New Command and Control Communications System for Operations Department (CC III)” and Subhead 8086YU “Interim beat radio system for the KCRC West Rail”.

Other projects are : -

- Subhead 8075YU “Beat radio system for MTRC Tseung Kwan O Extension” – This is built on the the working platform provided by MTRC as the radio system is required to integrate with other MTR lines’s Police communications systems and the communications system of the MTRC.
- Subhead 8076YU ”Enhancement of dedicated radio system at the airport”. This is designed as an independent system because of security and operational reasons. So there is no interoperability framework in the working platform.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police (Ag)

Date 29 March 2003

System		Approved Project Estimates	Annual Recurrent Expenditure
8063YU	New radio system for Marine Region	\$84.39 m	\$4.43 m
8068YU	New radio system for Crime Wing of the Hong Kong Police Force	\$198 m	\$8.77 m
8075YU	Beat radio system for MTRCL Tseung Kwan O Extension	\$2.2 m	\$100,000
8076YU	Enhancement of dedicated radio system at the airport	\$9.79 m	\$540,000
8077YU	Replacement of Crime Wing Headquarters radio system	\$9.5 m	\$380,000
8079YU	New Command and Control Communications System for Operations Department	\$948 m	\$59.49 m
8086YU	Interim beat radio system for the KCRC West Rail	\$4.03 m	\$470,000

Remarks :-

- There is no need to commission consultants in respect of the above replacement or procurement.
- The approved estimates are the development costs of the whole system.
- The annual recurrent expenditure includes maintenance/operating costs. There is no additional administration cost.

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB006

Question Serial No.

S010

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Nationality and Assistance to
HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please set out in detail the establishment and strength in 2001-02, 2002-03 and the estimated figures in 2003-04 as well as the expenditure involved; and
- (b) please set out in detail the types of services provided/ to be provided to HKSAR residents imprisoned, detained or in distress outside Hong Kong as well as the number of cases received/ to be received in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. SZETO Wah

Reply :

- (a) Activities under Programme (6) include handling of nationality-related matters and provision of assistance to HKSAR residents in distress outside Hong Kong. The establishment and strength of Programme (6) for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were / are projected as follows:-

	1.4.2001		1.4.2002		1.4.2003 (Projected)
	Establishment	Strength	Establishment	Strength	Establishment
Chief Immigration Officer	1	1	1	0	1
Senior Immigration Officer	2	1	2	2	2
Immigration Officer	6	6	6	6	6
Clerical Officer	1	1	1	1	1
Asst Clerical Officer	2	2	2	1	2
Clerical Assistant	4	4+2#	4	4+2#	4
Total	16	15+2#	16	14+2#	16

reinforcement on loan from other offices

The above 16 posts involve an annual salary cost of \$5.7 million in 2003-04.

- (b) Statistics on assistance provided to HKSAR residents who were imprisoned, detained or in distress outside Hong Kong for 2001 and 2002, and the estimated figures for 2003, are as follows:

	2001	2002	2003(Estimated)
Imprisoned/detained	154	173	175
In distress	880	821	825
Total	1034	994	1000

The assistance normally rendered includes :

- (i) to liaise with the relevant authorities outside Hong Kong to seek up-to-date information on persons in distress, and to convey the information to their family members;
- (ii) to liaise, on request from the parties concerned, with their families in Hong Kong to provide necessary financial assistance to the persons in distress;
- (iii) to arrange urgent issue of travel documents to persons in distress and/or their family members;
- (iv) to facilitate the return of persons in distress and persons injured; and
- (v) to take appropriate follow-up actions on requests of persons under detention overseas or in the Mainland.

Hotlines are set up immediately to provide practical assistance when disaster or serious accident involving HKSAR residents occurs outside Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 31 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB007

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

S011

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

As far as Certificate of Entitlement (COE) is concerned,

- (a) please set out in detail the establishment and strength currently involved in processing COE cases, and the estimated establishment and strength required for 2003-04;
- (b) of the estimated number of cases for 2003, how many are outstanding applications as at the end of 2002 and how many are applications expected to be referred from the Mainland? What is the basis for the estimated number of new applications for 2003?
- (c) of the cases actually processed in 2002, how many were brought forward from 2001?

Asked by : Hon. SZETO Wah

Reply :

- (a) The Eligible Children Verification Unit (ECVU) of the Immigration Department is responsible for processing applications for Certificate of Entitlement. As at 1.3.2003, the establishment and strength of ECVU are as follows:

	Establishment	Strength
Chief Immigration Officer	1	1
Senior Immigration Officer	4	4
Immigration Officer	10	10 + 3#
Chief Immigration Assistant	2	2
Immigration Assistant	0	1#
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	1
Clerical Assistant	4	4 + 3#
Total:	22	22 + 7#

reinforcement on loan from other offices

We do not anticipate any change in the establishment of the ECVU in 2003-04.

- (b) Of the 19,150 cases expected to be processed in 2003, 5,416 cases are brought forward from 2002. The majority of these cases were received in the last 3 months of 2002. Of the 13,734 new cases, 13,047 are expected to be made by persons of Chinese nationality residing in the Mainland, and 687 are expected to be made by persons of Chinese nationality residing overseas.

The estimated figures for 2003 are derived from statistics on cases received and processed in the past three years.

- (c) Of the 15,492 processed cases in 2002, 3,195 cases were brought forward from 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration _____

Date _____ 28 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB008

Question Serial
No.

S016

Head: Head 708 - Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment Subhead(No. & title): 8006XR, 8027XR

Programme: (1) Fire Service

 (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: *In regard to replacement of the radio network system as well as the communication and mobilizing system for the Fire Services Department,*

1. please list details on the expenditure for each of the systems, including consultant's fees, development costs, maintenance/operating expenses, administration costs, etc.
2. during the process of designing the above communication systems, did the authority consider setting up an interoperability framework for the working platform of the radio-spectrum or communication equipment, so as to reduce the costs of system design, development, maintenance, etc., and facilitate direct communication among departments when necessary, thereby enhancing the efficiency and coordination of government departments? If yes, what is the estimated amount of savings and how much it will improve work efficiency? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: 1. Details on the expenditure on replacement/procurement of the following communication systems for the Fire Services Department:

	Development and Replacement of Trunked Radio System (1993-97)	Development of Third Generation Communication (Data) and Computerized Mobilizing System (2001-04)
Consultant's fees	Nil	\$6 m
Development costs	\$77 m	\$677.6 m
Annual maintenance/operating expenses	about \$8 m	about \$58 m
Administration costs	Undertaken by existing staff, no additional administration costs	\$41 m (Development stage only)

2. (i) In 1997, Fire Services Department replaced the radio communication system which had been subject to serious interference with the trunked radio system. The radio-spectrum was allocated by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority for use exclusively by the Department to ensure that our operational efficiency would not be affected.
- (ii) Fire Services Department is developing the Third Generation Computerized Mobilizing System (TGMS) to replace the Second Generation Mobilizing System. TGMS includes a wireless digital network, which will be used for transmission of large quantities of data. This system is now in the system integration and testing stage, and is expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2004.

Before deciding the development of the new communication systems, Security Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force and Fire Services Department discussed the feasibility of a common platform for essential services. Since the departments concerned require the use of the network at its maximum capacity concurrently during major emergencies, it is necessary that each of them should have their exclusive radio-spectrum. Furthermore, owing to the different mode of operations and varied requirements on network coverage, security and system functions, it was decided that Hong Kong Police Force and Fire Services Department would not share a common communication and mobilizing network. Nevertheless, TGMS of Fire Services Department will adopt an open platform system design with inter-operable capability. If telecommunication systems are connected, direct radio communication among concerned users can be established if required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN _____

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services _____

Date _____ 29.3.2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB009

Head : 30

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Oral

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

To relay the view to the Executive Council for discussion that Government should take the lead in providing job opportunity to released prisoners and encourage large companies to do likewise.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

The Government is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination. The fundamental principle for appointment to the Civil Service is to appoint the best person for the job. Recruitment will be conducted in an open, fair and competitive manner.

All candidates meeting the entry requirements of a job vacancy may apply for the job. They will be considered on an equal basis taking into account their character, ability, potential, qualifications and experience. For candidates with criminal record, the recruiting department/grade will also consider the nature and gravity of the offence, and whether the offence is of a kind that would make the candidate unsuitable for the duties of the particular post under recruitment. Having regard to the above, the most suitable and meritorious candidate will be offered appointment.

As regards the promotion of employment of ex-offenders in the private sector, the Correctional Services Department has conducted various publicity activities to appeal for community acceptance of and support for ex-offenders. These include two symposiums on employment of ex-offenders jointly organized with the Centre for Criminology, University of Hong Kong in 2001-02 and 2002-03. Through the sharing of personal experience of rehabilitated offenders, their colleagues and employers, the symposiums improved the participants' understanding of the re-integration needs of ex-offenders and the importance of community support in their re-integration. The outcome was encouraging. Enquiries were received from potential employers and some job placements were subsequently made. The Department will continue its efforts in this area.

As always, the Executive Council will be consulted as appropriate on any new policy initiatives and major policy changes.

Signature

Name in block letters PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date 29 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB010

Question Serial No.

S005

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

With regard to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland:

- (a) please give a detailed breakdown of the requests for assistance received in 2002 by subject or type;
- (b) please give a detailed breakdown, by reason for detention or case type, of the number of Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland in 2002 and that of Hong Kong residents who are still under detention; and
- (c) did the staff of the Beijing Office visit the Hong Kong residents under detention? If no, will there be proactive discussion with the Mainland authorities to see if the staff of the Beijing Office may, when necessary, be allowed to visit Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland to find out their health condition and needs?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (a) In 2002, the Beijing Office received 209 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 59 cases involved loss of travel documents or monies, and 42 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland. The remaining 108 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.
- (b) The Beijing Office does not have statistics on the total number of cases involving detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. We only have the number of detention cases for which our assistance was sought. In 2002, the number of such cases was 108. The reasons for detention were (with the number of cases in brackets) as follows: fraud/ robbery (27), smuggling (41), smuggling of narcotic drugs/ manufacturing narcotic drugs/ possession of narcotic drugs (13), organising prostitutes (1), bigamy (1), injuring with intent (1), official tort/ misappropriation/ false capital

contribution/ illegal operation (11), corruption and bribery (2), business disputes (2), organizing for illegal migration (1), breach of state order (2), selling entry and exit documents (1), prejudicing witnesses in the giving of testimony (1), giving away information without authorization (2), traffic accident (1), and covering up for suspects (1). The Hong Kong residents in 21 of the 108 detention cases, had already been released; 21 cases were serving sentences; 1 case was on medical parole; and those involved in the remaining 65 cases were still under detention pending charges, prosecution, trial or appeal and/or petition.

- (c) The laws of the Mainland do not enable the HKSAR Government to send its staff to visit Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland. Rules and regulations of the Mainland provide that a detainee may correspond with and meet his/her close relatives subject to the approval of the government department handling the case and the public security authorities. A detained Hong Kong resident may meet a lawyer while under detention.

Signature Signed in Chinese version

Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 28.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB011

Question Serial No.

S007

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

With regard to the establishment of a fund by the Beijing Office for the purpose of assisting Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland, please give detailed information concerning:

- (a) the opening balance of the fund upon its establishment and its present balance;
- (b) the number of occasions on which the fund was used to render assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland in 2002-03. Please list out the amount of funding made on each occasion and the Hong Kong residents assisted according to the type of assistance provided; and
- (c) the average time required for vetting applications for the fund.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (d) To provide assistance to Hong Kong residents who are in distress in the Mainland, the Beijing Office set up an advance account (i.e. the 'fund' raised in the question) in March 2001. When the identity of the assistance-seeker is verified by the Beijing Office and an undertaking to the effect that he will return Hong Kong immediately and will repay the full amount of the advance upon his return to Hong Kong is signed, the Beijing Office will release the necessary fund from the account. We set aside an amount of RMB¥13,000 for the advance account when it was first set up, but the amount could be adjusted as and when necessary. At present, the amount reserved is still maintained at RMB¥13,000, as all funds thus released have been fully repaid.

- (e) There are four cases of cash advance as at 28.3.2003 to assist Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The detail breakdown is shown below:

Case No.	Nature	Amount of Cash Advanced (RMB)	Usage of the Provision
1	Lost Hong Kong Identity Card/ Home Visit Permit and money	2,600	Purchase air-ticket, pay the airport tax, basic daily expenses and transportation expenses.
2	Lost money	3,200	Purchase air-ticket, pay the airport tax, basic daily expenses and transportation expenses.
3	Lost money	2,889	Purchase air-ticket, pay the airport tax and transportation expenses.
4	Lost Hong Kong Identity Card/ Home Visit Permit and money	1,100	Purchase train-ticket, and pay the basic daily expenses.

- (c) All applications for the provision of fund from the Advance Account were processed within the same day.

Signature Signed in Chinese Version
Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG
Post Title Director, Beijing Office
Date 28.3.2003

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

S-SB012

Head : 708 Capital Subventions and
Major Systems and Equipment

Subhead (No. & title)
8030YQ

Question Serial No.

S017

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In regard to replacement of communication equipment of the HK Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (8030YQ)

1. Please list details on the expenditure for each of the system, including consultant's fees, development costs, maintenance/operating expenses, administration costs, etc.
2. During the process of designing the above communication systems, did the authority consider setting up an interoperability framework for the working platform of the radio-spectrum or communication equipment, so as to reduce the costs of system design, development, maintenance, etc., and facilitate direct communication among departments when necessary, thereby enhancing the efficiency and coordination of government departments? If yes, what is the estimated amount of savings and how much it will improve work efficiency? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

1. The estimated cost for replacement of the communication equipment of the Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (HKMRCC) was \$7.958M, broken down as follows :

\$'M

(i)	Equipment cost	4.400
(ii)	Installation materials, test equipment and initial maintenance spares costs	0.864
(iii)	Installation cost (including 1 month temporary voice and data link rental cost)	1.000
(iv)	Project contingencies (10% on items (i) to (iii))	0.627
(v)	Project management fee by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund	1.067

There will be no additional recurrent cost involved.

2. The communication system in the HKMRCC is primarily not for internal communication. It is designed for the communication between the HKMRCC and concerned parties outside Hong Kong such as Rescue Co-ordination Centres in other countries and Ocean Going Vessels in South China Sea. In any event, direct communication with other departments has been maintained to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters

S Y TSUI

Post Title _____
Director of Marine

Date _____
28 March 2003