

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

**[Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works]  
[Session No.: 8] [File name: ETWB(E)-e1.doc]**

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

ETWB(E)001

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0007

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Compared with 2002, the number of seedlings produced and planted in 2003 will both drop over 10%. What are the reasons and the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Number of seedlings produced

Since 2000, AFCD has concentrated on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market, and has ceased supplying seedlings to other government departments that are available in commercial nurseries. As a result, seedling production has been gradually scaled down from 827 000 in 2001 to 736 000 in 2002 and to 650 000 in 2003. An annual saving of \$1.4 million is achieved as a result.

Number of seedlings planted

The number of tree seedlings planted in 2002 was 1 015 000. This consists of 899 000 seedlings planted in country parks and 116 000 planted outside country parks. In 2003, AFCD will concentrate on planting trees in country parks. This will result in an annual saving of \$3.05 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)002

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0008

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated in the Policy Agenda of the Policy Address 2003 that the nature conservation policy will be promulgated this year. Has the Administration earmarked manpower and provision for the implementation of this policy and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

We are preparing a Nature Conservation Policy for Hong Kong with a view to rationalize the priority for conservation using objective guidelines. The proposed policy will target at getting a consensus on the decision to designate priority sites for conservation for the value of their peculiar habitat and/or biodiversity. The policy will also promulgate the value of the existing country parks and marine parks such that they are part of the priority for resource allocation. A database on Hong Kong biodiversity is to be published after consultation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)003

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0021

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- (a) the manpower and expenditures involved in the handling of ecological impact assessment applications and studies;
- (b) the costs for handling such applications and whether they will be fully recovered from the fees charged?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for providing the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) with advice on ecological matters arising from applications submitted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). About 19 professional staff in the nature conservation and marine conservation divisions of AFCD take part in this work in addition to their other duties. The notional staff cost involved is about \$2.6 million per annum.
- (b) According to a review completed in 2000, the fees for applications under the EIAO can recover over 90% of the average costs for processing the applications. Such costs include the cost of the service that AFCD provides to EPD.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)004

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0022

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Government inform this Council whether efforts have been made to record the extremely old trees and trees of rare species and conservation significance on the land managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? If yes, what is the current progress? What are the expenditures and manpower involved in recording and protecting these trees?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

AFCD is currently maintaining the "Register of Unusual Trees in Rural Area" that covers country parks and special areas. The register currently contains some 130 trees that are considered worthy of particular attention. These trees are either of exceptionally large size or old in age within the species concerned, displaying special form or growing habit, having cultural or historical significance, and/or are of rare species. The department regularly monitors and maintains those trees in country parks and special areas as part of the daily management of these areas. No additional resources are involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)005

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0023

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The expenditure under this programme will increase by \$12.9 million, mainly due to increase in capital expenditure and full-year provision for posts created in 2002-03. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the details of the capital expenditure? What are the details of the posts created in 2002-03? Why were these posts created and what are the salary expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The capital expenditure mainly involves purchasing one patrol launch (\$8.0 million) and one speed boat (\$3.0 million) for enhancing the protection and management of marine parks.

A total of six posts were created in 2002-03. These include 1 Field Officer I post for planting trees, 1 Forestry Officer and 1 Field Officer I posts for conducting ecological surveys with a view to establishing an ecological database, and 1 Forestry Officer, 1 Senior Field Officer and 1 Field Officer I posts for planning and developing the International Wetland Park and Visitor Centre in Tin Shui Wai. The total annual salary expenses for these posts are \$2.503 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003



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

ETWB(E)006

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0026

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the programme of Nature Conservation and Country Parks,

- (a) the expenditure in 2003-04 will increase by 3.1%, mainly due to increase in capital expenditure. Please give details on the expenditure.
- (b) In 2003, the number of seedlings produced by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will decrease by 88 000 as compared with 2002. How much savings will be made in this regard? What is the corresponding reduction in manpower? Are the savings already reflected in the estimates?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

- (a) The capital expenditure mainly involves purchasing one patrol launch (\$8.0 million) and one speed boat (\$3.0 million) for enhancing the protection and management of marine parks.
- (b) Since 2000, the AFCD has been concentrating on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market and has ceased supplying seedlings to other government departments that are available in commercial nurseries. Seedling production had been gradually scaled down from 736 000 in 2002 to 650 000 in 2003, enabling savings to be made through the deletion of 10 posts (1 Field Assistant, 3 Artisans, 4 Workmen I and 2 Workmen II) in 2000. This resulted in an annual saving of \$1.4 million. The saving has been reflected in the estimate since 2000-01.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)007

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0145

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) How much resources have been earmarked for the inspection of marine parks and marine reserves? What measures will be taken to prevent non-local vessels from entering these parks and reserves so as to protect local marine resources?
  - (b) Under Subhead 603, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department applies for \$8 million and \$3 million for the purchase of a patrol launch and a speed boat respectively for the protection and management of the proposed marine parks. When will the Department make the purchase and when will the marine parks be established?
  - (c) Please provide information on the expenditure involved and the current progress of the "feasibility studies of potential marine parks". When will the studies be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) A total recurrent amount of \$14 million has been reserved for the protection and management of marine parks and marine reserve in 2003-04. This involves the continued deployment of 35 permanent staff and 15 contract staff. Besides, another sum of \$11 million has been provided to purchase two additional patrol vessels.

To protect marine resources from illegal fishing activities, park wardens patrol marine parks and marine reserves on a daily basis in irregular hours, including night patrols. Enforcement actions are taken against vessels fishing in the marine reserve, or fishing in marine parks without a valid permit. For Mainland fishermen, they would be intercepted and handed over to marine police for repatriation. We also exchange incursion information with the Mainland authorities concerned with a view to deterring the offenders.

- (b) Purchasing procedure of the two vessels has been initiated and it is expected that one of them will be delivered in autumn this year and the other one will be delivered in mid-2004. The timing of designating the proposed marine parks will be reviewed later this year.
- (c) The study on potential marine parks involves a sum of \$0.8 million in 2003-04. The study has started and will be completed by September 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)008

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0443

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the performance targets set for the programme, most of the targets can be achieved in 2003 except the hectares of marine parks and marine reserves managed which is 1947 hectares below the target 4377 hectares. What accounts for this estimate?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

We have a plan to designate two more marine parks with a total area of about 1 947 hectares. We are undertaking the necessary preparatory work, but would not be able to make the designation within 2003. After the designation of the two new marine parks, we would be able to meet our target of 4 377 hectares.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)009

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0531

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please answer the following questions in respect of Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks:

- a) Why has the number of seedlings produced dropped every year since 2001? Why does the Government estimate that the number will continue to drop in 2003-04?
- b) Why is it estimated that the number of seedlings planted will drop in 2003-04? Will the Government carry out any tree planting plans this year? If yes, please set out the details and timetable. If no, what are the reasons?
- c) What is the progress of the project to set up an ecological database? What are the expenditures and manpower involved this year and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

(a) Number of seedlings produced

Since 2000, AFCD has concentrated on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market and has ceased supplying seedlings that are available in commercial nurseries to other government departments. As the process of producing tree seedlings takes on average two to three years, seedlings production has been gradually scaled down from 827 000 in 2001, to 736 000 in 2002 and to 650 000 in 2003. This resulted in an annual saving of \$1.4 million. The annual production of seedlings will be maintained at around 650 000 from 2003 onwards.

(b) Number of seedlings planted

The number of tree seedlings planted in 2002 was 1 015 000. This consists of 899 000 seedlings planted in country parks and 116 000 planted outside country parks. In 2003, we will concentrate on planting trees in country parks. This will result in annual saving of \$3.05 million. The planned planting programmes of AFCD in 2003 are listed below:

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>No. of seedlings planted</b>
1	April to June	Afforestation in country parks	700 000
2	April to June	Planting at the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park	125 000
3	April to June	Planting by the general public under various community planting programmes	75 000
		Total	900 000

(c) To build up the ecological database, we have drawn up a comprehensive survey programme covering all major habitats of high conservation value in Hong Kong. We are now in the process of surveying and collecting data on the location, status and composition of different plant communities; and the distribution and abundance of different animal groups including butterflies, dragonflies, freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. So far we have made a number of new findings, including recording two new butterfly species in Hong Kong.

A provision of \$3.846 million has been earmarked in 2003-04 for the purpose. The provision includes one professional officer and one field officer posts responsible for planning and monitoring the out-sourced surveys. We plan to set up the territory-wide ecological database by phases by around 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)010

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 600 Works

1121

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Item: 345; 346

In regard to the construction of toilet at Sham Tseng Tai Lam Country Park and Pak Tam Au Sai Kung West Country Park, the initial allocations are both around \$2.36 million. In the end, the revised estimated expenditures for 2002-03 are just \$0.236 million and \$0.678 million with balance of \$2.124 million and \$1.632 million respectively. Please inform this Council of the work projects. What are the reasons for the large amounts in balance? Are the projects behind schedule?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

Due to the difficult ground conditions and geotechnical problems encountered, substantial changes have to be made to the final design of the two toilets and, hence the construction works have to be postponed. The issues have now been resolved, and the construction will start in 2003-04 for completion within the same year as scheduled.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	20 March 2003

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

ETWB(E)011

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1450

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the key performance measures, the “number of seedlings produced” indicator drops significantly in 2003 as compared with 2002 and 2001. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Since 2000, AFCD has concentrated on producing native tree seedlings that are normally not available in the local market, and has ceased supplying seedlings that are available in commercial nurseries to other government departments. The process of reducing production takes a lead time of about two to three years. Seedling production has been gradually scaled down from 827 000 in 2001 to 736 000 in 2002 and to 650 000 in 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)012

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0024

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government please tell the Council :

The Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works has indicated an intention to make Ngong Ping as the pilot point for effluent reuse. As such, has the authority reserved any provision for expenditure or land for this pilot scheme under the construction of the Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Works, which will commence in the year 2003-04? If yes, what are the details of the expenditure and land reserved? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : An area of about 700 m<sup>2</sup> has been set aside within the proposed Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Works site to accommodate the pilot effluent reuse system. The capital cost of the effluent reuse system of about \$4.1 million will be funded under PWP item 9323 WF “Provision of water supply to Ngong Ping” which was approved by Finance Committee on 21 February 2003.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003 \_\_\_\_\_



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)013

Question Serial No.

0055

Head :39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Since the full commissioning of the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment works (STW) and Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, what is the percentage of the volume of sewage treated by the STW as against its total treatment capacity? What is the percentage of the expenditure of the STW as against the total recurrent expenditure for the sewage services?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works is a major component of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage I. It treats 1.38 million cubic metres of sewage per day, which is equivalent to about 80% of the design treatment capacity of 1.72 million cubic metres per day. The total recurrent expenditure of the HATS Stage I is \$290.6 million, representing 24% of the financial provision for the sewage services programme in 2003/04.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)014

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0056

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the percentage of the estimated cost for managing Sewage Charge and Trade Effluent Surcharge as against the overall recurrent expenditure for the sewage services in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The management of Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) is under the responsibility of Drainage Services Department (DSD). Regular billing and collection of Sewage Charge (SC) together with general management are entrusted to the Water Supplies Department (WSD) .

The estimated expenditure for management of TES and SC (except the part of management entrusted to WSD) by DSD in 2003-04 is around \$28.4 million, representing 2.3% of the financial provision for sewage services programme in 2003-04. Separately, the estimated expenditure for management of SC entrusted to WSD by DSD in 2003-04 is around \$11.5 million under the financial provision for WSD.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)015

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0082

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works.

Question : The provision for 2003-04 is \$28.1 million (2.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03, mainly due to increased requirements for operating new plants, and for maintenance to cope with the ageing of sewage facilities. I would like to ask :

- (1) What are the details of expenditure on the new plants?
- (2) How much is expected to be spent on the maintenance of ageing sewage facilities? What kind of facilities will it mainly be spent on?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The estimated increase of \$28.1 million is due to the followings :-

(1) The increase of \$13 million is to cope with the commissioning of new plants, to handle increase in sewage flows and to cope with growing length of sewers. The expenditure for operating new plants includes the full commissioning of new sewage treatment facilities at Telegraph Bay for Cyberport development and at Chi Ma Wan. The main items of expenditure are electricity, chemical, spare parts and routine maintenance services.

(2) The increase of \$15.1 million is to cope with building and civil maintenance requirement of additional sewage pumping stations and sewage treatment plants commissioned in the past few years and to maintain ageing electrical and mechanical equipment such as pumps, conveyors and electrical panels.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title      Director of Drainage Services

Date      20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)016

Question Serial No.

0477

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 700  
General other non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage &  
(2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the General other non-recurrent expenditure, why was the Revised Estimate 2002-03 reduced by \$3.7 million as compared with the Approved Estimate of the same year? But there is an increase of over \$3 million in the Estimate for the financial year 2003-04. Would the Government inform the Council of the reasons for such a difference in the figures and provide breakdown of the above expenditure for this and last financial years.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The breakdown of the expenditure figures is provided below:-

Item	Description	Original Estimate 2002-03	Revised Estimate 2002-03	Estimate 2003-04
		\$M	\$M	\$M
332	Study on the methodology of preventive maintenance of DSD structures	3.549	0.141	-
333	Ex-gratia payment of sewage charges	0.081	-	-
336	Announcement of public interest on flood prevention	0.100	0.030	-
340	Pilot plant trial for enhanced primary sewage treatment	0.450	-	0.290
341	Pilot plant trial for centrate treatment by membrane bioreactor	1.500	1.300	1.000
342	Plant trial for three biological reagents at Tung Chung Sewage Pumping Station	-	0.500	0.800
343	Full scale stress test for Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Plant	-	-	2.900
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>5.680</b>	<b>1.971</b>	<b>4.990</b>

/.....

The reduction of \$3.7 million in the 2002-03 Revised Estimate as compared with the 2002-03 Approved Estimate is mainly due to the following two items:-

- (a) Item 332 – The scope of the consultancy was reduced and confined primarily to the preparation of the preventive maintenance methodology and the framework of a computer based Structure Inventory System (SIS). In-house staff was deployed instead for the development and commissioning of the SIS.
- (b) Item 333 – The practice of refunding sewage charges by way of ex-gratia payment was stopped with effect from 17 January 2002 after obtaining legal advice on interpretation of the Sewage Services Ordinance. Refund if required shall be effected out of the revenue generated from sewage charge.

The increase of \$3 million in 2003-04 Estimate as compared with the 2002-03 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the addition of a new item 343 – Full-scale stress tests for Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Plant. Some modifications are being proposed to increase the treatment capacity of the Plant. The proposed tests are to generate sufficient reliable data for determining the maximum treatment capacity after the proposed modifications have been carried out.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)017

Head : 39- Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0527

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of sewerage projects under detailed design for this financial year? Please provide details of these projects, their completion dates and financial resources required.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : In financial year 2003-04, DSD will continue with the detailed design work of 22 sewerage projects at an estimated total capital cost of about \$7.4 billion. The details of these projects are listed below :-

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4052DS	Ting Kau sewerage, stage 2	early 2007	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage in Ting Kau area
4125DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas	mid 2013	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in Tai Po and Sha Tin
4126DS	Sham Tseng sewerage, stage 3	early 2007	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau areas
4143DS	Central, Western and Wan Chai West sewerage, stage 2 phase 2B works	early 2009	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Central, Western and Wan Chai West
4157DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage 2	mid 2008	To provide sewerage to unsewered areas in Yuen Long
4160DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage I	early 2009	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4171DS	North and South Kowloon sewerage, stage II	early 2010	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in To Kwa Wan, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin districts
4181DS	Tuen Mun sewerage, stage 2	early 2009	To provide village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tuen Mun
4203DS	North District sewerage	mid 2011	To provide sewers and pumping stations to collect sewage from unsewered villages in North District
4204DS	Wan Chai East and North Point sewerage, remaining works	mid 2007	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in North Point

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Brief Description
4205DS	Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam sewerage, stage 2	early 2008	To upgrade and extend the sewerage system in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam districts
4211DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 2	mid 2009	To provide sewerage facilities for Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan
4214DS	Tseung Kwan O sewerage for villages	mid 2011	To provide trunk sewers and village sewerage to unsewered villages in Tseung Kwan O areas
4215DS	Yuen Long & Kam Tin sewerage & sewage disposal	end 2009	To provide trunk sewerage to Yuen Long and Kam Tin
4222DS	Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works – stage V	mid 2012	To expand the capacity of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works
4223DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage treatment upgrade – (upgrade of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works)	early 2010	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of San Wai Sewage Treatment Works
4226DS	Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works phase II upgrading	mid 2009	To expand the capacity and upgrade the treatment level of Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works
4230DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 1, part 2	end 2008	To provide a sewage treatment works in Yung Shue Wan (Lamma Island)
4272DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2	mid 2010	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Tai Chung Hau, Pak Sha Wan, Tai Po Tsai, Wong Chuk Wan, Mang Kung Uk in Sai Kung
4273DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3	mid 2011	To provide sewerage facilities to serve Ho Chung, Tseng Lan Shue and Area 4 in Sai Kung
4274DS	Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage, stage 3	mid 2009	To provide sewerage to unsewered areas in Yuen Long
4329DS	Upgrading of Pillar Point sewage treatment works	mid 2011	To upgrade the existing Pillar Point STW

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)018

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title)    Question Serial No.

0781

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As far as the administration of the sewage charging scheme is concerned as mentioned in the Budget, please list out the amount of outstanding debts of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge for the past three years. How many accounts are still having an outstanding debt? How much resources are needed for processing these cases of outstanding debts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The overdue position of Sewage Charge (SC) and Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Position as at	31.3.2001	31.3.2002	28.2.2003
Amount overdue –	\$M	\$M	\$M
SC	3.1	2.9	2.1
TES	20.7	22.5	18.2

As at 28.2.2003, there were about 9,870 and 2,230 overdue SC accounts and TES accounts respectively. The annual cost to process these overdue cases is about \$1.9 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)019

Head : 39 –Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1031

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out the resources and manpower expected to be allocated to the various services under this programme in 2003-04 (except the expenses under public works items).

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The resources and manpower expected to be allocated to the various services (except the expenses under public works items) under Sewage Services programme in 2003-04 are listed below :-

Service	Total expenditure \$M	Number of staff employed
Investigation, design and construction of sewerage system and sewage treatment and disposal facilities	138.3	241
Regular inspection of the sewerage systems, sewerage clearance and maintenance works	169.3	255
Checking of sewerage submissions and connections	19.6	26
Effective operation of sewage treatment plants and works	877.7	917
Administration of the sewage charging scheme	30.9	81

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)020

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title)    Question Serial No.

1032

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please give a brief account of the specific contents for the administration of the Sewage Charging Scheme. Will the Drainage Services Department arrange for outsourcing the work in 2003-04 so as to reduce expenditure? What is the savings on resources expected?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The Sewage Charging Scheme was introduced on 1 April 1995 in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle. Sewage charges contain two components, the Sewage Charge (SC) and the Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES).

The SC aims at recovering the cost of collecting and treating wastewater with strength at or below domestic sewage. The unit rate of the SC is \$1.2/m<sup>3</sup> of water supplied, but flushing water is not charged. For domestic accounts, the first 12m<sup>3</sup> water supplied in each four-month billing period is not charged.

The TES aims at recovering the additional cost of treating trade effluent with pollution strength higher than domestic sewage. Thirty designated trades are required to pay TES in addition to SC. The TES rate for a particular trade is set based on the additional cost for treating the typical Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) content in their effluent in excess of domestic sewage. Different trades have different pollution strength and their corresponding TES rates range from \$0.11/m<sup>3</sup> to \$5.98/m<sup>3</sup>.

TES account holders can apply for reassessment of the TES rate or discharge factor if they consider that the strength or discharge factor of their effluent is lower than the corresponding values specified for their trades in the Sewage Services Ordinance.

Drainage Services Department (DSD) as the Drainage Authority under the Sewage Services Ordinance will continue to be responsible for the administration of the Sewage Charging Scheme. DSD has already entrusted the billing and general management of the SC to the Water Supplies Department so as to save cost and avoid duplication of effort. As regards the billing and general management of the TES, DSD has no plan to outsource the work due to the complexity of the TES charging and appeal mechanism.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)021

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department      Subhead (No. & title)      Question Serial No.

1033

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources and manpower have been allocated by the Drainage Services Department to process reassessment of trade effluent surcharge rate? What is the average cost for each case processed in 2002? Has the Drainage Services Department any plan to outsource the work in 2003-04 so as to reduce expenditure? If yes, what is the expected savings on resources?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The total number of staff employed on the handling of Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) reassessments is 22 consisting of professional, technical and supporting staff under the overall management of a Senior Chemist. The total expenditure in 2002 on TES reassessment was about \$6.8 million. With a total of 607 cases processed, the expenditure per case is about \$11,000 but the Government does not charge any fee for processing reassessment cases.

Drainage Services Department (DSD) as the Drainage Authority under the Sewage Services Ordinance is responsible for the administration of the Sewage Charging Scheme. DSD has no plan to outsource the administration of the TES charging and reassessment work due to the complexity involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)022

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department      Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

1444

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the Estimates, the provision for the programme "Sewage Services" is \$28.1 million higher than that of last year, mainly due to the expenditure for operating new plants. As such, will the Government please list out the breakdown of the operating cost for each of the new plants and the proportion to the \$28.1 million?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The increase in provision of \$28.1 million for 2003-04 is mainly due to increased requirements for operating new plants, and for maintenance to cope with the growing length of sewers and ageing of sewage facilities. Out of the \$28.1 million, only \$3.8 million is related to the full commissioning of new sewage treatment facilities. The details of operating costs are listed below :-

Description	Electricity \$M	Spare parts \$M	Operation & maintenance services \$M	Total \$M	% to \$28.1M
Chi Ma Wan Sewage Treatment Plant	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.1%
Cape Collinson Correctional Institution Sewage Treatment Plant	0.0*	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7%
Telegraph Bay Sewage Treatment Works	0.4	0.2	1.9	2.5	8.9%
Installation of a Sequencing Batch Reactor and Ultraviolet Disinfection Equipment at Ma Po Ping Rotary Biological Contactor Sewage Treatment Plant	0.0*	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.1%
Kam Tin Sewage Treatment Plant	0.0*	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7%
<b>Total additional requirements</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>13.5%</b>

\* Rounding effect.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **R.T.K. CHEUNG** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director of Drainage Services** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **20 March 2003** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Reply Serial No.**

ETWB(E) 023

**Question Serial No.**

0012

**Head:**

42 EMSD

**Subhead(No. & title):**

700 General other non- recurrent

**Programme:**

3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

**Controlling Officer:**

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

**Director of Bureau:**

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

**Question :**

The studies in items 702, 703 and 705 are all studies on water-cooled air-conditioning systems. What are the details and conclusions of item 702 "Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air-conditioning systems in Hong Kong"? Is there any conclusion that it is suitable to develop water-cooled air-conditioning systems in South East Kowloon, Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts? How are items 703 and 705 related to item 702?

**Asked by:** Hon. CHOY So-yuk

**Reply:**

The Item 702 on "Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning systems in Hong Kong" started in October 2000 to formulate plans, programmes and control requirements for the phased implementation of water-cooled air conditioning (WAC) systems in the whole territory. The study includes examination of the general environmental, health, regulatory, institutional, financial, technical and land administration issues associated with WAC systems. The study is close to completion and its findings will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs shortly. The study has identified several potential areas such as the South East Kowloon and Wanchai and Causeway Bay districts for developing the WAC system.

Items 703 and 705 are exemplary district implementation studies which examine the technological details and recommend appropriate implementation strategies and preliminary system design for implementing WAC systems in these districts. Item 703 is for a new development district, i.e. the South East Kowloon Development and the Executive Summary of the findings and recommendations has been uploaded onto the website of Electrical & Mechanical Services Department for public comment. Item 705 is for a study on an existing district, i.e. Wanchai and Causeway Bay and will be completed in the second half of 2003.

**Signature**

**Name in block letter**

**Post Title**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger S. H. LAI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
19 March 2003

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

**Reply Serial No.**

ETWB(E) 024

**Question Serial No.**

0532

**Head:**

42 EMSD

**Subhead(No. & title):**

700 General other non- recurrent

**Programme:**

3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

**Controlling Officer:**

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

**Director of Bureau:**

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

**Question :**

Please reply to the following questions concerning Programme (3): Energy efficiency and air quality:

- 1) New Energy Efficiency Labelling Schemes for a household appliance, an office equipment and a type of vehicles are being developed. What are the purposes and details of these three schemes? What are the expected financial and staffing implications for them?
- 2) What follow-up action will be taken on the recommendations of the consultancy study on the territory-wide implementation of water-cooled air conditioning systems in Hong Kong and what is the schedule?

**Asked by:** Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

**Reply:**

- (1) EMSD is developing new Energy Efficiency Labelling Schemes (EELS) for television, LCD monitor and light goods vehicle for launching around end 2003. Similar to existing EELS, all the three new schemes are voluntary. The objectives are to promote greater public awareness on energy conservation and environmental protection; provide information on energy consumption and efficiency data to facilitate consumers to select more energy efficient products; stimulate the manufacturers/market to phase out less energy efficient models; and achieve energy savings and environmental improvement. These schemes will be administered by the existing EMSD's staff and around \$30,000 will be spent on publicity and promotion of these schemes during the initial launching stage.
- (2) The consultancy study on the territory-wide implementation of Water-cooled Air Conditioning Systems in Hong Kong is close to completion. The administration will provide the findings and recommendations of the Study to the Environmental Affairs Panel and stakeholders shortly.

**Signature**

**Name in block letter**

**Post Title**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger S. H. LAI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
19 March 2003

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

**Reply Serial No.**

ETWB(E)025

**Question Serial No.**

0821

**Head: 42-EMSD**

**Subhead(No. & title):**

**Programme:** (1) Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

**Controlling Officer:** Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

**Question :**

- (a) In respect of those petrol filling stations cum LPG filling facilities and dedicated LPG filling stations that have been put into service, what is the geographical distribution?  
 (b) In respect of other approved LPG filling stations, what is the expected completion date?

**Asked by:** Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

**Reply:**

- (a) As at 18 March 2003, 41 LPG filling stations have been put into service. These include 29 petrol filling stations cum LPG filling facilities and 12 dedicated LPG filling stations. Their locations are set out below:

<u>Address</u>	<b>Dedicated LPG Filling Station</b>
1. Pokfulam Road, Pokfulam	
2. Fung Mat Road, Sheung Wan	√
3. J/O of Fung Yip Street & On Yip Street, Chai Wan	√
4. Repulse Bay	
5. Java Road, North Point	
6. Stanley Village Road, Stanley	
7. Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen	
8. Fung Yip Street, Chai Wan	
9. Marsh Road, Wan Chai	√
10. 7 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (East Bound)	
11. 4 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (West Bound)	
12. 5 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (East Bound)	
13. 8 Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay (West Bound)	
14. Wai Lok Street, Kwun Tong	√
15. Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	√
16. Ngo Cheung Road, West Kowloon	√
17. Sham Mong Road, Mei Foo	√
18. Fung Shing Street, Po Kong Village	
19. Tai Po Road, Shatin Height	
20. Clear Water Bay	

<u>Address</u>	<b>Dedicated LPG Filling Station</b>
21. Sha Tau Kok Road, Fanling (near Lung Yeuk Tau)	
22. Yuen On Street, Siu Lek Yuen, Shatin	
23. Shek Kong, Kam Tin Road, Yuen Long	
24. J/O Pak Wo Road & Yat Ming Road, Fanling	
25. Tak Yip Street, Yuen Long	√
26. Ma On Shan (near Ma On Shan Road)	√
27. 99 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung	
28. Tong Yan Shan Road, Ping Shan, Yuen Long	
29. Hiram's Highway, Sai Kung Tuk	
30. On Ping Street, Shek Mun, Shatin	
31. Po Lam Road, Tseung Kwan O	
32. Po Hong Road, Tseung Kwan O	
33. 739 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan	
34. Kam Tin Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long	
35. Airport Passenger Terminal, Chek Lap Kok	
36. On Shan Lane, Ma On Shan	
37. Tsing Yi Road West, Tsing Yi	
38. 682-688 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung	
39. Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po	√
40. J/O Kwai Chung Road & Kwai On Road	√
41. Yip Wong Road, Tuen Mun	√

(b) There are three other petrol filling stations that have been approved by EMSD for retrofitting of LPG filling facilities. Their locations and expected completion dates are given below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Expected Completion Date</u>
332 Tai Po Road, Shamshuipo	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003
698 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003
53-57 Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003

<b>Signature</b>	_____
<b>Name in block letters</b>	Roger S. H. LAI
<b>Post Title</b>	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
<b>Date</b>	20 March 2003



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)026

Question Serial No.

0001

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Provision for 2003-04 is \$58.3 m (88.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for the operation of fill bank at Tseung Kwan O. What are the particulars of the above provision?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply: The provision in 2003-04 is made up of a number of items and they resulted in an increase of \$58.3 m over the 2002-03 revised estimate. The major portion is due to the operation of the Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank with a full year provision of \$80.3 m as compared with \$31.1 m for about 5 months in 2002-03. The works involve the intake, stockpiling and removal of inert construction & demolition materials.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ T K TSAO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)027

Question Serial No.

0057

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question:
- (a) In 2003-04, what is the estimated cost of operating the inert hard construction and demolition materials recycling facility in Tuen Mun Area 38? What is the estimated average cost of processing one tonne of inert hard construction and demolition materials? How will the recycled materials be handled?
  - (b) In view of the operation of Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank an additional provision of \$58.3 m is required. What are the estimated cost and its breakdown for operating the fill bank? What is the estimated quantity of stockpile in 2003-04? What is the estimated average cost for stockpiling each tonne of materials?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

- Reply:
- (a) In 2003-04, the estimated cost of operating the recycling facility for inert hard construction and demolition (C&D) materials in Tuen Mun Area 38 is \$12 m funded under Capital Works project vote. The average cost of processing the materials is estimated to be \$50-\$60 per tonne. The recycled aggregates are supplied to government projects for use as materials for road sub-base, drainage layer, filter layer, concrete works and paving block production.
  - (b) The cost of operating the Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank in 2003-04 is estimated to be \$80.3 m and the breakdown is as follows:

Operating Cost of Fill Bank	\$72.0 m
Staff Cost of CED	\$8.3 m

The Fill Bank is expected to stockpile 4.7 m tonnes of C&D materials in 2003-04 and the average cost of stockpiling is estimated to be \$17 per tonne.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ T K TSAO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)028

Question Serial No.

0325

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question:
- (a) How much resource has been reserved by the Administration for the recycling of inert construction and demolition materials?
  - (b) How much resource has been reserved by the Administration for the management of construction and demolition materials?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

- Reply:
- (a) In 2003-04, the Administration has reserved \$12 m under Capital Works project vote for the recycling of inert construction and demolition materials.
  - (b) In 2003-04, the Administration has reserved \$123.9 m under the General Revenue Account for the management of construction and demolition materials.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ T K TSAO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)029

Question Serial No.

0534

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Please reply to the following questions related to Programme (7) "Management of Construction and Demolition Materials":

- (a) What is the unit cost of handling public fill by the Administration? In the coming 3 years, does the Administration have any plan and measure to handle and reduce the ever increasing amount of public fill? If affirmative, what are the details of the plan and the estimated expenditure?
- (b) What is the expenditure in the recycling of inert construction and demolition materials by the government? Why is the actual quantity of recycled construction and demolition materials produced less than that of the original forecast (0.15 m tonnes)? In 2003-04, why does the forecast production increase?
- (c) Please give an account of the long-term strategy being formulated by the Administration for handling inert construction and demolition materials and when will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

- Reply:
- (a) The unit cost of handling public fill is about \$26 per tonne. In 2003-04, the Administration will mainly rely on reclamation projects and temporary fill banks to handle public fill. We will continue our best efforts to reduce the amount of public fill and to recycle hard inert materials generated. The Public Fill Committee and Works Departments' Vetting Committee will scrutinize Construction and Demolition Materials Management Plan of public works projects. In 2003-04, the Administration has reserved \$123.9 m for the management of construction and demolition materials. We are still exploring possible measures to tackle the public fill problem after 2003-04, including the possibility for exporting public fill for reuse in projects outside Hong Kong.
  - (b) In 2002, the government has spent \$26 m for the setting up and \$6 m for the operation of the inert construction and demolition material recycling facility in Tuen Mun. The 2002 actual production of 50,000 tonnes of recycled aggregates was less than the original forecast of 150,000 tonnes because most of the projects that generated inert material during the year produced soft material that is not suitable for recycling.

In 2003-04, the production of recycled aggregates is forecasted to increase as several demolition projects (eg. Yuen Long Estate and North Point Estate) would

generate more hard inert materials suitable for recycling.

- (c) Civil Engineering Department is conducting a consultancy study on the “Long-term Arrangements to Accommodate Inert Construction and Demolition Materials and Dredged Mud”. The study will be completed within 2003.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ T K TSAO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2003 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)030

Question Serial No.

1443

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: According to the documents, the provision for the programme "Management of Construction and Demolition Materials" is \$58.3 m (88.9%) higher than last year, and it is mainly due to the expenditure for the Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137. Regarding this, I would like the Government to provide us with details of the project covered by the increase of \$58.3 m; and the detailed operation of the Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 such as its funding and the mode of operation.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: The increase of \$58.3 m in the provision for 2003 – 04 over the 2002-03 revised estimate is mainly due to the operation of the Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank covering a full year period in 2003 – 04 at \$80.3 m, as compared with \$31.1 m for about a period of 5 months only in 2002-03.

The Tseung Kwan O Fill Bank is operated by a contractor under the supervision of CED. The works involve the intake, stockpiling and removal of inert construction & demolition materials. The breakdown of the funding for the Fill Bank is as follows:

Operating Cost for Fill Bank Contractor	: \$72.0 m
Staff Cost of CED	: \$8.3 m

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ T K TSAO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)031

Question Serial No.

1476

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Provision for 2003-04 is \$123.9 million, representing a 88.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. Could the Administration provide a breakdown of financial provision on this programme?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: A breakdown of the financial provision for 2003-04 of \$123.9 m is as follows:

Item	2003-04 Estimates (\$ m)
Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O	80.3
Public Filling Barging Points at Kai Tak, Quarry Bay and Sai Ying Pun	25.0
Public Filling Planning and Co-ordination	18.6
Total	123.9

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ T K TSAO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)032

Question Serial No.

0002

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is forecast that the volume of special wastes to be treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2003 will increase as compared to last year. Please advise on the types and sources of the special wastes involved. Also, please advise if the Government needs additional provisions (including contractor fees) for the treatment of these wastes.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The overall quantity of chemical waste to be treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2003 is forecast to be slightly higher than that in 2002. This slight increase is mainly due to the expected higher intake of MARPOL oily waste from ocean-going vessels which is in line with the waste arising trend towards the end of 2002. On the other hand, the land based chemical waste intake is expected to be more or less the same. We have included sufficient provision to meet the expenses of the estimated amount of waste intake.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)033

Question Serial No.

0003

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer :      Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :      Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Why does the estimated expenditure of the above programme still increase in 2003-04 given no increase in any particular performance indicators and the deletion of one post?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The slight increase in the estimated expenditure is mainly due to increases in operating expenditure on the enhancement of the EIA Ordinance (EIAO) web-based electronic public register to provide the public with an easy access to information relating to applications and submissions under the EIAO and to facilitate public involvement.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

**ROBERT J. S. LAW**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Environmental Protection**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**19 March 2003**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)034

Question Serial No.

0004

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Administration intends to reduce the provision under the Community Relations Programme. What are the impacts on various existing environmental programmes? How can the Administration ensure that public environmental awareness is promoted?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The provision made from year to year for the Community Relations Programme can vary considerably having regard to the education and publicity programmes required to be delivered at the time. Whilst the provision for next year is 8.1% less than that for 2002-03, the provision for 2002-03 was unusually large, and was 60% more than that for the previous year. The allocation for next year is still 47% greater than for 2001-02. The programme will, therefore, still be providing an extensive range of educational programmes aimed at raising community awareness on environmental issues. In particular, there will be a focus in the coming year on raising community awareness on the need for waste separation and recovery.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)035

Question Serial No.

0005

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title): 000  
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is expected that 14 permanent posts will be deleted in 2003-04. However, there is still a slight increase in the estimated expenditure for 2003-04 under the item of 'Personal Emoluments - Salaries' as compared to 2002-03 Revised Estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The slight increase in the provision sought for the Personal Emoluments - Salaries in the 2003-04 Estimate as compared to the 2002-03 Revised Estimate is due to the allowance for salary increments for existing staff.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

**ROBERT J. S. LAW**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Environmental Protection**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**19 March 2003**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)036

Question Serial No.

0006

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that the number of asbestos abatement plans processed will significantly increase to 400 in 2003-04. Please provide the reasons, its details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The number of asbestos abatement plans to be processed is estimated to increase from 287 to about 400 in 2003-04. The increase is mainly due to a programme under the Education and Manpower Bureau to remove low risk asbestos containing materials from schools. No additional expenditure will be involved as the workload will be handled by existing staff.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)037

Question Serial No.

0013

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The Government has introduced a number of grant schemes for motor vehicles to improve the air quality. Please provide the amount of subsidies granted and the commitments approved by the Finance Committee for each of these schemes up to the current financial year. How many different types of vehicles are included and what is the number of vehicles involved in these schemes? What is the percentage of such vehicles in respective types? What are the major air pollutants in quantity and in percentage before and after the implementation of these grant schemes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The grant schemes that the Administration has been implementing since 2000 for reducing motor vehicle emissions are summarized in the following table:

Grant Schemes	Approved Commitment (\$ Million)	Total grant paid up to 10.3.2003 (\$ Million)	The number of eligible vehicles	The proportion of eligible vehicles in the related vehicle group (%)
To assist pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes to be installed with particulate removal devices (Item 553)	50.880	31.177	About 30,000	about 45
To encourage the early replacement of diesel taxis by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis (Item 554)	725.520	676.280	18,138	100
To encourage the early replacement of diesel public light buses by LPG or electric light buses (Item 570)	261.000	20.460	4,350	100
To install particulate removal devices in large pre-Euro diesel vehicles not undertaking long idling duties (Item 568)	600.000	0.695	About 41,000	54

The above measures are part of the comprehensive motor vehicle emission control programme aimed at reducing the respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides emissions by 80% and 30% respectively by end 2005. In absolute terms, the programme can reduce up to 1,700 tonnes respirable suspended particulates and 3,000 tonnes nitrogen oxides from the annual motor vehicle emissions in the urban areas.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)038

Question Serial No.

0014

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (2) Air

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :    Would the Government inform this Council:

Does the Government have any other grant schemes in future?    If yes, what are the details,  
the total expenditure involved and the expected achievements?

Asked by :    Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :        We have no plans for new grant schemes under the Air Programme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)039

Question Serial No.

0015

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department    Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :            (4) Waste

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :    Would the government inform this Council:

- (a) the names and functions of the consultative committees and statutory committees set up under this Programme, the number of meetings held in the past three years, and the honoraria for the chairmen and members of these committees? What were the agenda items discussed in 2002-03?
- (b) What are the expenditure and establishment involved for the EPD in support of the operation of the said committees in the past and the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :    There is no consultative/statutory committee set up under Programme (4) - Waste.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title    Director of Environmental Protection

Date    19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)040

Question Serial No.

0016

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the government inform this Council:

The government is going to launch the legislative work for the control of clinical waste in the coming year. What is the estimated expenditure involved and the establishment required for the control work? Is there a need to provide additional staff? If so, what is the additional number of staff required and additional expenditure involved? How will they be offset under the estimates for this Programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Government estimates that 10 posts in the Environment Protection Department will be made available for the control work of clinical waste, at a cost of \$3.7 million a year. The resource and staff requirement for clinical waste control will be met by internal redeployment and re-prioritising of existing programmed activities within the Environmental Protection Department.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)041

Question Serial No.

0017

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (2) Air

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :    Would the Government inform this Council:

The work or programmes that will involve indoor air quality in 2003-04. What are the expenditures involved in the respective work or programmes?

Asked by :    Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :    In 2003-04, our indoor air quality management programme is to:

- a. continue to operate the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Information Centre, which can help disseminate IAQ information to the public and professionals.
- b. launch a voluntary IAQ Certification Scheme for offices and public places. Under the Scheme, building owners are required to employ suitably qualified personnel to assess the IAQ of their premises. Those buildings in compliance with the IAQ objectives will be granted compliance certificates.
- c. introduce a set of practice notes to provide guidelines to the operators of public transport facilities on the management of the air quality inside these facilities.

The operation of the IAQ Information Centre will cost \$0.725M in 2003-04. The rest of the workload of this programme will be absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)042

Question Serial No.

0018

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. &  
title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The work to be carried out in the coming financial year in following up the results of both the study on air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region and the consensus reached with the Guangdong Provincial Government to improve air quality in the Region. What are the expenditure involved? Has the expenditure been included in the estimates under Programme 2?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2003-04, the following work will be carried out as a result of both the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Study and the consensus reached with the Guangdong Provincial Government:

- (a) drawing up a plan for improving regional air quality;
- (b) evaluating the feasibility of a pilot emission trading scheme for some power stations in the region;
- (c) establishing and operating a network of regional air quality monitoring stations;
- (d) developing a handbook for compiling regional emission inventory;
- (e) compiling the regional emission inventory for year 2001; and
- (f) conducting technical exchange programmes.

Our part of the work will cost about \$6.40 million, which has already been included in the estimates for 2003-04 under Programme 2.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)043

Question Serial No.

0019

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The breakdown by types of chemical waste treated and to be treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi in the past two years and in the coming year respectively? How much do they account for the annual total handling capacity of the whole Centre? What is the amount of subsidies provided by the Government for each type of wastes treated (please give the breakdown)? In which part of the Estimates is the expenditure on these subsidies shown?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The breakdown of waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in the past two years and the projection for the coming year is as follows:

<b>Waste Type</b>	<b>2001 (tonnes)</b>	<b>2002 (tonnes)</b>	<b>2003 (estimate) (tonnes)</b>
Spent etchants (Ammoniacal)	1 750	1 650	1 560
Spent etchants (Non-Ammoniacal)	7 450	7 700	7 650
Acids	2 900	2 650	2 900
Alkalis	1 700	1 500	1 350
Toxic metal solutions	1 500	1 250	1 300
Solvents	3 300	2 700	2 900
Land based waste oil	6 700	7 150	6 800
MARPOL waste	37 300	27 500	30 140
Others	400	350	400
Total	63 000	52 450	55 000

As the design capacity of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre is 100,000 tonnes per year, the chemical waste intake for the past 2 years accounted for 63% and 52.5% of the design capacity respectively, while the intake for 2003 is expected to be 55%.

It is not possible to give a breakdown of the subsidies for treating different types of chemical waste because the costs and subsidies vary depending on the chemical composition and treatment system used and these variables can change with each consignment of waste. In 2002-03, the overall subsidy to chemical waste producers for treating chemical waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre was about \$132 million, which is not shown in the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)044

Question Serial No.

0020

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General  
other non-recurrent

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

Despite the approved commitment for the Study Item 564 under the Capital Account Subhead 700 in 2002-03, there is still no expenditure spent in this financial year. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in conjunction with the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau have carefully reviewed the scope and approach of the study and decided to adopt a step-by-step approach in view of its complexity. The study will now be divided into phases, with the first phase to appraise the noise environment of Hong Kong. The EPD plans to invite tender for the phase one study in mid 2003.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)045

Question Serial No.

0051

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The average cost for handling each Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in carrying out the statutory work under the EIA Ordinance. What are the expenditure items involved? What is the percentage of such items on the current fees collected?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : At present, the fees for processing applications for an EIA study brief and for approval of an EIA report under the EIA Ordinance are \$16,325 and \$42,190 respectively. According to a review completed in 2000, such fees can recover over 90% of the average costs of processing such statutory EIA applications. Such costs involve essentially staff costs of the EPD and other departments involved in processing the statutory applications.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)046

Question Serial No.

0052

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :    Would the Government inform this Council:

Please list out the usage and the locations of the landfills that have been restored and developed for beneficial uses. What is the annual expenditure and staffing for the monitoring and management of respective landfills? Please provide the breakdown by post.

Asked by :    Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :    The details for the old landfills where the main restoration works have been completed are provided below. Please note that even when the main restoration works have been completed, the landfills will continue to generate landfill gas and leachate for a very long time as degradation of waste proceeds for many years. It should be noted that restoration is an on-going process and resources are required to operate and maintain the restoration works to ensure that the sites would not pose any hazard to the adjacent environment.

The main restoration works for the Shuen Wan Landfill in Tai Po were completed in December 1997. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for the operation and maintenance of these works is \$4.8 million and 0.5 Environmental Protection Officer (EPO), 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector (SEPI) and 2 Environmental Protection Inspectors (EPI) are provided for the monitoring and management of this landfill. While the restoration process will be ongoing for many years, the site has been developed for a beneficial interim after use and has been used as a golf driving range since April 1999.

The main restoration works for the Sai Tso Wan Landfill in Kwun Tong were completed in May 1998. The construction of a multi-purpose grass pitch for football and baseball at the landfill has just commenced. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for the operation and maintenance of the restoration works is \$2.1 million. This will be increased to \$6.1 million per annum when the grass pitch is open to the public in March 2004 but the staffing for the monitoring and management of this landfill will remain as 0.2 EPO, 0.2 SEPI and 0.6 EPI.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)048

Question Serial No.

0054

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title): 297  
Fees for operation of waste  
facilities

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council:

The list of expenditure items for respective types of waste facilities under Subhead 297. Please also list out the unit handling cost of various waste facilities (including the content and breakdown). Are these costs recovered from the fees collected?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 and unit operating cost of various waste facilities are as follows:

Waste Facilities	Estimated Expenditure 2003-04 \$M	Estimated Unit Operating Cost per tonne \$
Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	388	7 056 (Note 1)
Refuse Transfer Stations	391	184
Landfills	439	64
Livestock Waste Collection and Composting Service	11	200
Total	1 229	

Note 1: The unit operating costs vary with different types of treatment at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre. The unit operating cost quoted here is the average obtained by dividing the total operating cost by the total amount of chemical wastes treated during the same period.

At present, only privately collected waste at refuse transfer stations and chemical waste treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre are charged. However, the above operating costs are not fully recovered from the fees collected for refuse transfer or chemical waste treatment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)049

Question Serial No.

0080

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Controlling Officer indicated in his report that the number of enquiries handled in 2002 under the waste reduction and recycling hotline service was 36,403, which was more than triple of 11,815 in 2001. And it was indicated that 10,950 enquiries would be handled in 2003. Why was there a big jump of enquiries in 2002? What were they mainly about? Despite the increasing number of enquiries in 2002, the Controlling Officer indicated the number of enquiries to be handled in 2003 would drop drastically. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. Bernard CHAN

Reply : The overall high call volume in 2002 was due to surges of calls received after a public announcement of new waste reduction initiatives in September 2001, together with strengthened publicity of the hotline in early 2002 as well as launching of the mobile phone battery recycling programme in April 2002. These special publicity events generated more than 20,000 calls. Of the total number of calls handled by the hotline in 2002, about 50% were requests for information on waste collectors/recyclers; about 10% were related to waste recovery programmes; 5% were about waste separation bins and around 3% were requests for technical advice on recycling.

After the above publicity drives, the number of enquiries has gradually stabilized at around 30 calls per day at the end of 2002. Therefore, the projected call volume for 2003 is 10,950.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)050

Question Serial No.

0191

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Environmental Protection Department will assist owners of pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles to install particulate removal devices in 2003-04. What are the details, the provision required and the estimated number of vehicles involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The Finance Committee approved in May 2002 a commitment of \$600 million for us to assist vehicle owners to install particulate removal devices in pre-Euro diesel vehicles of weight over four tonnes that are not required to undertake long idling duties.

Eligible vehicles include about 31,000 non-cross-boundary vehicles and 10,000 cross-boundary vehicles.

Cross-boundary vehicles require devices of higher fuel sulphur tolerance because of the need to be refilled in the Mainland, where diesel has a higher sulphur content. The installations for non-cross-boundary vehicles and cross-boundary vehicles are thus being done under separate programmes.

The installation programme for non-cross-boundary vehicles was started in December 2002. Our target is to complete the installation by end June 2004. Up to 13 March 2003, 1,352 installations have been completed.

We are now assessing the tenders for the installation programme for cross-boundary vehicles. If suitable contractors are found, our targets are to start the installation around this July and to complete the installation within 18 months.

Our estimate is that about 24,000 non-cross-boundary and 6,000 cross-boundary vehicle will get their installations in 2003-04. For these installations, a provision of \$276.152 million has been made.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)051

Question Serial  
No.

0374

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Provision for 2003-04 is HK\$233.4 million (63.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03 which is mainly due to increased requirement for one-off grants to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles to retrofit their vehicles with particulate removal devices and to encourage diesel public light bus owners to replace their vehicles early with ones that run on LPG or electricity. But, there is still a large amount of balance for these 2 items under the subhead 700-568 and 700-570 of the capital account. What is the reason for the dramatic increase of resource?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply : Both subhead 700-568 (i.e. the particulate removal device installation programme) and 700-570 (i.e. the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric light bus programme) are new programmes started in 2002-03. They are still at their early implementation stages with a very small number of the eligible vehicles having received the one-off grants. The expenditures of the two programmes in 2002-03 are thus small and a large balance remains at the end of the fiscal year.

The increase of the provision of \$233.4 million in 2003-04 over the revised estimate for 2002-03 is mainly due to an additional expenditure of \$314.5 million expected for the above two capital account items in 2003-04 (as analysed in the following paragraphs), partly offset by the reduced requirement of \$84.2 million for the one-off grant for the LPG taxi programme under subhead 700-554. The requirement for the LPG taxi grant in 2003-04 is expected to be smaller because most of the diesel taxis have already been replaced by LPG taxis. There are thus fewer recipients for the grant in 2003-04.

For subhead 700-568, we expect that about 29,000 additional eligible vehicles will receive the grant for the installation in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03. Thus, the provision for the one-off grant payment will have to be increased by \$261.2 million over the revised estimated expenditure for 2002-03.

For subhead 700-570, about 900 additional diesel light buses are expected to be replaced under the programme in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03. The provision for the payment of the grant has thus to be increased by \$53.3 million over the one for 2002-03.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)052

Question Serial No.

0429

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700  
General other non-recurrent

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated that the joint study with the Guangdong provincial authorities on the air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region was completed. But for item 548 under subhead 700, there is still a balance of HK\$2,314,000. What is the intended use of the remaining balance?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply : The joint study was completed in April 2002 and had been fully paid for. The balance will be used on necessary tasks for enhancing and updating the study results. In this respect, in year 2003-04, the Administration has agreed with the Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau to develop a handbook for compiling the regional emission inventory and compile a regional emission inventory of year 2001.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)053

Question Serial No.

0533

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700  
General other non-recurrent

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Would the Government inform this Council: What are the purpose, scope and method of the study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong? When will the study be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : The study will look into any adverse health effect due to environmental noise in Hong Kong. It will involve experts in acoustics and medical science to collect and analyse local data to identify any environmental noise induced effects such as annoyance and other effects on people. In view of its complexity, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will adopt a step-by-step approach and divide the study into phases, with the first phase to appraise the noise environment of Hong Kong.

The EPD plans to invite tender for the phase one study in mid 2003 and the whole study is expected to be completed in two years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)054

Question Serial No.

0727

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                      (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer :      Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :      Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the Environment Protection Department's community relations work to promote environmental education in 2003-04, would the Government inform this Council why the estimated number under the indicators of the two types of services, namely the schools and groups involved in environmental education programmes and the talks given to schools and groups is reduced. Will the number of people benefited from the above two types of services be reduced as a result? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : There was a surge in these indicators in 2002-03. The estimates for 2003-04 represent a return to more normal levels of activity, although these are still well above those for 2001-02. We intend to refocus our activities to achieve more impact, through "train the trainer" programmes, facilitating educational activities by green groups and other community groups and providing more educational materials to reach different target groups. We do not expect the number of people to benefit from these activities will be reduced.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)055

Question Serial No.

0728

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :    Would the Government inform this Council: What measures will EPD take in 2003-04 to promote environmental considerations at the earliest possible stage when formulating major policies and strategies?

Asked by :    Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :    To promote the incorporation of environmental considerations into major policies or strategies, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to participate in major policy and strategy formulation works. EPD will continue to review the findings of environmental studies associated with policy and strategy formulation and to assist the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau in vetting the environmental implications of Executive Council and Policy Committee papers. EPD will also continue to disseminate information and examples of good practices on strategic environmental assessment with a view to promoting environmental considerations at the earliest possible stage when formulating major policies and strategies. In particular, EPD will continue to provide environmental inputs to the Study on Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy and oversee the associated strategic environmental assessment study to facilitate early consideration of major environmental issues during the long-term strategic planning process.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)056

Question Serial No.

1493

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (2) Air

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the work between Hong Kong and the Guangdong provincial authorities to reduce the air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region, would the Government inform this Council the expenditure involved and the specific plans in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : In 2003-04, the following work will be carried out as a result of the consensus reached with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region:

- (a) drawing up a plan for improving regional air quality,
- (b) evaluating the feasibility of a pilot emission trading scheme for the energy sector in the region,
- (c) establishing and operating a network of regional air quality monitoring stations,
- (d) developing a handbook for compiling regional emission inventory,
- (e) compiling the regional emission inventory for year 2001, and
- (f) conducting technical exchange programmes.

Our part of the work will cost about \$6.40 million, which has already been included in the estimates for 2003-04 under Programme 2.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      21 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)057

Question Serial No.

0818

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (2) Air

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total number of light buses that have been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas or electric light buses at present?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : As at 28 February 2003, 365 diesel light buses had been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas light buses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)058

Question Serial No.

0819

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : (a) The number of smoky vehicle reports processed this year has reduced by more than 10,000 as compared to last year. What are the reasons?  
(b) How much resources will be put in and what specific measures will be taken to reduce emissions from motor vehicles in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : (a) As compared to 2001, the number of smoky vehicle reports processed in 2002 had been reduced due to a decrease in the number of smoky vehicles on our roads. The reduction in the number of smoky vehicles has been achieved as a result of a number of programmes, including:

- (i) 2,598 more diesel taxis having been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis in 2002,
- (ii) the extension of the dynamometer smoke test to smoky diesel heavy vehicles in 2002, and
- (iii) the completion of the programme to retrofit pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes with particulate removal devices in October 2001.

The commencement of the incentive scheme for replacing diesel light buses by LPG and electric light buses in August 2002 had also helped reduce the number of smoky vehicle reports processed in 2002.

- (b) For 2003-04, the Administration has put in direct resources of \$406.5 million (including recurrent operating expenses and capital account expenditure) for reducing motor vehicle emissions.

Apart from our on-going activities including operating the smoky vehicle control programme, tightening whenever practicable and enforcing the requirements for the emissions of first-registered vehicles and motor vehicle fuels, the resources will also be used for the following specific measures:

- (i) to continue the subsidy programme to install particulate removal devices in pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles,
- (ii) to continue the incentive programme to encourage the early replacement of diesel taxis by LPG taxis,
- (iii) to continue the incentive programme to encourage the early replacement of diesel light buses by LPG or electric light buses, and
- (iv) to require pre-Euro diesel vehicles up to four tonnes to be installed with approved particulate removal devices, subject to LegCo's approval of the legislative proposal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)059

Question Serial No.

0820

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (2) Air

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total expenditure for the Environmental Protection Department to employ consultants in 2003-04? What are the items involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : In 2003-04, the total expenditure to employ consultants for the Air Programme is \$4.33 million for the following three items:

- (a) Studies on fine particulate matter and toxic air pollutants (for \$2.4 million),
- (b) Studies for the Pearl River Delta Region on the compilation of emission inventory and the feasibility of introducing an emission trading scheme (for \$1.4 million), and
- (c) Providing expert advice related to the tendering exercise to find suitable particulate removal devices for pre-Euro diesel vehicles (for \$0.53 million).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)060

Question Serial No.

0841

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources have been provided for in 2003-04 for the implementation of various existing or planned pilot programmes on municipal waste reduction? What are the details and the progress of such programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : About \$5 million have been provided for in 2003-04 for the implementation of various existing and planned pilot programmes on municipal waste reduction. These pilot programmes include plastic bottles and plastic bags recovery; wet and dry waste separation; reuse and recycling of waste electronic and electrical appliances; as well as recycling of mobile phone batteries, scrap vehicle tyres and expanded polystyrene (plastic foam) containers and packaging material.

On plastic bottles recovery, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to provide a central collection service to 350 housing estates in 2003-04. In addition, a new plastic bottles compactor mounted on a vehicle will be tested out as well as co-collection of plastic bottles and plastic bags in some 20 housing estates.

On wet and dry waste separation, we will continue to provide technical assistance to a pilot scheme funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund. This scheme started on 3 March 2003 and will last for 12 months. Under the pilot scheme, dry waste is separately collected from four housing estates in the Eastern District and delivered to a temporary sorting facility at the Island East Transfer Station where recyclables are recovered for recycling.

For other recyclable materials, apart from the on-going mobile phone batteries recovery programme and the pilot electrical appliances recycling plant at the North West New Territories Transfer Station, new pilot programmes to test out various collection and recycling arrangements for waste electronic and electrical appliances, scrap vehicle tyres and plastic foam containers have been developed for implementation in 2003-04.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)061

Question Serial No.

0842

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources are expected to be employed in 2003-04 for the development of large-scale waste treatment facilities in Hong Kong? What is the work progress? What is the timetable to announce the specific plan involved?

Asked by :    Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2003-04, about \$1.7 million would be used to continue the assessment of waste treatment technologies and formulation of large scale waste management options.

In April 2002, the Government initiated an Expression of Interest exercise inviting local and international organisations to submit waste treatment technology proposals for Hong Kong. A total of 59 proposals were received by close of submission in July 2002. An Advisory Group comprising mainly non-officials has been set up in September 2002 to assist the Government in assessing the proposals. The assessment is now in progress. We plan to complete the assessment and consult the public on the preferred technologies and options by late 2003. We hope to finalise the plan including the preferred site(s) for the facilities in 2004.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)062

Question Serial No.

1004

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities, (2) Air, (3) Noise, (4) Waste, (5) Water,  
(6) Environmental Assessment and Planning, and (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide :

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:  
I : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)  
II : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44  
III : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33  
IV : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below  
(Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

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

Reply :

- (a) Please see the breakdown of establishment and strength by programme in Tables 1 and 2 in the attached Annex.
- (b) In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department has deleted 21 posts after enhancing productivity and optimizing the use of existing resources. These posts comprise 3 Environmental Protection Officers/Assistant Environmental Protection Officers\*, 10 Environmental Protection Inspectors, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 1 Clerical Assistant, 1 Supplies Attendant, 2 Laboratory Attendants, 1 Cook and 1 Workman II.
- (c) The Environmental Protection Department is examining ways to complement government's 3R1M initiative, i.e. re-engineering, re-prioritizing, re-organizing and outsourcing some of its existing services. In this connection, in 2003-04, 14 posts will be deleted. This will comprise 3 Environmental Protection Officers / Assistant Environmental Protection Officers\*, 9 Environmental Protection Inspectors, 1 Foreman and 1 Office Assistant.

\*The Assistant Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Officer ranks form a combined establishment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

Annex to

ETWB(E)062

Question Serial No.

1004

(a)(i) Table 1: Establishment as at 31 March 2003 (Estimate)

Category	Programme							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)	21	33	15	18	31	21	2	141
II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	91	166	76	111	186	58	20	708
IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below	122	161	79	140	212	33	24	771
Total	234	361	170	270	430	112	47	1,624

(a)(ii) Table 2: Strength as at 31 March 2003 (Estimate)

Category	Programme							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)	21	32	15	18	31	21	2	140
II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	90	165	76	110	184	58	20	703
IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below	120	159	78	138	209	33	24	761
Total	231	357	169	267	425	112	47	1,608

**Note:** The above numbers exclude Model Scale 1 staff and they are rounded to integer.

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)063

Question Serial No.

1045

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the above Programme, there has been an annual decrease in the "percentage of time with all monitoring stations complying with short term Air Quality Objectives" since 2001. What are the reasons? Does it indicate that the situation on exceedance of air pollution is becoming more serious in Hong Kong? What measures have been taken by the Government in 2002-03 to alleviate the situation and what is the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure for the related work in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The decrease in the compliance rate for the short-term Air Quality Objectives (AQO) in 2002 was caused by an exceptionally long spell of calm weather between 1 January 2002 and 12 January 2002.

Despite that high air pollution episode, the compliance rate for the long-term AQOs (i.e. annual averaged pollution level) in 2002 had increased from 64 to 67%. So, over the whole year, the air pollution in 2002 had improved. Moreover, the air pollution levels at the roadside in 2002 dropped by 6% to 12% as compared with 2001.

Motor vehicles are the major cause of our local air pollution. To tackle the problem, the Administration has continued to implement the comprehensive motor vehicle emission control strategy in 2002-03. Specifically, the following are the key programmes:

- (a) an incentive scheme to encourage the early replacement of diesel taxis by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis,
- (b) an incentive scheme to encourage the early replacement of diesel light buses by LPG or electric light buses, and
- (c) a subsidy scheme to install particulate removal devices in large pre-Euro diesel vehicles.

The expenditure for the above programmes in 2002-03 is estimated to be \$150.1 million. In 2003-04, the above programmes will be continued. We have made a provision of \$380.4 million for them.

Actions should also be taken to control the regional air pollution. Otherwise, the air quality in Hong Kong will deteriorate in the years ahead as the result of the worsening regional air quality. The Administration has reached a consensus with the Guangdong Provincial Government to aim to reduce, on a best endeavour basis, air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region to a satisfactory level by 2010. In 2003-04, the following work will be carried out jointly:

- (a) drawing up a plan for improving regional air quality,
- (b) evaluating the feasibility of a pilot emission trading scheme for some power stations in the region,
- (c) establishing and operating a network of regional air quality monitoring stations,
- (d) developing a handbook for compiling regional emission inventory,
- (e) compiling the regional emission inventory for year 2001, and
- (f) conducting technical exchange programmes.

Our part of the work is estimated to cost about \$6.40 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21 March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)064

Question Serial No.

1282

Head : 44 Environmental Protection  
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 000  
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff employed and the expenditure involved in 2002-03? Is there any plan to increase or reduce the employment of NCSC staff in 2003-04? If yes, what are the reasons for the increase or decrease in such employment, and what is the number of NCSC staff and amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : In 2002-03, the Environmental Protection Department has employed an average number of 230 NCSC staff, and the total expenditure is around \$25 Million. In 2003-04, we plan to employ a similar number of NCSC staff.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)065

Question Serial No.

1365

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out in detail the estimated expenditure and staff required for promoting the development of waste recovery/ recycling facilities in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Asked by :    Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : In 2002-03, about \$3.5 million were used in providing waste recovery and recycling facilities. These include a pilot plant to recycle electrical appliances at the North West New Territories Transfer Station; short term tenancy sites for use by the recycling trade; and preparatory work for developing a Recovery Park at Tuen Mun Area 38. In addition, a temporary dry waste sorting facility at the Island East Transfer Station has commenced operation in the fourth quarter of 2002-03. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has deployed about 3.5 staff to carry out the above work.

In 2003-04, we will also collaborate with non-government organizations to set up pilot workshops to repair and recycle used electronic and electrical appliances. More short term tenancy sites will be made available to the recycling trade and further work to develop the Recovery Park at Tuen Mun Area 38 will be carried out. In addition, the temporary sorting facility at the Island East Transfer Station will be used to sort dry waste collected from four housing estates in the Eastern District of Hong Kong Island under the pilot scheme on wet and dry waste sorting. The total estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for the above work is about \$7 million and 5 staff will be deployed to work in this area.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)066

Question Serial No.

1514

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme :                    (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer :    Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau :    Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the item 'complete the development of a multi-purpose grass pitch on the restored Sai Tso Wan landfill' under 'Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04', please outline:

- (a) the content of the development;
- (b) the present progress; and
- (c) the expected date of completion.

Asked by :    Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The development of a multi-purpose grass pitch on the restored Sai Tso Wan landfill includes the design and construction of a multi-purpose grass pitch for football and baseball, a children's play area, a track for jogging or walking as well as associated facilities. Construction has commenced on 12 March 2003 and the expected date of completion is March 2004.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)067

Head : 100– Marine Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0326

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a) How much resources will be allocated for marine refuse scavenging?  
(b) What measures will be taken to achieve floating refuse reduction?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) \$50 million will be allocated for marine refuse cleansing services in 2003-04.  
(b) We will continue to adopt a three-pronged approach to address the problem of floating refuse –

**Clean-up :** In addition to providing intensive daily marine refuse cleansing services, we carry out joint operations with other departments to clear coastal refuse that may be washed into the sea and to stop the refuse at source from land.

**Education and Publicity :** We conduct publicity programmes with various District Offices and Non-Government Organizations to raise the public awareness including the focussed campaigns in typhoon shelters during the Lunar New Year and Close Fishing Period every year. We have also provided a video disc “A New Era of Harbour Cleanliness” to 823 primary schools to educate students. When carrying out school visits to promote the Marine Department’s activities, we disseminate messages promoting a clean harbour. We also participate in various forums to appeal to the public to support our work in maintaining a cleaner marine environment.

**Enforcement :** To provide a deterrent effect, our officers take enforcement actions against marine littering, either as part of routine duties or as special operations after normal office hours, and on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	S.Y. TSUI
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	19 March 2003

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

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)068

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat      Subhead (No. & title) :  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0090

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works  
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In coordinating the cooperation and exchange activities of cross-boundary cooperation on environmental protection with the Guangdong Authority, how many activities will be held in 2003-04, and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply : To enhance co-operation between HKSARG and the Mainland authority in the area of environmental protection, regular visits and meetings are conducted by relevant officials. The expenditure incurred is mainly on travelling and accommodation. For 2003-04, we expect to continue such exchanges and the expenditure to be incurred will be in the order of \$40,000.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment, Transport and  
Works (Environment) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)069

Question Serial No.

0108

Head: 158-Government Secretariat: Environment, Transport and Works  
Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch)  
22-Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
39-Drainage Services Department  
42-Electrical and Mechanical Services Department  
43- Civil Engineering Department  
44- Environmental Protection Department  
48- Government Laboratory  
100- Marine Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by the above bureau and departments, please provide details in the following format:

- (1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

Reply Serial No.

Question Serial No.

- (3) It has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)

Asked by : Hon. Ho Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(1) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) commissioned consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2001-02 and 2002-03. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hong Kong	To collect baseline information on marine benthic communities in Hong Kong  (AFCD)	\$3.850M	Completed	Findings will be used in assessing potential impacts of development projects on marine benthic ecology and marine conservation.	N.A.
TNO Institute of Environmental Sciences, Energy Research and Process Innovation	Study on Quantitative Risk Assessment of LPG Vehicles through Tunnels in Hong Kong  (EMSD)	\$0.660M	Completed	The existing maximum fuel tank carrying capacity of LPG vehicles should be maintained and no further action is required.	N.A.
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Residential Household Energy Consumption Study in Hong Kong  (EMSD)	\$1.030M	Completed	Findings already incorporated into the Hong Kong Energy End-Use Database.	N.A.
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc.	Study on the Development of Energy Consumption Indicators & Benchmarks  (EMSD)	\$4.600M	Completed	Benchmarks developed for selected groups are available for public use.	N.A.



Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Territory-wide Implementation Study for Water-cooled Air Conditioning Systems in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$11.126M	Near completion	The Study is near completion. The administration will consult the public in due course.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited	Implementation Study for a District Cooling Scheme at South East Kowloon Development (EMSD)	\$6.213M	Completed	The Government is consulting the major stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of the study report. The executive summary was also posted onto EMSD website.	N.A.
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc	Study on the Potential Applications of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$4.900M	In progress	Stage 1 of the Study has been completed. The Government is consulting the major stakeholders on the findings and the recommendations. Stage 2 of the Study is in progress. Technical data will be collected until early 2004.	N.A.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation Study for Water-cooled Air Cooling Systems in Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts (EMSD)	\$3.800M	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Study for Developing a Performance-Based Building Energy code Using Total-Energy-Budget Approach (EMSD)	\$2.200M	Completed	The new code will be implemented through Hong Kong Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings in March 2003.	N.A.
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Transport Energy Consumption Survey (EMSD)	\$1.200M	In progress	Field survey to be completed by end March 2003.	N.A.

DET NORSKE VERITAS	Study on the feasibility of introducing LPG light vans and light goods vehicles in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$1.235M	Completed	The key findings of the Study, which were reported to the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Transport at their joint meeting on 6.2.2003 was that it would not be feasible to introduce LPG light vans and light goods vehicles into Hong Kong.	N.A.
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For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

- (2) Details of the consultancy study for policy making and assessment commissioned by EMSD in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for which financial provision has not been allocated are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Hong Kong Energy End-use Database Factorisation and Development of Energy Models (EMSD)	\$0.750M (funded from Save and Invest Account)	In progress	The final report is near completion. The database will be updated thereafter.	N.A.

For other departments, they have not conducted such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

- (3) Proposed provisions have been included in the Estimates for continuing three and one new study by EMSD in 2003-04. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)
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Hong Kong Productivity Council	Study on the Development of Energy Consumption Indicators & Benchmarks for Hospitals, Clinics, Universities, Schools, Hotels, Medium and Heavy Goods Vehicles ( EMSD)	\$1.200M	In progress
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc	Study on the Potential Applications of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong  (EMSD)	\$4.900M	In progress The installation works for the stage 2 demonstration project to verify the performance of various building integrated photovoltaic panels have just been completed.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation Study for Water-cooled Air Cooling Systems in Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts (EMSD)	\$3.800M	In progress
To be appointed	Consultancy study on Life Cycle Energy Analysis of Building Construction (EMSD)	\$7.000M	To commence in April 2003.

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2003-04.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003

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

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)070

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0251

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works  
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As described in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 under the above Programme, the Government undertakes to co-ordinate inter-bureau/departmental efforts to improve the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for government works projects. Please provide details of the relevant co-ordination work and the benchmarks that will be adopted by the Government to assess the effectiveness of the co-ordination work.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : A number of measures have been adopted to enhance co-ordination among the bureaux/departments concerned with a view to improving the EIA process for public works projects. They include -

- (a) Environmental Protection Department (EPD) strengthening its advisory role during the EIA process;
- (b) EPD organizing training sessions, seminars and liaison meetings to familiarize works departments/agencies with the EIA procedures and requirements, and to provide opportunities for experience sharing;
- (c) works departments/agencies assuming a more proactive role in identifying and addressing environmental concerns arising from their projects;
- (d) enhancing the Environmental Study Management Group system that provides a forum for EPD, other major authorities under the EIA Ordinance and project proponents to examine environmental issues and mitigation measures of designated projects at an early stage; and
- (e) EPD, other major authorities under the EIA Ordinance and works departments/agencies escalating issues that could not be satisfactorily resolved at the working level to their senior management and, if necessary, the respective bureau at the earliest possible opportunity.

The effectiveness of the co-ordination work will be reviewed from time to time on the basis of the feedbacks from the parties concerned on whether the measures have facilitated the EIA process and works projects are carried out in an environmentally friendly and efficient manner.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment, Transport and  
Works (Environment) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)071

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat      Subhead (No. & title) :  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0563

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works  
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2003-04, the Environment and Transport Branch will strengthen control on the collection and disposal of clinical waste. In respect of the control work, what will be the number of staff involved, the scope of work and the estimated expenditure? How does the situation compare with that of the last financial year in these three aspects?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : We will implement a clinical waste control scheme through legislation in 2004 to govern the handling, collection, and disposal of clinical waste so as to safeguard public health and safety. The Environmental Protection Department will be responsible for the control work. The Bureau is coordinating the formulation of the implementing plan and preparation of the legislative proposals for the scheme, and has absorbed the workload within its existing resources in 2002-03. The scope of work and resources required for planning this scheme will remain the same in 2003-04 for the Bureau.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment, Transport and  
Works (Environment)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003

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

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)072

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat      Subhead (No. & title) :  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0564

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works  
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In respect of the transfer of ten posts to the Works Branch in 2003-04, what is the estimated amount of savings in expenses? With regard to the holders of these posts, what areas of work were they responsible for in the original Branch and what were their ranks?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Holders of the ten posts to be transferred are Executive, Chinese Language and Clerical Officers. They are presently engaged in office administration, finance and information technology duties. After the transfer, they will continue to perform their present duties and provide central support for the entire Environment, Transport and Works Bureau.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment, Transport and  
Works (Environment)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)073

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0734

Programme : (1)Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works  
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In respect of the public consultation on nature conservation policy, will the Government inform this Council of the details of the consultation exercise, including the reasons for conducting the exercise, its objectives, the consultation timetable and the Government's way forward?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : We are preparing a Nature Conservation Policy for Hong Kong with a view to rationalize the priority for conservation using objective guidelines. The proposed policy will target at getting a consensus on the decision to designate priority sites for conservation for the value of their peculiar habitat and/or biodiversity. The policy will also promulgate the value of the existing country parks and marine parks such that they are part of the priority for resource allocation. A database on Hong Kong biodiversity is to be published after consultation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment, Transport and  
Works (Environment)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003



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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)074

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat      Subhead (No. & title) :  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0790

Programme : (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works  
(Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As shown under Programme (1), the financial provision for Environmental Protection and Conservation for 2003-04 will decrease by 22.6%. Which items of expenses will be cut down and what areas of work of the bureau will be affected by the decrease in allocation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The decrease of 22.6% in the financial provision for 2003-04 is mainly due to the transfer of provision in Personal Emoluments to the Works Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the Bureau) to enable it to take up the central support functions of office administration, finance and information technology for the entire Bureau. No public service will be affected.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment, Transport and  
Works (Environment)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003

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

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)075

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0213

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Can the Administration inform the Committee the latest position of replacement of taxi and light bus using cleaner fuels? What is the amount of subsidy under the incentive schemes approved by the Administration to the transport trade?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

As at 28.2.2003, the position of replacement of taxi and light bus using cleaner fuels and the amount of financial assistance granted to the vehicle owners is as below:

	Total no. of vehicles	No. of vehicles using cleaner fuels (No. of vehicle replacing diesel vehicles)		Amount granted \$'000
		LPG vehicle	Electric vehicle	
Taxi	18,138	16,929 (16,929)	-	674,560
Light Bus				
(a) Public Light Bus	4,350	353 (353)	-	19,740
(b) Private Light Bus*	2,038	39 (12)	1 (0)	71

\*Note : For private light bus, apart from vehicles replacing existing diesel vehicles, approval can be given to new additional vehicles.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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

Replv Serial No.

ETWB(E)076

Head : CWRP Head 704 - Drainage      Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1249

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out in details the projects in Kwun Tong District and Wong Tai Sin District under the block allocation of 4100DX "Drainage works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme".

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The projects under block allocation Subhead 4100DX that involve works in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts are listed below :-

1. Aesthetic improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah;
2. Aesthetic improvement works along Tsui Ping Nullah;
3. Aesthetic improvement works to Jordan Valley Nullah;
4. Rehabilitation works for the stormwater drain and sewer at Hiu Kwong Street;
5. Replacement of the open dry weather flow channel in the Kai Tak Nullah by a closed conduit; and
6. Improvement of the odour control system at Kwun Tong Preliminary Treatment Works.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)077

Question Serial No.

1248(b)

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead(No. & title): 5101DX  
Environmental works, studies and  
investigations for items in Category  
D of the Public Works Programme

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the project 5101DX "Environmental works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme" under block allocations, please list out in detail the projects in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The projects under 5101DX "Environmental works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme" in 2003-04 are mainly studies related to environmental works. The items in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts are as follows:

- (i) Feasibility study for contract arrangement for the provision of recreational facilities at former Tseung Kwan O landfill (stage 1) and Jordan Valley landfill;
- (ii) Environmental review of urban landfills and Tseung Kwan O landfills - feasibility study;
- (iii) Pilot study for inflow and infiltration reduction strategy (in North and South Kowloon and East Kowloon sewerage master plan study areas) ; and
- (iv) Review of Central and East Kowloon sewerage master plans.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21 March 2003