

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

**[Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food]
[Session No. : 12] [File name : HWFB-e2.doc]**

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB001

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0009

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated that in 2003-04, "efforts will be devoted to enhancing and conserving fisheries resources through the deployment of artificial reefs and the preparation of new management measures". What are the details? How much manpower and funding will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

We are implementing the artificial reefs programme as a means to enhance and conserve fisheries resources. In 2003-04, we will continue our deployment work at Outer Port Shelter which commenced in September 2001 and will eventually comprise 106,000 m³ custom-built boats, redundant piers and concrete fenders. We will continue to monitor the performance of artificial reefs deployed in Hong Kong waters.

To regulate fishing intensity and protect fisheries spawning and nursery grounds, we are considering establishing a fishing licence scheme and fisheries protection areas in Hong Kong waters. We plan to consult the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the framework of the proposal before the close of this Legislative year.

A recurrent provision of \$1.27 million (including 1 Fisheries Officer, 1 Senior Fisheries Supervisor, 1 Fisheries Technical Officer II, 1 Field Assistant) and a capital expenditure of \$17.2 million have been allocated in 2003-04 for the artificial reef project. Two other staff (1 Senior Fisheries Officer and 1 Fisheries Officer) are involved in formulating the fishing licence proposal among their other duties in managing local fisheries resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB002

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

0028

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been stated under Programme (2) that the work of the Department involves "providing integrated health care to the elderly". In this connection, will the Department inform us of :

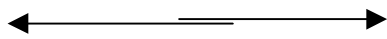
- (a) the details of this service and the number of elderly who have benefited from this service in the past three years; and
- (b) the provision reserved for this service in 2003-04 and the establishment required? Please set out the establishment and strength for each rank.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The Elderly Health Services provide integrated health care service for the elderly through 18 Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) and 18 Visiting Health Teams (VHTs). Services provided by EHCs include physical checkup, health assessment, counselling, curative treatment and health education. VHTs reach out into the community and residential care settings in collaboration with other care providers to achieve wide dissemination of health knowledge to elderly and their carers. The teams also carry out influenza vaccination programme for elderly residing in institutions. The numbers of annual enrolment and attendances in the past three years are given as follows :

	<u>Year</u>		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Number of annual enrolment in EHC	42 700	42 700	42 700
Attendances at health assessment and medical consultation	219 000	220 000	220 000



	<u>2000</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Attendances at health education activities organised by EHCs and VHTs	558 000	560 000	560 000

- (b) The provision for Elderly Health Services in 2003-04 is \$166.5M and the number of staff involved in the service is analysed as follows :

Grade

Medical	32
Nursing	116
Allied Health	43
Executive & Clerical	41
Other Supporting	<u>58</u>
Total	290

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB003

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

0029

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been stated under Programme (3) that the Department will “support the Healthy Ageing Campaign” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Department inform us of :

- (a) the details of how support is to be given to this campaign; and
- (b) the provision reserved for this area of work in 2003-04 and the establishment required? Please set out the establishment and strength for each rank.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The Department of Health supports the Healthy Ageing Campaign launched by the Elderly Commission in 2000-01 by continuing to advocate healthy lifestyles such as regular exercise and proper diet. New programmes in support of the campaign will also be launched in 2003-04. These include :
 - Production of a resource book on promoting psychosocial health of elders and a video on communication skills for carers;
 - Organising a seminar on health promotion for social workers of community support services for the elderly; and
 - Launching of an e-card design competition to promote the positive image of ageing and inter-generational cohesion.
- (b) Healthy Ageing is an integral part of the overall health promotion programme of Elderly Health Services and the resources required are met from the existing provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB004

Question Serial No.

0031

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that in 2002 the Administration “piloted 15 Integrated Family Service Centres and invited the University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluative study on the effectiveness of the pilot scheme”. Please provide details of the pilot scheme including-

- (a) the provision earmarked for the scheme in 2003-04 and a breakdown (by ranks) of staff resources required for implementation of the scheme; and
- (b) the expenditure incurred by commissioning the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to conduct the said evaluative study.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Based on the recommendation of the Review of Family Services conducted by HKU, 15 pilot Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) with an in-built evaluative study conducted by HKU to test the effectiveness of IFSC have been implemented since 1 April 2002 for a duration of two years. An IFSC provides a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services through its Family Resource Unit, Family Support Unit and Family Counselling Unit, under the guiding principles of accessibility, early identification, integration and partnership.

These pilot IFSCs are set up by integrating existing Family Services Centres and other community-based service units either through transformation, merging or strategic alliance, with manpower coming from existing service units. The transformation was done on a cost-neutral basis as far as recurrent subventions are concerned. However, to help kick start the pilots, we have provided to each pilot IFSC time-limited resources comprising \$0.13 m for two Programme Assistants and \$0.1 m to meet expenses such as publicity, programmes, staff training etc. per year for two years. The latter is funded through a Lotteries Fund grant of \$4.7 m which also meets the cost of an evaluative study estimated at \$1.3 m and provides a contingency of \$0.4 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB005

Question Serial No.

0032

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Administration “will intensify the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme to assist able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients back to work” and “maximize the efficiency of the Special Investigation Section in safeguarding public expenditure from fraud and abuse” during 2003-04. Would the Administration inform us of:

- (a) the details of these two tasks;
- (b) the provision earmarked for 2003-04 and a breakdown (by ranks) of staff resources required for implementation of each of these tasks; and
- (c) how it would assess the effectiveness of these tasks.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Intensifying the SFS Scheme

- (a) To assist an increasing number of unemployed CSSA recipients back to work, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would build on existing arrangements to intensify measures to promote self-reliance including:
 - (i) strengthening existing arrangements to provide employable CSSA recipients with more targeted assistance upon their entry into the CSSA system to improve their capacity for self-reliance and facilitate their return to the labour market, including direct job matching where possible;
 - (ii) raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme from \$1,805 to \$2,500 a month, and correspondingly the ‘no deduction

limit' with the disregarded earnings from \$451 to \$600 to provide its recipients with more financial incentives to work. This improvement measure will be provided on a time-limited basis for three years, subject to continuous review;

- (iii) re-scheduling the Community Work (CW) arrangement for targeted participants enrolled in the Active Employment Assistance (AEA) programme to ensure that CW can be arranged for AEA participants within the first three months of their being on CSSA, and arranging for long term AEA participants to perform CW under a full-time non-remunerated work mode (say three full days a week for a period of six months) to help build up their confidence, strengthen their ability to find jobs in the open market and facilitate return to work; and
 - (iv) commissioning more non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to launch intensive employment assistance projects (IEAPs) for the longer term CSSA recipients and would-be CSSA recipients to assist them back to work.
- (b) The total provision including administrative support cost earmarked for 2003-04 is \$63.5 m and the number of staff for implementing the intensified SFS measures is 265 which comprises one Chief Social Security Officer, one Senior Social Security Officer, 11 Social Security Officers I, three Social Security Officers II, 197 Employment Assistance Co-ordinators (EA Co-ordinators), 48 Community Work Organisers (CWOs), three Clerical Assistants (CAs) and one Workman II. The EA Co-ordinators, CWOs, and two CAs are non-civil service contract staff. SWD would deploy some staff from within the department to take up the post of Job Developers though the number of such staff is still to be determined.
- (c) SWD will closely monitor various aspects such as the change in caseload, the number of participants who find paid employment, and the number of recipients who leave the SFS Scheme etc. For new IEAPs, outcome-based performance indicators would be set as far as possible and targets will be clearly defined to facilitate reporting and data collection and to better monitor the effectiveness of individual IEAPs. SWD may consider terminating the funding support for NGOs operating IEAPs which fail to attain an agreed service level.

Maximizing the efficiency of the Special Investigation Section

- (a) The department has re-organised and strengthened its Special Investigation Section to prevent and combat fraud and abuse of social security payment. Effective from 1 April 2002, there are four teams in the new Special Investigation Section. Two Fraud Investigation Teams handle all suspected fraud cases. The Data-Matching Team conducts investigation into matched cases arising from SWD's regular data matching with nine different government departments and organisations to prevent possible fraud and overpayment, while the Random Check Team conducts full review with quality check on cases checked on a random basis. The findings will not only reveal individual cases of overpayment but will also be analysed with a view to helping SWD identify high risk case categories, and drawing up a risk control plan so that resources are directed towards cases with a higher risk of overpayment.

- (b) The total provision including general administrative support cost earmarked for 2003-04 is \$42.3 m and the number of staff for running the service is 115 comprising one Senior Social Security Officer, four Social Security Officers I, 62 Social Security Officers II, 38 Senior Social Security Assistants, seven Clerical Assistants (CAs) and three Workmen II (WM II). Four CAs and two WM IIs are non-civil service contract staff.

- (c) The Section's effectiveness is assessed from both tangible and intangible perspectives. The tangible results are comparatively short-term and remedial in nature while the intangible achievement is on a longer term basis and preventive and deterrent-driven.
 - (i) Intangibly, the Section's investigations into reported suspected fraud cases, cross-checking of randomly selected cases and cases identified through data matching with other government departments and organisations will bring a clear message to the public that SWD is prudent when granting social security payments and serious about guarding against fraud. This helps generate a deterrent effect on potential abusers and maximizes efficiency in safeguarding public expenditure.
 - (ii) In tangible terms, the Section's effectiveness can be assessed by the amount of overpayment

successfully clawed back from the fraudulent claims. The number of cases investigated and the number of fraud cases established are also key measurement indicators. The investigations help detect and rectify discrepancies at the earliest stage possible to minimize the amount of potential incorrect payment. Up to the end of February 2003, the Section's operating expenditure in 2002-03 was \$30.0 m while the overpayment detected has amounted to \$33.7 m.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB006

Question Serial No.

0036

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Administration "will conduct research related to family violence" during 2003-04. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of:

- (a) the details of the research work and research topics identified;
- (b) the provision earmarked for the research in 2003-04, and the staff resources required for conducting the research; and
- (c) whether the Administration had conducted similar research(es) in the past three years. If so, please provide details of the research(es) conducted and the expenditure involved; if not, what is/are the reason(s).

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (a) The Social Welfare Department invited in January 2003 tertiary institutions to submit proposals to conduct a study on child abuse and spouse battering with the objectives to estimate prevalence of the problems, analyse the profiles of the victims and perpetrators, identify elements contributing to effective prevention and intervention, and develop assessment tool(s) to facilitate early identification of at-risk cases and timely intervention. The study is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2003-04 and will take two years to complete.

- (b) A Lotteries Fund (LF) grant of \$1.3 m has been approved to meet the cost of the study, including staff resources to be proposed by the study team. However, the ultimate cost will be subject to competitive bidding amongst the local tertiary institutions invited to submit proposals. The proposals will be assessed on both quality and cost considerations.
- (c) The Centre for Criminology of the University of Hong Kong, with a LF grant of \$0.9 m, has commenced a study on homicide-suicide in Hong Kong since November 2002. The study is scheduled to be completed in two years. It aims at examining the factors leading to homicide-suicide and identifying measures to improve prevention and intervention strategies to combat lethal and domestic violence.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB007

Question Serial No.

0037

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department
Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare
Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Administration will "develop a computerised registry on elder abuse" in 2003-04. In this regard, please inform this Committee:

- (a) the details of this initiative and the purpose of the computerised registry in future; and
- (b) the provision earmarked for 2003-04 and staffing required for implementing the initiative. Please provide a breakdown of both the establishment and the actual number of staff by their ranks.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (a) With a grant of \$2.3 m from the Lotteries Fund in February 2002, the Hong Kong Christian Service (HKCS) is implementing a two-year Project on Elder Abuse Research and Protocol. The project comprises a research on the phenomenon of elder abuse in Hong Kong, the compilation of a multi-professional protocol, a series of training sessions, and development of a computerised elder abuse registry. The purpose of the computerised registry is to collect general information on elder abuse cases reported by concerned service units to facilitate understanding of the problem of elder abuse in Hong Kong.
 - (b) Upon completion of the project by the HKCS, the registry will be transferred to the Social Welfare Department for ongoing operation. The department will continue to maintain the registry with existing provision. There is no plan to provide additional dedicated staff for this task.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB008

Question Serial No.

0038

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Administration has "encouraged more care facilities for elders to provide carers' support service and developed materials for carers of elders" and "enhanced the computer system on residential care homes for the elderly to more effectively monitor the performance of these homes" in 2002. In this connection, please inform this Council:

- (a) the details of these two programmes; and
- (b) the expenditure earmarked for the two programmes and the staffing required for each programme. Please list them according to the ranks of staff involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (a) Since 2001-02, all new community care services such as Enhanced Home and Community Care Services, District Elderly Community Centre and Neighbourhood Elderly Centre and residential care service (including Day Care Unit attached to contract Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs)) have incorporated carers' support service as one of their service components. Operators of these services are required to produce information kit and reference materials for the carers such as newsletters, bulletins, leaflets, etc., as part of carers' support service.

The enhanced computer system on RCHEs aims at establishing an enhanced and centralised databank including staff employed in each and every RCHE under licensing control to guard against possible double reporting of staffing. There will be a computerised programme to capture work procedures and assessment

findings for licence application/renewal and complaint investigations to facilitate more effective and efficient monitoring of RCHEs as well as for management control. The computer project was launched in October 2002 with target project completion set at end of March 2003. By now, the project has entered into the final stage of system design and development for user acceptance test.

- (b) As carers' support service is part and parcel of the scope of service provided by the various service units, it is not possible to segregate the staffing or resources in the service unit devoted to such tasks.

A total sum of \$1.5 m has been earmarked for the computer project including the purchase of consultancy service by contract and related hardware/software/equipment to link up the workstations of the user office in a local network environment. There will be no additional manpower implication and the system maintenance cost at a modest sum of \$0.1 m will be absorbed within existing provision.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB009

Question Serial No.

0039

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, the estimated cost per place per month for contract homes (through open tender) in 2003-04 is \$5,663, which represents an increase of \$376 over the estimated cost \$5,287 for 2002-03. Please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The first two contract homes providing continuum of care were tendered out on the basis of admission of frail elders with moderate impairment, i.e. at a care and attention home level. To address the growing demand for nursing home places from elders with a more severe level of impairment, subsequent contract homes were or are to be tendered out with a designated proportion of nursing home places on admission. As a result, we have enhanced the provision of staffing in these contract homes. This accounts for the higher unit cost estimated for contract homes in 2003-04 as compared to those commissioned in 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB010

Question Serial No.

0040

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Administration will continue to support projects from grants on "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" in 2003-04. Please inform this committee:

- (a) the details of this project and the number of beneficiaries since its launch; and
- (b) the provision earmarked for this project in 2003-04 and the required staffing by ranks.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (a) Supported by a non-recurrent commitment of \$50 m, the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" project (the Project) disburses grants to non-governmental organisations to create and run small business employing people with disabilities. The maximum grant is \$2 m per business. The number of disabled persons employed should not be less than 60% of the total number of employees. The department invited the first batch of applications in September 2001 and 33 applications were received. The department has approved ten applications with a total cost of \$7.6 m. The businesses included cleaning services, catering service, massage service by the blind, retail shops, vegetables processing and supply etc. Eight businesses have already started operation since mid-2002. As at February 2003, 101 employment opportunities have been created and 67 disabled persons are employed. It is estimated that 166 employment opportunities can be created of which 119 are for

disabled persons upon full operation of these ten businesses later this year.

- (b) A cashflow of \$12.3 m is reserved for the Project for 2003-04. The second batch application is under invitation and the closing date is end of April 2003. The Project is managed by existing staff of the department and no additional manpower is required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB011

Question Serial No.

0078

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Controlling Officer stated in the report that the number of outreaching social work teams remain at 16, but the cases served is reduced from 16 047 (2001-02) to the estimate of 12 490 (2003-04). Caseload per worker has been dropped from 96 to 78 for the same period. Please explain for the drop considering the youth problem in Hong Kong is still very alarming. Are there pending cases to be handled?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply : Fluctuations in caseload of outreaching social work service are understandable as demand for such service reflects the actual trends and characteristics of youth-at-risk who are mobile and hard-to-reach. In particular, outreaching social work service has been restructured into 16 District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams (YOTs) with effect from September 2002. The re-structured YOTs tend to focus on addressing issues of high-risk youth and tackling issues of juvenile gang. Reflecting this more in-depth intervention, we estimate that the number of cases handled in 2003-04 will be smaller when compared to the situation before re-structuring. It should be noted that the re-engineered Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres, numbering 115 by end 2002-03 also have an outreaching service element. There are no pending cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

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

HWFB012

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0086

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2002-03, the revised expenditure is \$18.6 million less than the approved expenditure. Please explain why the revised expenditure is 12.7% less than the approved expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The reduction in the revised expenditure of \$18.6 million relating to Programme area (1) in 2002-03 as compared with the approved expenditure is mainly due to

- (a) the deferred payment of \$8.8 million for the deployment of artificial reefs to next year, and
- (b) the transfer of some \$10 million being the estimated expenditure relating to law enforcement in the fields of fisheries and fish culture to Programme 4 to better reflect the purposes of the work.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

19 March 2003

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

HWFB013

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

0087

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will delete 18 posts in 2003-04. What are the ranks of these posts? Will the officers whose posts are deleted be redeployed in other government departments or will their service be terminated compulsorily?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The 18 posts to be deleted would include the following :

<u>No. of posts</u>	<u>Rank</u>
3	Field Officer I
3	Senior Field Assistant
10	Field Assistant
1	Carpark Attendant II
1	Property Attendant

The deletion of posts would be effected through natural wastage, voluntary retirement and redeployment within the department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB014

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

0079

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the Controlling Officer's Report, indicators showed that 537 complaints against healthcare professionals were handled in 2002, much more than 408 in 2001. It is estimated that 550 complaints would be handled in 2003. Please give a breakdown of the categories of the complaints handled in 2002. How many of them were substantiated? Did any of these complaints lead to compensations or other kinds of financial losses to the Department?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

The increase in the number of complaints against healthcare professionals handled in 2002 was mainly due to the inclusion of complaints against Chinese medicine practitioners after the introduction of the listing exercise in late 2001. A breakdown of the complaint cases handled in 2002 is as follows :

<u>Conviction in court</u>	18
Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	235
Drug-related cases	6
Abuse of professional position to further improper association with patients	2
Improper, indecent behaviour to patients	2
Abuse of professional confidence	1
Advertising / canvassing	162
Sharing fee & improper financial transaction	3
Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	4
Misleading, unapproved description & announcement	11
Issuing misleading, false medical certificates	23
Fitness to practise	2
Miscellaneous	<u>68</u>
Total	537

Of the 537 cases handled, five were substantiated, 335 were dismissed and 197 are being processed. These cases did not lead to any financial implication to the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB015

Question Serial No.

064

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Bureau will “continue to oversee the implementation of improvements to the social welfare subvention system” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us of :

- (a) the details of this initiative;
- (b) the provision made for this purpose in the coming year, and the number of staff involved (by rank);
- (c) the expenditure incurred and the number of staff involved over the past three years; and
- (d) the measures in place to assess the effectiveness of this initiative?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The initiative includes introducing the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) subvention mode, a competitive system for allocating new welfare services and an enhanced system for monitoring the performance of non-governmental organizations receiving welfare subvention (NGOs). We have made good progress. For example, 153 NGOs will have joined this new subvention mode by 1 April 2003, accounting for 98% of welfare subvention expenditure.
- (b) The detailed implementation of this task will be carried out by the Subventions and Performance Monitoring Branch of Social Welfare Department. At the Bureau level, no

provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and work requiring policy development or co-ordination will be absorbed by existing staff.

- (c) Between 1 April and 5 July 2000, a special team in the then Health and Welfare Bureau, comprising 1 Principal Assistant Secretary and 1 Personal Secretary I, was involved in policy formulation work, involving expenditure of \$453 502. These posts lapsed on 5 July 2000.
- (d) In 2003-04, the SWD will evaluate the impact of the implementation of the LSG subvention mode through an independent body.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 19 March 2003 _____

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

HWFB016

065

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under this programme that the Bureau will “pilot new planning strategies for welfare services” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us of :

- (a) the details of this initiative and the schedule for the pilot scheme; and
- (b) the provision made for this purpose in the coming year, and the number of staff involved (by rank)?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) commissioned in 2001 a study on the introduction of a new planning process for welfare services. The study was completed in May 2002.

At the policy level, the HWFB is considering how to take forward the planning process for welfare services, having regard to the outcome of the study and the feedback received.

At the departmental level, under the re-organisation of the Social Welfare Department, the 13 District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs) have taken on enhanced responsibility, including in the planning of welfare services at the district level to meet local community needs. A Planning and Coordinating Team has been formed in each DSWO to plan and coordinate the delivery of welfare services, amongst other duties.

- (b) There is no separate provision made for this purpose as HWFB and the District Social Welfare Office absorb this work as part of their regular duties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 19 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB017

Question Serial No.

066

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Administration will “encourage research into suicide and the development of appropriate preventive and assistive programmes” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us:

- (a) whether similar work had been undertaken over the past three years; if yes, the details and the expenditure incurred; if no, why;
- (b) how such research work was encouraged; and
- (c) of the provision made for this purpose in 2003-04, and the number of staff involved (by rank)?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) Arising from the recommendations of the Elderly Commission's Working Group on Elderly Suicide, a research team from the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong was commissioned to carry out 'A Multi-Disciplinary Study on the Causes of Elderly Suicide in Hong Kong' in 1999, at a cost of \$980,000. The study examined the prevalence rate of elderly suicide in Hong Kong, identified the risk factors associated with elderly suicide and suggested possible ways to tackle the problem. The study was completed in early 2002 and was reported to the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services at its meeting on 13 May 2002. The findings have also been uploaded onto the HWFB homepage. We have drawn reference to the recommendations in developing general services aimed at supporting active and healthy ageing, and specific services in tackling the elderly suicide issue.

In September 2002, a Lotteries Fund Grant of \$926,700 was approved for the Centre for Criminology of the University of Hong Kong to carry out a study on homicide-suicide in Hong Kong. The study commenced in November 2002 and will take two years to complete. It aims at examining the factors leading to homicide-suicide and identifying

measures to improve prevention and intervention strategies, including an assessment tool and training for frontline workers.

- (b) Apart from commissioning research, the Government has also encouraged tertiary institutions and non-governmental organizations to undertake research in this area. For example, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention has been set up by the University of Hong Kong to undertake evidence-based research, identify preventive measures, provide training for professionals, and provide input to the formulation of policies and strategies, with a view to preventing and reducing suicide. This has been made possible with our support, through grants from the Chief Executive's Community Project List 2002 and from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The Centre started work in October 2002.
- (c) Included in the grants referred to above, are the staff costs required. At the Bureau level, no provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and any work requiring policy steer or coordination is absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB018

Question Serial No.

067

Head: 149-Government Secretariat:

Subhead (No. & title):

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned under this Programme that the Bureau will “take forward legislative proposals to regulate misleading or untruthful health claims” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the details of this initiative; and
- (b) the provision made for this purpose in the coming year, and the number of staff involved (by rank)?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) The proposal is to include in the Undesirable Medical Advertisements Ordinance (Cap. 231) a list of prohibited claims as a new schedule to address the misleading information and exaggerated health claims of orally consumed products. The purpose of the prohibition is to prevent inappropriate self-medication by members of the public. An Expert Committee comprising representatives from the academia, health care professions and Consumer Council has been set up to recommend a list of prohibited claims. We shall consult the public on the prohibited claims later in 2003.
- (b) No provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and any work requiring policy steer or co-ordination is absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature	
Name in block letters	MRS CARRIE YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB019

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Question Serial No.

068

Head : 149-Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned under this Programme that the Bureau will “amend the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us:

- (a) of the details of the amendments;
- (b) whether the industry has been consulted on the details of the proposed amendments; if yes, what are the result; if no, why; and
- (c) of the provision made for this purpose in the coming year, and the number of staff involved (by rank)?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) We put forward proposals to amend the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371) in June 2001 to further protect the public against secondhand smoking in public indoor premises; to further tighten control over tobacco advertisement and promotion; and to bring about more effective enforcement of the Ordinance. Major proposals include expanding statutory no smoking areas, further restricting tobacco advertisement and promotion, and empowering designated public officers to facilitate their discharge of enforcement duties.
- (b) We conducted a public consultation exercise on the proposals during which written submissions and signatures from the general public and different sectors of the community were received and consultative meetings were conducted with stakeholder groups including catering industry associations, chambers of commerce, the Hong Kong Newspaper Dealers Association and the tobacco industry.

In gist, the catering industry was concerned that the smoking ban in catering establishments might have negative impact on business revenues. Newspaper hawkers were worried that prohibiting the display of tobacco advertisement at hawker stalls would have adverse impact on their income. The tobacco industry opined that our proposals would violate its right to communicate with customers and infringe upon its intellectual property rights in respect of the registered tobacco trademarks. Despite the concerns of the above stakeholders, vast majority of the general public were supportive of our proposals, in particular the one on banning smoking in all restaurants, educational institutions and indoor workplaces. Chambers of commerce also supported banning smoking in indoor workplaces. Many community organisations, health care professional groups and tobacco control advocates had also expressed their support.

We reported the outcome of the exercise to the Panel on Health Services of the Legislative Council in July 2002.

(c) The details of implementation have yet to be worked out. Any additional resources required for implementation of the proposals will be absorbed from within the envelop of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs CARRIE YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 18 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB020

Question Serial No.

070

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Bureau will “provide gender-related training to civil servants” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us:-

- (a) of the details of the training;
- (b) of the provision made for this purpose in the coming year; and
- (c) whether similar training had been provided to the civil servants over the past three years; if yes, the details and the expenditure incurred; if no, why?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) The Administration will continue to organise gender-related training (courses and workshops) to civil servants in 2003-04 to enhance their sensitivity towards gender issues and women's concerns, so as to facilitate them to take into account women's perspectives in the policy making process and in providing services to the community. These courses and workshops are tailored to the needs of different departments and grades. We are planning to provide training for staff of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Police, Administrative Officers, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Information Services Department and Home Affairs Department in 2003-04. We are also considering the provision of such training to staff of other grades and departments.

These courses and workshops provide participants with basic gender concepts; concepts and application of gender mainstreaming checklist; collection and use of sex-disaggregated data; as well as topics that are specifically relevant to the grades or departments for which the workshop is designed (e.g. handling of victims of sexual

violence for SWD staff). NGOs are involved in sharing their experience in some of those workshops.

- (b) A provision of \$1.49 million has been made for such gender-related training programmes in 2003-04.
- (c) Similar training was provided to civil servants in the past two years. A breakdown of expenditure on gender-related training in 2001-02 and 2002-03 is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$'000)	No. of Workshops held	No of attendance
2001-02	425.3	8	212
2002-03	336.4	8	210

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Post Title _____ Food
Date _____ 17 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB021

Question Serial No.

071

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Bureau will “commission studies, surveys and research on women issues” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us:

- (a) of the timetable for implementing this initiative;
- (b) of the provision made for this purpose in the coming year, and the number of staff involved (by rank); and
- (c) whether similar surveys on women's issues have been conducted over the past three years; if yes, the details and the relevant expenditure incurred; if no, why?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) The Administration will conclude the thematic household survey on “Time Use and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society” in 2003-04. We will also start work on the third round of the survey on the effectiveness of the publicity and public education campaign of the Women's Commission in 2003-04. In the light of the findings from these and other studies conducted earlier, the Administration will consult the Women's Commission on other follow-up studies/surveys that should be conducted.
- (b) A provision of \$4 million has been made in 2003-04 for conducting studies, surveys and research to identify women's interests, needs, concerns and women-related issues as well as collecting sex-disaggregated data. The actual surveys and studies will be undertaken by private sector survey companies or local tertiary institutions, and the Principal Assistant Secretary (Women) will oversee the conduct and administration of the surveys and studies with the support of other staff of the Women's Division of Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

- (c) Surveys on women's issues have been conducted over the past two years, some of which have lasted more than a year. Details and cost of surveys, studies and research conducted are presented below:

Fieldwork Commencement Date*	Survey, Studies and Research Conducted	Total Cost (\$'000)
December 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic household survey on time use and factors hindering women's participation in society (Continued in 2002-03 and to conclude in 2003-04) 	1,291
February 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of survey on effectiveness of publicity and public education campaign of Women's Commission (Completed in April 2002) 	210
February 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey on extent of satisfaction of women in Hong Kong (Completed in February 2002) 	99
April 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mailed questionnaire survey on extent and levels of positions taken up by women in private and non-governmental sectors in Hong Kong (Completed in November 2002) 	400
June 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second round of survey on effectiveness of publicity and public education campaign of Women's Commission (Completed in October 2002) 	210

*note: some of the surveys have spread over one financial year

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 17 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB022

Question Serial No.

072

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Bureau will “conduct regular meetings with local women's groups and service agencies” in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Government inform us:

- (d) the number of scheduled meetings to be held with local women's groups and service agencies in 2003-04, and the list of the local women's groups and service agencies which will attend the meetings;
- (e) the provision made for these meetings in the coming year, and the number of staff involved (by rank);
- (f) the number of meetings conducted, over the past three years, with local women's groups and service agencies as well as the issues and areas discussed?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) Plans are in hand for organising the following exchange sessions/meetings with local women's groups and services agencies:-
 - a working session on development of a Framework of Collaboration in April 2003;
 - an open forum and sharing session on good empowerment practices and capacity building in May/June 2003; and
 - a sharing session with the non-governmental sector on gender mainstreaming in the later half of 2003.

About 200 local women's groups and services agencies will be invited to the above sessions/meetings.

In addition, together with the Women's Commission, we will continue to visit women's organisations and services agencies in the districts. Further consultation/exchange sessions may be organised if necessary in the light of new emerging issues affecting women in Hong Kong.

- (b) A provision of \$0.4 million has been made in 2003-04 for organising meetings with local women's groups and services agencies. Part of the time of a Deputy Secretary responsible for women affairs is devoted to planning and coordination of these meetings. She is supported by other staff of the Women's Division of Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to ensure smooth implementation.
- (c) Over the past two years, we have had many meetings with local women's groups and services agencies, such as the Women's Commission Conference 2002, open forum, and exchange session and other informal contacts. In conjunction with the Women's Commission, we have also visited 40 women's groups and services agencies, and conducted six district visits.

Women-related issues discussed at these meetings/sessions included, inter alia, the following:-

- (a) direction of work of the Women's Commission;
- (b) women health;
- (c) women employment;
- (d) education and training/retraining for women;
- (e) women's participation in the community;
- (f) problems faced by vulnerable groups of women, e.g. new arrival women, single parents;
- (g) violence against women;
- (h) Community Investment and Inclusion Fund;
- (i) collaboration with women's groups and services agencies; and
- (j) CEDAW report.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB023

Question Serial No.

073

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead(No. & title):
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It was mentioned under this programme that the Bureau would “maintain the viability of public markets by carrying out improvement works and upgrading their management” in 2003-04. Please advise on:

- (a) the details of this task; and
- (b) the provision and staff establishment (with the number of staff listed by ranks) earmarked for this task in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply: (a) We are committed to improving the facilities and environmental conditions of viable markets managed by the Food and Environment Hygiene Department (FEHD) to enhance the quality of service they provide to the public. With a view to providing a modernized shopping environment for customers, we will seek funding approvals in 2003/04 for carrying out improvement works in about 30 existing FEHD markets. The scope of improvement works covers essential upgrading works for compliance with statutory requirements (e.g. requirements on fire safety and provision of barrier-free access for people with disabilities), replacement of floor and wall finishes and improvements to ventilation systems, general lighting and signages, etc. The exact works items to be carried out depend on the circumstances and conditions of individual markets concerned. The project costs for these improvement works are estimated to be around \$370 million.

We also seek to strengthen the management of FEHD markets and promote their viability by harnessing more the entrepreneurship, experience and expertise available in the private sector.

- (b) The implementation of the above task will be carried out by FEHD. At the Bureau level, no provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and any work requiring policy steer or coordination is absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB025

Question Serial No.

0059

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Administration will “conduct public consultation on the introduction of nutrition labelling” in 2003-04. Will the Administration advise on :

- (a) the specific timetable for conducting the public consultation; and
- (b) the provision reserved for this project in the coming year and the staff establishment involved (with ranks)?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) We plan to consult the public on the introduction of a nutrition labelling system for pre-packaged food in the second half of 2003.
- (b) The workload will be absorbed within existing resources and no additional financial provision is required in 2003-04.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB026

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0060

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, it is estimated that the total amount of sludge collected by gully emptiers will be reduced from 13 258 tonnes in 2002 to 7 800 tonnes in 2003. In view of this, will the Administration advise on the following:

- (a) What are the reasons for such drastic reduction in the total amount of sludge collected?
- (b) What is the existing staff establishment and total expenditure involved for collecting sludge?
- (c) Has assessment been made on whether there will be a surplus of staff arising from the decrease in the total amount of sludge collected? If so, how will the surplus staff be deployed? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The Department has since September 2002 outsourced 70% of its mechanized gully cleansing service. As we require the contractor to dewater the sludge, the total weight of sludge disposed of in 2003 is estimated to be much reduced.
- (b) Sludge collection work undertaken in-house is performed by five Special Drivers and 10 Workmen I at an annual expenditure of \$2.7 million. The annual contract value for the outsourced service is \$4.4 million.

(c) As explained in (a) above, the reduction in amount of sludge collected is due to the dewatering process required of the contractor. Through suitable re-deployment, outsourcing of the service has not given rise to any surplus of staff.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

**Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene**

Date

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB027

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0061

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What accounts for the decrease in “the number of inspections to food premises” under this Programme from 429 269 in 2002 to 300 000 (estimate) in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In the past, regular inspection of licensed food premises was made at intervals of once every 2 weeks, 4 weeks or 8 weeks. To enhance the effectiveness and quality of the inspections, the Department, following public and trade consultations, introduced a new risk-based inspection system in early 2003. Under the new system, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks according to their risk category. Each inspection will last longer and cover more details. Hygiene education will be provided on the spot where necessary. The new inspection system results in a substantial reduction in the number of inspections planned for 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB028

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0062

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Administration will 'issue a "Food Hygiene Code" on standards of inspection on licensed food premises' and 'follow up the regularization of "private kitchens" ' in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Administration advise on:

- (a) the details of the above two aspects of work; and
- (b) the provision earmarked for carrying out the work in the coming year and the staff establishment involved (with ranks)?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Question (a) :

(i) "Food Hygiene Code"

We have prepared a draft "Food Hygiene Code" to spell out the hygiene standards required of licensed food premises for consultation with the food trade. We aim to publish the Code in mid 2003. Every food business licensee will be provided with a copy of the Code.

(ii) "Private Kitchens"

We are canvassing the views of the public, the restaurant trade and "private kitchen" operators on the Administration's preliminary regularisation proposals. The Department will fine-tune the proposals in the light of the views expressed and consult the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene again before deciding on the way forward.

Question (b):

(i) “Food Hygiene Code”

Preparation of the Code is undertaken by existing staff. A provision of \$380,000 is earmarked for mass production of the Code (35,000 copies of Chinese version and 5,000 copies of English version) and its abridged version.

(ii) “Private Kitchens”

The related work is undertaken by existing staff and no additional staff resources are required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB029

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0063

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

(a) Under this Programme, the Administration will “implement a two-year programme to promote health education to students, elderly and new arrivals through outreaching activities” in 2003-04. Will the Administration advise on:

- (a) the details of the two-year programme;
- (b) the provision reserved for this programme and number of staff involved (with ranks); and
- (b) the method to be used to assess the effectiveness of this programme?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The two-year public education programme was launched in 2002-03 to increase public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental/ personal hygiene. Through various outreaching activities, such as visits, exhibitions, talks and seminars as well as publication of promotional materials, messages about food safety and environmental hygiene are conveyed to the general public, students, the elderly and new arrivals. Under this special programme, some 1,700 talks and promotional activities are planned each year.
- (b) For 2003-04, the Department has reserved \$2.9 m for this programme. Four Health Education and Promotion Facilitators, one General Assistant and four Workmen II are engaged.

(c) Responses from schools and elderly centres as well as the number of participants in promotional activities organized so far have been encouraging. To gauge the effectiveness of the programme, questionnaires are used to collect opinion from participants. Worksheets are distributed after each school talk to assess students' knowledge on public health and food hygiene.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB030

Question Serial No.

0111

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
 22 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
 48 – Government Laboratory
 49 – Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
 106 – Miscellaneous Services
 37 – Department of Health
 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission
 170 – Social Welfare Department
 176 – Subventions: Miscellaneous
 177 – Subventions: Non-Departmental Public Bodies
 186 – Transport Department
 120 – Pensions

Programme: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety, Environmental Hygiene, Health and Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director _____ of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Bureau:

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/ 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

(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/ 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

(3) 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 :

The information required is provided below:

(1) Details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Names 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
MDR Technology Ltd (Head 149)	Opinion survey on financing for health care services in the public sector	\$130,000	Completed	We have formulated proposals on financing for health care services in the public sector with reference to the data collected.	-
MDR Technology Ltd (Head 149)	Consultancy study on fees and charges : Phase II Survey	\$400,000	Completed	The data have been used for construction of econometric model for assessing the impact of fees revision.	-
CK LO & S LAM Ltd (Head 149)	Consultancy services for public consultation on the proposed legislative amendments to the smoking legislation	\$454,000	Completed	We have taken on board the consultants' recommendation in conducting the public consultation exercises.	-
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Consultancy study on the review of day care centers, multi-service centers and social centers for the elderly and development of integrated care service for the elderly	\$317,800	Completed	In light of the recommendations of this study, we have mapped out new strategies to provide comprehensive and integrated community care facilities and services for elders. We have launched a number of projects in integrated service mode starting in 2001-02.	-

Names 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
MDR Technology Ltd (Head 149)	Survey on issues about financial assistance to older persons	\$260,000	Completed	The findings were used to assist in consideration of the development of a sustainable safety net to provide financial assistance to needy elders.	-
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Research study on the cause of elderly suicide in Hong Kong	\$150,000	Completed	We have drawn reference to the recommendations in developing strategies on active and healthy ageing, and specific services in tackling elderly suicides.	-
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Research of overseas experience in developing reverse mortgage for retirement protection	\$60,000	Completed	Findings will be put to the Elderly Commission in the context of formulating advice to the Government on strategies and measures to deal with population ageing.	-
Hong Kong Council of Social Service (Head 149)	Survey on learning needs and preference of members of multi-service centres and social centres for the elderly	\$110,000	Completed	Findings were released to stakeholders in late 2002 for consideration, and mounted on HWFB homepage for public information.	-

Names 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
Open University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Survey on overseas' experience in providing continuing education for older persons	\$40,000	Completed	Findings were released to stakeholders in late 2002 for consideration, and mounted on HWFB homepage for public information.	-
WHW Performance Management Consulting Inc. (Head 149)	Consultancy on implementation of a planning process for welfare services in Hong Kong	\$350,000	Completed	We are considering the way forward, in the light of the outcome of the consultancy study.	-
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Project to update the HK Domestic Health Account	\$244,398	In progress	-	-
Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, the University of Sydney (Head 37)	To review the competency of Department of Health (DH) and develop capacity building strategies to meet its expanded role in health promotion	\$77,000	Completed	DH will make reference to the findings and recommendations of the review in developing capacity building programmes in health promotion.	-

Names 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
Binhai Wastewater Treatment & Disposal (Hong Kong) Consultants Ltd. (Head 22)	To study the feasibility of developing an offshore fishing industry for Hong Kong	\$1,608,000	Completed	We have briefed the local fishing community about the study's findings and provide assistance to help interested fishermen venture into offshore fishing through technical support, vocational training, liaison with overseas and Mainland authorities, and credit facilities	-
IBM China/Hong Kong Limited (Head 170)	Consultancy Study on Risk Management on Social Security Schemes	\$2,990,000	Completed	Formulate strategy to adopt a risk management approach in the administration of social security schemes based on the recommendations of the consultancy study	-
MDR Technology Ltd (Head 170)	Survey on older persons living in residential care homes	\$156,600	Completed	The survey is to update the care profile of older persons in Hong Kong. The first study was conducted in 1997.	-

Names 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
KPMG Consulting Asia Limited (Head 49)	Review of the operation and management of wet markets	\$2,010,600	Completed	Final report received in March 2003. Recommendations are under consideration	-
Environmental Resources Management (Head 49)	Regulatory Impact Assessment on Labelling of Genetically Modified Food	\$748,300	Completed	The results of the study were reported to the Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene and the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 17 and 20 March 2003 respectively.	-
Prof Teh-wei Hu (Head 177)	Review of HA's fees and charges restructuring	\$1,402,000	Completed	Report was used by the Government in formulating the fee revision policy and level.	-
MDR Technology Ltd (Head 177)	Willingness to pay Survey to assess how demand for public health care services varies with fee levels	\$400,000	Completed	The data have been used for construction of econometric model for assessing the impact of fee revision.	-

Names 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
Charterlloyd Insurance Brokers Ltd. (Head 170)	Consultancy Study on Insurance Scheme for Non-governmental Organisations Providing Subvented Social Welfare Services	\$185,000	In progress	Reviewing the Block Insurance Scheme arrangement based on the recommendations of the study	-

(3) Details of the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2003-04:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Project to update the HK Domestic Health Account	\$733,194	In progress
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Professional actuarial services for the design of healthcare financing options	\$107,500	In progress
To be determined (Head 37)	Feasibility study on establishing an accreditation system for hospitals and other medical institutions in Hong Kong	\$255,000	Under planning
Policy 21 Ltd. (Head 49)	Study on meat consumption in Hong Kong	\$502,000	In progress

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)
Milliman Asia Ltd. and Milliman USA Inc (Head 177)	To develop a business and operational model and assess the feasibility of setting up a subsidised medical benefit scheme to promote the provision of private medical insurance for the existing public hospital patients with an aim to addressing the public-private imbalance in the healthcare sector	\$3,200,000	In progress

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB031

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

0140

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Programme (1), the actual number of “complaints against healthcare professionals handled” (number of cases) in the past two years and its estimated number for 2003 have shown an upward trend. In this connection, will the Department inform us :

- (a) whether the Department has examined the reasons for the continuous increase in the number of cases? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons; and
- (b) whether additional resources have been earmarked for this area of work in 2003-04 financial year? If so, what are the details and the expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The increase is mainly due to the inclusion of complaints against Chinese medicine practitioners after the introduction of the listing exercise in late 2001. The increase in workload can be absorbed within existing provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB032

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

0165

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In view of the suspected outbreak of pneumonia and avian flu in the Mainland earlier, will the estimates in the coming year include resources enhanced for setting up measures to establish a communication mechanism for communicable diseases with the Mainland? If so, what are the specific measures? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Hong Kong operates an effective surveillance programme to monitor the pattern and trend of communicable diseases, through efforts on international, regional and local fronts. Locally, there is a statutory notification system for 27 infectious diseases. The Department of Health (DH) is part of the international network for the exchange of epidemiological information through the World Health Organisation (WHO). Apart from routine notifications, DH will report to the WHO incidents involving infectious disease outbreaks which may have global public health significance.

Hong Kong also maintains close contact with the Ministry of Health in Beijing on a wide range of public health issues including the control of communicable diseases. Contacts are also made, wherever necessary, at the provincial level. There is regular exchange of information between DH and Guangdong Province on specific communicable diseases such as cholera, viral hepatitis, malaria and Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection.

These are regular activities of DH and the resources required have already been included in the estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

HWFB033

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0141

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the amount and breakdown of the expenditure used by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in monitoring avian influenza? What manpower is involved? Will there be any new expenditure items and manpower increase in the coming year? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2002-03, AFCD deployed 2 Senior Veterinary Officers and 4 Veterinary Officers supported by 29 technical staff and 20 field officers to undertake monitoring and testing for avian influenza as well as the prevention and control of other diseases of livestock. The total allocation for avian influenza was \$13.7 million. There will be no new expenditure items or manpower increase for AFCD for the control of avian influenza in 2003-04.

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**

HWFB034

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (4) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0142

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for the inspection of animals and plants imported into the territory, the inspection of local farms, the monitoring of drug residues in food animals, and the regulation of feeding food animals with chemicals?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We have included in the draft estimates a provision of \$14.94 million for the inspection of imported animals (excluding live livestock and poultry for food from the mainland) and \$1.2 million for inspection of imported plants into the territory. A total of \$8.81 million will be allocated for inspection of local livestock farms, of which \$4.41 million will be for regulating the feeding of chemicals to food animals. In addition, we have included a provision of \$10.12 million for surveillance testing for drug residues in food animals. This testing covers both imported and local animals.

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**

HWFB035

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0143

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) Why does the Administration give the estimated number of claims assessed for capture fisheries ex-gratia payment in 2003 at 1 100, which is significantly higher than the 2002 figure of 130 claims? What is the amount of expenditure involved?
 - (b) Why does the Administration estimate that the area assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment will significantly increase from 249 068 m² in 2002 to 509 000 m² in 2003? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) The number of capture fisheries ex-gratia payment varies from year to year depending on the scale and progress of coastal development projects for the year. The larger number of claims to be processed in 2003 is mainly due to a regional exercise to deal with claims from fishermen affected by the development works in Sai Kung waters. A provision of \$1.58 million has been allocated to this department in 2003-04 for processing these claims.

(b) The area assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment varies from year to year depending on the scale and progress of development projects for the year. The larger area to be assessed in 2003 is mainly due to the claims from oyster farmers affected by the Shenzhen Western Corridor Project. A provision of \$0.67 million has been allocated to this department in 2003-04 for assessment of these claims.

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**

HWFB036

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0144

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for the following:
(a) Helping local fishermen develop off-shore fishing?
(b) Helping farmers develop organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production?
(c) Providing vocational training to fishermen? What are the details of such vocational training?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) A provision of \$1.4 million (mainly staff cost) has been allocated in 2003-04 for providing technical support and training to help local fishermen develop offshore fishing.

Local fishermen may also apply for loans administered by this department to help building or modifying fishing vessels for offshore fishing. The Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) has recently allocated an additional \$20 million to the FMO Loan Fund for this purpose. To cater for increasing demand for vocational training from fishermen on offshore fishing, the FMO will also inject \$1 million to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund in 2003-04.

(b) The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for local development of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production is \$4.2 million and \$3.1 million respectively.

(c) A provision of \$0.8 million has been allocated in 2003-04 for providing vocational training to fishermen. The training programme will seek to equip fishermen with the necessary skills to qualify for coxswains and engineers for various types of fishing vessels, and to operate telecommunication and navigation equipment. Local fishermen may also apply to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund for sponsorships to attend training courses.

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**

HWFB037

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

0146

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give details about the setting up of a Fisheries Education Centre at Aberdeen Fisheries Office under Subhead 700. What is the amount of expenditure involved? When will the Fisheries Education Centre be set up?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Fisheries Education Centre is being set up at Aberdeen Fisheries Office to promote public awareness of the importance of fisheries resources conservation and management. It comprises an exhibition hall with interactive fisheries displays and exhibits and an audio-visual room for video shows and talks. The Centre is expected to be completed by the end of 2003. A provision of \$1.56 million has been allocated for this purpose.

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**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB038

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0147

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) How much resources will be allocated for the Avian Influenza H5 blood testing in live poultry and the beta-agonist urine testing in live pigs? Please give the average cost for such testing.
- (b) How much resources will be allocated for farm inspection and stepping up the control of chemical residues in food animals?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) A provision of \$5.3 m has been included for screening of pigs for beta-agonists in 2003-04. About 72 000 urine samples will be taken for this purpose.

A provision of \$8.7 m has been included for the serological surveillance of avian flu in 2003-04. About 270 000 blood samples will be taken.

The urine and blood samples are sent to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for laboratory testing.

- (b) \$1.6 m has been allocated for farm inspection in 2003-04. The expenditure for strengthening the control over chemical residues in food animals will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION HWFB039

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0148

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much resources will be allocated to step up the monitoring of dengue fever vector and to rodent prevention and control?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

An additional provision of \$2.8 m has been included in the 2003-04 Estimate to strengthen the monitoring of dengue fever vector. For rodent control work, a provision of \$41 m has been included in the 2003-04 Estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB040

Question Serial No.

0149

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) How many risk assessment studies on food will be conducted by FEHD in the coming year? Which kind of food will be involved? How much expenditure and manpower are required?
- (b) Does FEHD have any positive plan to publicize the results of the risk assessment studies for public information and what are the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) In 2003-04, in addition to ad-hoc studies on topical issues of food safety and public health concern, the Department will conduct four major risk assessment studies on specific food items such as barbecued meat, cereals and desserts. A financial provision of \$4.7 m including personal emoluments for 7 staff has been included in the 2003-04 Estimate for this purpose.
- (b) The results of risk assessment studies will be proactively disseminated to the public through press conferences, exhibitions, hotlines, printed materials and the internet. The resources required have been included in the provision of \$4.7 m mentioned in (a).

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB041

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0150

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What will be done specifically to strengthen the recyclable waste collection service? What are the additional manpower and expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2003-04, we will extend the recyclable waste collection service by increasing the number of waste separation bin locations from 1 000 to 2 000. The estimated expenditure for extending the service through additional out-sourcing is \$2.8 million per annum.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

20 March 2003

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

HWFB042

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0151

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) How much provision (including recurrent and non-recurrent expenditure) will be earmarked for the work to strengthen the control of unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards respectively?
- (b) Upon implementation of the new mechanism for inspection of food premises, there will be a decrease of over 20% in the number of inspections to food premises compared with that in 2002-03. How will the Administration utilize the expenditure saved and the surplus manpower resulting from the reduction in the number of inspections? What are the detailed arrangements? Has FEHD any plan to further reduce the number of inspections to food premises?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yun-kan

Reply :

- (a) The control work on unlicensed food premises including those posing immediate health hazards will continue to be undertaken by existing staff. No additional resources have been earmarked for this purpose.
- (b) While the number of regular inspections to licensed food premises will be reduced under the new risk-based inspection system, the quality of each inspection will be enhanced by covering more details and incorporating hygiene education at the conclusion of each inspection, where necessary. Saving in manpower resources is not envisaged under the new inspection system. At present the Department has no plans to further reduce the inspection frequency for licensed food premises.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG
Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Post Title

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB043

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0152

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the reasons for a drastic reduction of around 40% in the total amount of sludge collected by gully emptiers in the coming year? What are the expenditure and the staff establishment of FEHD for collecting sludge? What is the percentage of sludge collected by FEHD staff under the existing establishment (excluding contracted out services) over the total amount of sludge collected?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department has since September 2002 outsourced 70% of its mechanized gully cleansing service. As we require the contractor to dewater the sludge, the total weight of sludge disposed of in 2003 is estimated to be much reduced.

Sludge collection work undertaken in-house is performed by five Special Drivers and 10 Workmen I at an annual expenditure of \$2.7 million. The annual contract value for the outsourced service is \$4.4 million.

In 2002, our staff collected 11 762 tonnes of sludge, representing 88.72% of the total amount of sludge collected in the calendar year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB044

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0153

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please give an account of the vacant stalls in all the markets managed by FEHD. Please provide figures in terms of the number and area of these stalls and their respective percentage in the total number and area of market stalls. In FEHD's recurrent account for market management, how much provision was earmarked as subsidy in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

As at 28.2.2003, of the 16 151 market stalls managed by the Department, 2 005 unoccupied stalls were reserved for re-development, resiting commitment and improvement works, and 1 460 stalls (9.04%) were vacant. The latter covers a total area of 6 851 m² (7.13% of the total area of market stalls). In 2002-03, the estimated subsidy under the Department's recurrent account for market management is \$131 m.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Director of Food and
Post Title_____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB045

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0154

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much savings will be achieved by contracting out the market management services? What arrangement will then be made for the surplus manpower? Will the Administration consider contracting out the management services for all the markets? If so, what is the timetable, if not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department will conduct a trial scheme in 2003-04 to outsource management services in four markets in Kowloon City District. The amount of savings achievable will depend on tender results. Frontline staff in the four markets will be redeployed to other work streams of the Department. We will evaluate the trial scheme before deciding whether to extend it to other markets.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Director of Food and
Post Title_____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

HWFB046

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0155

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much resources will be allocated for the work to ensure that pre-packaged food for sale is properly labelled? Please give details on the number of warnings issued and prosecutions initiated by FEHD in connection with the labelling of pre-packaged food for sale during the past three years. What is the average penalty?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A financial provision of \$3.7 m has been included in the 2003-04 Estimates for the work on checking of pre-packaged food labels. For the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2002, some 12 500 warnings and 270 prosecutions have been taken against labelling irregularities. The average fine was about \$1,500.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB047

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0156

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

To safeguard public health, how much provision will be earmarked and what measures will be taken to prevent the sale of chilled meat as fresh meat?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yun-kan

Reply :

The Department has imposed a licensing/tenancy condition prohibiting the display of chilled meat for sale as fresh meat by fresh provision shop licensees and market tenants. Regular inspections and blitz operations are conducted to check compliance with the condition. To tackle the problem more effectively, the Department has proposed to tighten up enforcement by empowering the Director to cancel the licence/terminate the tenancy of offenders upon the first offence. This proposal has recently obtained the support of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene. There is no specific provision dedicated to the prevention of the sale of chilled meat as fresh meat. The work is undertaken as part of the Department's work relating to the inspection of food premises and management of public markets.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

20 March 2003

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

HWFB048

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0157

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) How much provision will be allocated to strengthen the control over the sale of live and chilled poultry, food to be eaten raw and chilled meat for food safety purpose?
- (b) Under the current legislation, meat retailers have to sell fresh meat and chilled meat separately. What are the expenditure and staffing establishment involved for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to carry out monitoring work in this regard? How many inspections have been conducted so far since the legislation came into effect? On how many occasions were irregularities detected and how were these cases handled? How many inspections will be conducted in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yun-kan

Reply :

We will absorb the work related to the strengthening of control over the sale of live and chilled poultry, food to be eaten raw and chilled meat within existing resources. There is no specific provision dedicated to the prevention of the sale of chilled meat as fresh meat. The work is undertaken as part of the Department's work relating to the inspection of food premises and management of public markets.

Since the specific licensing requirements/conditions regarding the sale of chilled meat came into effect in September 2001, we have conducted 10 260 inspections and detected 30 breaches. In accordance with established procedure, warnings were issued to the operators. All the irregularities were subsequently found to be rectified. The number of inspections in 2003 is estimated to be 7 000.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG
Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB049

Question Serial No.

0285

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (a) Under Programme (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services, the provision for 2003-04 is \$113.8 m (4.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the effect of new initiatives implemented and additional provision for an increase in the number of some categories of places, such as hostel places for the mentally handicapped, day activity centre places, etc. Please provide a breakdown of the additional provision for 2003-04 by categories of places.

(b) As regards the net decrease of 18 posts in 2003-04 under Programme (4), what are the posts to be deleted and what is the amount of savings to be achieved as a result of the deletion?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : (a) The additional provision for 2003-04 by categories of places are as follows:

Service	Additional Places	2003-04 \$m
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped	80	4.0
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped	100	6.2
Care & Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	50	4.0
Supported Hostel	20	0.6
Day Activity Centre	100	3.9
Early Education and Training Centre	80	3.6

Reply Serial No.

HWFB050

Question Serial No.

0342

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department will provide one school social worker for each of the 11 new secondary schools scheduled to commence operation in September 2003. In this connection,

- (a) please show the distribution of the 11 secondary schools and the pay level, conditions of service and contract term of each school social worker.
- (b) please inform this Committee the number of secondary schools that have not yet been provided with school social workers and give the reasons for this.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : (a) Provision for implementing "one social worker per secondary school" has been earmarked in the 2003-04 Estimates for a total of 11 new secondary schools based on earlier projection by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB). Based on the latest available information nine new secondary schools will start operation in September 2003. One school originally planned for commissioning will be used for re-provisioning an existing school which already has a school social worker provision. In other words, there are still available resources for meeting the requirement in a further two new schools to be commissioned within 2003-04. We will liaise closely with EMB on this. The distribution of these nine new secondary schools is as follows :

Location	No. of schools
Area 73A Tseng Kwan O	4
Area 40 Tung Chung	2
<u>To Kwa Wan Reclamation</u>	1
Kwun Tong	2
Total	9

Under the Lump Sum Grant mode of subvention, provision for a school social worker unit is calculated on the basis of the mid-point salary provision of notional staffing establishment on civil service pay scale plus provision for the employers' contribution under Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme. However, operating non-governmental organisations are given the flexibility to determine their own pay level, pay condition and duration of contract for the school social workers employed.

- (b) It is the Government's policy to provide one school-based social worker for each secondary school. Based on information of secondary schools registered with the EMB, 49 secondary schools (i.e. 45 private schools over half of which are post-secondary colleges preparing students for open examinations, two Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and two English School Foundation schools) are not provided with subvented school social work service as at March 2003. These schools have never requested for provision of school social work service for one reason or another. Nonetheless, the department has increased resources to strengthen community based services for young people through expediting formation of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) over the territory in the past two-years. Students at all secondary schools including those private schools may receive support from these ICYSCs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB051

Question Serial No.

0343

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department will set up three additional integrated children and youth services centres with new and existing resources at secured premises in newly developed/re-developed areas. Please state separately the venues, estimated provision and service functions for these three centres.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) aim at providing one-stop, centre-based school social work and outreaching social work services to meet the multifarious needs of young people aged from six to 24 in a holistic manner. The locations of the three additional ICYSCs are as follows:

- (a) Ocean Shores, TKOTL, No. 55, Phase III, Area 72, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories
- (b) Cheung Sha Wan West Phase III (Fu Cheong Estate), Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon
- (c) Urban Renewal Authority Development Scheme (K2) at Argyle Street/Shanghai Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon, KIL11099

These ICYSCs would be formed by pooling of existing resources of youth services and/or injection of new resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.
HWFB052

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

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 8 Personnel Management of Civil Servants
Working in Hospital Authority

0333

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority is expected to increase subsequent to the transfer of 59 General Out-patient Clinics to the Hospital Authority in July 2003. Please set out the names of clinics to be transferred this year, the number of staff involved and their posts.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The Department of Health will transfer the management of its 59 General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority in 2003-04. A list of the 59 GOPCs is at Annex.

About 800 GOPC staff in medical, nursing, dispensing, general and common grades will continue to work in the GOPCs and retain their civil servant status.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

A list of the 59 General Out-patient Clinics

1. Aberdeen Jockey Club Clinic
2. Anne Black Health Centre
3. Ap Lei Chau Clinic
4. Central District Health Centre
5. Central Kowloon Health Centre
6. Chai Wan Health Centre
7. Ha Kwai Chung Polyclinic
8. Ho Tung Dispensary
9. Hung Hom Clinic
10. Kam Tin Clinic
11. Kennedy Town Jockey Club Clinic
12. Kowloon Bay Health Centre
13. Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre
14. Lady Trench Polyclinic
15. Lam Tin Polyclinic
16. Lee Kee Memorial Dispensary
17. Lek Yuen Health Centre
18. Leung Kau Kui Clinic
19. Li Po Chun Health Centre
20. Ma On Shan Clinic
21. Madam Yung Fung Shee Health Centre
22. Mona Fong Clinic
23. Mrs. Wu York Yu Health Centre
24. Mui Wo Clinic
25. Nam Shan Health Centre
26. Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Clinic
27. North Kwai Chung Clinic
28. North Lamma Clinic
29. Peng Chau Clinic
30. Robert Black Health Centre
31. Sai Wan Ho Clinic
32. Sha Tau Kok Clinic
33. Shatin Clinic
34. Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic
35. Shek Kip Mei Health Centre
36. Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic
37. Shun Lee Government Clinic
38. Sok Kwu Wan Clinic
39. South Kwai Chung Polyclinic

40. Stanley Public Dispensary
41. Ta Kwu Ling Clinic
42. Tai O Jockey Club Clinic
43. Tai Po Jockey Club Clinic
44. Tai Po Wong Siu Ching Clinic
45. Tin Shui Wai Health Centre
46. Tseung Kwan O (Po Ning Road) Health Centre
47. Tsing Yi Cheung Hong Clinic
48. Tsing Yi Town Clinic
49. Tuen Mun Clinic
50. Tuen Mun Wu Hong Clinic
51. Tung Chung Clinic
52. Violet Peel Health Centre
53. Wan Tsui Government Clinic
54. Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic
55. West Kowloon Health Centre
56. Wu York Yu Health Centre
57. Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic
58. Yuen Chau Kok Clinic
59. Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre

Reply Serial No.
HWFB053

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

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention
 4 Curative Care
 5 Rehabilitation

0350

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Who are the potential clients of the Fanling Primary Health Care Centre? How much is the operating expenditure? Has any service indicator been set for the Centre? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The recurrent provision for the Fanling Primary Health Care Centre in 2003-04 is \$85.5M. It covers the following services operated by the Department of Health (DH) :

- (a) a maternal and child health centre providing maternal and child health services for children from birth to five years old and women of childbearing age, and women health services for women aged 64 or below;
- (b) an integrated treatment centre providing medical consultations for patients suffering from skin diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and Human Immuno-deficiency Virus infection;
- (c) a child assessment centre providing comprehensive assessment for children with disabilities, therapy for children, counselling for parents, and referral to rehabilitation services;
- (d) a school dental clinic providing services for primary school students; and
- (e) a general radiography centre providing X-ray services.

Upon full operation of the Fanling Primary Health Care Centre,

- (a) the maternal and child health centre can handle around 64 000 attendances per year;
- (b) the integrated treatment centre can handle around 50 000 attendances per year;
- (c) the child assessment centre can handle around 4 600 attendances per year;
- (d) the school dental clinic can handle around 58 000 attendances per year; and
- (e) the general radiography centre can handle around 33 000 radiography requests per year.

In addition, there is a dental clinic operated by DH for civil servants, their dependants and pensioners as well as a general out-patient clinic run by the Hospital Authority.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.
HWFB054

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

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

0351

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Without any new project to be launched, the total provision for the programme has increased from \$190.1M in 2002-03 to \$265.1M in 2003-04. Where will the additional provision be utilised?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The increase in provision for Programme (3) in 2003-04 is mainly due to the full year provision for setting up outreaching teams to promote psychosocial health among secondary school students under the adolescent health programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.
HWFB055

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

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

0352

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the setting up of outreaching teams to promote psychosocial health among secondary school students, how much expenditure is involved? Have the outreaching teams achieved their planned target in the past year? What was the target?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The target of the adolescent health programme in 2002-03 was to recruit 160 secondary schools. As a result, 167 schools have joined the programme. With the planned recruitment of another 169 schools, the provision in 2003-04 is \$146.3M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB056

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 5 Rehabilitation

0353

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the new child assessment centre in Fanling, how much is the expenditure involved? Has a target been set in terms of number of service recipients? If yes, what is the target number?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The provision in 2003-04 for the new child assessment centre in Fanling is \$12.9M. It can handle an annual attendance of 4 600.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB057

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 8 Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working
in Hospital Authority

0354

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please account for the decrease in the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority managed by the Department of Health from 4 242 in 2002 to 4 050 in 2003? What are the ranks involved and the number of staff?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The reduction in the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority from 4 242 in 2002 to 4 050 in 2003 is mainly due to normal retirement and retirement under the first Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The wastage of civil servants was found in medical, nursing and allied health professionals, as well as general and common grades.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.
HWFB058

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

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 4 Curative Care

0355

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the ranks and areas of responsibility of the 770 permanent posts proposed for deletion? Are those posts to be deleted through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, transfer to the Hospital Authority or natural wastage?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The 770 posts to be deleted in Programme (4) are as follows :

(a) Transfer of General Out-patient Clinics to the Hospital Authority

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	39
Medical and Health Officer	92
Nursing Officer	22
Enrolled Nurse	83
Senior Dispenser	56
Dispenser	130
Assistant Clerical Officer	20
Clerical Assistant	28
Office Assistant	55
Telephone Operator	2
Motor Driver	2
Ward Attendant	6
Workman II	<u>215</u>
Subtotal	750

(b) Re-engineering operations and improving efficiency

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	1
Medical Laboratory Technologist	2
Enrolled Nurse	2
Inoculator	4
Dispenser	1
Senior Radiographic Technician	2
Laboratory Attendant	3
Workman II	<u>5</u>
	Subtotal 20
Total	770

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.
HWFB059

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

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

0382

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the expenditure on the cervical cancer screening programme? What are the details? Has a target been set in terms of number of service recipients? If yes, what is the target number?
- (b) What is the basis for the estimated increase in the number of "doses of vaccines given to school children" among the indicators from 432 000 in 2002 to 470 000 in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The recurrent provision in 2003-04 for the cervical cancer screening programme is \$30.8M.

There are about 2 100 000 women aged 25-64 years. They will be advised to have Pap smears every three years after two consecutive yearly negative smears. The target coverage rate of 60% will be achieved in phases.

- (b) The projected increase in the number of vaccine doses from 432 000 in 2002 to 470 000 in 2003 is due to the effect of the new immunisation regime to provide booster dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine for primary one students in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB060

Question Serial No.

0444

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the expenditure estimated to be spent on healthy ageing activities in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : An amount of about \$600,000 has been earmarked for healthy ageing activities in 2003-04. It would be supplemented by the remaining balance of about \$9 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust grant for the promotion of health ageing, as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB061

Question Serial No.

0334

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Provision for 2003-04 is 23.6% higher than that for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the provision for Health and Health Services Research Fund. Will the Government inform us of the research projects to be funded by the Fund in 2003-04, and the theme and estimated cost of each of these projects?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply: The Health and Health Services Research Fund will support local health and health services research in three broad thematic priorities, namely public health, health services and Chinese medicine theme. A one-off grant of HK\$10 million has been earmarked to the Fund. Applications for research grants are being initiated. Local researchers working in the public, private and academic sectors are eligible to apply. Grants will only be allocated to those projects that have been assessed to possess high scientific merits and be of potential local application. The maximum cost ceiling per research project is HK\$800,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB062

Question Serial No.

0335

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How is the assessment of the merits of Health Protection Account progressing? What will be the manpower and expenses required for the assessment in 2003-04?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply: The Research Office of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is making steady progress with the assessment of the merits of the Health Protection Account. It is anticipated that the assessment will be completed by 2003-04. The manpower and expenses will be borne by the Research Office, taking up part of the time of the Head of the Research Office (D2 equivalent) supported by his team. No additional resources will be required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB063

Question Serial No.

0336

Head : 149-Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Will the Government inform us of the provision set aside for assisting non-CSSA patients who cannot afford the medical fees under the enhanced waiver mechanism for these patients?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

At this stage it would be very difficult to have an accurate estimate on how many patients would be granted waiver under the enhanced mechanism. Based on the existing mechanism, we estimate that the total fee waiver to be granted to non-CSSA recipients under the enhanced mechanism would be no less than \$100 million annually. We have therefore set aside \$100 million for this purpose, pending further adjustment in the light of experience as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB064

Question Serial
No.

0356

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Officer:
Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Bureau:

Question:

Regarding the provision made for the controls over the trading and manufacture of Chinese medicines, please give the details.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: Regulatory controls over the trading and manufacture of Chinese medicines will be implemented by the Department of Health in phases in 2003. At the Bureau level, no provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and any work requiring policy steer or co-ordination is absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs. Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB066

Question Serial No.

0358

Head : 177

Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. What will be the provision required for transferring the Department of Health's general out-patient clinics to the Hospital Authority? Will downsizing and outsourcing be involved? If yes, please give the details.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) will transfer \$367.5M of its operating budget to HA to operate the clinics in 2003/04 (9 months' effect). In addition, the Government has earmarked a time-limited cash flow of \$1,135M allocated under the 2000 Resources Allocation Exercise (RAE) over 5 years for the transfer of all the GOPCs from DH to HA.

No cutting of manpower or outsourcing of services will be involved in the entire transfer exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB068

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0327

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department under this Programme involves "licensing and inspecting food premises, and taking law enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises". In this regard,

- (a) What are the estimated expenditure and manpower required for the work in 2003-04? Is there any increase as compared with 2002-03? If so, how much is the increase?
- (b) Why did the number of inspections to food premises increase by over 25 000 to 429 269 in 2002, as compared with 2001?
- (c) What accounts for the great reduction in the estimated number of inspections to food premises in 2003 by 30% to 300 000 as compared with 2002. How much resources and manpower will be saved and to what service areas will such savings be redirected?
- (d) Has the Administration set any target on the annual number of inspections to each premises? If so, what is the target and how is it worked out?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

- (a) The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 for licensing, inspection and enforcement work in relation to food premises is \$148.7 m, involving a total of about 382 staff. There is no increase in expenditure and manpower compared with 2002-03.
- (b) The increase in the number of inspections in 2002 was due to : (i) a net increase of 605 licensed food premises in the year; and (ii) the mounting of blitz operations to enhance public health and food safety in connection with instances such as avian flu outbreaks and sale of chilled meat.

- (c) In the past, regular inspection of licensed food premises was made at intervals of once every 2 weeks, 4 weeks or 8 weeks. To enhance the effectiveness and quality of the inspections, the Department, following public and trade consultations, introduced a new risk-based inspection system in early 2003. Under the new system, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks according to their risk category. Each inspection will last longer and cover more details. Hygiene education will be provided on the spot where necessary. The new inspection system results in a substantial reduction in the number of inspections planned for 2003. Saving in manpower resources is however not envisaged under the new inspection system as the reduction in the number of inspections is offset by an enhancement in the quality of such inspection.
- (d) As mentioned in (c) above, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks according to their risk category. In categorizing the food premises, the Department will take into account all the crucial risk factors, including the estimated number of customers, the food handling process and whether the food sold is of high risk.

Signature_____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Post Title Environmental Hygiene

Date 20 March 2003

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

HWFB069

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

0328

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The work under this Programme involves “investigating and managing food incidents”, “exercising import control on high-risk food” and “exercising import control on live food animals”. What are the high-risk food and live food animals? Is live poultry included?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

High risk foods are those items which are considered, based on scientific assessment, to have a higher possibility of having food hazards. We have a set of specific legislation to regulate the import of such foods which include game, meat, poultry, milk and frozen confections.

Live food animals under our import control include pig, cattle, goat, chicken, duck, goose, silky chicken, guinea fowl, chukar, pheasant and pigeon.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB071

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0337

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Legislative Council passed the Karaoke Establishments Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation in 2002. Have resources and manpower been allocated in 2003-04 by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for handling the licensing matters arising therefrom? If so, what is the amount of provision and manpower strength? What are the specific measures for assisting the trade being affected to adapt to the new licensing system?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for the grant of Karaoke (KE) Permit and Provisional KE Permit to licensed restaurants. The licensing work is undertaken by existing staff and no additional resources are required.

To assist the trade to adapt to the licensing system, we have taken the following measures -

- (a) In January 2003, we sent a letter to all restaurant licence holders/applicants to draw their attention to the KE licensing requirements. In addition, we have prepared an easy-to-understand 'A Guide to Application for KE Permits in Restaurants' for free distribution to applicants. The Guide has also been uploaded on FEHD's website for public reference. When an application is made, a case manager will be assigned to follow up with the applicant and provide assistance as necessary.
- (b) Existing KEs are allowed a transitional period of 12 months to make applications and carry out compliance works. A further 12 months can be allowed for applications refused within the transitional period.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and

Post Title Environmental Hygiene

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB072

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 954 Question Serial No.
Rehabuses for the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation 0214

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The actual expenditure on the facilities and equipment for the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation in 2001-02 was \$0.26M. The estimate for 2002-03 is \$0.53M. Please explain why there is a four time increase in the revised estimate for 2002-03 at \$2.98M and what the facilities and equipment are?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Whilst the actual expenditure on facilities and equipment for Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation in 2001-02 was \$0.26M, the original revised estimate for the same year was \$2.71M. The difference between the actual expenditure and the revised estimate was due to the delay in payment of the construction costs for the Rehabus depots in Kowloon Bay and Tuen Mun. Funding for constructing these depots was committed in 2001-02 but actual payment of the necessary expenses did not take place until 2002-03. Adding the deferred payment of \$2.45M to the estimate of \$0.53M for 2002-03, the revised estimate for the item for the current financial year is therefore \$2.98M.

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**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB073

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0412

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

To 'follow up the regularisation of "private kitchens"' is included in the *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04* under this Programme of FEHD. Have any resources and manpower been reserved in the estimated expenditure of 2003-04 for the inspection of 'private kitchens'? If so, what is the amount and the number of staff involved? Will the funds and the staff involved be offset through internal deployment and enhancement of services, or will the estimated expenditure under this Programme be thus increased?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The inspection of "private kitchens" will continue to be undertaken by existing staff in 2003-04. No additional staff resources have been reserved for this purpose.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date_____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB074

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0413

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the “streamlining of the approval procedures for outside seating accommodation for licensed food premises” in 2002-03,

- (a) how many applications did FEHD receive for setting up outside seating accommodation? How many of them were approved? How many food premises have started operating in the open area for outside seating accommodation?
- (b) how many applications were refused or are under consideration? What are the reasons for the refusal?
- (c) what is the average processing time for approving an application?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) Since January 2002, we have received 239 applications for outside seating accommodation (OSA) operations, of which 39 have been approved. All successful applicants have commenced business.
- (b) Of the 239 applications received, 59 have been rejected/withdrawn/found non-pursuable due mainly to objections by local residents and unsuitable locations. The remaining 141 applications are still under consideration. Of these, we have issued letters of requirements to 64 applicants, whose applications will be approved upon compliance with the requirements.

- (c) The average time for approving an application, including the time taken by applicants to comply with the licensing requirements, is 4.9 months.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ **GREGORY LEUNG**

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date_____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB075

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0418

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Indicators showed that the number of inspections to food premises is expected to drop from 429 269 in 2002 to 300 000 in 2003. What are the possible reasons for the drop of about 30%?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

In the past, regular inspection of licensed food premises was made at intervals of once every 2 weeks, 4 weeks or 8 weeks. To enhance the effectiveness and quality of the inspections, the Department, following public and trade consultations, introduced a new risk-based inspection system in early 2003. Under the new system, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks according to their risk category. Each inspection will last longer and cover more details. Hygiene education will be provided on the spot where necessary. The new inspection system results in a substantial reduction in the number of inspections planned for 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB076

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

0414

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The actual number of registration applications from healthcare professionals processed by the Department of Health has dropped from 11 700 in 2001 to 6 200 in 2002. I would like to ask :

- What are the grades of the above healthcare professionals?
- What are the reasons for the drop in the number of registration applications from healthcare professionals processed?
- How do the above figures compare with the corresponding figures in the past five financial years?
- How many of these healthcare professionals were absorbed by the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health? What are their grades?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Registration applications processed for various healthcare professionals in the past five years are as follows :

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Chinese medicine practitioners	-	-	-	8 042	3 091
Medical practitioners	3 329	1 014	1 088	1 104	1 188
Dentists	56	65	66	62	75
Pharmacists	76	76	53	69	57
Nurses	2 026	1 509	1 972	1 712	1 053
Midwives	173	66	100	22	60
Supplementary medical professions including medical laboratory technologists, optometrists, radiographers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists	694	652	711	650	668
Chiropractors	-	-	-	-	62
Total	6 354	3 382	3 990	11 661	6 254

The decrease in the number of registration applications processed in 2002 was mainly due to the introduction of the listing exercise of Chinese medicine practitioners in late 2001.

The Department of Health recruited 115 and 233 healthcare professionals in 2001 and 2002 respectively, including medical practitioners, dentists, nurses, Chinese medicine practitioners, medical laboratory technologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, pharmacists, physiotherapists and radiographers.

According to the Hospital Authority, 1 784 and 947 healthcare professionals, including medical practitioners, nurses, medical laboratory technologists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physiotherapists and radiographers, were recruited in 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB077

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

0520

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out in details the expenditure (including various fees charged by the boards and councils and the amount of subsidy) and establishment involved in providing secretariat support to the various boards and councils by the Department of Health under this Programme as compared with the past five years.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The provision in providing secretariat support to various statutory boards and councils from 1998-99 to 2003-04 and the number of staff are as follows :

<u>Year</u>	<u>\$M</u>	Number of Staff
1998-99	30.9	54
1999-00	37.4	69
2000-01	42.5	106
2001-02	45.6	115
2002-03	47.4	121
2003-04	50.1	113

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB078

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : All

0521

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04 (Estimate), the Department of Health has planned to delete 999 non-directorate posts. Please explain in details :

- the reasons for the deletion?
- the savings achieved as a result of such deletion? Which department will these resources go to? What are the services where these resources will be utilised?
- what are the professional grades, ranks, years of service of the affected staff and their areas of service?
- what are the arrangements for the affected staff?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) will delete a total of 1 001 posts, partly offset by two posts to be created. The net deletion of 999 posts is detailed as follows :

(a) Transfer of General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority (HA)

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	47
Medical and Health Officer	111
Nursing Officer	27
Enrolled Nurse	100
Senior Dispenser	68
Dispenser	156
Assistant Clerical Officer	24
Clerical Assistant	34
Office Assistant	66
Telephone Operator	2
Motor Driver	2

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Ward Attendant	7
Workman II	<u>258</u>
	902

(b) Re-engineering operations and improving efficiency

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	1
Registered Nurse	4
Enrolled Nurse	7
Inoculator	10
Midwife	25
Dental Officer	2
Dental Technician II	1
Tutor Dental Therapist	1
Dental Therapist	10
Dispenser	1
Senior Medical Technologist	1
Medical Technologist	2
Medical Laboratory Technician I	2
Audiology Technician I	1
Senior Radiographic Technician	2
Hospital Administrator I	1
Clerical Assistant	2
Personal Secretary I	1
Laboratory Attendant	7
Property Attendant	3
Workman II	<u>15</u>
	99

Total deletion **1 001**

(c) Posts to be created

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	<u>1</u>
Total creation	2
Net deletion	999

The transfer of GOPCs to HA will be a cost neutral exercise. DH will transfer the recurrent staff costs and departmental expenses for operating the 59 GOPCs to HA. The saving from re-engineering operations and improving efficiency, estimated at \$23.2M, comes from Programmes 1-7. It forms part of DH's contribution to the Government's overall saving target.

The staff working in GOPCs have an average of 15 years' service. DH will endeavour to redeploy some of them to alternative jobs in the department or other Government departments. It is envisaged that about 800 staff will continue to work in the GOPCs and retain their civil servant status.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB079

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

0522

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of inspections performed by the Department on the licensed institutions registered under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance is projected to drop from 100 in 2002 (actual) to 95 in 2003 (estimate). What is the reason for the less frequent inspections of licensed institutions?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Inspections of institutions registered under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance are carried out for registration, annual renewal of licences, introduction of new services and investigation of complaints. The number of inspections carried out in 2001 and 2002 was 95 and 100 respectively. The increase in 2002 was for assessing various service units of the new extension of a hospital. As the new extension project was completed in 2002, it is estimated that the number of inspections in 2003 will return to 95.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB080

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

0523

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out in details the reasons for the 35.5% drop in the number of registration applications from healthcare professionals to be processed in 2003 (the number was 6 200 in 2002, and the projected number is 4 000 in 2003)? What are the professions of registration applicants anticipated this year? Which parts of registration will they enter?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The number of registration applications from healthcare professionals processed in both 1999 and 2000 was below 4 000 per annum. The number increased to 11 700 and 6 200 in 2001 and 2002 respectively mainly due to the introduction of the listing exercise for Chinese medicine practitioners. The number of registration applications is expected to return to the normal level of below 4 000 in 2003.

Applications for new registrations will come from medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, chiropractors and supplementary medical professions including medical laboratory technologists, optometrists, radiographers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists in various parts of the respective registers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the Hospital Authority's actual figure in 2001-02 and revised estimate for 2003-04, the number of home visits made by community nurses rises drastically from 685 711 to 746 040, the cost per outreach visit by community nurses is reduced from the actual expenditure of \$341 in 2001-02 to the revised estimate of \$314 in 2003-04. In this connection :

- Will the Administration increase the manpower to cope with the demand in view of the drastic increase in the number of home visits made by community nurses;
- Will the Administration list the number of community nurses responsible for the home visits, the number of home visits and the average number of home visits made by each community nurse over the past five years;
- What are the reasons for the reduction in the cost per outreach visit by community nurses from \$341 to \$314 ?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

With the shift of in-patient care to community care, the Hospital Authority (HA) has been strengthening the support to community nursing and outreach services in the past five years. The number of community nurses has increased from 295 in 1998-99 to 372 in 2002-03 to cope with the increased service provision.

The number of community nurses responsible for home visits, the number of home visits made and the average number of home visits made by a community nurse over the past five years are shown below :

	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03 Projected
No. of community nurses (as at March of the Year)	295	325	337	357	372
No. of home visits made	478 633	554 269	633 003	685 711	746 040
Average no. of home visits made by a community nurse	1 622	1 705	1 878	1 921	2 005

Over the years, the efficiency and quality of community nursing service has been continually improving due to the following factors -

- The enhanced computer system has helped save time spent by community nurses on documentation and centre administration.
- Streamlining of work procedures, such as fee collection.
- Accumulation of expertise in the existing workforce of community nursing as a result of in-service training, nursing audit and a stable workforce as evidenced by the low turnover rate of less than 1% in the period in question.

The output of HA's community nursing services has been on the increase as a result of enhanced productivity. This also explains why the cost per outreach visit by community nurses has been on the decrease.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 19 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the actual figure for 2001-02 and the revised estimate for 2002-03 provided by the Hospital Authority, the number of beds for the mentally ill has been reduced from 4896 to 4858 whereas the bed occupancy rate for the mentally ill has increased from 80.9% to 83.4%. Would the Administration tell us :

- the reasons for the reduction of beds against the background of the increase in bed occupancy rate for the mentally ill ?
- which hospitals will reduce beds ?
- the staff number in each ranks of the medical officer, nursing officer and allied health professional grades, the number of beds, the bed/population ratio and the bed/health care personnel ratio in psychiatric hospitals?
- the comparison of the above figures with the actual figures over the past five financial years?
- if any assessment of the impact of reduction of beds on service demand has been conducted? If yes, please give the details.
- the savings that can be achieved through the reduction of beds?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

There has been a historical mismatch in the geographic distribution of psychiatric beds which has led to a shortage of psychiatric beds in Kowloon. As a result, patients with severe mental illness in Kowloon requiring inpatient care need to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals in other clusters. By relocating beds from other psychiatric hospitals to Kowloon, we can ensure an optimal mix of the whole spectrum of psychiatric services, including inpatient and non-inpatient services, to be available in Kowloon in the relative vicinity of a patient's home. The accessibility to such a balanced cluster-based mix of services is essential in facilitating carers' support, ensuring continuity of care and promoting partnership with various parties in the local community.

The international trend in the provision of care for patients with mental illness has moved away from institutionalisation of care for mentally ill patients and to focus on the development of community psychiatric services. The Hospital Authority (HA) has been developing its psychiatric services in line with such international trend. In this connection, the Government has provided additional resources to HA in 2001-02 to strengthen its community psychiatric services.

In 2002/3, HA reduced the number of psychiatric beds in Castle Peak Hospital and Kwai Chung Hospital by 100 each, and at the same time increased the provision of psychiatric beds in Kowloon Hospital by 162 beds, resulting in a net reduction of 38 psychiatric beds.

Although there is no agreed international standard for optimal occupancy rate of psychiatric hospitals, HA considers it appropriate to maintain the overall occupancy rate in the region of 85% to meet service demand in a cost-effective manner while providing a reasonable standard of care. The overall occupancy rate of psychiatric beds rose modestly from 80.9% in 2001/02 to 83.4% in 2002/03 as compared to an occupancy rate in the region of 90% in the late 1990s (90.8% in 1997-98 and 89.9% in 1998-99).

During the period 1997-98 to 2002-03, the demand for inpatient psychiatric services has been on the decline as evidenced by the fall in patient days per 1 000 population at a rate of 4.5% per annum. As a result of the reduction of beds, the staff to bed ratio has improved, thus contributing towards quality improvement.

The number of psychiatric beds and the bed-to-population ratio for 1997-98 to 2002-03 are as follows:

	No. of psychiatric beds	Psychiatric Beds per 1000 population
1997/1998	4 966	0.76
1998/1999	5 068	0.77
1999/2000	5 340	0.80
2000/2001	5 274	0.78
2001/2002	4 896	0.71
2002/2003	4 858	0.70

The number of psychiatric doctors and nurses, and the ratio of doctors and nurses to psychiatric beds for 1997-98 to 2002-03 are as follows:

	No. of doctors	No. of nurses	Doctor Per bed	Nurse per Bed
1997/1998	173	1 589	0.035	0.320
1998/1999	189	1 648	0.037	0.325
1999/2000	203	1 720	0.038	0.322
2000/2001	212	1 797	0.040	0.341
2001/2002	223	1 926	0.046	0.393
2002/2003	241	1 926	0.050	0.396

Figures on allied health professionals dedicated to serve psychiatric patients are not readily available.

As reduction of beds is matched by concurrent deployment of resources to strengthen community care, no savings can be achieved through this measure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the revised estimates for 2002-03 and the estimates for 2003-04, the total number of nursing staff of the Hospital Authority will decrease from 19 529 to 19 499. Would the Administration provide information on :

- the grade and rank of the deleted posts as well as their salary and benefits;
- the reasons for cutting these nursing staff;
- the hospitals to which these nursing staff are posted;
- the impact on the workload of the various grades after these staff have been cut;
- the savings to be achieved by the Administration through staff reduction; and
- the reasons for an increase in the number of doctors from 4 279 to 4 587 while the number of nursing staff will be reduced?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

A projected reduction in nursing staff of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04 is made having regard to the participation of nursing staff in the HA Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Programme. Based on the applications received under the VER Programme, the attrition rate of senior nursing staff is expected to be higher than that of frontline nursing staff. Coupled with the fact that HA plans to strengthen the nursing workforce by recruiting 250 frontline nurses in 2003-04, the impact of the reduction would be on senior nursing staff, including Ward Managers, Nursing Officers and Departmental Operations Managers. As such, the projected reduction will not have a significant impact on increasing the workload of frontline nurses.

The distribution of the reduction in nursing staff among hospitals as well as the amount of savings that can be achieved will depend on the outcome of the VER Programme, which will be available in April 2003.

To ensure sufficient manpower provision, HA plans to recruit doctors and nurses in 2003-04 at a level similar to that in 2002-03. The projected increase in the number of doctors from 4 279 in 2002-03 to 4 587 in 2003-04 is due to :

- intake of 300 newly graduated doctors under the Specialist Training Programme and Family Medicine Training Programme.
- transfer of about 150 doctors from the Department of Health upon the transfer of 59 General Out-patient Clinics to HA in July 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the revised estimate for 2002-03 and the estimate for 2003-04, the Hospital Authority will reduce the number of general beds from 20 579 to 19 379, ie a reduction of 1 200. Would the Administration provide information on:

- the reason for the reduction;
- the hospitals in which beds will be reduced;
- a breakdown of the number of doctors, nurses and the allied health professional grade by rank, the number of beds, the ratio of beds to population and the ratio of beds to medical care staff in public hospitals in the past five financial years; and the estimated average number of nursing staff, beds and patients in 2003; and
- the savings to be made by the reduction?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The international trend has been to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes and to replace, where appropriate, in-patient treatment by ambulatory and out-patient services. The Hospital Authority (HA) has in recent years stepped up its developments on day surgery, day care, out-patient services, community nursing and outreach programmes. In response to this shift to ambulatory and community care, HA plans to adjust in-patient general beds in order to rationalise its service provision. The reduction of 1 200 beds is made possible by :

- advances in medical technologies, including minimal access surgeries and new medications (for treatment of cancer and psychiatric illness, for instance), which shorten the duration of hospitalisation and reduce complications;
- strengthened ambulatory and outreach care which facilitates early discharge of patients;
- service reengineering and consolidation, including early discharge planning, better coordinated treatment processes and streamlining workflow in non-clinical areas, which helps shorten the length of stay of patients.

HA has not finalized its plan on the number of general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 at the hospital level. The distribution by hospital cluster of the 1 200 general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 is as shown below:

Cluster	Number of beds
Hong Kong West	376
Hong Kong East	94
Kowloon East	0
Kowloon Central	120
Kowloon West	390
New Territories East	220
New Territories West	0
Total	1 200

The number of beds and the bed-to-population ratios from 1997-98 to 2003-04 are set out below:

Year	No. of Beds	Bed per 1000 Population
1997-98	26 790	4.10
1998-99	27 544	4.16
1999-00	28 517	4.25
2000-01	28 877	4.24
2001-02	29 022	4.21
2002-03 (Estimate)	29 288	4.23
2003-04 (Estimate)	28 088	4.01

The number of doctors, nurses and allied health (AH) professionals, as well as the staff per bed ratios from 1997-98 to 2003-04 are set out below:

	Doctors		Nurses		AH Professionals	
	No. of FTE staff	Doctor per bed	No. of FTE staff	Nurse per bed	No. of FTE staff	AH staff per bed
1997-98	3 295	0.12	15 729	0.59	4 339	0.16
1998-99	3 491	0.13	16 679	0.61	4 479	0.16
1999-00	3 674	0.13	17 335	0.61	4 458	0.16
2000-01	3 895	0.13	18 230	0.63	4 527	0.16
2001-02	4 105	0.14	19 289	0.66	4 637	0.16
2002-03 (Estimate)	4 279	0.15	19 515	0.67	4 710	0.16
2003-04 (Estimate)*	4 587	0.16	19 485	0.69	4 902	0.17

FTE denotes full-time equivalent

* Staffing position include staff to be transferred from the Department of Health to HA upon the transfer of general outpatient clinics scheduled for July 2003.

HA plans to deploy all resources released from the reduction of beds to strengthen its existing services. These include enhancing the intensity of treatment during the shortened stay of patients and strengthening ambulatory care.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The financial provision for the Hospital Authority is reduced from \$29.935b to \$29.608b according to the revised estimate for 2002-03 and the estimate for 2003-04. Would the Administration provide information on :

- the reasons and criteria for the reduction in provision;
- the implications of the reduced expenditure on the service and staffing of the public health care sector;
- whether HA's potential revenue from the adjusted medical fees and charges has been taken into account in the above provision; and
- the measures that will be taken by the Government to ensure that the quality of medical service will not deteriorate in view of the reduction in public health care expenditure and a great demand for public health care service?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The financial provision of \$29,608 million for the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04 comprises \$29,238 million of recurrent subvention under Subhead 514 and \$370 million under Subhead 979 (equipment and information systems block vote). The recurrent subvention to HA in 2003-04 has decreased by \$302 million (1%) against the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to a reduction of provision as a result of the 2002 civil service pay adjustment and 1.8% efficiency savings. The reduction is partly offset by additional funds provided to take into account population growth, provision for the transfer of general out-patient clinics from the Department of Health, the introduction of family medicine practice in general out-patient clinics, strengthening the provision of extended care and supporting services in public hospitals, the provision of Chinese medicine out-patient services, and the enhancement of the elderly suicide prevention programme and the extended-care patients intensive treatment, early diversion and rehabilitation stepping-stone project. The equipment and information systems block vote for HA in 2003-04 has decreased by \$25 million (6.3%) against the revised estimate for

2002-03. This is mainly due to a reduced requirement for meeting outstanding payment for equipment items procured in the previous years.

HA will maintain its clinical staff workforce at the current level in 2003/04 through stringent savings measures in other areas, such as continued reduction of managerial and supporting staff, and re-engineering business support initiatives in procurement and supplies management, catering, laundry, etc. Through cluster-based and territory-wide service rationalisation programs, HA will continue to reengineer its service provision to cater for the increasing needs of the population despite resources constraints. All these measures help to ensure that service quality will not be compromised.

The 2003-04 Estimates has taken into account the additional income from the introduction of Accident and Emergency charge and drug charge, as well as other fee increases.

To sustain the quality of public hospital service and meet the demand of the community, HA plans to implement the following measures in 2003-04:

- Develop effective ambulatory and community oriented care models to reduce reliance on inpatient care
- Continue to reduce its managerial and supporting staff
- Rationalize services within hospital clusters to reduce duplications
- Exercise stringent control on replacement of vacant posts
- Devise a new pay package for new recruits
- Re-engineer business support services, such as procurement and supplies management, catering, laundry

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Concerning the recurrent cost in 2003-04 (estimate), the staff on-costs and other charges have decreased by \$149.9 million and \$52.7 million respectively compared with 2002-03 (revised). Will the authorities give details on:

- i) the reasons for the decrease in provision?
- ii) the numbers of affected persons, grades and ranks?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- i) The decrease in the provision of "on-cost" and "other charges" in 2003-04 is mainly attributed by the full-year effect of the 2002 civil service pay adjustment and the need to achieve 1.8% efficiency savings.
- ii) Most of the staff of the Hospital Authority (HA) will be affected by the civil service pay adjustment except those who are remunerated on the 'delinking' pay scale (i.e. staff whose starting salaries would not be adjusted by the annual pay adjustment). To achieve the 1.8% efficiency savings, the HA plans to implement various saving measures, including the Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Programme which is a voluntary exit programme for permanent full-time HA employees of all ranks who have 10 years or more qualifying service. The actual number and ranks of the staff affected by the VER Programme can only be ascertained upon approval of the applications in April 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 22 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The revised financial provision for 2002-03 is \$340.6 million lower than the approved provision for 2002-03. Will the authorities give details on the reasons for the reduced provision as well as the Hospital Authority's fiscal deficit and fiscal reserves for 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The revised estimates for recurrent subvention to the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2002-03 are \$340.6 million less than the approved estimates because of :

- reduced provision as a result of the 2002 civil service pay adjustment which took effect from 1 October 2002
- increased medical income generated by the introduction of fees for accident and emergency service with effect from 29 November 2002, which has not been accounted for in the approved estimates.

HA has projected a deficit of about \$227 million in 2002-03. HA's General Revenue Reserve amounted to \$815 million as at 31 March 2002. It will be reduced to some \$588 million by end of the 2002-03 financial year after financing the 2002-03 deficit.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

19 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the estimated numbers of in-patient admissions, discharges and deaths and the expenditure involved for 2003-04. Please also give reasons for the downward adjustment of 0.2 day in the average length of stay of patients.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The Hospital Authority has all along been collecting data on the total number of discharges and deaths instead of on number of admissions. Admission figures are therefore not readily available.

The estimated number of total in-patient discharges and deaths in 2003-04 is 867 610. HA will continue to improve the quality of its clinical care. In this connection, HA expects the standardized mortality rate for 2003-04 will not be higher than that of 2002-03, i.e. 4 hospital deaths for 1 000 population. The estimated total cost of providing in-patient services is \$20,080 million for 2003-04.

The projected length of stay of in-patients will be shortened due to the following reasons:

- Advances in medical technologies, including minimal access surgeries and new medications (for treatment of cancer and psychiatric illness, for instance), can shorten duration of hospitalisation and reduce complications;
- Enhanced ambulatory and outreach care (including day patient facilities) can facilitate early discharge of patients; and

- Service re-engineering and consolidation, such as better co-ordinated care and treatment during each episode, early discharge planning and streamlining workflow.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the Indicator for Delivery of Service, the general bed occupancy rate in 2003-04 (estimate) is 2.3% higher than that in 2002-03 (revised estimate). Please account for the reasons in detail, the expenditure and the manpower arrangement involved.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The international trend has been to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes and to replace, where appropriate, in-patient treatment by ambulatory and outpatient services. In response to this shift to ambulatory and community care, the Hospital Authority (HA) plans to adjust the number of general beds downwards by 1 200 in 2003-04 in order to rationalise its service provision. Through HA-wide service rationalisation and cluster-based measures such as streamlining workflow and merging/relocation of wards with low occupancy rates, there will be a modest increase in the overall occupancy rate of general beds to 85% in 2003-04 which is similar to the level attained prior to 2002-03. HA will ensure appropriate deployment of resources and manpower to areas with greatest need.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of general out-patient attendances will rise from 1.25057m to 5.21807m according to the revised estimate for 2002-03 and the estimate for 2003-04 by the Hospital Authority. Has the Administration assessed the implications of the cut in expenditure on public health care service? Also, would the Administration provide information on :

- how manpower will be deployed to deal with the drastic increase in the number of general out-patient attendances;
- the average workload of each member of the nursing staff of the general out-patient clinics before and after the transfer of general out-patient clinics to the HA;
- the average number of complaints before and after the transfer of general out-patient clinics to the HA;
- the provision for each general out-patient clinic before and after the transfer of general out-patient clinics to the HA?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) will take over 59 general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) from the Department of Health (DH) in July 2003. HA has been, in consultation with DH, formulating the plan for transfer of the GOPCs. In this connection, HA has worked out the staffing plan in anticipation of the transfer. About 800 GOPC staff members, including doctors, nurses, dispensers and supporting staff, will be transferred from DH to HA. To facilitate smooth transfer, the Government has earmarked a time-limited cash flow of \$1,135 million for use over five years starting from 2001-02. In addition, DH will transfer \$367.5 million of its operating budget to HA in 2003-04 to run the 59 GOPCs transferred from DH to HA (9 months' effect from July 2003 to March 2004).

As nurses in the GOPCs are responsible for a number of very different duties, it is not feasible for us to quantify the average workload of each member of the nursing staff using a single indicator. During 2002, 185 complaints were filed against GOPCs operated by DH. In view of the change in the mode of operation of the GOPCs upon transfer to HA, HA has no reasonable basis to estimate the number of complaints expected to be received after the takeover. As for pre-takeover funding allocation to each clinic, it varies with the size of individual clinics. HA will work out the post-takeover funding allocation to each clinic in the light of the finalised staff transfer arrangement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 24 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the cost of in-patient services for 2003-04 (Estimate), the cost per in-patient discharged of the mentally ill services is \$765 higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. Could the Administration explain in detail :

- the cause(s) of the increase in cost;
- the amount of resources allocated to the in-patient services for the mentally ill in 2003-04 (Estimate) and its comparison with those in the past five financial years.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- (1) The Hospital Authority has been improving its in-patient psychiatric services through the use of newer generation of psychiatric medications, intensification of rehabilitation programmes, better co-ordinated treatment processes, and enhancement of education on carers. In 2003-04, additional resources have been allocated for the enhancement of the EXtended-care patients Intensive Treatment, Early diversion and Rehabilitation Stepping-stone Project. All these factors result in a slight rise (0.5%) in the cost per inpatient discharged.
- (2) The cost for the provision of psychiatric in-patient services for the years 1999-2000 to 2003-04 are set out below :

Year	Total Cost (\$M)
1999-2000	1,840
2000-2001	1,871
2001-2002	1,929
2002-2003 (estimate)	1,952
2003-2004 (estimate)	1,942

Figure for 1998-99 is not readily available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 22 March 2003 _____

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the increase of 192 in the number of allied health staff in the estimate for 2003-04 as compared with the revised estimate for 2002-03, could the Administration explain in detail :

- the reason(s) for the employment of the additional number of allied health staff;
- the grade, ranks, remuneration and employment terms of the said staff; and
- the hospitals and departments to which the said staff will be deployed.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The projected additional intake of allied health professionals in 2003-04 is attributed by the following :

- (a) replacement of staff due to wastage;
- (b) enhancement of allied health support to the ambulatory community care programmes;
- (c) transfer of staff (i.e. dispensers) from the Department of Health (DH) upon the transfer of 59 general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority (HA) in July 2003.

The allied health professionals to be recruited under (a) and (b) include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, podiatrists, dietitians, diagnostic radiographers, therapeutic radiographers, prosthetic-orthotists and medical laboratory technicians. They will be employed on contract terms and offered a remuneration package applicable to the respective rank prevailing at the time of employment.

As for dispensers to be transferred from DH to HA, they may opt to be civil servants working in HA or take up HA's employment. For those who opt to remain as civil servants, they will be employed on the existing terms and conditions of civil service. For those who opt to become employees of HA, they will be converted to a comparable HA rank on a point-to-point basis subject to the principle that their salary will not be reduced by the conversion process.

HA will take into account the finalised staff transfer arrangements pertaining to the transfer of GOPCs from DH to HA and the projected manpower requirements of allied health professionals by hospital clusters in determining the deployment of the transferred / newly employed allied health professionals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB097

Question Serial No.

0528

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with the Hospital Authority's plan to increase the number of elderly suicide prevention teams in 2003-04, please give the details on :

- the amount of resources spent annually since the establishment of the elderly suicide prevention teams;
- the number of existing elderly suicide prevention teams, the professional grade(s) to which their team members belong, the number of these team members and their effectiveness; and
- the amount of resources estimated to be spent annually and the anticipated effectiveness after the number of elderly suicide prevention teams have been increased.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

In October 2002, the Hospital Authority implemented five elderly suicide prevention teams based at Castle Peak Hospital, Kwai Chung Hospital, North District Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and Kowloon Hospital. The estimated annual cost of providing this service is \$15 Million. Seven doctors and 15 nurses were deployed to implement this programme in 2002-03 and as at the end of December 2002, 470 elderly patients were screened for depression and suicidal risks and 174 elderly patients with high suicidal risks were treated by psycho-geriatricians at fast track clinics. Additionally, the five elderly suicide prevention teams also organised educational programmes to educate general practitioners and other health care workers in the community to detect and screen for elderly depression and suicidal risk.

In 2003-04, the Hospital Authority plans to enhance the Elderly Suicide Prevention Programme by extending the coverage to Hong Kong West and Kowloon East. It is estimated that at least another 120 elderly patients with high suicidal risks can be treated and the estimated annual cost of enhancing this service is \$9 Million. Five doctors and 3 nurses will be deployed to enhance the service in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 19 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the provision of Chinese medicine outpatient services by the Hospital Authority in 2003-04, would the Administration provide information on :

- the amount of funds to be allocated to these Chinese medicine outpatient clinics;
- the number of health care personnel of each Chinese medicine outpatient clinic, their professional grade, rank, salary as well as terms of appointment; and
- the resources to be spent on training these professionals by the Administration in 2003-04 ?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : The Hospital Authority (HA) will set up three clinics to provide Chinese medicine outpatient service in 2003. The recurrent subvention for providing this service will be about \$14 million in 2003-04.

Each Chinese medicine out-patient clinic will be staffed by 4 Chinese medicine practitioners, 4 – 5 pharmacy and nursing staff and 5 – 6 health care and general support workers.

The professional staff will have to fulfill the registration requirements of the respective professions as appropriate. The remuneration packages of these staff are being finalised.

The expenditure for Chinese medicine training in the HA will be around \$2 million in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB099

Question Serial No.

0579

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Hospital Authority will enhance the Elderly Suicide Prevention Programme by increasing the number of elderly suicide prevention teams in 2003-04. Please provide information on the details and the budget.

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2002-03, the Hospital Authority implemented five elderly suicide prevention teams based at Castle Peak Hospital, Kwai Chung Hospital, Kowloon Hospital, North District Hospital and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital at an annual cost of \$15 Million. As at the end of December 2002, 470 elderly patients were screened for depression and suicidal risks and 174 elderly patients with high suicidal risks were treated by psycho-geriatricians at fast track clinics. In 2003-04, the Hospital Authority plans to enhance the Elderly Suicide Prevention Programme by extending the coverage of the programme to Hong Kong West and Kowloon East. It is estimated that at least another 120 elderly patients with high suicidal risks can be treated and the estimated annual cost of enhancing this service is \$9 Million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB100

Question Serial No.

0580

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Does the Hospital Authority have any plan to further increase the provision of Chinese medicine outpatient services in 2003-04 ? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Hospital Authority will set up three clinics in 2003 to provide Chinese medicine outpatient service. The recurrent subvention for providing this service will be about \$14 million in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB101

Question Serial No.

0421

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned in the Estimates of Expenditure that the provision for 2003-04 is \$0.5 m higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03 which is mainly due to additional provision for implementing drug prevention programmes for young people. Please inform this Committee on the following:

- (1) the number of young drug abusers and the types of drug abused in the past five years;
- (2) a comparison of the amount of provision for this year against those over the past five financial years;
- (3) the number of additional staff employed for implementing the above programmes and their terms of employment in the past five financial years;
- (4) the details of the above programme; and
- (5) has the Administration evaluated the effectiveness of the activities?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : (1) The number of young persons aged under 21 reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA) in the past five years is as follows:

1998	2 841
1999	2 482
2000	4 019
2001	3 902
2002	2 968

Over the period, the five most common types of drugs abused by young persons reported to the CRDA are as follows:

No of young persons reported*	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Ketamine	-	14	1 279	1 919	1 738
MDMA (Ecstasy)	51	290	1 948	1 701	916
Cannabis	678	671	736	557	636
Heroin	1 490	1 089	747	426	265
“Ice”	441	383	381	348	197

* More than one type of drug may be reported for each individual drug abusers. Hence, the figures may not add up to the total.

(2) & (3) A summary of provision of the major stakeholders under different Policy Programmes namely Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention (SRACP), the Against Substance Abuse Scheme (ASAS) of the department and five Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers (CCPSAs) operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the Social Welfare Department for drug prevention programmes for young people is as follows:

1998-99 Actual	1999-2000 Actual	2000-01 Actual	2001-02 Actual	2002-03 Revised Estimate	2003-04 Estimate
\$m 73.1	\$m 77.2	\$m 77.8	\$m 79.7	\$m 79.9	\$m 81.2

The above provision comprises subvention to the SRACP and five CCPSAs as well as the department’s in-house support and two ASASs, the latter were hived off to NGOs in 2002. Under the lump sum mode of subvention implemented in recent years, the NGOs are given the flexibility to determine their number and rank of staff posts, having regard to their operational needs.

(4) Drug prevention activities take the form of talks, workshops, groups and programmes aiming at increasing awareness and knowledge on harmful effects of drug abuse, equipping refusal skills and developing healthy life style among students and high-risk youth.

- (5) Drug prevention services run by NGOs are subject to continual monitoring and evaluation by the department through a Funding and Service Agreement agreed between the department and concerned NGOs. The Research Sub-committee of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) is planning a study on non-residential services for drug abusers, including those of CCPSA and SRACP, to be conducted in 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB102

Question Serial No.

0422

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The financial provision for Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services in 2002-03 has decreased from the approved amount of \$2,654.2 m to the revised amount of \$2,547.9 m. Would the Administration provide information on the following:

- (1) state the reasons for the revised expenditure being less than the approved amount;
- (2) list in detail the areas in which expenditure has been cut;
- (3) whether the impact on rehabilitation and medical social services caused by the cut in expenditure has been assessed; and
- (4) manpower being affected as a result of the cut in services.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : As compared to the approved estimate, the reduction of \$106.3 m for the 2002-03 revised estimate is due to the following:

Reasons	Reduction \$m
- Part-year effect of the 2002-03 salary adjustment on departmental and subvented services	28.6

Reply Serial No.

HWFB103

Question Serial No.

0445

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the Social Welfare Department's estimated expenditure for implementing Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) for Elderly Persons Retiring to Guangdong Province in 2003-04? What is the financial commitment involved in providing burial grants and better escort service to the participants?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated total expenditure on PCSSA payments for the year 2003-04 is \$102 m, including burial grants of \$0.6 m. A non-governmental organisation has been commissioned as the Social Welfare Department's agent to provide escort and other services for the participants and help with processing applications for burial grant. The contract fee for the year 2003-04 is \$1.7 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB104

Question Serial No.

0446

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients with less than seven years' residence in Hong Kong by their years of residence, and the CSSA expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : As at the end of 2001 and 2002, statistics on the number of CSSA recipients who were new arrivals having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years by length of residence are provided below:

Length of residence in Hong Kong	Dec 2001	Dec 2002
< 1 year	1 155	955
1 - < 2 years	6 317	5 372
2 - < 3 years	9 629	10 562
3 - < 4 years	13 693	12 679
4 - < 5 years	9 369	16 013
5 - < 6 years	11 140	11 002
6 - < 7 years	7 273	12 762
Total	58 576	69 345

The estimated total expenditure on new arrivals is \$1.7 b for 2001-02, and \$2.0 b for 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB105

Question Serial No.

0560

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (a) Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, please provide a breakdown of the caseload and the expenditure incurred under various categories, including old age, disability, ill health, single parent family, low earnings, unemployment and others in the last two financial years, and the estimated caseload and expenditure in 2003-04 as well.

(b) In last year's Estimates, it was projected that the number of Social Security Allowance (SSA) cases in 2002-03 would see an increase of 33 900 over the 2001-02 figure. However, this year's Estimates shows a lower increase rate. What is/are the reason(s) for it?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) The average number of cases with payment, and the estimated expenditure by nature of case for the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as follows:

<u>Nature of case</u>	<u>2001-02</u>		<u>2002-03*</u>	
	Average number of cases with payment	Expenditure \$b	Average number of cases with payment	Expenditure \$b
Old age	130 981	7.5	136 429	7.2
Permanently disability	12 438	0.7	13 759	0.7

Temporary disability/ill health	17 348	1.4	18 934	1.3
Single parent family	25 479	2.5	29 864	2.6
Low earnings	7 516	0.7	8 883	0.7
Unemployment	20 110	1.4	30 923	2.0
Others	3 092	0.2	3 332	0.2
Total	216 964	14.4	242 124	14.7

*Up to February 2003.

The projected average number of cases with payment and the projected CSSA expenditure by nature of case for 2003-04 are:

<u>Nature of case</u>	<u>Projected average number of cases with payment in 2003-04</u>	<u>Projected CSSA expenditure in 2003-04</u> \$b
Old age	141 910	7.94
Permanently disability	15 240	0.88
Temporary disability/ill health	20 340	1.53
Single parent family	35 520	3.14
Low earnings	11 160	0.89
Unemployment	37 680	2.44
Others	3 550	0.21
Total	265 400	17.03

- (b) The projections of the number of SSA cases are prepared after taking account of the recent trends in caseload. In 2002-03, there was a slower growth in SSA cases and therefore a smaller increase in SSA cases is projected. In particular, there has been a continuous drop in Normal Old Age Allowance cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB106

Question Serial No.

0561

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What was the number of applications received and the expenditure incurred on Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) and Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) payments respectively in the last two financial years? What is the estimated number of applications and expenditure for 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The average number of recipients of HOAA and NOAA and the expenditure involved in the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as follows:

	<u>2001-02</u>	
	Average number of <u>recipients</u>	<u>Actual expenditure</u>
	No.	\$b
HOAA	319 300	2.7
NOAA	117 200	0.9

	<u>2002-03</u>	
	Estimated average number of <u>recipients</u>	<u>Revised estimate</u>
	No.	\$b
HOAA	327 400	2.8
NOAA	107 800	0.8

The projected average number of recipients of HOAA and NOAA and the corresponding expenditure in 2003-04 are as follows:

	<u>2003-04</u>	
	Projected average number of <u>recipients</u> No.	Projected <u>expenditure</u> \$b
HOAA	342 600	2.9
NOAA	105 900	0.8

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB107

Question Serial No.

0447

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) According to the Government's original plan, ten additional Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) will be provided in 2002-03. However, the current estimated number of additional social centres for the same year is four less than originally planned. What is/are the reason(s) for the shortfall?
- (b) It is planned that most of the S/Es will be upgraded to Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) during 2003-04. What is the additional expenditure involved and what measure(s) will be taken to ensure the timely implementation of the upgrading plan?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The changes reflect the service re-engineering to implement recommendations arising from a consultancy study on elderly community centres. Of the ten S/Es with premises secured and originally planned for commencing in 2002-03, six were set up in the mode of four NECs and one District Elderly Community Centre (DECC) and have commenced operation. The slippage of the other four units, to be operated in the form of two DECCs, is due to site constraints and the lead time required for selecting an operator through invitation of quality-based proposals. They will commence service in 2003-04.

Reply Serial No.

HWFB108

Question Serial No.

0448

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) The estimated total number of Multi-service Centres for the Elderly (M/Es) in 2002-03 is 38, which is two less than the planned provision put forward last year. What is/are the reason(s) for the shortfall?
- (b) As for the upgrading of M/Es to District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), what is the additional expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) Two M/Es originally planned for service commencement in 2002-03 did not materialise because of project slippage due to site constraints and longer preparatory period. They will commence operation in 2003-04 in the form of DECC in line with the re-engineering of community elderly services.
- (b) Upon the re-engineering of community support services for elders, all the existing 35 M/Es will be upgraded to operate as DECCs. Together with the two Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) to be upgraded as DECC to meet district need in Tseung Kwan O, there will be a total of 36 DECCs achieved in the exercise. The total additional subvention injected by the department in upgrading these DECCs is about \$15 m.

We allow the centres to gradually transform within the year of 2003-04. However, we expect all upgraded centres to perform the enhanced functions by the last quarter in 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB109

Question Serial No.

0449

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure of the two District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) planned to be set up in 2003-04? Where will these centres be located?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The two DECCs to be set up in 2003-04 are located in Shan King Estate, Tuen Mun and Tak Tin Estate, Kwun Tong respectively. The estimated annual expenditure of these two DECCs is \$8 m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie LAM

Director of Social Welfare

19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB110

Question Serial No.

0450

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the programme "Services for Elders", a provision of \$3,557.9 m has been allocated in the 2003-04 Estimates for the promotion of the welfare of elders. What are the provisions for residential care services for elders and community support services for elders respectively, and the amount of provisions over the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The breakdown of the total financial provision for residential care services for elders and community support services for elders for 2003-04 and the previous three years are tabulated below:

Type of Service	2000-01 (Actual Expenditure) \$m	2001-02 (Actual Expenditure) \$m	2002-03 (Revised Estimate) \$m	2003-04 (Draft Estimate) \$m
Residential Care Services	1,762.1	1,940.4	2,103.3	2,257.5
Community Support Services	879.8	926.4	1,045.8	1,191.2
Central Support Services	98.9	111.7	107.4	109.2
Total	2,740.8	2,978.5	3,256.5	3,557.9

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie LAM

Director of Social Welfare

21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB111

Question Serial No.

0451

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (a) Did the additional 11 Day Care Centres for the Elderly planned in 2002-03 commence operation on time?
(b) What is the total amount of estimated provision for granting Dementia Supplement to residential care homes for the elderly? Does it represent any increase over that of last year?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) Six Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly commenced operation in 2002-03 as scheduled. As for the remaining five, two are co-located with residential care homes for the elderly and have been delayed to 2003-04 due to longer time taken in the allocation process. Another two projects were slipped due to delay in completion of construction work and one project was delayed due to site constraint.
(b) Provision for the allocation of Dementia Supplement to residential care homes for the elderly for 2003-04 is \$14 m. This represents a decrease by 2% as compared with that of 2002-03. The reduced provision reflects the salary reduction since October 2002.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB112

Question Serial No.

0555

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) As indicated in the Budget 2002-03, there would be an increase of 280 places in Day Care Centres for the Elderly (D/Es). Why are these places not provided as scheduled?
- (b) In 2003-04, additional day care places will be provided in residential care homes and District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs). In this regard, how many homes and centres are involved? In which districts are they located? What is the amount of financial resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) Among the 11 D/Es projects providing a total of 280 places, six projects comprising 160 places have commenced operation in 2002-03. However, five projects comprising 120 places did not commence service in 2002-03 due to various reasons. Two projects which are co-located with Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) have taken longer lead time to complete the allocation process while two projects encountered slippage due to delays in completion of construction work and one project has encountered some site constraints. We expect three of the five day care centres/units to commence operation in 2003-04 and the remaining two, with delayed completion of construction work, are targeted for operation in 2004-05.

(b) In 2003-04, three day care units each providing 20 places will be co-located with two RCHEs and one DECC respectively. The locations of these three day care units are:

- Attached to RCHE:
 - Tak Tin Estate, Kwun Tong; and
 - Fu Cheong Estate, Sham Shui Po
- Attached to the DECC
 - Shan King Estate, Tuen Mun

The financial resources for these three day care projects will involve \$2.9 m per year. In addition, we will provide 220 additional day care places through in-situ expansion and upgrading to provide continuum of care to demented elders at an extra provision of \$7.9 m per year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB113

Question Serial No.

0556

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Has the Social Welfare Department (SWD) planned to launch any publicity campaign on the prevention of elder abuse in 2003-04? If yes, what is the estimated financial provision?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Publicity and community education programmes on the prevention of elder abuse are part and parcel of the services provided by all existing Multi-service Centres for the Elderly which will be re-engineered to become District Elderly Community Centres in April 2003. As such, the resources earmarked specifically for publicity activities on prevention of elder abuse cannot be separately ascertained.

In addition to these programmes, a total of \$5.4 m from the Lotteries Fund (LF) has been provided to Caritas-Hong Kong and Haven of Hope Christian Service to implement two three-year pilot projects designated to combat elder abuse from April 2001 to March 2004. These two projects provide various types of services, which, inter alia, include publicity/community education programmes. Between April 2001 and January 2003, 498 publicity/community education programmes were conducted under these two projects.

Moreover, the Hong Kong Christian Service has also been granted \$2.3 m from the LF to launch a two-year Project on

Elder Abuse Research and Protocol from February 2002 to January 2004. Among others, seminars and briefing sessions relating to the findings of the research and the development of the protocol are organised to promote the awareness of concerned professionals about elder abuse.

Lastly, SWD has launched a publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” from August 2002 to July 2003 with a non-recurrent fund of \$1.9 m. Prevention of elder abuse is one of the issues addressed in this campaign which includes slogan and poster competitions, production of Television Announcement of Public Interest, radio series, “Resilient Family Ambassador” Award, display of roadside banners, plywood boards and posters etc. Another non-recurrent commitment of \$0.5 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 to continue the campaign.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB114

Question Serial No.

0557

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) The Government planned to provide 675 additional care and attention home places and 1 155 private home places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) in 2002-03. However, the estimated number of these two types of places for 2002-03 as listed in this year's Estimates falls short of the planned number. What is/are the reason(s) for the shortfall? What is the exact number of additional care and attention home places and private home enhanced bought places provided and how many of these places are grouped under the category of contract home places?
 - (b) What measures will be taken in 2003-04 to encourage more care facilities for elders to provide carers' support service and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

- Reply :
- (a) In 2002-03, an additional 418 care and attention home places and 199 contract home places have been provided. The shortfall in the provision of care and attention home places is due to a smaller than expected capacity for in-situ expansion programme in the existing homes. As regards the EBPS, no additional places have been purchased within 2002-03 in view of the slower than expected take-up rate of the last batch of 1 359 EBPS places bought in early 2002 (i.e. the last quarter in the 2001-02 financial year) and a review of the additional provision of

EBPS vis-à-vis supply of subsidised places through contract homes against the current fiscal stringency and elders' general preference for purpose-built Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs). Nonetheless, in consultation with the private homes associations, we are drawing up a programme to buy additional EBPS places in 2003-04. The exact number and timing will be decided shortly.

- (b) Since 2001-02, all new community care services such as Enhanced Home and Community Care Services, District Elderly Community Centre (DECC) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centre (NEC) and residential care service (including Day Care Unit attached to contract RCHEs) have incorporated carers' support service as one of their service components. Besides, carers' support service will become one of the essential service components in all the re-engineered community support services for elders including the centre-based and home-based services to be implemented in April 2003. The service includes provision of carers' support training, mutual help groups, loan and demonstration on use of rehabilitative aids and programmes to alleviate carers' stress etc. The service operators are given full flexibility to employ appropriate staff to deliver carers' support service among the expanded functions.

The total recurrent funding required to upgrade the centre-based and home-based services into 110 NECs, 36 DECCs and 138 Integrated Home Care Services Teams is \$98.8 m. As carers' support service is part and parcel of the scope of services provided, we cannot separately identify the cost of this particular service component.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB115

Question Serial No.

0558

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What measures will be taken in 2003-04 to promote the wider use of computers and Information Technology (IT) amongst elders and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented various measures to promote wider use of computers and IT among elders. Having secured a total funding of \$2.2 m from various sources, such as Lotteries Fund (LF), fund from Information Technology Services Department and Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund, SWD has launched three batches of territory-wide "IT Awareness Programme for Elders" providing totally 16 500 free training places to elders from 2000 to 2003. Besides, a grant of \$0.1 m was also secured from LF to train up 500 volunteers including seniors and staff members of the elderly service units to equip them with technical knowledge and skills in coaching elders to use personal computers and IT.

Supported by a further LF grant of \$6.1 m, SWD has installed a total of 284 sets of personal computers at all Multi-service Centres for the Elderly and Social Centres for the Elderly by end 2001. Besides, another grant of \$3.4 m from LF was also secured to support two-year Internet access to these centres from October 2001 to September 2003.

To further encourage elders to learn IT, SWD will continue the provision of personal computers for use by elders in all new centres coming on stream. Furthermore, SWD will encourage elderly service centres to organise more IT training programmes to train up elders to learn using IT. They can seek funding support from “Opportunities for the Elderly Project” of SWD and other trust funds for such purposes. Besides, they can also solicit the assistance of volunteers of all ages to assist elderly members of their centres to use personal computers, enjoy Internet browsing and e-mail communication.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB116

Question Serial No.

0559

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many additional training places for health workers will be provided in 2003-04 and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : An allocation of \$3.3 m was obtained from the Lotteries Fund (LF) in July 2002 to subsidise a total provision of 1 100 training places for health workers from 2002-03 to 2003-04. The subsidised health worker training courses are organised in two phases from October 2002 to September 2003. In 2002-03, a total of 782 training places for health workers were provided. In 2003-04, an additional 318 subsidised training places for health workers would be provided to further upgrade the care capability of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly. The estimated expenditure for these 318 subsidised training places to be provided in 2003-04 is \$1.0 m (within the \$3.3 m LF grant mentioned above).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB117

Question Serial No.

0578

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department will extend the Infirmary Care Supplement (ICS) to cover private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). What is the estimated provision for this?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The allocation of ICS is to be extended to frail elders receiving subsidised service in private Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) under the EBPS. In 2003-04, the provision for ICS allocation to EBPS homes and subvented RCHEs is \$29.3 m. The exact allocation will depend on the number of frail elders eligible for ICS in the concerned homes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB118

Question Serial No.

0639

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) formed in April 2002, would the Administration inform us on the following:

- (1) the financial provision of each centre per year; and
- (2) how the Administration assess the effectiveness of these centres.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : (1) The 15 pilot IFSCs are set up by integrating existing Family Services Centres and other community-based service units either through transformation, merging or strategic alliance, with manpower coming from existing service units. The transformation was done on a cost-neutral basis as far as recurrent subventions are concerned. However, to help kick start the pilots, we have provided to each pilot IFSC time-limited resources comprising \$0.13 m for two Programme Assistants and \$0.1 m to meet expenses such as publicity, programmes, staff training etc. per year for two years. The latter is funded through a Lotteries Fund grant of \$4.7 m which also meets the cost of an evaluative study estimated at \$1.3 m and provides a contingency of \$0.4 m.

- (2) The Social Welfare Department has commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluative study of all the pilot IFSCs to assess the effectiveness and implementation arrangements of this new service delivery model and its various modes, with a view to recommending the most cost-effective approach for future practice.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB119

Question Serial No.

0640

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Health, Welfare
and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : One of the matters requiring special attention of the Social Welfare Department in 2003-04 is the further review of social security arrangements. Could the Government provide information on –

- (1) the details and scope of the review?
- (2) whether the Government has set a timetable for the review?
- (3) the amount of resources earmarked for this initiative?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

- Reply :
- (1) Government will undertake the review of existing social security arrangements with a view to implementing an effective and sustainable safety net, particularly through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, to assist the financially vulnerable. Our objective is to provide a basic safety net for those least able to help themselves and assist the employable to become self-reliant.
 - (2) Given the complexity of issues involved, our first task is to examine and prioritise the issues to be addressed. Therefore at this stage no specific timetable has been set for undertaking this review. However some related work, such as following up the recommendation of the Population Policy Report to revise the eligibility criterion for CSSA so that such benefits should, from a future date, be available only to residents who comply with a seven-year residence rule (children under the age of 18 will be exempted and residents already in Hong Kong before implementation of the new rule will not be affected) has started.
 - (3) Work relating to the review will be carried out using existing resources in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) and Social Welfare Department (SWD). In the HWFB, this will be part of the work in elderly policy of a Deputy Secretary and his team. In SWD, the Assistant Director (Social Security) and other supporting staff will provide the HWFB with the necessary input as necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB120

Question Serial No.

0641

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It was included in matters requiring the Social Welfare Department's special attention in 2003-04 that the Administration will assess the effectiveness of the Ending Exclusion Project (EEP). Would the Administration inform us of:

- (1) How the Administration assess the effectiveness of the EEP; and
- (2) What are the provision for implementing the EEP in 2002-03 and the estimated provision for 2003-04? How does the Administration assess the effectiveness of the Project initially?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : (1) The EEP aims to encourage and assist Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) single parent families to reduce the risk of social exclusion and improve their family living through employment. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) would evaluate the effectiveness of the Project in terms of the following areas of outcome:

- (a) improved awareness of the need for 'social participation';
- (b) improvement in psychological well-being (e.g. self-esteem);
- (c) improved awareness of the need to establish self-reliance;
- (d) recognition of the importance of employment; and
- (e) success in gaining employment.

- (2) The provision for implementing the EEP was estimated at about \$8.5 m per year for engaging 30 extra non-civil service contract Employment Assistance Co-ordinators, providing extra Programme Assistants to the Single Parent Centres and spending on 300 after-school-care-programme eligibility certificates.

SWD has commissioned a research team from the City University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct a one-year longitudinal study to evaluate the effectiveness of the Project and the study would be completed by September 2003. According to the administrative records kept by SWD, covering the one-year period from March 2002 to February 2003, a total of 2 442 CSSA single parent recipients including 678 (27.8%) single fathers and 1 764 (72.2%) single mothers had joined the Project. Of these, 1 324 (54.2%) considered themselves to be job ready, and among them, 272 (20.5%) had succeeded in securing employment after joining the Project. Of the 1 118 (45.8% of total) non-job ready participants, 1 037 (92.8%) had been referred to Single Parent Centres for appropriate services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB121

Question Serial No.

0642

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the financial provision for social security will be \$23.047 b. How will the provision be allocated and what is the proportion of allocation?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : A breakdown of the financial provision for 2003-04 for social security is as follows:

	Amount \$m	Proportion %
Comprehensive social security assistance scheme	17,030.0	73.9
Social security allowance scheme	5,350.0	23.2
Traffic accident victims assistance scheme	23.0	0.1
Criminal and law enforcement injuries compensation scheme	8.9	-
Emergency relief	1.0	-
Personal emoluments	478.6	2.1
General departmental expenses	130.2	0.6
Programme and training expenses	1.6	-
Agent's commission and expenses	3.9	-
Non-recurrent expenses on Intensive Employment Assistance Fund and Grant to Emergency Relief Fund	20.1	0.1
Subvention to Red Cross for distributing relief items	0.5	-
	23,047.8	100.0

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie LAM

Director of Social Welfare

19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB122

Question Serial No.

0643

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention for the Social Welfare Department in 2003-04, the department will "enhance the Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases". In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) what difference is made as a result of the launching of the enhanced Central Information System as against the existing system of recording battered spouse cases according to their classification?
- (2) the additional resources required.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : (1) The existing Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases which captures statistics on spouse battering will be enhanced through expansion of the database to include information on sexual violence cases and more data of battered spouse cases, eg. occupation of the victims and batterers, years of residence of the batterers, whether the victim is a mentally incapacitated person, whether weapon has been used by the batterer, etc.

- (2) A one-off amount of \$0.2 m has been earmarked for the enhancement of the computerised system. No additional cost is required for the on-going operation of the enhanced system. The related recurrent cost will be absorbed in the existing provision.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

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

HWFB123

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

0644

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Programme (3), a total of 3 markets are being planned/considered by the Government. Please list the locations and outline the progress of the current planning/consideration process.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

We are considering the various options for the reprovisioning of three markets, namely, the wholesale fruit market at Yau Ma Tei, the Vegetable Marketing Organization wholesale vegetable market at Lai Chi Kok Road, Cheung Sha Wan and the temporary wholesale poultry market at Hing Wah Street, Cheung Sha Wan.

We have consulted the wholesalers involved on building a multi-trade, multi-storey market complex at the West Kowloon Reclamation Area, Cheung Sha Wan to centralize all wholesale activities of fresh food produce in Kowloon including the markets mentioned above under one roof. We are now reviewing the need and other options available to reprovision these markets taking into account the current economic environment, land demand and the traders' concerns.

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**

HWFB124

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0645

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many prosecutions were instigated in 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively for the control of destructive fishing under Programme (4)? How many of them were successful? Please set out the penalties imposed in these successful cases.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In the three years from 2000 to 2002, we instituted a total of 25 prosecutions against destructive fishing practices. Apart from one case pending court hearing, all the offenders were convicted and the total penalties imposed are as follows :

Year	No. of successful prosecutions	Penalties (total fines)
2000	3	\$6,000
2001	10	\$10,600
2002	11	\$16,500

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.

HWFB125

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0598

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Since the salaries of officers at D3 or below will be reduced by 3% in January next year, the staff cost of the department will then be reduced. The total estimated expenditure of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2003-04 is \$4,404.2 m. This is \$50 m (i.e. approximately 1.1%) higher than the revised expenditure in 2002-03. The estimated increase in the expenditure is reflected in all Programmes (except the Programme of Public Education and Community Involvement). Please advise on the following:

1. How will the savings achieved from staff salaries, together with the additional provision for expenditure, be used in 2003-04? What are the reasons?
2. With regard to Programme (2), what is the amount of additional funds required for strengthening the recyclable waste collection service in 2003-04? How will the Government strengthen the service?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. The 2003-04 expenditure estimates have not reflected the proposed 3% civil service salary reduction to be implemented from 1.1.2004. The increase in provision, as compared to the 2002-03 revised estimate, is mainly due to the following:
 - (a) additional provision for combating dengue fever;
 - (b) provision for managing a new market expected to be commissioned in 2003-04;

/(c)...

- (c) provision for providing public cleansing services to newly developed areas;
 - (d) additional provision for extending recyclable waste collection service; and
 - (e) full year provision for new services, new facilities and service enhancements introduced in 2002-03.
2. We will enhance the recyclable waste collection service by increasing the number of waste separation bin locations from 1 000 to 2 000. The additional provision is \$2.8 m per annum.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2003</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB126

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0600

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The work of FEHD under this Programme involves “licensing and inspecting food premises, and taking law enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises”. With regard to the law enforcement actions taken against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises, how many summons were issued in respect of unlicensed and unhygienic food premises respectively by FEHD staff in 2002-03? Is there any increase in the number of summons issued as compared with those in 2001-02? If so, what is the increase? What is the average cost for each prosecution case in 2001-02? How much additional resources are required as a result of an increase in prosecutions in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) In 2002, the Department took out 2 306 prosecutions against offenders for conducting food business without a valid food business licence and 102 prosecutions for not keeping the food premises clean. Compared with 2001, these numbers were reduced by 512 and 111 respectively.
- (b) No costing exercise has been conducted on the prosecution work per se. The average cost for each prosecution case in 2001-02 is therefore not available. Any additional work caused by an increase in prosecutions will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ **GREGORY LEUNG**

Director of Food and
Post Title_____ **Environmental Hygiene**

Date_____ **20 March 2003**

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB127

Question Serial No.

0646

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Among the indicators under Programme (1), "the number of vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office" in 2002 has been reduced by over 8 000 as compared with that in 2001. What are the reasons for the reduction? What is the expenditure required for such inspection in these 2 years?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The decrease in the number of inspections on vehicles carrying vegetables is due to the decreased number of such vehicles crossing the border as importers have switched to using vehicles of larger capacity.

The expenditure involved for vegetable inspection and other food inspections at Man Kam To Food Control Office is around \$8.5 m and for the testing of food samples at the Man Kam To Food Laboratory is around \$8.3 m for both 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB128

Question Serial No.

0647

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the indicators under Programme (1), the number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies has been increased from 235 528 in 2001 to 269 790 in 2002, representing a rise of over 30 000. What is the reason for such a substantial increase?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The increase in the number of blood samples taken in 2002 was mainly due to the enhancement of the surveillance system after the 2001 outbreak with blood samples also taken at the wholesale market.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB129

Question Serial No.

0648

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of programme (1), among the *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04*, the Government has pointed out that it will strengthen control of veterinary drug residues in food animals. What are the specific measures?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

To strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food animals and their products, the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation and the Harmful Substances in Food (Amendment) Regulation 2001 have been made to control the use of 7 prohibited and 37 restricted agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food animals and their products. Phase 1 and Phase II of the implementation of the Regulations have commenced on 31 December 2001 and 31 January 2003 respectively, bringing into effect the control over a total of 7 prohibited and 19 restricted chemicals. Relevant samples are taken under our regular monitoring programme to ensure that they do not contain prohibited chemicals or restricted chemicals exceeding the maximum residue limits. The remaining 18 restricted chemicals will be dealt with in subsequent phases of implementation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB130

Question Serial No.

0649

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under programme (1), how many complaints about food labelling were received in 2002 and how many of them have been substantiated? Upon receipt of and investigation into these complaints, how many warning letters have been issued and what is the number of prosecutions instituted? What are the results of these prosecutions?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The number of complaints on food labelling in 2002 was 131, of which 11 were substantiated. As a result of investigation, 4 of these cases were dealt with by warning letters and 7 cases have been prosecuted, including 4 having been found guilty and 3 pending trial. The average fine of the convicted cases was about \$1,100.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB131

Question Serial No.

0650

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Programme (1), the Government has started to conduct inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong since last year. What is the estimated expenditure so required in 2003? Since staff have to be deployed to conduct inspections in the Mainland, will allowances be provided for them? If so, what kind of allowance will be provided and how much per inspection?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the inspection of Mainland farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong in 2003-04 is \$1.6 m. Officers on duty to the Mainland are eligible for a subsistence allowance to cover expenses such as within city travelling and accommodation. The daily rate varies from RMB1,220 to RMB1,659 depending on the city visited.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Date _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB132

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0651

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the indicators under Programme (2), the total amount of sludge collected by gully emptiers has been decreasing noticeably year after year. What are the reasons? What are the expenditures required for sludge collection from 2001 to 2003 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The Department has since September 2002 outsourced 70% of its mechanized gully cleansing service. As we require the contractor to dewater the sludge, the total weight of sludge disposed of in 2003 is estimated to be much reduced.

The recurrent expenditure required for mechanized gully cleansing service for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is around \$12.3 m, \$9.6 m and \$7.1 m respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB133

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0652

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the hawker control work under Programme (3), please list out the actual and revised expenditure for the past three years and the estimated expenditure for 2003-04. Please also list out the number of staff of Hawker Control Teams for the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The information sought is provided as follows:

(a) Actual and revised estimated expenditure

<u>2000/01</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2001/02</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2002/03</u> <u>Revised</u> <u>Estimates</u>	<u>2003/04</u> <u>Draft</u> <u>Estimates</u>
\$ 1,035 m	\$ 1,015 m	\$ 990 m	\$ 990 m

(b) Number of Hawker Control Team staff

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
3 198	2 990	2 945

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB134

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0653

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (3), please list out the respective numbers of summons issued to unlicensed hawkers and successful prosecutions instituted in 2002. Please also state the general reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The information sought is provided as follows -

	<u>2002</u>
No. of prosecutions	19 320
No. of convictions (i.e. successful prosecutions)	19 256

The acquittals were mainly due to the court giving the benefit of the doubt to the defendants.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ **GREGORY LEUNG**

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date_____ 20 March 2003

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

HWFB135

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0654

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (3), the number of hawker blackspots in 2002 is 71, being 7 less than that in 2001. Where are these 7 blackspots? On what basis are they deleted from the list? It is estimated that the number of hawker blackspots in 2003 will be 69, a further reduction of 2 as compared with that in 2002. What is the basis for the estimation?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

A location is classified as a hawker blackspot if, at any time during a hawker survey, there is an assembly of 10 or more unlicensed hawkers or five or more unlicensed cooked food hawkers. When the number of unlicensed hawkers at a particular location drops below the aforesaid threshold, the location will be removed from the list. The net decrease of seven hawker blackspots in 2002 was the result of the removal of 17 blackspots, and the addition of 10 new blackspots. A list of the 17 blackspots deleted is provided at Annex.

Two more deletions are estimated for 2003 because the number of unlicensed hawkers in two existing blackspots is projected to fall below 10 on the basis of the results of quarterly hawker surveys conducted in 2002.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

Locations deleted from the list of hawker blackspots in 2002

No.	District	Location
1	Western	Centre Street and Water Street Including Centre Street Market and Sai Ying Pun Market
2		Shek Tong Tsui area including Shek Tong Tsui Market protection, Chong Yip Centre and Hill Road
3		Upper Lascar Row including Sheung Wan Market
4	Southern	Waterfall Bay
5		Chengtu Road Junction of Nam Ning Street
6		Stanley Area
7	Islands	Tung Chung, Lantau Island
8	Sham Shui Po	Lai Wan Road, Mei Foo Bus Terminus and Vicinities
9		Kweilin Street & Kilung Street
10		Tai Nam Street
11	Kwai Tsing	Cheung On Estate
12	Sai Kung	Tong Ming Street near Bus Terminus outside Sheung Tak Estate
13		Po Fung Road outside Po Kim House, Po Lam Estate
14	Tuen Mun	Kai Fat Path
15	Yuen Long	Tin Yiu LRT Station
16		Tin Shui LRT Station
17		Yuen Long Castle Peak Road

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB136

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0599

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The work of FEHD under this Programme involves “licensing and inspecting food premises, and taking law enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises”. With regard to licensing,

- (a) please list out the respective numbers of food business licences issued and renewed in 2002-03;
- (b) please provide a breakdown of other food-related licences (including liquor licences, food factory licences and bakery licences) issued and renewed in 2002-03;
- (c) following the implementation of “one-stop” system in respect of the issuing of different food business licences in recent years, how many calendar days (or working days) are required on average to grant a licence? Have the licensing procedures been speeded up? If so, how many days have been advanced? What are the additional resources and manpower required for the implementation of the “one-stop” system in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) In 2002, the Department issued 1 796 new food business licences and renewed 16 463 existing ones.

- (b) In 2002, the breakdown of food-related licences issued and renewed is as follows –

Type of Licence	New Issue	Renewal
General Restaurant	585	6 621
Light Refreshment Restaurant	277	2 175
Marine Restaurant	0	2
Bakery	77	960
Cold Store	0	28
Factory Canteen	25	454
Food Factory	508	2 552
Fresh Provision Shop	227	2 805
Frozen Confection Factory	33	500
Milk Factory	0	7
Siu Mei & Lo Mei Shop	64	359
Liquor	578	4 213

- (c) In 2002, the average lead time (working days) required to issue a licence was: 186 days for a full restaurant licence, 150 days for a full licence for food business other than restaurant, and 62 days for all provisional food business licences.

Since the establishment of the Department in 2000, we have streamlined the licensing procedures to shorten the licensing process. Compared with 1999, we have reduced the average lead time for granting a licence as follows –

<u>Licence Type</u>	<u>No. of Working Days Reduced</u>
(i) Full restaurant licence	129
(ii) Full food business licence other than restaurants	17
(iii) Provisional restaurant licence	126
(iv) Provisional food business licence other than restaurants	46

The implementation of the “one-stop” system is undertaken by existing staff and no additional staff resources are required.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB137

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 4 Curative Care

0519

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Department's plan to transfer the General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04 (Estimate), please provide details of :

- the timetable of the arrangements;
- savings in resources; and
- the number of staff on transfer as a result of the arrangements, and their professional grades, ranks and years of service.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) will transfer the management of its 59 GOPCs to the Hospital Authority (HA) in July 2003. This will be a cost neutral exercise. DH will transfer the recurrent staff costs and departmental expenses for operating the 59 GOPCs to HA.

About 800 GOPC staff in medical, nursing, dispensing, general and common grades will continue to work in the GOPCs and retain their civil servant status. They have an average of 15 years' service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB138

Question Serial No.

0713

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to provide training courses for social workers and professionals on handling child abuse, domestic violence and suicide cases. With regard to these courses, please provide information on the following:

- (1) the financial provision required;
- (2) the contents of the courses and the number of people to be trained; and
- (3) apart from social workers, what other professionals can attend the courses.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In 2003-04, SWD will provide three local training courses and a two-week training package by overseas experts for 300 helping professionals from different disciplines, including social workers, clinical psychologists, teachers, medical and nursing staff, and police officers to better equip them in identifying and handling cases involving child abuse and domestic violence. The training will cover multi-disciplinary collaboration, intervention and clinical skills, as well as group work intervention. The estimated budget for the four training programmes is about \$129,000.

Regarding training on handling suicide cases, the department will provide, in 2003-04, three training programmes for 160 social workers with special training focus on prevention of high-risk suicide/violence cases and post-trauma intervention skills. The estimated budget for the three training programmes is about \$130,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB139

Question Serial No.

0714

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As indicated in the 2003-04 Estimates, the average cost per place per month of providing residential services by the government sector and the subvented sector is \$12,510 and \$9,445 respectively, representing a difference of more than \$3,000. The average cost per place per month of providing day services by the government sector and the subvented sector is \$8,106 and \$6,426 respectively. Why is there such a great difference between the two sectors in the cost of providing these services?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : As explained in paragraph 2 of the Controlling Officer's Report, average unit costs for the government and subvented sectors are not directly comparable. In the subvented sector, the cost figures reflect the net provision (i.e. after deduction of fees) required for providing the services. Whereas in the government sector, they are gross cost figures without discounting fees which are treated as general revenue, but on the other hand, they reflect only provision under the control of the Director of Social Welfare (e.g. cost of civil service fringe benefits are excluded). That said, based on an internal value for money study conducted on sheltered workshop and supported employment, we recognise that departmental operation of such direct services, the bulk of which are already run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), is generally more expensive than NGO operation. Thus, to improve on cost-effectiveness and to enable the department to focus on its core businesses, we are embarking on a plan to hive off departmental units to NGOs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB140

Question Serial No.

0715

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of residential services, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the current average waiting time for each type of residential facilities;
- (2) the initial estimated number of additional places required for each type of residential services in 2003-04 as it is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 of the Estimates that the Social Welfare Department will provide "additional day and residential places" during the year; and
- (3) the estimated additional expenditure required in 2003-04 for the provision of each type of residential services.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : For the various residential rehabilitation services, the average waiting time in 2002, the planned additional places in 2003-04 and the financial provision for these additional places are as follows:

	Average waiting time (months) in 2002	Planned additional places in 2003-04	Additional provision for planned places 2003-04 \$m
Residential Services			
Long Stay Care Home	94	-	-
Halfway House	5	-	-

Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped	37	80	4.0
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped	40	100	6.2
Care & Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	29	50	4.0
Hostel for Physically Handicapped	22	-	-
Home for the Aged Blind	22	-	-
Care & Attention Home for the Aged Blind	11	-	-
Supported Hostel	13	20	0.6
Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children	12	-	-

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB141

Question Serial No.

0716

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated provision required in 2003-04 for conducting "the study on the residential care services for ex-mentally ill persons"? What is the scope of the study and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The study is to be undertaken in-house by existing staff of the Social Welfare Department. No additional funding provision is required in 2003-04. A multi-disciplinary working group has been set up with the participation of service operators, service users, psychiatrists etc. to carry out the study. The study will review the different modes of residential care for the ex-mentally ill persons, examine the profiles of the existing residents and waitlistees, find out their care needs and devise a standardised assessment tool for admission to residential care with a view to achieving efficient and flexible use of resources as well as meeting the genuine needs of the ex-mentally ill persons. The study will be completed within 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB142

Question Serial No.

0717

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the estimated resources and provision required in 2003-04 for devising "a standardised assessment mechanism to identify those people with disabilities in need of residential services"? What is the scope of such work in detail and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : To review the admission criteria and improve the admission process for different types of residential services, the Social Welfare Department has set up a steering group comprising representatives from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Hospital Authority, non-governmental organisations, special school, parents associations, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service as well as various professionals in the rehabilitation field. A task group has been formed under the auspices of the Steering Group to devise the standardised assessment tool.

The assessment tool will cover areas such as the applicant's nursing care needs, functioning levels, challenging behaviour, the family's coping ability as well as other risk factors. The design of the assessment tool is still at its preliminary stage. When a draft is ready, we will consult the Steering Group and other stakeholders in particular the parents associations thoroughly, before conducting a pilot test on the assessment tool later in the year.

The department will absorb the cost of developing the standardised assessment tool; no additional resources or allocations are required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB143

Question Serial No.

0718

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will extend the service hours of medical social services in major hospitals in 2003-04. What are the extended service hours and which hospitals will provide the extended-hour service?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : With effect from 1 April 2003, the service hours of medical social services at six major acute hospitals will be extended to 8:00pm from Monday to Friday and 3:00pm on Saturday. These six major acute hospitals are:

- Queen Mary Hospital
- Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- Princess Margaret Hospital
- Prince of Wales Hospital
- Tuen Mun Hospital

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB144

Question Serial No.

0719

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please state the respective financial provision required for probation services, probation homes, probation hostel and reformatory school for 2002-03. What is the recidivism rate of persons receiving these services?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The allocation for Probation Services, Probation Homes, Probation Hostel and Reformatory School for the year of 2002-03 is listed below:

Service	Allocation for 2002-03 (\$m)
Probation Services	91.6
Probation Homes/Hostel	47.3
Reformatory School	17.7

The recidivism rate for 2002-03 is not yet available. A summary of recidivism rates for the past three years is given below:

Service	Recidivism rate # (%)		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Probation Services	20	21	19
Probation Homes/ Hostel	28	21	21
Reformatory School *	37	28	53

Recidivism rate refers to the percentage of cases with conviction of further offence against the total number of expired/discharged cases within a specific period of time.

* There is only one reformatory school to cater for the needs of the most hardcore cases. The small capacity of the school and the number of dischargees failing to complete the school order account for the relatively higher recidivism rate of the school.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB145

Question Serial No.

0720

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the admission rate of probation homes, probation hostel, reformatory school and remand homes/places of refuge, would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) the actual admission rate in 2002-03 and the estimated admission rate for 2003-04.
- (2) as the cost per resident for these services is quite high, will the Administration carry out measures in 2003-04 to reduce the expenditure of these services? Has the Administration implemented any measures in 2002-03 in order to achieve savings and make better use of resources?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (1) The estimated enrolment rate of the correctional/residential homes for the year of 2002-03 is listed below:

Homes	Enrolment (%)
Probation Homes	75.5
Probation Hostel	91.5
Reformatory School	73.3
Remand Homes/Places of Refuge	51.3

Various factors like crime rate, court disposals, and the length of stay as ordered by Court would affect the enrolment of the correctional/residential homes. We are therefore simply using the latest available actual

enrolment of these facilities as the estimated enrolment for the coming year.

- (2) The cost-effectiveness of the correctional/residential homes has been under very close monitoring by the department and various measures such as reduction in capacities and adjusting staffing provision have been carried out in previous years to achieve greater economy. As a long term solution to the problem of high operating cost, the department is proceeding with the development of a training and residential complex for young offenders and juveniles through co-location of the existing homes. The co-location project will have the benefit of synergy and integration of services in addition to economy of scale for shared use of common facilities by different target residents.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB146

Question Serial No.

0721

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 177 Subhead(No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : 03 Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As shown in the Budget, the Government will reduce the number of general beds by 1,200 in 2003-04. Please give a breakdown of the types and numbers of beds to be deleted in each hospital.

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) has not finalized its plan on the number of general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 at the hospital level. The distribution by hospital cluster of the 1 200 general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 is as follows:

Cluster	Number of beds
Hong Kong West	376
Hong Kong East	94
Kowloon East	0
Kowloon Central	120
Kowloon West	390
New Territories East	220
New Territories West	0
Total	1 200

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead(No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) The block vote for the Hospital Authority (HA) for 2003-04 is reduced by 1.1% (\$327M), i.e. less than the anticipated reduction of 1.8%. It is noted that HA is allocated additional provision taking into account population growth, the takeover of general out-patient clinics from the Department of Health, the provision of Chinese medicine out-patient services, the enhancement of elderly suicide prevention services and a rehabilitation programme for patients with mental illness. Please provide a breakdown of the additional provision and the items for which additional provision is made.
- (b) Please provide a detailed breakdown for HA's "other charges" of \$5.849 billion for 2003-04 and make a comparison with those for 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing Lok

Reply :

- (a) Additional funding to be provided to the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04 are set out below :

Service	Amount \$M
Additional provision to take into account population growth	301
Transfer of 59 general outpatient clinics from the Department of Health	368
Provision of Chinese medicine outpatient services	14
Enhancement of the Elderly Suicide Prevention Programme	17
Enhancement of the EXTended-care patients Intensive Treatment, Early diversion and Rehabilitation Stepping-stone (EXITERS) Project	15

- (b) The major expenditure components of “other charges” for 2001-02 to 2003-04 are set out below –

Item	Percentage share		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Purchase of drugs and medical consumables	45%	46%	43%
Equipment and building maintenance	19%	19%	19%
Utilities such as electricity, water and gas	12%	12%	13%
Others (such as hospital and office supplies, and costs of out-sourcing)	24%	23%	25%

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 22 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB148

Question Serial No.

0723

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

Head : 177 Subhead(No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the estimate for 2003-04, the number of nursing staff will only be 30 short of that in 2002-03. With the introduction of the HA's Voluntary Early Retirement Programme, what is the estimated number of nursing staff who will be given approval for leaving the service? How many new nursing staff will be recruited to fill the vacancies? What will be the estimated savings in salary and benefits as a result?

Asked by : Hon LO Wing-lok

Reply :

The Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Programme of the Hospital Authority (HA) was open for application during 2 December 2002 and 1 March 2003. HA management is going through all the applications with a view to approving successful applications in April 2003. The number of nursing staff to be approved under the VER Programme and the amount of savings in terms of salary and benefits to be achieved will only be available upon approval of the applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB149

Question Serial No.

0724

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

Head : 177 Subhead(No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As at 31 March 2002, the number of discharges and deaths totalled 899,941 as far as in-patients in hospitals managed by the Hospital Authority are concerned. What is the respective number of discharges and deaths? The number of discharges and deaths in 2003-04 is estimated to be 867,610. Please give the estimated number of discharges and deaths respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

In 2001-02, hospitals managed by the Hospital Authority (HA) handled 872 021 in-patient discharges and 27 920 in-patient deaths.

The projected number of in-patient discharges and deaths in 2003-04 is 867 610. HA will continue to improve the quality of its clinical care. In this regard, HA expects the standardized mortality rate for 2003-04 will not be higher than that of 2002-03, i.e. 4 hospital deaths per 1 000 population.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 21 March 2003 _____

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

HWFB150

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0769

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the Administration will draw up legislative proposals to extend import control to animal products and feeds to prevent animal diseases. What kind of animal diseases will be prevented through this measure? When will the legislative proposals be submitted to the Legislative Council for consideration?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Legislative proposals to extend import control to animal products and feeds to prevent animal disease includes diseases such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE), foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever and other internationally recognized infectious animal and birds diseases that can be transmitted by fodder or animal products. The proposals will also empower the Government to control the import of animal products and feeds that may be contaminated by chemical toxins such as dioxins or radioactive contaminants. As the issues require rather extensive legislative changes, we are now in the process of working out the concepts in details. We shall submit the proposals to the Legislative Council once the necessary law drafting has been completed.

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**

HWFB151

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0770

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In connection with the prevention of avian influenza,

- (a) What is the progress in chicken vaccination? What are the amounts of public funds involved last year and in the coming year? What is the average cost for each chicken?
- (b) Apart from vaccination, what specific measures will the Administration take in the coming year to prevent avian influenza? What is the amount of public funds involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) The trial vaccination programme started in April 2002. As a result of the recent avian flu outbreak, all chicken flocks in Hong Kong have been vaccinated by end February 2003 to control the recurrence of avian flu outbreaks. The cost incurred by AFCD in 2002-03 was \$2 million. The Administration will review the results of the trial vaccination programme and establish the roles of vaccination in the control of avian influenza in April. If vaccination is adopted, chicken farmers are expected to purchase their own vaccines. The average cost for vaccinating a chicken is \$0.5.
- (b) Apart from considering vaccination, the Administration adopts a multi-pronged approach to prevent the recurrence of avian influenza outbreaks. These measures include enhancing the biosecurity level of local farms, improving the hygiene conditions of wholesale market and retail markets; and enhancing the monitoring and surveillance programme to rapidly detect and control any incursion of avian influenza. AFCD will spend \$13.7 million on these activities in 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB152

Question Serial No.

0709

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): -
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The approved provision allotted to the programme of social welfare in 2002-03 was over \$65 million. Yet the revised provision turns out to be over \$51 million, representing a drop by 21.9%. Why is this so? What are the major areas of savings?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

The 2002-03 revised estimate under Programme (2) Social Welfare is approximately \$14 million less than the approved provision in 2002-03. This is mainly attributable to:

- (a) the re-scheduling of the “Legal Representation Scheme for Children/Juveniles in Care or Protection Proceedings” which we originally planned to implement in 2002-03; and
- (b) the fact that no applications have been received under the “Financial Assistance Scheme for Family Members of Those Who Sacrifice Their Lives to Save Others”.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB153

Question Serial No.

0710

Head: 149-Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Matters Requiring Special Attention by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in 2003-04 include "to promote the self-reliance and employment opportunities of people with disabilities". Please provide details of the work involved and the provision required.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

The Rehabilitation Division of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is responsible for formulating and co-ordinating policies and programmes relating to people with disabilities (PWDs). Among other things, it oversees the implementation of programmes launched by various departments including Social Welfare Department and Labour Department which promote self-reliance and employment of PWDs. In addition, it controls the funding for subvention granted to the Vocational Training Council to operate 3 skill training centres, the objective of which is to equip PWDs for open employment. Provision of \$117,948,000 has been included in the 2003-04 Estimates under Head 176 Subhead 521 to subvent these centres.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 19 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB154

Question Serial No.

0711

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & Title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As regards the proposed introduction of legislative proposals to the Adoption Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance in 2003-04, please provide further details on the work involved and the proposed amendments.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

As announced in the 2003 Policy Agenda, the Government plans to introduce the Adoption (Amendment) Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the current legislative session, in order to –

- (a) bring the local adoption system up-to-date and introduce new measures, such as prohibiting private arrangements for unrelated adoption, imposing a mandatory criminal record check on applicants; and
- (b) facilitate international cooperation in inter-country adoption, by giving effect to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

The Government will consult the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services shortly on the legislative proposals.

As regards the proposal to amend the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO), following the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s review of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and DDO, the Administration has agreed to take forward some of EOC's proposed amendments by way of an amendment bill. These seek to protect rights of individuals by providing greater clarity to the existing legislation. As far as the DDO is concerned, the amendments primarily involve –

- (a) clarifying some of the provisions in the DDO (e.g. to extend the definition of an “associate” for better protection of a carer of a person with a disability, to make clear that claims can be made against persons who are vicariously liable for acts of disability discrimination, harassment and vilification); and
- (b) improving the operation of the DDO (e.g. to protect EOC members and staff from personal damages when performing EOC functions, to enable the EOC to recover legal costs incurred in providing assistance to complainants).

The Administration intends to submit a Bill to the LegCo within the current legislative session.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>March 2003</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB155

Question Serial No.

0712

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health,
Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards the work on suicide prevention, how much provision has been reserved for 2003-04 and what are the areas covered?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

Under a comprehensive approach, individual initiatives relating to suicide prevention and reduction can be divided into short and long term measures involving both generic and targeted approaches. The provision has been made in the respective heads of the bureaux and the departments undertaking the work involved. No provision has been made under Head 149, as any work requiring policy steer or coordination is absorbed by existing staff.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB156

Question Serial No.

0735

Head:

149 – Government Secretariat:

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards commissioning studies, surveys and research on women issues, will the Government inform the Finance Committee of the details, including the purpose, scope, schedule and expenditure of the research project, as well as the application of the research findings?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Surveys on women's issues have been conducted over the past two years, some of which have lasted more than a year. The Administration will conclude the thematic household survey on "Time use and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society" in 2003-04, and we will also start work on the third round of the survey on the effectiveness of the publicity and public education campaign of the Women's Commission in 2003-04.

The details of the surveys, studies and research completed in 2001-02 and 2002-03 are set out below:

Fieldwork Commencement Date	Scope of the Survey, Studies and Research Conducted	Purpose	Total Cost (\$'000)	Application of Research Findings
December 2001	Thematic household survey on time use and factors hindering women's participation in society (Continued in 2002-03 and to conclude in 2003-04)	To collect information on daily patterns of time use by women and men, with particular interest in homemakers; to understand how time use patterns vary among different groups of people; and	1,291	Findings are being analysed. Will identify possible issues and topics for conducting more in-depth studies in the light of the survey findings.

		to find out whether there are any factors hindering women's participation in different aspects of community life.		
February 2002 (First Round) June 2002 (Second Round) Mid-2003 (Third Round)	Survey on effectiveness of publicity and public education campaign of Women's Commission (First round completed in April 2002, second round completed in October 2002)	To assess effectiveness of public education campaign of Women's Commission, and to gauge community perceptions of gender-related issues.	630	Refined strategy for publicity and public education campaign of Women's Commission.
February 2002	Survey on extent of satisfaction of women in Hong Kong (Completed in February 2002)	To identify issues of interest and concern to women in Hong Kong.	99	Incorporated issues of interest and concern in action plans and overarching theme of Women's Commission's work.
April 2002	Mailed questionnaire survey on extent and levels of positions taken up by women in private and non-governmental sectors in Hong Kong (Completed in November 2002)	To gain a better understanding of women's employment situation in Hong Kong.	400	Findings disseminated to the community through the media and Internet. Would also serve as useful baseline data for future assessment of changes and trends.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB157

Question Serial No.

0771

Head:

149 – Government Secretariat:

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Programme (4), the Administration states that it will ensure adherence to relevant conventions and agreements in Hong Kong. What has the Administration done to enhance public awareness of the implementation of the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" in Hong Kong? Will the Administration allocate more resources to strengthen this area of work in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The Administration is committed to promoting the interests and well-being of women in Hong Kong. A large scale publicity and public education campaign has been launched to enhance the public's gender awareness and reduce gender stereotyping, in line with the goals of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). A wide range of administrative and legislative measures have been put in place to implement the CEDAW. The Women's Commission, a central mechanism for issues of concern to women in Hong Kong, was set up in January 2001 to further promote objectives under CEDAW. The Commission has discussed at length various issues covered by the Convention and decided to take them forward through three priority areas of work, namely, gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and public education. Issues relating to education, health, safety, economic well-being and social participation of women, which are encompassed in CEDAW, are being tackled by the Women's Commission in pursuing empowerment of women. This direction of work is generally supported by women's groups and service agencies. The Commission has also conducted an initial review on services for women, and has provided useful advice on areas like public housing, adult education, parenting education, IT promotion, women health services, family services, and services for newly arrived women.

The Administration also produced and distributed leaflets and various souvenirs such as mousepads and paperbags to the public to arouse the public awareness of the Convention. The text of the Convention and the concluding comments on the Initial Report made by the United Nations CEDAW Committee have uploaded onto the Internet for public access. In preparing the second report of the HKSAR under CEDAW, the Administration also consulted women's groups, non-governmental organisations and the public in September to October 2002 on the draft outline of the report and invited views on the implementation of the Convention in Hong Kong. An exchange session was also held on 12 October 2002.

In 2003-04, we intend to publish the second HKSAR CEDAW report and upload it to the Internet. Pertinent issues under CEDAW would also be included in the publicity and public education campaign. Any additional initiatives to increase public awareness on CEDAW related activities will be absorbed by existing staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB158

Question Serial No.

0772

Head: Subhead(No. & title):
149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and
Food Bureau

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What measures will the Government take in the coming year to reduce gender stereotyping in formulating its policies? What will be the expenses incurred?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

To reduce "gender stereotyping" in policy formulation, it is important for civil servants to be aware of women's concerns and their needs, and to incorporate them in the policy making process. To this end, we are promoting "gender mainstreaming" within the Administration, so that gender perspectives are integrated in formulating policies, programmes and legislation. As part of the gender mainstreaming strategy, a Gender Mainstreaming Checklist has been developed as an analytical tool to assist government officials to conduct gender mainstreaming, and an information kit has been prepared to facilitate the process. The Checklist was pilot tested in five policy areas last year. Taking into account feedback and comments from participants, we are now revising the Checklist and the information kit, and we shall roll out the revised Checklist to selected policy areas on an incremental basis in 2003-04.

To complement this area of work, gender-related training will continue to be provided to civil servants to enhance their sensitivity towards gender issues and women's concerns. These courses and workshops are tailored to the needs of different departments and grades. We are planning to provide training for staff of the Social Welfare Department,

Police, Administrative Officer, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Information Services Department and Home Affairs Department in 2003-04. We are also considering the provision of such training to staff of other grades and departments.

A provision of \$1.49 million has been made for such gender-related training programmes in 2003-04. Cost incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiative will be absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments and the cost for promoting gender mainstreaming and the rolling out of the Checklist will be absorbed by the staff of this Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB159

Question Serial No.

0782

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the prevention of elder abuse, would the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

- (1) What will be the provision required for 2003-04 and the activities involved in this task;
- (2) It is indicated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 that the Administration plans to develop a computerised registry on elder abuse. Will the Administration provide additional resources for establishing a central database for this purpose? What will be the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (1) Prevention and handling of elder abuse are part and parcel of the services provided by Family Service Centres/Integrated Family Service Centres, medical social service units and Multi-service Centres for the Elderly (to be re-engineered to become District Elderly Community Centres within 2003-04) through public education programmes and casework intervention. As such, the resources earmarked specifically for activities relating to elder abuse cannot be separately ascertained.

In addition to these regular services, a total grant of \$7.7 m from the Lotteries Fund (LF) has been provided to three non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement three projects designated to tackle the problem of elder abuse. The tasks undertaken by these projects include the provision of various types of services (e.g.

community education, hotline service, mutual support groups, outreaching, counselling etc), conducting a research on elder abuse in Hong Kong, compilation of a multi-disciplinary protocol, development of a computerised elder abuse registry and arrangement of training sessions.

The Social Welfare Department has also launched a publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” from August 2002 to July 2003 with a non-recurrent fund of \$1.9 m. Prevention of elder abuse is one of the issues addressed in this campaign which includes slogan and poster competitions, production of Television Announcement of Public Interest, radio series, “Resilient Family Ambassador” Award, display of roadside banners, plywood boards and posters etc. Another amount of \$0.5 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 to continue the campaign.

- (2) One of the NGOs mentioned in the second paragraph of (1) above was granted funding support of \$2.3 m from the LF in February 2002 to launch a two-year project on Elder Abuse Research and Protocol. With such funding support, it will, among other tasks, develop a computerised elder abuse registry. Upon completion of the project by the NGO, the elder abuse registry will be transferred to SWD for on-going operation. No additional staff is provided for operating this registry and the related recurrent cost will be absorbed in the existing provision.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB160

Question Serial No.

0822

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the provision for "Hire of services" under item "Other Charges" of the above subhead, the Revised Estimate for 2002-03 is \$570 m, which is 23% less than the Original Estimate of \$740 m. Which type(s) of services the Administration originally planned to hire are subsequently cancelled or postponed? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved by the type of services to be hired in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The Revised Estimate for "Hire of services" for 2002-03 being \$170 m less than the Original Estimate is due to the following:

- (a) Instead of embarking on a second batch of Enhanced Home Community Care Services (EHCCS) contracts as originally planned for 2002-03, we have increased the maximum case volume of the existing 18 EHCCS teams from 1 825 to 2 189 through variations to the first batch of contracts, as demand for this new service has taken longer time to build up.
- (b) Two contract Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) at Oi Tung and Sau Mau Ping planned for commissioning in 2002-03 will now take place in 2003-04 due to longer lead time required for completion of fitting-out works. Besides, the open tender exercise for RCHE at Tak Tin Estate and the RCHE cum Day Care Unit at Fu Cheong Estate had been re-scheduled to

2003-04 taking account of a review of the service specification.

- (c) In view of the less-than-expected demand for places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme, the purchase plan for 2002-03 has been withheld.

The breakdown of the expenditure involved by the type of services to be hired in 2003-04 is as follows:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>2003-04 Estimate</u> \$ m
EHCCS	158.5
Enhanced Bought Place/ Bought Place Scheme	470.8
Contract RCHEs	91.6
After School Care Programme	0.1
Total:	<u>721.0</u>

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB161

Question Serial No.

0823

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, the actual number of supported housing places under residential services in 2001-02 was 17. However, under the columns showing the number of such places for 2002-03 and 2003-04, "N.A." is given instead. Please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The 17 places in question were supported housing places for physically handicapped persons. Due to the lack of demand for the service and the low enrolment rate of 80% by the service unit, these 17 places were merged with a hostel for physically handicapped persons in the same district operated by the same agency to provide the service operator a greater flexibility in catering for different levels of needs of residents. The total number of places of hostel for physically handicapped persons are therefore correspondingly increased from 436 places in 2001-02 to 453 places in 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB162

Question Serial No.

0835

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 of the Estimates that the Social Welfare Department will “maximize the efficiency of the Special Investigation Section (SIS) in safeguarding public expenditure from fraud and abuse” in respect of social security schemes. Please give details of the work involved and the expenditure and staffing required. Please also provide information on the expenditure and staffing involved in this area of work in 2002-03, as well as the number of reported cases where investigation has been completed, the number of cases where fraud or abuse of public money has been established and the amount of payment involved for the same year.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : In the financial year of 2003-04, the department will maximize its efficiency in combating fraud and abuse by improving work processes and strengthening human resources. There are four teams in the SIS with a total of 115 staff. Total provision for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are \$40.4 m and \$42.3 m respectively. There are also 115 staff in 2002-03.

During the year 2002-03 (up to 28 February 2003), Fraud Investigation Teams have handled 3 549 reported fraud cases and 355 cases were found to have fraud established with total overpayment amounting to \$21.1 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB163

Question Serial No.

0882

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) would implement the 'Intensified Support for Self-reliance Scheme' and 'maximize the efficiency of the Special Investigation Team' in 2003-04. What are the details of these two measures?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : **The Intensified Support for Self-reliance Scheme**

To tackle the problem of rising reliance on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by able-bodied unemployed recipients, SWD would build on existing arrangements to intensify measures to promote self-reliance including:

- (i) strengthening existing arrangements to provide employable CSSA recipients with more targeted assistance upon their entry into the CSSA system to improve their capacity for self-reliance and facilitate their return to the labour market, including direct job matching where possible;
- (ii) raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme from \$1,805 to \$2,500 a month, and correspondingly the 'no deduction limit' with the disregarded earnings from \$451 to \$600 to provide its recipients with more financial incentives to work. This improvement measure to encourage CSSA recipients to work will be provided on a time-limited basis for three years, subject to continuous review;
- (iii) re-scheduling the Community Work (CW) arrangement for targeted participants enrolled in the Active Employment Assistance (AEA) programme to ensure that CW can be arranged for AEA participants within the first three months of their being on CSSA and arranging long term AEA participants

to perform CW under a full-time non-remunerated work mode, say, three full days a week for a period of six months to help build up their confidence, strengthen their ability to find jobs in the open market and encourage them back to work; and

- (iv) commissioning more non-governmental organisations to launch intensive employment assistance projects for the longer term CSSA recipients and would-be CSSA recipients who come through the social welfare network to assist them back to work.

Maximize the efficiency of the Special Investigation Section

The department has re-organised and strengthened its Special Investigation Section (SIS) to prevent and combat fraud and abuse of social security payment. Effective from 1 April 2002, there are four teams in the new SIS. Two Fraud Investigation Teams handle all suspected fraud cases. The Data-Matching Team conducts investigation into matched cases arising from SWD's regular data matching with nine different government departments and organisations to prevent possible fraud and overpayment, while the Random Check Team conducts full review with quality check on cases checked on a random basis. The findings will not only reveal individual cases of overpayment but will also be analysed with a view to helping SWD identify high risk case categories, and drawing up a risk control plan so that resources are directed towards cases with a higher risk of overpayment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB164

Question Serial No.

0883

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, what are the respective numbers of reported fraud cases and fraud cases found out by the Social Welfare Department in 2001-02 and 2002-03? What is the amount of money involved?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : In the year 2001-02, there were 2 989 reported fraud cases and 236 cases with fraud established with total overpayment amounting to \$11.0 m.

In the year 2002-03 (up to 28 February 2003), there were 3 549 reported/suspected fraud cases and 355 cases with fraud established with total overpayment amounting to \$21.1 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB165

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

0833

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out in details the progress, number of schools and students served, and effectiveness of the programme of setting up outreaching teams to promote psychosocial health among secondary school students in 2002-03. In respect of the growing concern for the psychosocial health of secondary school students, is there any change in the estimated expenditure, manpower, number of schools and students served with respect to this area of work in 2003-04 as compared with 2002-03? Please account for the reduction in resource allocation, if any.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The adolescent health programme has recruited 167 secondary schools and will serve about 65 000 students in 2002-03 school year. In 2003-04, the Department plans to serve about 155 000 students in 336 secondary schools. The provision in 2003-04 will increase by \$93.5M to \$146.3M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB166

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Programme :

Operational
expenses

0834

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is estimated that the number of non-directorate posts will be reduced by 999 from 6 354 to 5 355 in 2003-04. Please set out in details the grades and ranks of the posts to be deleted, the amount of savings and the reasons for such deletion.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) will delete a total of 1 001 posts, partly offset by two posts to be created. The net deletion of 999 posts is detailed as follows :

(a) Transfer of General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority (HA)

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	47
Medical and Health Officer	111
Nursing Officer	27
Enrolled Nurse	100
Senior Dispenser	68
Dispenser	156
Assistant Clerical Officer	24
Clerical Assistant	34
Office Assistant	66
Telephone Operator	2
Motor Driver	2
Ward Attendant	7
Workman II	<u>258</u>
	902

(b) Re-engineering operations and improving efficiency

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	1
Registered Nurse	4
Enrolled Nurse	7
Inoculator	10
Midwife	25
Dental Officer	2
Dental Technician II	1
Tutor Dental Therapist	1
Dental Therapist	10
Dispenser	1
Senior Medical Technologist	1
Medical Technologist	2
Medical Laboratory Technician I	2
Audiology Technician I	1
Senior Radiographic Technician	2
Hospital Administrator I	1
Clerical Assistant	2
Personal Secretary I	1
Laboratory Attendant	7
Property Attendant	3
Workman II	<u>15</u>
	99
Total deletion	1 001

(c) Posts to be created

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	<u>1</u>
Total creation	2
Net deletion	999

The transfer of GOPCs to HA will be a cost neutral exercise. DH will transfer the recurrent staff costs and departmental expenses for operating the 59 GOPCs to HA. As regards re-engineering operations and improving efficiency, the saving is estimated to be \$23.2M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB167

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

0843

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : At present, many communicable diseases are imported from neighbouring regions. With contact with the Mainland increasing, Hong Kong is particularly vulnerable to outbreaks of epidemic diseases in the Mainland. In view of this, is there any provision earmarked for establishing a notification mechanism in this respect in 2003-04? If yes, what are the resources involved and the specific plans; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Hong Kong operates an effective surveillance programme to monitor the pattern and trend of communicable diseases, through efforts on international, regional and local fronts. Locally, there is a statutory notification system for 27 infectious diseases. The Department of Health (DH) is part of the international network for the exchange of epidemiological information through the World Health Organisation (WHO). Apart from routine notifications, DH will report to the WHO incidents involving infectious disease outbreaks which may have global public health significance.

Hong Kong also maintains close contact with the Ministry of Health in Beijing on a wide range of public health issues including the control of communicable diseases. Contacts are also made, wherever necessary, at the provincial level. There is regular exchange of information between DH and Guangdong Province on specific communicable diseases such as cholera, viral hepatitis, malaria and Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection.

These are regular activities of DH and the resources required have already been included in the estimates.

Signature _____

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Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB168

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 4 Curative Care

0895

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) The actual number of attendances at dermatology clinics in 2002 far exceeded the expected attendances of 120 000 by 5 000. The actual percentage of new cases with the appointment time scheduled within 12 weeks has dropped low to 80%, falling short of the target of over 90%. How many new cases were there in 2002? What are the measures to help achieve the target of "over 90% new cases with their appointment time scheduled within 12 weeks" in the coming year?
- (b) The number of new dermatology cases has increased from 44 000 in 1999 to 50 000 in 2001. The actual number of attendances at dermatology clinics in 2002 far exceeded the expected attendances of 120 000 by 5 000. The actual percentage of new cases with the appointment time scheduled within 12 weeks has dropped low to 80%, falling short of the target of over 90%. In view of the above and with the number of new cases on the rise, what are the plans to prevent skin diseases in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

- (a) The number of new attendances at dermatology clinics in 2002 is about 25 700 compared to about 16 300 in 2001. Increasing demand for dermatology service is the main reason for not achieving the pledged target. The service has been enhanced by deploying more doctors to dermatology clinics since mid-2002. It is anticipated that the pledged target can be achieved in 2003.
- (b) The increase in the number of new dermatology cases was due to an increase in referrals rather than a change in disease pattern. The Department of Health has strengthened health education on skin diseases and their prevention. The Department also plans to organise more continual medical educational activities for medical practitioners.

Signature _____

-

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB169

Question Serial No.

0858

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

In the coming year, the Bureau will put in place the necessary arrangements for launching a new legal representation scheme for children/juveniles involved in care or protection proceedings. In this connection, would the Administration provide information on :

- (1) the funding involved;
- (2) the anticipated number of recipients under this scheme;
- (3) whether specific training would be provided to the legal officers concerned; if yes, on the cost required;
- (4) the departments and the number of staff involved in the implementation of this scheme?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

- (1) Annual recurrent funding of \$6.5M has been allocated to operate the legal representation scheme.
- (2) It is anticipated that the scheme will serve around 1,000 cases per year, having regard to the number of admissions into places of refuge in previous years (i.e. 1,011 cases in 2001 and 842 in 2002).
- (3) A working group comprising representatives from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the Administration Wing, the Department of Justice, the Official Solicitor and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is working out the implementation framework of the scheme, including identifying a suitable agency to run the scheme, working out inter-departmental referral arrangements and sorting out other operational details (e.g. arranging briefings/visits for the legal professionals involved). The issue of training and the cost required will be addressed in this process.

- (4) Apart from the bureau and the departments mentioned in para. (3), we will also consult others, such as the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau on the financial arrangements, and the Police and the Judiciary as far as case referrals and the related administrative arrangements are concerned. In particular, all social work staff of the family services, medical social services and correctional services of SWD may handle children and juveniles involved in care or protection proceedings, and may be involved in the implementation of this scheme. The work involved will be fully absorbed by staff as part of their regular duties. It is therefore not possible, at this stage, to indicate the number of staff involved in implementing the Scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS CARRIE YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>March 2003</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB170

Question Serial No.

0884

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide details of the review on social security schemes to be conducted by HWFB in 2003/04 to develop a sustainable financial support system for needy older persons.

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Government's objective in reviewing the existing social security arrangements for elders is to develop a long term sustainable financial support system that better targets resources at needy elders, drawing reference from the "Three Pillar approach" recommended by the World Bank. We have already established the privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF), one of the two mandatory pillars recommended by the World Bank. We are currently reviewing the existing social security schemes for elders under the other mandatory pillar to ensure that it is sustainable in the long run, having regard to our ageing population and simple and low taxation system. Given the complexity of the issues involved, it would take some time before the review could be completed. We need to conduct more in-depth studies in considering options.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB171

Question Serial No.

0885

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Has the Administration reserved any resources in 2003-04 to implement the direct rent payment for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the Housing Authority (HA)? If affirmative, when it will be implemented? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Under the CSSA Scheme, a rent allowance is payable to a recipient to cover the cost of accommodation. It is basically the responsibility of the recipient to properly manage his social security benefits and to pay for expenses such as rent, water charges, telephone fees etc. We have no plan to arrange direct payment of public housing rent by SWD to HA on behalf of all CSSA recipients who are public housing tenants. In fact, we have no authority to do so without obtaining the consent of individual recipients. However, in the case of CSSA recipients who are persistent rent defaulters, an arrangement agreed between SWD and HA is already in place to pay rent direct to HA with the consent of the recipient. There are currently about 200 such 'hardcore' cases under the direct rent payment arrangement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB172

Question Serial No.

0887

Head: 149-Government Secretariat:

Subhead(No. & title):

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In connection with Programme (3): Health, the provision for 2003-04 is \$8.3m (23.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the provision for Health and Health Services Research Fund. Please give the details. What is the expenditure offset by efficiency savings?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply: A one-off grant of HK\$10 million has been earmarked to the Health and Health Services Research Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to support local health and health services research in the area of public health, health services and Chinese medicine.

In 2003-04, the government will deliver efficiency savings at 1.8% of the recurrent budget. For Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the efficiency savings to be achieved in 2003-04 are \$2.5M. They will be achieved mainly through exercising greater economy in the use of resources in the Bureau. The Health and Health Services Research Fund, being non-recurrent in nature, is not subject to any efficiency savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB173

Question Serial No.

0888

Head: 149-Government Secretariat:

Subhead(No. & title):

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the expenses and estimated expenses with relation to the "Health and Health Services Research Fund" in 2002-03 and 2003-04? Of these, what is the net amount of funds available for application, and what is the share taken up by administrative expenses? What is the number of research projects and the amount of funds expected to be approved in 2003-04?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply: A one-off grant of HK\$10 million has been earmarked to the Health and Health Services Research Fund to support local health and health services research. The Fund will start operating in 2003-04. No expenses were incurred in 2002-03. For the year 2003-04, it is estimated that 20 projects will be approved, utilizing 60% of the Fund. The expenses for administrating the Fund will be absorbed internally by the Bureau and the Fund will not be used to offset administrative costs.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB174

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0840

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the above Programme, how much resources will be reserved for outsourcing the environmental hygiene services in 2003-04? What are the details? Has any provision been reserved for monitoring the performance of the contractors in complying with the contract terms? If so, what is the amount? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2003-04, we have earmarked a provision of \$757 million for the payment of the following environmental hygiene services –

- (a) 67 street cleansing and waste collection contracts amounting to \$754.6 million; and
- (b) one animal carcass collection contract amounting to \$2.3 million.

The expenditure for monitoring the performance of contractors is estimated to be \$81 million for 2003-04.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ **GREGORY LEUNG** _____

Director of Food and
Post Title_____ **Environmental Hygiene** _____

Date_____ **20 March 2003** _____

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB175

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

0889

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Two Rehabuses have been procured in 2002-03. However, the actual number of people with disabilities waiting for scheduled route services in 2002 was 66% higher than the estimate. At present, how many Rehabuses are deployed to operate scheduled routes? What is number of people using the Rehabus services and the expenditure incurred? Are there any measures in reducing the number of people on the waiting list in using Rehabus service. Are there any plans in contracting out the Rehabus service?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : The difference between the number of people with disabilities on the waitlist for scheduled route services in 2002 and the figure entered in the estimate was primarily due to the delay in the commissioning of two new Rehabuses. This was because of the need to carry out vehicle modification works and the increase in demand during the period.

At present, out of 87 Rehabuses, 57 are deployed to operate on scheduled routes. The remaining vehicles are deployed for dial-a-ride services and relief purposes. For 2002-03, the total number of passenger trips is approximately 490,000, and the total subvention is about \$27M.

We envisage that following the commissioning of the two additional Rehabuses in April 2003, the number of people on the waiting list for scheduled route services will be reduced.

Rehabus services are already contracted out since they are operated by a Non-Governmental Organization with government subvention.

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**

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

In the year 2002-03, how much provision was available for the Samaritan Fund? How many cases of different nature were subvented and how much subvention was given out? In the past 3 years, had there been any change in the number of self-financed purchases? If yes, what are the changes? Among those self-financed purchases, how many were under the categories of equipment and medicine, namely home use equipment, appliances and consumables and medicine?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The Samaritan Fund is primarily funded by donations from charitable organisations, the Government and reimbursements from the Government to cover fees for privately purchased medical items (PPMI) provided to the recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). Sources of funding (projected) for the Samaritan Fund in 2002-03 are as follows:

	\$ million
Donations from charitable organisations	21
Special allocation from Government	9
Reimbursement from government for PPMI for CSSA recipients	28
Total	<u>58</u>

The estimated number of cases and the related expenditure of the Samaritan Fund in 2002-03 are listed below:

<u>Items</u>	<u>No. of cases</u>	<u>Amount \$Million</u>
Cardiac Pacemakers	283	9.7
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) and other consumables for interventional cardiology	1 092	30.4
Intraocular Lens	827	1.3
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	709	1.3
Drugs	64	2.5
Gamma Knife surgeries in private hospitals	30	2.3
Cost for harvesting bone marrow in foreign countries	1	0.1

Items	No. of cases	Amount \$Million
Myoelectric prosthesis/ custom-made prosthesis/ appliances for prosthetic and orthotic services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.	223	1.4
Total no. of cases and related expenditure	3 229	49.0

The Samaritan Fund has been providing support for certain drugs prescribed under the pilot scheme to expedite the introduction of medical items of new technologies or technology-based new services into mainstream public hospital service. Since 2000-01, the following drugs have been included into the coverage of the Samaritan Fund :

- Basiliximab and daclizumab as adjunct immunosuppressant induction therapy for patients with cadaveric renal transplants.
- Imatinib for treatment of patient with chronic myeloid leukaemia.
- New antifungal therapy for patient with haematological cancer.
- Fludarabine for patients with haematological cancer.

The expenditure on home use equipment, appliances and consumables; and drugs purchased through the Hospital Authority on behalf of the patients in the past three years is as follows:

Items	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-2002
	Amount \$Million	Amount \$Million	Amount \$Million
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	2.3	3.6	2.4
Drugs	1.6	2.8	3.0

Note : The above figures include items supported by the Samaritan Fund and items paid by patients.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Please state the actual and estimated number of staff joining the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in 2002-03 and 2003-04 and their respective ranks. How would the Administration assess the effectiveness of the Scheme ?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The Voluntary Early Retirement Programme of the Hospital Authority (HA) was open for application during 2 December 2002 and 1 March 2003. Over 2 300 applications were received, of which the majority (about 67%) were from employees in ranks no longer open for recruitment. For clinical staff, these ranks include enrolled nurses, midwives, mould laboratory technicians, etc. and for supporting staff, these include cooks, darkroom technicians, laundry workers, telephone operators, artisans, etc. HA is going through all the applications with a view to approving successful applications in April 2003.

The Programme aims to :

- ♦ reduce staff in ranks no longer open for recruitment
- ♦ reduce existing and potential staff surplus situations to facilitate service development
- ♦ improve staff turnover to enable intake of graduates for professional training; and
- ♦ facilitate changes in staff mix and rationalization plans.

The effectiveness of the Programme will be assessed having regard to the foregoing objectives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) The number of general hospital beds will be reduced from 20579 to 19379 in 2003-04. Which hospital clusters and hospitals will be involved when these 1200 beds are deleted? What are the reasons for the reduction?
- (b) What will be the implications of the reduction of the above 1200 beds on the "general bed occupancy rates" of the hospital clusters?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

- (a) The Hospital Authority (HA) has not finalized its plan on the number of general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 at the hospital level. The distribution by hospital cluster of the 1 200 general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 is as shown below:

Cluster	Number of beds
Hong Kong West	376
Hong Kong East	94
Kowloon East	0
Kowloon Central	120
Kowloon West	390
New Territories East	220
New Territories West	0
Total	1 200

The international trend has been to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes and to replace, where appropriate, in-patient treatment by ambulatory and out-patient services. The HA has in recent years stepped up its developments on day surgery, day care, out-patient services, community nursing and outreach programmes. In response to this shift to ambulatory and community care, HA plans to adjust in-patient

general beds in order to rationalise its service provision. The reduction of 1 200 beds is made possible by :

- advances in medical technologies, including minimal access surgeries and new medications (for treatment of cancer and psychiatric illness, for instance), which shorten the duration of hospitalisation and reduce complications;
- strengthened ambulatory and outreach care which facilitates early discharge of patients;
- service reengineering and consolidation, including early discharge planning, better coordinated treatment processes and streamlining workflow in non-clinical areas, which helps shorten the length of stay of patients.

(b) There will be a modest increase in the occupancy rate for general beds to 85 % in 2003-04, which is similar to the level attained prior to 2002-03. HA will ensure appropriate deployment of its resources and manpower to areas with greatest need.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB179

Question Serial No.

0897

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the actual and estimated numbers of patient days in 2002-03 and 2003-04 for each of the hospital clusters ?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

The number of in-patient days by hospital cluster for 2002-03 (projected on the basis of figures for the first ten months of the year) are as follows:

Hospital Cluster	Estimated in-patient days in 2002-03
Hong Kong East	944 520
Hong Kong West	881 430
Kowloon East	650 210
Kowloon Central	955 710
Kowloon West	2 095 950
New Territories East	1 292 150
New Territories West	1 232 540
Total	8 052 510

The estimated number of in-patient days for 2003-04 is 7 851 190. Breakdown by hospital cluster is however not available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

HWFB180

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1266

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In 2002-03 the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department employed 311 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff with an estimated expenditure of \$38.22 million.

The Department at present has no plan to increase or reduce the employment of NCSC staff in 2003-04.

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

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB181

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

1013

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the public cleansing services outsourced:

- (a) Please list out, by types of services provided, the names of the private contractors currently providing public cleansing services, their respective service areas, the number of staff employed, the contract period and the contract value.
- (b) What is the staffing establishment (by rank) and expenditure for the supervision of the performance of the contractors providing such services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (a) As at 1 March 2003, the public cleansing services contracted out by the Department included (a) street cleansing; (b) waste collection; (c) mechanical street sweeping and gully cleansing; and (d) desludging/conservancy. The details are as follows –

..... /

<u>Type of Services</u>	<u>Name of Contractors and Service Areas</u>	<u>Total No. of Staff Employed</u>	<u>Contract Period</u>	<u>Total Contract Value</u>
Street Cleansing	See Annex	7 338	20 months to 3 years	\$1,177.9 m
Waste Collection	See Annex	242	1 to 5 years	\$317.7 m
Mechanical Street Sweeping and Gully Cleansing	See Annex	46	5 years	\$46.4 m
Desludging /Conservancy	See Annex	11	2 years	\$3.9 m

- (b) A total of 268 Health Inspectors and Senior Foremen are deployed to supervise and monitor the performance of cleansing contractors. The estimated expenditure for the year 2003-04 is \$81 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____
GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____
20 March 2003

Service Areas	Name of Contractors Providing Services			
	Street Cleansing	Waste Collection	Mechanical Street Sweeping and Gully Cleansing	Desludging/ Conservancy
Central	Asia , Baguio, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Western	Asia, Baguio, Hang Shun, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Eastern	Asia, Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Southern	Asia, Baguio, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Wanchai	Asia, Baguio, Hang Shun, Wai Hong, Yu's	Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Islands	Asia, Baguio, Champion, Wai Hong	Sam Hing , Wai Hong, Wong Sup Chai	ISS, Wai Hong	ISS
Yau Tsim	Asia, Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Mong Kok	Asia, Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Waylung	Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Sham Shui Po	Asia, Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Kowloon City	Asia, Baguio, Wai Hong, Yu's	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong, Waylung
Wong Tai Sin	Asia, Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Kwun Tong	Asia, Baguio, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Tsuen Wan	Asia, Wai Hong	Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Zappaway
Kwai Tsing	Asia, Wai Hong	Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	-
North	Asia, Tai Sang, Wai Hong, Waylung	Swan, World	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Tai Po	Asia, Wai Hong	Baguio, New Method, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Sai Kung	Asia, Johnson Cleaning, Johnson Environmental, Wai Hong, Waylung	New Method, Wai Hong, World	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Sha Tin	Asia, Johnson Environmental, Wai Hong	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Waylung, World	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Tuen Mun	Asia, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	Swan, Wai Hong, World	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Yuen Long	Asia, Baguio, Wai Hong	Wai Hong, Waylung, World	ISS, Wai Hong	-

Legend

1. Service areas refer to the boundaries of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department District Offices.

2.

Asia	=	Asia Cleaning Service Co.
Baguio	=	Baguio Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.
Champion	=	Champion Cleaning Transport Co. Ltd.
Hang Shun	=	Hang Shun Cleaning & Pest Control Service Co.
ISS	=	ISS Environmental Services (HK) Ltd.
Johnson Cleaning	=	Johnson Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.
Johnson Environmental	=	Johnson Environmental Services Ltd.
New Method	=	New Method Cleaning Services Ltd.
Sam Hing	=	Sam Hing Cleaning Service Co.
Swan	=	Swan Hygiene Services Ltd.
Tai Sang	=	Tai Sang Cleaning Co.
Wai Hong	=	Wai Hong Cleaning & Pest Control Co. Ltd.
Waylung	=	Waylung Waste Services Ltd.
Wong Sup Chai	=	Wong Sup Chai Transport Co.
World	=	World Environmental Services Ltd.
Yu's	=	Yu's Tin Sing Enterprises Co. Ltd.
Zappaway	=	Zappaway Ltd.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB182

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1220

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the progress of the study on the regularisation of “private kitchens”? When will the findings be published?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

We are canvassing the views of the public, the restaurant trade and “private kitchen” operators on the Administration’s preliminary regularisation proposals. The Department will fine-tune the proposals in the light of the views expressed and consult the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene again before deciding on the way forward.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Director of Food and
Post Title_____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB183

Question Serial No.

1221

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much resources will be allocated during 2003-04 to conducting a study on the implementation of the labelling system of genetically modified food? What is the progress of the study? When will the findings of the study be published?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

A Regulatory Impact Assessment study to assess the economic impact of introducing a mandatory genetically modified (GM) food labelling scheme in Hong Kong has been completed and the results of the study have just been announced. The way forward for establishing a regulatory framework for GM food including a voluntary labelling scheme has been proposed for public consultation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB184

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1263

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to this Programme, please give details on

- the funds allocated for each work item;
- the reason for the decrease in the number of fixed pitch hawkers by 269;
- the reason for the decrease in the number of itinerant hawkers by 186;
- the reason for the decrease in the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers by 135;
- the reason for the decrease in the number of raids by Hawker Control Teams by 53; the resources so saved and the arrangements on how to use these savings.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- (a) The estimated financial provisions for market management and hawker control for 2003-04 are \$511 m and \$990 m respectively.
- (b) The reduction in the number of licensed fixed-pitch hawkers is due to (i) surrender of cooked food stall licences for ex-gratia payment; and (ii) non-renewal of hawker licences.
- (c) The reduction in the number of licensed itinerant hawkers is due to (i) surrender of itinerant hawker licences for either ex-gratia payment or relocation to a fixed pitch/market stall; and (ii) non-renewal of hawker licences.
- (d) The estimated decrease in the number of unlicensed hawkers in 2003 is a projection based on two quarterly hawker surveys conducted in the latter half of 2002, which reflected a general decline in the number of unlicensed hawkers.

- (e) The number of raids for 2003 will be maintained at about the same level as that for 2002. For the purpose of the 2003 Estimates, we have presented the figure to the nearest thousand.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ **GREGORY LEUNG**

Post Title_____ **Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene**

Date_____ **20 March 2003**

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB185

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

1284

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

As at 1.3.2003, the Department engaged a total of 546 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. The related expenditure for 2002-03 is estimated to be \$84.8 million. The need to increase or reduce the number of NCSC staff in 2003-04 will be regularly reviewed having regard to the Department's objectives, service commitments, operational needs, streamlining/re-engineering initiatives, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB186

Question Serial No.

1435

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The provision for 2003-04 is \$15.6 million (+4.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the additional provision for combating dengue fever. However, there is no increase in the estimated number of mosquito breeding places to be eliminated in 2003 when compared with the actual number in 2002. Please explain the specific use of the additional provision and the proposed measures to combat dengue fever.

Asked by : Hon. Shek Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In response to the occurrence of local cases of dengue fever in September 2002, we conducted an intensified mosquito control programme to eliminate potential mosquito breeding places, covering construction and vacant sites, cargo terminals, schools, old tenement buildings, etc. The intensified measures were implemented through internal redeployment of resources. The additional provision for 2003-04 will help sustain these intensified efforts on a full year basis and further strengthen the monitoring of dengue fever vector.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB187

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1481

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the details of the recommendations on the review of squad structures and manpower requirement of the Hawker Control Teams? Will there be any cut in manpower?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The review report recommends a revised squad structure of Hawker Control Teams for sector patrol, with varying patrol frequencies for areas of different degree of hawker problems. The report also recommends a new structure for raiding teams and a revised modus operandi relating to arrest, seizure and prosecution of unlicensed hawkers. There will be staff saving upon full implementation of the recommendations of the review report.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ **GREGORY LEUNG**

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date_____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB188

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1482

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to outsourcing the management of some markets,

- (a) what is the expenditure so involved?
- (b) is there any cut in manpower? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Department will conduct a trial scheme in 2003-04 to outsource market management services in four markets in Kowloon City District. The expenditure incurred will depend on the tender price. Frontline staff in the four markets will be redeployed to other work streams of the Department.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Director of Food and
Post Title_____ Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB189

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1483

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the indicator, the “number of inspections to food premises” will be reduced from 429 269 in 2002 to 300 000 in 2003. On what basis does the Administration make such estimation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In the past, regular inspection of licensed food premises was made at intervals of once every 2 weeks, 4 weeks or 8 weeks. To enhance the effectiveness and quality of the inspections, the Department, following public and trade consultations, introduced a new risk-based inspection system in early 2003. Under the new system, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks according to their risk category. Each inspection will last longer and cover more details. Hygiene education will be provided on the spot where necessary. The new inspection system results in a substantial reduction in the number of inspections planned for 2003.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date_____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB190

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1484

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the indicators, the “number of seminars for general public”, the “number of school talks” etc. have increased substantially as compared with that in 2001. How much resources have been committed to perform the work as shown by the indicators? How will their effectiveness be assessed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Department launched a two-year health education programme in 2002-03 to increase public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental/personal hygiene. Some 1 700 talks and promotional activities are arranged each year for this purpose. The financial provisions for 2002-03 and 2003-04 for this programme are \$3.4 m and \$2.9 m respectively.

To gauge the effectiveness of the programme, questionnaires are used to collect views of participants. Worksheets are distributed after each school talk to assess students' knowledge of the relevant subjects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ GREGORY LEUNG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB191

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1516

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The financial provision under this Programme will be reduced from \$42.1m for 2002-03 (revised) to \$40.6m. Please give details of the followings:

- What are the reasons for the decrease of \$1.5m in operational expenses and which educational projects are involved?
- How much funds are allocated for each educational project and how are they compared with those in the past 5 financial years?
- What is the reason for the reduction of 2 series of TV Announcement of Public Interest and Radio Announcement of Public Interest? How much savings will be achieved? How many members of the general public and how the effectiveness of publicity is expected to be affected?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- The decrease in financial provision in 2003-04 is mainly due to:
 - (a) full year effect of the deletion of civil service posts;
 - (b) savings in publicity expenses; and
 - (c) reduction in equipment expenditure.

- The expenditure/provision for the Public Education and Community Involvement Programme since the establishment of the Department are as follows :

1.1.2000 to 31.3.2000 (Actual) :	\$10.7 m
2000-01 (Actual) :	\$30.8 m
2001-02 (Actual) :	\$34.5 m
2002-03 (Revised Estimate) :	\$42.1 m
2003-04 (Estimate) :	\$40.6 m

- The need to produce TV and Radio Announcements of Public Interest (API) depends on publicity needs, occurrence of incidents and availability of funds. In 2002-03, two APIs on the implementation of the new Fixed Penalty System were produced. It is no longer necessary to produce such APIs in 2003-04 as the public have become more familiar with the new system. The resultant savings have been reflected in the \$1.5 m reduction in the provision for this Programme. This reduction will have little adverse impact as the Department will keep up a range of publicity measures to promote public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental hygiene.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB192

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1517

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of inspections to food premises has decreased from 429 269 for 2002(actual) to 300 000. Please state in detail

- the reasons for the decrease in the number of inspections to food premises;
- the number, rank and remuneration of staff involved in conducting inspections to food premises. Please also provide the particulars as compared with that in the past 5 years;
- the resources so saved and the arrangements for redeploying such resources and manpower.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

In the past, regular inspection of licensed food premises was made at intervals of once every 2 weeks, 4 weeks or 8 weeks. To enhance the effectiveness and quality of the inspections, the Department, following public and trade consultations, introduced a new risk-based inspection system in early 2003. Under the new system, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks according to their risk category. Each inspection will last longer and cover more details. Hygiene education will be provided on the spot where necessary. The new inspection system results in a substantial reduction in the number of inspections planned for 2003.

A total of about 237 staff, covering all ranks of the health inspectorate grade, are involved in the inspection work. This level of manpower has remained generally unchanged since establishment of the Department in 2000. The salary expenditure has been in the region of \$95 m in the past three years.

The reduction in the inspection frequency will be offset by the higher quality of each inspection and hence will not result in savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2003</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB193

Question Serial No.

1097

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title): –

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

For Programme (1), the estimated expenditure for 2003-04 is \$6.1 million. This is the provision for the salaries and allowances of the Secretary and staff in his office. What types of allowances are there, and what will be the expenditure on each type of allowance?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

Of the \$6.1 million budgetted for Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office in 2003-04, an amount of \$594,000 is for the allowances of the staff in the Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, details of which are as follows:

	<u>Estimated expenditure in 2003-04</u>
(a) Acting allowance	\$418,000
(b) Overtime allowance	\$169,000
(c) Job-related allowance	<u>\$7,000</u>
	\$594,000

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB194

Question Serial No.

1098

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational
expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding Personal Emoluments and Allowances under Subhead 000, the amount of allowances to be paid in 2003-04 is about \$5.5 million, an increase of approximately 90% over that of 2002-03. What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The provision for “allowances” under Subhead 000 in 2003-04 is \$2.65 million higher than the revised estimates for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the transfer of resources for the two programmes on “Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety” and “Environmental Hygiene” from Head 154 – GS : Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment) and Health, Welfare and Food Bureau arising from the implementation of the accountability system on 1 July 2002. The provision is mainly to cater for the allowances payable to the staff transferred from the former Environment and Food Bureau to Health, Welfare and Food Bureau who are filling their posts on an acting basis.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB195

Question Serial No.

1099

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title):
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Programme (5) on Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 mentions public consultation on the introduction of a nutritional labelling system into Hong Kong. What are the details of the proposed labelling system? Are they in line with the requirements set out in the guidelines on nutritional labelling that members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) are required to comply by 2010? What is the estimated provision required?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

A mandatory labelling scheme on nutrition information is proposed to be implemented by phases. In the initial stage, food suppliers who choose on a voluntary basis to carry nutrition information, nutrition claims and function claims on their products are required to follow a prescribed format. We propose that after a period of time of about five to ten years for food suppliers and consumers to familiarize with the new regulations, the requirements for nutrition labelling would be made mandatory and cover all prepackaged food products. The proposed labelling system follows the Codex guidelines on food labelling. (APEC encourages member economies to follow the Codex guidelines but they do not have their own guidelines.) At the Bureau level, no provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and any work requiring policy steer or co-ordination is absorbed by existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB196

Question Serial No.

1100

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : On Programme (5) concerning the work related to genetically modified food, will any resources and manpower be reserved for it?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The implementation of work related to genetically modified food will be carried out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. At the Bureau level, no provision for additional staff has been made under Head 149 and any work requiring policy steer or coordination is absorbed by the existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB197

Question Serial No.

1197

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & 000 Operational
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title): expenses

Programme (2) Social Welfare, (3) Health; and (4) Women's Interests
e:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director _____ of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Bureau:

Question :

Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2002-03, we have employed a total of 20 non-civil service contract staff and the expenditure involved is \$4.98 million. We expect that the number of non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04 will remain at the same level as in 2002-03.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB198

Question Serial No.

1209

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

What are the specific initiatives and the expenditure required for pursuing the harmonisation of child care centers and kindergartens in 2003-04? Also, how is the harmonization programme progressing now?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The major initiatives for pursuing the harmonisation of child care centres (CCCs) and kindergartens (KGs) include -

- (a) on admission age and monitoring authority, the edu-care services for children aged 3 to 6 would be provided at KGs and regulated under the Education Ordinance, while child care services for children aged 0 to 3 at CCCs would be regulated by the Child Care Services Ordinance. A joint office staffed by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the management of EMB would be set up to monitor the co-located education and care services;
- (b) on assistance to service providers, the ambit of the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme should be expanded to cover CCCs;
- (c) on assistance to parents, the ambit of the KG Fee Remission Scheme applicable to KG children would replace the existing CCC Fee Assistance Scheme to cover children attending CCCs;
- (d) on staffing standards, the minimum ratio of KG teachers / child care workers to children aged 2 to 6 would be 1:15, whilst the minimum ratio for children aged 0 to 2 would remain at 1:8; and
- (e) on professional qualification, all serving and trained child care workers and KG teachers would be mutually recognized by EMB and SWD as qualified KG teachers and child care workers upon harmonisation without further qualification assessment or requirement of attending conversion courses.

As the amount of savings to be achieved and the additional expenditure involved in the harmonisation exercise (if any) are contingent upon the number of recipients, the conditions of their families and other relevant considerations, it is difficult to estimate the financial implications for implementing the proposals on harmonising the pre-school services.

On the current progress, we are about to set up a steering group in early 2004, with members drawn from relevant bureaux and departments and organizations providing pre-primary services, for advising on the implementation details. Moreover, action is in hand to introduce legislative amendments to the Education Ordinance and the Child Care Services Ordinance as appropriate. It is planned that the legislative amendments will be completed before mid-2004.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS CARRIE YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB199

Question Serial No.

1210

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will pilot new planning strategies for welfare services in 2003-04. What are the specific tasks and the expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) commissioned in 2001 a study on the introduction of a new planning process for welfare services. The study was completed in May 2002.

At the policy level, the HWFB is considering how to take forward the planning process for welfare services, having regard to the outcome of the study and the feedback received.

At the departmental level, upon the re-organisation of the Social Welfare Department, the 13 District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs) have taken on enhanced responsibility, including the planning of welfare services at the district level to meet local community needs. A Planning and Coordinating Team has been formed in each DSWO to plan and coordinate the delivery of welfare services, amongst other duties.

There is no separate provision made for this purpose as HWFB and the District Social Welfare Office absorb this work as part of their regular duties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB200

Question Serial No.

1211

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational
expenses

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety and (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the 32 non-directorate posts and 5 directorate posts to be created in 2003-04, what types of posts are involved, and what are their duties and emoluments?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The increase of 37 posts in 2003-04 refers to the transfer of 35 posts from the former Environment and Food Bureau and two posts from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau arising from the implementation of the accountability system on 1 July 2002. Details of these posts are as follows:-

(a) **Five Directorate Posts**

No.	Post/Rank	Main duties
1	Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Food and Environmental Hygiene) / Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1	Head of the Food and Environmental Hygiene (FEH) Division, responsible for policy matters relating to food supply, food safety, environmental hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, animal welfare and management.
2	Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Food and Environmental Hygiene) / Administrative Officer Staff Grade C	To assist the Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Food and Environmental Hygiene) in the policy matters relating to food supply, food safety, environmental hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, animal welfare and management.

No.	Post/Rank	Main duties
1	Principal Assistant Secretary (PAS) for Health, Welfare and Food (Food and Environmental Hygiene) / Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC)	The post has been used to create a supernumerary post of AOSGC as Administrative Assistant to provide the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food with administrative support under the accountability system since July 2002. The original duties of this post are being shared between the remaining two PASs in the FEH Division.
1	Principal Executive Officer	To be responsible for organisational reviews, re-engineering initiatives, and Bureau administration matters including finance and accounting functions, human resource management and office accommodation.

(b) 32 Non-Directorate Posts

No.	Post/Rank	Main duties
6	4 Senior Administrative Officer 2 Administrative Officer	To provide support on policy matters relating to food supply, food safety, environmental hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, and animal welfare.
4	3 Senior Executive Officer 1 Executive Officer II	To be responsible for (i) planning and management of resources in respect of agriculture, fisheries and food safety and environmental hygiene portfolios, (ii) secretariat service to relevant advisory committees and appeal boards; or (iii) general administrative matters of the FEH Division
3	1 Senior Chinese Language Officer 1 Chinese Language Officer I 1 Calligraphist	To provide translation service for the FEH Division.
10	1 Personal Assistant 1 Senior Personal Secretary 3 Personal Secretary I 5 Personal Secretary II	To provide secretarial support to senior officers of the Bureau and the FEH Division.
7	1 Clerical Officer 3 Assistant Clerical Officer 1 Clerical Assistant 1 Confidential Assistant 1 Office Assistant	To provide clerical, general and messengerial support for the FEH Division.
2	1 Chauffeur 1 Motor Driver	To provide transport service for senior directorate officers and Bureau staff.

- (c) The emoluments for the 37 posts are in accordance with the respective civil service pay scales for the ranks concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 21 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB201

Question Serial No.

1213

Head:

149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the implementation of the three identified priority areas of actions (i.e. gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and public education) by Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in 2003-04, would the Administration provide information on their action plans, expenditures and latest progress ?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

On gender mainstreaming we aim to incorporate women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. An analytical tool, in the form of the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, as well as an accompanying information kit have been developed and pilot tested in five policy areas in 2002, and an evaluation has been carried out. The Checklist and the information kit are now being revised to take into account comments and suggestions made. We shall roll out a Checklist to selected policy areas on an incremental basis. The policy areas in which we intend to use the Checklist in 2003-04 include IT education in the community and review on advisory boards and committees.

To facilitate civil servants to take into account women's perspective in the policy making process and to enhance their sensitivity towards gender issues and women's concerns, gender-related training has been offered to civil servants of different grades. The courses and workshops are tailored to the needs of different departments and grades. We shall continue to organise such training to civil servants in 2003-04. A provision of \$1.49 million has been made for this purpose.

For women empowerment, we intend to build up the capacity of women at the individual level, and create an enabling environment to facilitate women's advancement at the societal level. Proactive measures are being taken to enhance women's participation in government advisory bodies. The gender composition of their membership will be taken into account when

making appointments to these bodies. Efforts are being made to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of advisory and statutory bodies.

In addition, we have been reviewing services for women and supporting the Women's Commission in promoting new service models and good empowerment practices. A booklet on such practices will be published soon.

Furthermore, we are exploring a capacity building framework to facilitate women from different backgrounds to acquire various skills and gain recognition for the courses they take.

As regards public education, we have launched a campaign to raise public awareness of women-related issues and to reduce gender stereotyping. The campaign includes production and broadcasting of two announcements of public interest on television and radio, organizing an essay competition, production and broadcasting a television drama series, as well as launching a radio talk-show. We have plans to organize other public education activities, including an open discussion forum in mid 2003 as well as producing a new series of TV drama in end-2003. A provision of \$4.87 million has been made for promotional and education programmes in 2003-04.

Costs incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiative will be absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments, and the cost involved in reviewing services for women, in promoting development of new or improved services models, in enhancing women participation in advisory and statutory bodies, and in drawing up of the capacity building framework will be absorbed by the Women's Division of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	_____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB202

Question Serial No.

1214

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Bureau will review the social security schemes to develop a sustainable financial support system for needy older persons to meet their basic needs. What are the timetable of the review exercise and the expenditure to be incurred? Also, what is the progress of the studies conducted for developing a sustainable financial support system for older persons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Government's objective in reviewing the existing social security arrangements for elders is to develop a long term sustainable financial support system that better targets resources at needy elders, drawing reference from the "Three Pillar approach" recommended by the World Bank. We have already established the privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF), one of the two mandatory pillars recommended by the World Bank. We are currently reviewing the existing social security schemes for elders under the other mandatory pillar to ensure that it is sustainable in the long run, having regard to our ageing population and simple and low taxation system.

Given the complexity of the issues involved, it would take some time before the review could be completed. We need to conduct more in-depth studies in considering options. In terms of resources for the review, we will utilize existing resources in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. This will be part of the work of the Deputy Secretary responsible for elderly policies and his team.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB204

Question Serial No.

1472

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

In relation to issues requiring special attention in 2003-04, please inform us of:

- (a) the plan in details, including the proposed legislative timetable, for introducing proposed amendments to the Adoption Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance; and
- (b) the specific tasks and the expenditure involved regarding researches into the suicide problem and the development of appropriate preventive and supportive programmes as encouraged by the Administration.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

As announced in the 2003 Policy Address, the Government plans to introduce the Ad (Amendment) Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the current legislative session, in order

- (i) bring the local adoption system up-to-date and introduce new measures, such as prohibiting private arrangements for unrelated adoption, imposing a mandatory criminal record check on applicants etc.; and
- (ii) facilitate international cooperation in inter-country adoption, by giving effect to the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

The Government will consult the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services shortly on the legislative proposals.

As regards the proposal to amend the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO), following the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s review of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and DDO, the Administration has agreed to take forward some of EOC's proposed amendments by way of an amendment bill. These seek to protect the rights of individuals by providing greater clarity to the existing legislation. As far as the DDO is concerned, the amendments primarily involve –

- (i) clarifying some of the provisions in the DDO (e.g. to extend the definition of an “associate” for better protection of a carer of a person with a disability, to make clear that claims can be made against persons who are vicariously liable for acts of disability discrimination, harassment and vilification); and
- (ii) improving the operation of the DDO (e.g. to protect EOC members and staff from pecuniary damages when performing EOC functions, to enable the EOC to recover legal costs incurred in providing assistance to complainants).

The Administration intends to submit a Bill to LegCo within the current legislative session.

- (b) Under a comprehensive approach, individual initiatives relating to suicide prevention and reduction can be divided into short and long term measures involving both generic and targeted approach. The provision has been made in the respective heads of the bureaux and the departments undertaking the work involved. No provision has been made under Head 149, as any work requiring policy steer or coordination is absorbed by existing staff.

We encourage research into the suicide issue and the development of appropriate preventive and supportive programmes. For example, in September 2002, a Lotteries Fund Grant of \$926,700 was approved for the Centre for Criminology of the University of Hong Kong to carry out a study on homicide-suicide in Hong Kong. The study commenced in November 2002 and will take two years to complete. In addition, the Government also encourages tertiary institutions and non-governmental organizations to undertake research in this area. For example, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention has been set up by the University of Hong Kong to undertake evidence-based research, identify preventive measures, provide training for professionals etc. This has been made possible with our support, through grants from the Chief Executive's Community Project List 2002 and from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The Centre started work in October 2002.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB205

Question Serial No.

1473

Head: 149-Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04, it is mentioned that the Bureau will assist in the design and monitoring of measures designed to promote the self-reliance and employment opportunities of people with disabilities. Would the Administration provide information on the details of the relevant measures as well as the expenditure and staffing arrangements?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Rehabilitation Division of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is responsible for formulating and co-ordinating policies and programmes relating to people with disabilities (PWDs). Among other things, it oversees the implementation of programmes launched by various departments including Social Welfare Department and Labour Department which promote self-reliance and employment of PWDs. In addition, it controls the funding for subvention granted to the Vocational Training Council to operate 3 skill training centres, the objective of which is to equip PWDs for open employment. Provision of \$117,948,000 has been included in the 2003-04 Estimates under Head 176 Subhead 521 to subvent these centres.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB206

Question Serial No.

1474

Head:

149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to women's interests :

- (a) what will be done, to be specific, as a "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" is introduced to a number of policy areas, and what is the expenditure required;
- (b) what is the expenditure for providing gender-related training to civil servants;
- (c) how many studies, surveys and research on women issues will be commissioned in 2003-04 and what is the expenditure to be incurred; and
- (d) how many regular meetings with local women's groups and service agencies are scheduled to be conducted in 2003-04 and what is the expenditure to be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (a) Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. An analytical tool, in the form of a Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, as well as an accompanying information kit have been developed and pilot tested in five policy areas in 2002. They were : "District Council Review", "Family Education Programme", "Health Care Reform", "Enhanced Home and Community Care Services for the Elderly", and "Secondary School Places Allocation System". We shall roll out a revised Checklist to selected policy areas on an incremental basis. The policy areas in which we intend to use the Checklist in 2003-04 include IT education in the community and review on advisory boards and committees. Costs incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiative will be absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments. At the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau level, the organization and coordination work is absorbed by existing staff.
- (b) Gender-related training (courses and workshops) have been offered to civil servants of different grades. A breakdown of expenditure on gender-related training in 2001-02 and 2002-03 is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$'000)	No. of Workshops held	No of attendance
2001-02	425.3	8	212
2002-03	336.4	8	210

We shall continue to organise such gender-related training to civil servants, and a provision of \$1.49 million has been made for such gender-related training programmes in 2003-04.

- (c) We will conclude the thematic household survey on “Time Use and Factors Hindering Women’s Participation in Society” in 2003-04. We will also start work on the third round of the survey on the effectiveness of the publicity and public education campaign of the Women's Commission in 2003-04. In the light of the findings from these and other studies conducted earlier, the Administration will consult the Women’s Commission on other follow-up studies/surveys that should be conducted. A provision of \$4 million has been made in 2003-04 for conducting studies, surveys and research to identify women’s interests, needs, concerns and women-related issues as well as collecting sex-disaggregated data.
- (d) Plans are in hand for organising the following exchange sessions/meetings with local women’s groups and services agencies in 2003-04 :-
- a working session on development of a Framework of Collaboration in April 2003;
 - an open forum and sharing session on good empowerment practices and capacity building in May/June 2003; and
 - a sharing session with the non-governmental sector on gender mainstreaming in the latter half of 2003.

In addition, together with the Women’s Commission, we will continue to visit women’s organisations and services agencies in the districts. Further consultation/exchange sessions may be organised if necessary in the light of new emerging issues affecting women in Hong Kong. A provision of \$0.4 million has been made in 2003-04 for organising meetings with local women’s groups and services agencies and participation in international fora.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB207

Question Serial No.

1492

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As a review of the social security schemes will be carried out in 2003-04 to develop a sustainable financial support system for needy older persons to meet their basic needs, would the Administration provide information on :

- (1) the amount of funds to be involved;
- (2) whether the Administration would commission an independent body to carry out the review; and
- (3) the scope of the review, and whether a survey would be included with a view to re-setting the lowest standard of living for households receiving CSSA.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply : Government's objective in reviewing the existing social security arrangements for elders is to develop a long term sustainable financial support system that better targets resources at needy elders, drawing reference from the "Three Pillar approach" recommended by the World Bank. We have already established the privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF), one of the two mandatory pillars recommended by the World Bank. We are currently reviewing the existing social security schemes for elders under the other mandatory pillar to ensure that it is sustainable in the long run, having regard to our ageing population and simple and low taxation system. Given the complexity of the issues involved, it would take some time before the review could be completed. We need to conduct more in-depth studies in considering options.

Replies to the specific questions are as follows –

In terms of resources for the review, we will utilize existing resources in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. This will be part of the work of the Deputy Secretary responsible for elderly policies and his team.

- (2) We do not have a plan to commission an independent body to conduct the review. If and when there are specific proposals to introduce major changes to the system, Government will consult relevant stakeholders, the public and the Legislative Council.
- (3) As stated above, the review would involve complex issues, which would need to be prioritized before considering more in-depth studies which may be required in considering options. It is premature to specify any particular survey.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB208

Question Serial No.

1494

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Bureau:

Question :

: Government inform us of the details concerning the plan to implement the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist in several policy areas? And what are the policies involved ?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. An analytical tool, in the form of a Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, as well as an accompanying information kit have been developed and pilot tested in five policy areas in 2002. They were : "District Council Review", "Family Education Programme", "Health Care Reform", "Enhanced Home and Community Care Services for the Elderly", and "Secondary School Places Allocation System". We shall roll out a revised Checklist to selected policy areas on an incremental basis. The policy areas in which the Checklist will be used in 2003-04 include IT education in the community and review on advisory boards and committees.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB209

Question Serial No.

1503

Head:

149 – Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the introduction of the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist", how many policy areas will be covered in 2003-04? Which policy areas are involved in this exercise?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. An analytical tool, in the form of a Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, as well as an accompanying information kit have been developed and pilot tested in five policy areas in 2002. They were : "District Council Review", "Family Education Programme", "Health Care Reform", "Enhanced Home and Community Care Services for the Elderly", and "Secondary School Places Allocation System". We shall roll out a revised Checklist to selected policy areas on an incremental basis. The policy areas in which we intend to use the Checklist in 2003-04 include IT education in the community and review on advisory boards and committees.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

Salary of SHWF	\$3,232,000
Staff in his Office (including Administrative Assistant, Personal Assistant, Chauffeur, Personal Secretary I and Clerical Assistant):-	
• Salaries	\$2,271,000
• Allowances	\$587,000
• Job-related allowance	\$7,000
Total :	\$6,097,000

- (2) As the Office of the SHWF as such did not exist before the implementation of the Accountability System, it is not possible to make a comparison of expenditure.
- (3) Under the principle of making use of the minimum amount of resources to ensure the smooth operation of the office of the Bureau Director, we consider that the estimated expenditure for the Office of SHWF in 2003-04 is appropriate.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the provision of \$29,608 m for the Hospital Authority for 2003-04, (a) what is the additional provision in response to our population growth; (b) what are the respective additional provisions for the transfer of general out-patient clinics to HA, the introduction of family medicine practice in general out-patient clinics, the provision of Chinese medicine out-patient service, the enhancement of the elderly suicide prevention programme and the EXITERS project, strengthening the provision of extended care and supporting services in public hospitals, and the enhancement of allied health support services; (c) why is there additional provision for providing Chinese medicine out-patient service by HA for 2003-04 when provision for the same service has already been made for 2002-03; (d) what will be the respective savings in expenditure as a result of efficiency savings, civil service pay adjustment, implementation of the new civil service starting salaries and reduced provision for staff on-costs for new recruits?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

- (a) Of the \$29,608 million to be allocated to the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04, \$301 million is provided to take into account population growth.
- (b) Additional funding to be provided to HA in 2003-04 for enhancement of services are set out below :

Service	Additional Provision in 2003-04 (\$ million)
Transfer of 59 general out-patient clinics (GOPC) from the Department of Health (DH)	368
Provision of Chinese Medicine out-patient services	14
Enhancement of the Elderly Suicide Prevention Programme	17
Enhancement of the Extended-care patients Intensive Treatment, Early diversion and Rehabilitation Stepping-stone (EXITERS) project	15
Strengthening the provision of extended care and supporting services in public hospitals (one-off funding)	283
Enhancement of allied health support services (one-off funding)	38

The introduction of family medicine practice in GOPCs will be funded by the time-limited cash flow earmarked in 2000 for use over five years to facilitate the smooth transfer of GOPCs from DH to HA.

- (c) HA will set up three clinics to provide Chinese Medicine out-patient services in 2003. The \$14 million funding to be provided to HA in 2003-04 is for such purpose.
- (d) The respective savings in expenditure to be achieved in 2003-04 are set out below :

	Amount of savings in 2003-04 (\$ million)
1.8% efficiency savings	545
2002 Civil Service Pay Adjustment	321
On-costs savings and entry pay savings resulting from replacement of new staff with a reduced pay package and lower entry point	50

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB212

Question Serial No.

1054

Head : 177-Subventions: Subhead (No. & title) : 514 Hospital Authority
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the transfer of the Department of Health's general out-patient clinics to the Hospital Authority (HA), (a) what is the provision for taking over each of these clinics? (b) what is the planned number of attendances? and (c) please provide a breakdown of the following information on these clinics before and after they are transferred to HA: staffing, personal emoluments, pharmaceutical cost and other costs, number of consultations and attendances, number of elderly persons and number of their attendances, and the cost per consultation.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

- (d) The management of the 59 General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) and their related services will be transferred from the Department of Health (DH) to the Hospital Authority (HA) in July 2003. The Government has earmarked a time-limited cash flow of \$1,135M in 2000 for use over 5 years for the purpose of the transfer. This amount will be used for the initial setup cost of the 64 clinics (including the 5 pilot scheme clinics) after the transfer and subsidise the subsequent operating cost of these clinics during the immediate transfer period to enable a smooth transfer of services. In addition, for the financial year of 2003-04 DH will transfer \$367.5M of its operating budget to HA (9 months' effect from July 2003 to March 2004).
- (e) It is not envisaged that the public's demand for GOP service will be affected after the transfer. It is estimated that from July 2003 to March 2004, the total attendance at HA's GOPCs will be about 3.9M.

(c) The information on staffing, personal emoluments, pharmaceutical cost, other costs, number of consultations and attendances, number of elderly persons and number of their attendances, and the cost per consultation before and after the transfer is as follows :

	Before transfer	After transfer
Staffing	1,200 ^(Note 1)	About the same
Salaries	\$456 m	Not yet available
Pharmaceutical cost	\$93m	About the same
Other costs ^(Note 2)	\$479m	About the same
No. of attendances	4.48M (April 2002 – Mar 2003)	3.9 M (July 2003 – Mar 2004)
No. of elderly persons attending	Not available as patients are not classified according to age	
Cost per consultation	\$217	Not yet available

(Note 1) This no. includes both civil servants and non-civil-service contract staff.

(Note 2) Most of these are notional (e.g. accommodation and depreciation), or will continue to be borne by the Government after the transfer (e.g., staff on-cost, electricity, X-ray.)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Why is the revised estimate less than the approved estimate for personal emoluments and staff on-costs for 2002-03? What is the number of staff that will be deleted and what is the rank of these staff?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The reduced provision for personal emoluments and staff on-costs in 2002-03 is due to the 2002 civil service pay adjustment which took effect from 1 October 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 19 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04, how many posts in the Hospital Authority are paid at a level comparable to that of the directorate ranks in the Civil Service? Please give the details of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The number of senior staff in the Hospital Authority at the pay scale equivalent to the Directorate rank (D1 and above) in the Civil Service for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are set out below -

	2001-02	2002-03 (Estimate)	2003-04 (Estimate)
Clinical Consultants	503	500	496
Management	59	62	60

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

22 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

A comparison of the cost per in-patient discharged between 2002-03 and 2003-04 shows that there is an increase in relation to general in-patients and the mentally-ill, but there is a reduction as far as the infirmary service is concerned. What are the reasons for these? What are the cost of a hospital bed per day and number of in-patient days for infirmary service in the estimates for 2001-02 to 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The unit cost of a service varies as the resources devoted for the service and/or the service volume change from one year to another. For services without additional funding, variation of the unit cost will mainly be caused by the change in service volume.

The Hospital Authority (HA) has been improving its general inpatient and psychiatric services through the use of newer medications, introduction of advanced technology, better co-ordinated treatment processes, and enhancement of education on carers. For psychiatric inpatient service, additional resources have been allocated in 2003-04 for enhancing the EXtended-care patients Intensive Treatment, Early diversion and Rehabilitation Stepping-stone Project. All these factors result in a slight rise (1.4%) in the cost of general in-patient service per patient day despite the fact that the length of stay for general patients has been shortened by 0.2 day. As for psychiatric in-patient service, there is a very slight rise (0.5%) in the cost per patient day.

HA will enhance its infirmary service by opening 100 infirmary beds towards the end of 2002-03, the full effect of which would only be realised in 2003-04. With the increase in bed days in 2003-04 consequent upon the opening of these new beds, the unit cost per patient discharged is expected to decrease by about 4 % through implementation of measures to achieve greater cost-effectiveness in service provision.

The estimated cost per bed day for infirmary service for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 are set out below:

	Unit cost per patient day (\$)	Patient days
2001-02	1,094	667 360
2002-03 (Estimate)	1,069	707 710
2003-04 (Estimate)	1,026	726 820

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

22 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB216

Question Serial No.

1061

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the amount of the Hospital Authority's reserve? Does each HA hospital have its own reserve and if yes, what are the respective amounts of such reserves?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi Kwong

Reply :

The reserves of the Hospital Authority (HA) are maintained by the HA Head Office centrally. As at 31 March 2002, HA's general reserves amounted to \$815 million. As HA's projected deficit for 2002-03 is in the region of \$227 million, the balance of HA's general reserves would be reduced to some \$588 million by end of the 2002-03 financial year after financing the 2002-03 deficit.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the costs per day of general beds and mentally ill beds respectively in 2002-03 and 2003-04? Please explain any increase or decrease in such costs.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The estimated bed day cost for general and psychiatric in-patient services in 2002-03 and 2003-4 are as follows:

In-patient Service	Estimated Cost per patient day (\$)	
	2002-03	2003-04
General	3,075	3,120
Psychiatric	1,404	1,411

The Hospital Authority (HA) has been improving its general inpatient and psychiatric services through the use of newer medications, introduction of advanced technology, better co-ordinated treatment processes, and enhancement of education on carers. For psychiatric inpatient service, additional resources have been allocated in 2003-04 for enhancing the EXtended-care patients Intensive Treatment, Early diversion and Rehabilitation Stepping-stone Project. All these factors result in a slight rise (1.4%) in the cost of general in-patient service per patient day despite the fact that the length of stay for general patients has been shortened by 0.2 day. As for psychiatric in-patient service, there is a very slight rise (0.5%) in the cost per patient day.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

22 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB219

Question Serial No.

1120

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) What are the number of medical officers, nurses and allied health professionals in each hospital cluster as well as the population of each hospital cluster? How can we evaluate whether the ratio is appropriate?
- (b) As far as the medical, surgical, paediatric, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmic and oncology departments are concerned, what are the median waiting time for first appointment as well as the cost of each consultation and cost per patient for each hospital cluster and the Hospital Authority as a whole?
- (c) As far as specialist out-patient departments and non-acute operations are concerned, which specialty and illness have the longest or the shortest waiting time (by hospital cluster)?
- (d) What are the number as well as unit cost of general beds, psychiatric beds, day hospital places, geriatric day hospital places, community nurses and community psychiatric nurses in each hospital cluster? What is the ratio of these services to the population of the relevant hospital cluster? How can we evaluate whether the ratio is appropriate?
- (e) How many beds will be deleted in each hospital cluster in 2003-04? Which hospital and specialty will be affected?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

Patients can receive care in hospital clusters other than their own residential clusters. The figures provided below reflect the distribution of facilities and healthcare staff to cater for the existing share of the clusters in terms of patient load, with notable cross-cluster utilisation.

- (a) The number and ratio of clinical professionals per 1 000 population in each of the seven clusters of the Hospital Authority (HA) (position as at 28 February 2003) are as follows:

**Number of clinical professionals (as at 28 February 2003)
and ratio per 1 000 population**

Cluster	Doctors	Ratio	Qualified Nurses	Ratio	Allied Health Staff	Ratio
Hong Kong East	482	0.6	2 021	2.4	546	0.6
Hong Kong West	504	0.9	2 593	4.7	706	1.3
Kowloon Central	546	1.1	2 631	5.4	707	1.5
Kowloon East	485	0.6	1 883	2.1	474	0.5
Kowloon West	1 050	0.6	4 896	2.7	1 002	0.6
New Territories East	747	0.6	3 241	2.5	812	0.6
New Territories West	477	0.5	2 285	2.2	447	0.4
Total	4 289	0.6	19 550	2.8	4 692	0.7

Note:

- Staff figures are on full-time equivalent (FTE) basis.
- Figures for doctors and nurses cover qualified staff only.

HA conducts on-going evaluation of clinical manpower and service requirements having regard to patient activities and attendances, complexity of services and reliance on public hospital services. Reviews by service type at regular intervals are conducted at both the cluster and head office levels to ensure appropriate deployment of manpower.

- (b) Various measures have been taken in recent years by each cluster to cope with the increase in demand for the specialist out-patient (SOP) service. These measures include:
- strengthening family medicine training
 - implementing triage systems to ensure priority be accorded to patients with greatest clinical needs
 - formulation of referral guidelines
 - setting up of a number of Integrated Clinics

The median waiting time for first appointment for Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Gynaecology, Obstetrics (Ante-natal), Ophthalmology and Clinical Oncology for the year 2002-03 (covering the period between April 2002 to January 2003) by cluster is shown below :

Median waiting time (in weeks)

Cluster	Medicine	Surgery	Paediatrics	Gynaecology	Obstetrics	Ophthalmology	Clinical Oncology
Hong Kong East (HKE)	6	8	<1	3	1	1	<1
Hong Kong West (HKW)	5	5	2	8	<1	<1	<1
Kowloon Central (KC)	30	5	<1	5	3	10	1
Kowloon East (KE)	7	4	4	8	<1	9	N/A
Kowloon West (KW)	13	9	1	5	1	2	N/A
New Territories East (NTE)	20	10	7	4	3	7	<1
New Territories West (NTW)	21	14	18	4	1	2	<1

N/A - services are provided by hospitals in another cluster

The average unit cost of SOP attendance for 2001-02 by cluster is set out below:

	Average unit cost of SOP attendance (\$)							
	HKW	HKE	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	HA Overall
Medicine	1,460	1,106	1,447	1,295	1,124	1,244	1,093	1,231
Surgery	884	808	759	1,065	803	911	669	841
Obstetric & Gynaecology	990	583	684	786	527	638	716	671
Paediatrics	1,260	681	1,046	730	833	853	778	893
Radiotherapy & Oncology	732	812	1,014	N/A	N/A	1,423	1,043	1,024
Ophthalmology	449	440	421	455	291	438	339	402

N/A - There are no radiotherapy & oncology services in KE and KW clusters.

HA's information system does not collate information on the average cost of SOP service per patient.

- (c) The longest and shortest waiting time for 2002-03 (covering the period from April 2002 to January 2003) by specialty in each cluster is set out below :

Cluster	Specialty with the longest median waiting time	Specialty with the shortest median waiting time
Hong Kong East	Surgery	Paediatrics/ Clinical Oncology
Hong Kong West	Gynaecology	Obstetrics/ Ophthalmology/ Clinical Oncology
Kowloon Central	Medicine	Paediatrics
Kowloon East	Ophthalmology	Obstetrics
Kowloon West	Medicine	Paediatrics /Obstetrics
New Territories East	Medicine	Clinical Oncology
New Territories West	Medicine	Clinical Oncology

With the cluster reform launched last year, clusters are in the process of pooling resources for more efficient and effective delivery of service.

The waiting time statistics for non-urgent operations by clusters are not routinely collected.

- (d) The average unit cost of HA's in-patient, day patient and community services for 2001-02 by cluster is shown as follows:

	HKW	HKE	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	HA Overall
Cost per In-patient Discharge and Death (\$)								
General beds	25,846	17,543	22,667	19,360	17,618	20,458	15,135	19,870
Psychiatric beds	81,295	99,876	214,430	78,997	139,479	108,860	251,276	143,697
Cost per Home Visit (\$)								
Community Outreach Nursing Services	461	338	365	338	335	345	275	341
Psychiatric Outreach Nursing Services	1,364	900	1,461	1,426	1,466	1,379	907	1,230
Cost per Day Hospital Attendance (\$)								
Psychiatric Day Hospital	502	726	1,114	961	852	1,271	775	883
Geriatric Day Hospital	1,142	1,254	848	1,460	1,807	1,637	1,617	1,482

The number of general beds, mentally ill beds, geriatric day hospital (GDH) places, psychiatric day hospital (PDH) places, community nurses (CNS) and community psychiatric nurses (CPN) in each of the seven clusters is as follows:

Cluster	General beds	Mentally ill beds	PDH	GDH	CNS	CPN
Hong Kong East	1 895	610	90	100	52	13
Hong Kong West	3 393	94	73	22	32	5
Kowloon Central	3 120	313	42	45	20	5
Kowloon East	2 041	30	136	80	80	10
Kowloon West	5 319	1 434	209	150	104	32
New Territories East	3 207	594	125	120	45	13
New Territories West	1 604	1 783	44	50	39	19
Total	20 579	4 858	719	567	372	97

The ratios of general beds, mentally ill beds, GDH places, PDH places, CNS and CPN to the population in each cluster are shown below:

Cluster	Bed per 1 000 population		PDH per 100 000 population	GDH per 100 000 population*	CNS per 100 000 population	CPN per 100 000 population
	General	Mentally-ill				
Hong Kong East	2.2	0.72	10.6	92.8	6.1	1.5
Hong Kong West	6.2	0.17	13.3	33.8	5.8	0.9
Kowloon Central	6.5	0.65	8.7	67.5	4.1	1.0
Kowloon East	2.3	0.03	15.4	74.8	9.1	1.1
Kowloon West	2.9	0.79	11.6	61.8	5.8	1.8
New Territories East	2.4	0.45	9.5	100.2	3.4	1.0
New Territories West	1.5	1.72	4.2	62.6	3.8	1.8
Total	3.0	0.70	10.4	71.9	5.4	1.4

Notes :

- Bed and day places status - as at 31.3.2003
- Manpower status - as at 28.2.2003
- * per 100 000 population aged 65 and above

HA has an established mechanism to assess the services and facilities provided by each cluster having regard to the cluster population profile, utilisation trends and service networking.

- (e) HA has not finalized its plan on the number of general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 at the hospital level. The distribution by hospital cluster of the 1 200 general beds to be reduced in 2003-04 is as follows :

Cluster	Number of beds
Hong Kong West	376
Hong Kong East	94
Kowloon East	0
Kowloon Central	120
Kowloon West	390
New Territories East	220
New Territories West	0

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 22 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the size of staff reduction anticipated to be achieved under the HA's Voluntary Early Retirement Programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Voluntary Early Retirement Programme of the Hospital Authority was open for application during 2 December 2002 and 1 March 2003. Over 2 300 applications were received. HA management is going through all the applications with a view to approving successful applications in April 2003. The actual number of staff reduced will only be available upon approval of the applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

19 March 2003

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As there will be a reduction of 1200 general beds in 2003, would the Administration tell us why it chose to shrink this type of patient care? Has the Administration considered other alternatives that could generate savings but will have less impact on the public?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The international trend has been to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes and to replace, where appropriate, in-patient treatment by ambulatory and out-patient services. The Hospital Authority (HA) has in recent years stepped up its developments on day surgery, day care, out-patient services, community nursing and outreach programmes. In response to this shift to ambulatory and community care, HA plans to adjust in-patient general beds in order to rationalise its service provision. The reduction of 1 200 beds is made possible by :

- advances in medical technologies, including minimal access surgeries and new medications (for treatment of cancer and psychiatric illness, for instance), which shorten the duration of hospitalisation and reduce complications;
- strengthened ambulatory and outreach care which facilitates early discharge of patients;
- service reengineering and consolidation, including early discharge planning, better coordinated treatment processes and streamlining workflow in non-clinical areas, which helps shorten the length of stay of patients.

Over the years, HA has been implementing measures to enhance productivity and achieve efficiency savings. HA will continue to implement the following productivity enhancement measures in 2003-04 :

- Continue to reduce managerial and supporting staff
- Rationalize services within hospital clusters to reduce duplications
- Exercise stringent control on replacement of vacant posts
- Devise a new pay package for new recruits
- Re-engineer business support initiatives, such as procurement and supplies management, catering, laundry.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB222

Question Serial No.

1488

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will all the 300 doctors to be recruited in 2003-04 be fresh medical graduates? How many fresh medical graduates will not be employed by the Hospital Authority?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The recruitment exercise for residents is open to all fresh medical graduates and any other eligible applicants with qualification registrable in Hong Kong under the Medical Registration Ordinance. The recruitment exercise for 2003-04 is in progress and the results will be known in June 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB223

Question Serial No.

1315

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department Subhead: 000-Operational expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide the number of Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff employed and the expenditure incurred in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less NCSC staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? What will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : As at February 2003, the department was employing some 700 full-time NCSC staff. The department is also maintaining a pool of around 380 part-time NCSC staff who are mostly remunerated at hourly rate. They are called upon to perform the required tasks on ad hoc basis. The total expenditure on salaries and gratuities paid to NCSC staff in 2002-03 is \$87 m and \$9 m for full-time NCSC staff and part-time staff respectively.

At this stage the department has no plan that may affect substantially the number of NCSC staff employed and accordingly similar provision has been included in the 2003-04 Estimates for NCSC staff. As a matter of fact, the bulk of NCSC staff are engaged in the department's Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme which is facing increasing workload. We intend to engage an additional 30 NCSC Employment Assistance Co-ordinators to support initiatives announced under the package to intensify the SFS Scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB224

Question Serial No.

1350

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please state separately the number of child abuse, battered spouse and elder abuse cases by gender in 2002-03.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : Information on child abuse cases and battered spouse cases are captured by the Child Protection Registry and the Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases respectively. From January to December 2002, the figures of newly reported child abuse cases and battered spouse cases, with breakdowns of victims by gender, are as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Child Abuse Case	189	331	520
Battered Spouse Case	247	2 787	3 034

The statistics of elder abuse cases are not available as currently there is no centralised system to collect relevant information. Nevertheless, according to the statistics of the two three-year Pilot Projects on Prevention and Handling of Elder Abuse implemented by two non-governmental organisations, from April 2001 to December 2002, a total of 130 elder abuse cases involving 38 men and 92 women were handled. With a grant of \$2.3 m from the Lotteries Fund in February 2002, the Hong Kong Christian Service has implemented a two-year Project on Elder Abuse Research and Protocol, which will, among other tasks, develop a computerised registry to collect general information on elder abuse cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB225

Question Serial No.

1351

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give a list on the number of recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme by their gender and age group (under 18, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and above) in 2002-03. How many of them are new arrivals?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : Statistics on the total number of CSSA recipients by age and by sex, and of those having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years as at the end of December 2002 are as follows:

Age group	No. of CSSA recipients			No. of CSSA recipients having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	66 477	65 755	132 232	17 728	18 044	35 772
18 - 29	12 005	14 144	26 149	2 106	3 671	5 777
30 - 39	12 408	26 982	39 390	369	9 615	9 984
40 - 49	27 228	35 155	62 383	241	10 160	10 401
50 - 59	22 513	13 749	36 262	123	2 592	2 715
60 or over	84 438	86 014	170 452	512	4 184	4 696
Total	225 069	241 799	466 868	21 079	48 266	69 345

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title Director of Social Welfare
Date 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB226

Question Serial No.

1352

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security
(3) Services for Elders
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the amount of resources allocated for assisting Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, people with low earnings, the elderly and the disabled respectively in the use of computers and Information Technology (IT) in 2002-03? What is the estimated amount of resources to be allocated for this purpose in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : Under the IT Strategy for the Social Welfare Sector, our targets are to assist elders and disabled persons to make wider use of IT. Resources allocated under Lotteries Fund grants for 2002-03 and 2003-04 on the IT initiatives are summarised in the following table:

No.	Items	2002-03* (\$'000)	2003-04* (\$'000)
1	To procure computer equipment for service units providing elderly and rehabilitation services	10,960	-
2	To provide Internet Access Connection Charge for service units providing elderly and rehabilitation services for three years	4,577	4,937
3	To design websites facilitating care and training for elders and disabled persons	130	67
4	To provide IT awareness training courses for elders and disabled persons [^]	3,480	2,251

5	To provide personal computers through Central Fund for Personal Computers for the Disabled	510	1,000
	Total	19,657	8,255

*: Figures are rounded up to thousand dollars.

^: About \$579,600 was supported under Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund.

In respect of computer skills training for CSSA recipients, it has been part and parcel of the integrated training of the Intensive Employment Assistance Fund Projects. In addition, quite a few Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations service units have as part of their normal services provided their clients with access to computers and the Internet, and also IT training for their customers, including CSSA recipients and people with low earnings. However, we do not have available information on the resources on IT training dedicated for their use.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB227

Question Serial No.

1353

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the enrolment rates of probation homes, probation hostel, reformatory school, remand homes/places of refuge in 2002-03? Please give details on the education/school training offered in each type of institution by the gender of children admitted.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : The estimated enrolment rate of the correctional/residential homes 2002-03 is listed below:

Homes	Enrolment (%)
Probation Homes	75.5
Probation Hostel	91.5
Reformatory School	73.3
Remand Homes/Places of Refuge	51.3

On academic training, the department provides the same nature and quality of education service to the residents of both sexes. On practical and vocational training, the department provides special programmes/classes to suit the employment needs of boys and girls. Details are listed below:

Types of Homes	Academic Training	Employment training
Probation Homes and Reforma-	- Training on various subjects like English, Chinese,	(i) <u>Workshop training for male offenders</u> Subjects include Information

<p>tory School, which are long term homes</p>	<p>Mathematics, Social Studies, Computer and Physical Education etc.</p> <p>- Language studies on Spoken English and Putonghua.</p>	<p>Technology, Desktop Publishing, Plumbing, Air-conditioning, Metal Work, Wood Work etc.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Workshop training for female offenders</u> Subjects include Information Technology, Beauty and Hair Styling, Cookery and Catering, Tailoring etc.</p>
<p>Remand Homes/ Places of Refuge, which are short term homes</p>	<p>- Classes on basic academic subjects like English, Chinese and Mathematics.</p>	<p>(i) <u>Workshop training for boys</u> Trade training on metal work, electric work as well as art and general handicraft.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Workshop training for girls</u> Trade training on simple word processing, beauty and make up knowledge as well as art and general handicraft.</p>

As the residents of Probation Hostel go out to study or work during day time, structured education programmes are not provided by the Hostel. The Hostel has however maintained on-going liaison with education organisations in the community to provide study and employment guidance to the residents as needed.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB228

Question Serial No.

1373

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of subvented/private sectors' private home places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) will be increased from 5 541 in 2002-03 (Revised) to 6 735 in 2003-04 (Estimate). Would the Administration provide detailed information on the following:

- (1) the reason(s) for increasing the number of private home places in spite of the fact that the average cost per place per month in private home (\$6,191) is higher than that in aged homes (\$4,129); and
- (2) the additional expenditure incurred by the increase of such places in 2003-04 (Estimate).

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : (1) These two types of homes are targeted at elders of different impairment levels. Elders admitted into EBPS homes are those assessed to be of a moderate level of impairment and are in need of care and attention, whereas homes for the aged admit elders of a mild level of impairment, many of whom are capable of self-care. These two types of services require different staffing level and skills and hence have a different unit cost.

- (2) An additional provision of \$56.9 m has been included in 2003-04 for increasing the number of EBPS places but we have yet to determine the exact number of places to be provided taking account of recent developments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB229

Question Serial No.

1374

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The average monthly unit cost for contract home places provided by subvented/private sectors will increase from \$5,287 in 2002-03 (Revised) to \$5,663 in 2003-04 (Estimate). Would the Administration provide detailed information on the following:

- (1) the reason(s) for the substantial increase in the average monthly unit cost;
- (2) the additional resources required for provision of these places; and
- (3) the reason(s) for the increase in unit cost in spite of the fact that operators of contract homes are selected through open tender exercise.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The first two contract homes providing continuum of care were tendered out on the basis of admission of frail elders with moderate impairment, i.e. at a care-and-attention home level. To address the growing demand for nursing home places from elders with a more severe level of impairment, subsequent contract homes were or are to be tendered out with a designated proportion of nursing home places for admission. As a result, we have enhanced the provision of staffing in these contract homes. This accounts for the higher unit cost estimated for contract homes in 2003-04 as compared to those commissioned in 2002-03.
- (2) Additional provision of \$74.6 m has been included in 2003-04 for increasing the supply of subsidised places in new Residential Care Homes for the Elderly to be contracted out.

- (3) Each tendering exercise is carried out in an open and competitive manner. The higher unit cost in 2003-04 is mainly due to the higher level of care required from the contract homes as explained in (1) above.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB230

Question Serial No.

1449

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department will continue the launching of the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence" in 2003-04. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (3) the estimated funding earmarked for this publicity campaign in 2003-04?
- (4) the detailed publicity programmes to be carried out under the campaign?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : (1) A non-recurrent commitment of \$1.9 m has been approved to conduct the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence" from August 2002 to July 2003. Another amount of \$0.5 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 to continue the campaign.

- (2) Under this publicity campaign, various programmes with the aim to encourage families, including victims of violence to seek early professional assistance and to promote services available have been conducted. These include slogan/poster competitions, "Resilient Family Ambassador" Award, production of Television Announcement of Public Interest, radio series, display of roadside banners, plywood boards and posters, and other district programmes etc. More such programmes will be planned in 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB231

Question Serial No.

1459

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will conduct research related to family violence. How will the research be conducted and when will it be completed? What will be the amount of expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : SWD invited in January 2003 tertiary institutions to submit proposals to conduct a study on child abuse and spouse battering with the objectives to estimate prevalence of the problems, analyse the profiles of the victims and perpetrators, identify elements contributing to effective prevention and intervention, and develop assessment tool(s) to facilitate early identification of at-risk cases and timely intervention. The tertiary institutions interested in conducting the study were required to design the methodology to be adopted and provide relevant details in their proposals. The study is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2003-04 and will take two years to complete.

A Lotteries Fund grant of \$1.3 m has been approved to cater for the study, including the staff costs required. However, the ultimate cost will be subject to competitive bidding amongst the local tertiary institutions invited to submit proposals. The proposals will be assessed on both quality and cost considerations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB232

Question Serial No.

1460

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the number of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme recipients who have successfully secured jobs through participation in the Support for Self-reliance Scheme (SFS) in 2002-03? How will the Administration intensify this scheme in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : Up to the end of February 2003, on a cumulative basis, the number of CSSA recipients who have successfully found employment through assistance rendered under the SFS is 16 541 (representing 14% of those who have participated in the Scheme). Among them, 6 949 participants reported having secured employment during 2002-03.

The Administration will build on the existing arrangements and intensify the SFS through the following measures:

- (i) strengthening existing arrangements to provide employable CSSA recipients with more targeted assistance upon their entry into the CSSA system to improve their capacity for self-reliance and facilitate their return to the labour market, including direct job matching where possible;
- (ii) raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme from \$1,805 to \$2,500 a month, and correspondingly the 'no deduction limit' with the disregarded earnings from \$451 to \$600 to provide its recipients with more financial incentives to

work. This improvement measure to encourage CSSA recipients to work will be provided on a time-limited basis for three years, subject to continuous review;

- (iii) re-scheduling the Community Work (CW) arrangement for targeted participants enrolled in the Active Employment Assistance (AEA) programme to ensure CW can be arranged for AEA participants within the first three months of their being on CSSA and arranging for long term AEA participants to perform CW under a full-time non-remunerated work mode, say, three full days a week for a period of six months to help build up their confidence, strengthen their ability to find jobs in the open market and encourage them back to work; and
- (iv) commissioning more non-governmental organisations to launch intensive employment assistance projects for the longer term CSSA recipients and would-be CSSA recipients who come through the social welfare network to assist them back to work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB233

Question Serial No.

1461

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What was the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients participating in the "Ending Exclusion Project" (EEP) in 2002-03? How many participants succeeded in securing a job through this project?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : The EEP has been implemented since 1 March 2002. This is a voluntary scheme with a view to assisting single parent CSSA recipients to re-integrate into community and overcome barriers to work. As a start, the Social Welfare Department planned to invite about 2 000 CSSA single parent recipients to join the project within the first year of operation. At the end of February 2003, 2 442 CSSA single parent recipients have joined the EEP. Out of these, 1 324 (54.2%) considered they were ready for employment and 272 (11.1% of total participants/20.5% of those who were ready for employment) of them have successfully secured employment through assistance rendered under the project.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB234

Question Serial No.

1462

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What was the number of job opportunities created by the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" campaign in 2002-03? What was the amount of expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : Funded by a non-recurrent commitment of \$50 m, the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" (the Project) provides seed money for non-governmental organisations to set up small businesses to provide more employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In its first round of applications, the department approved ten applications with a total cost of \$7.6 m in 2002-03. Eight businesses have already started operation since mid-2002. As at February 2003, 101 employment opportunities have been created and 67 disabled persons are employed. It is estimated that 166 employment opportunities can be created, of which 119 are for disabled persons, after full operation of the ten businesses in this year. A cashflow of \$12.3 m is reserved for the Project for 2003-04. We are in the process of inviting a second batch of applications and the closing date is end of April 2003. The Project is managed by existing staff of the Social Welfare Department and no additional manpower is required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB235

Question Serial No.

1463

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department will implement the Modernisation Programme of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) in 2003-04. What is the scope of the programme and amount of expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT) and the department have undertaken a joint programme in modernising ICYSCs through allocation of \$400 m from HKJCCT and Lotteries Fund, on a dollar-to-dollar basis. The programme will benefit 80 ICYSCs over a period of five years. The earmarked provision for renovation and purchase of upgraded furniture and equipment is capped at \$4.8 m for each selected centre. Non-governmental organisations and their appointed Authorised Persons will be given flexibility in making full use of the resources to provide an upgraded environment to meet the needs of young people. We expect the first batch of selected centres to complete modernisation work in early 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie LAM

Director of Social Welfare

21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB236

Question Serial No.

1471

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the number of single-parent Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients estimated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to participate in the "Ending Exclusion Project" (EEP) in 2003-04? What will be the amount of expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : We expect to serve at least 2 000 CSSA single parent recipients under the EEP in 2003-04. The provision required to implement the project is estimated at \$8.5 m which is similar to the requirement in 2002-03. The provision is for engaging 30 Employment Assistance Co-ordinators who are Non-Civil Service Contract staff, allocating extra Programme Assistants to the Single Parent Centres and meeting the costs of 300 places each month under the After School Care Programme. The expenditure in 2003-04 will be met by SWD through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB237

Question Serial No.

1475

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many additional day and residential places does the Social Welfare Department plan to provide in 2003-04 in order to continue to improve social rehabilitation for people with disabilities? What will be the additional amount of expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2003-04, the additional day and residential places planned are:

Services	Additional Places
Day Activity Centre	100
Early Education and Training Centre	80
Special Child Care Centre	80
Supported Employment	300
Integrated Vocational Training	351
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped	80
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped	100
Care & Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	50
Supported Hostel	20
Total:	<u>1 161</u>

The provision for the increase is \$64.5 m for 2003-04 and \$79.5 m in a full year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB238

Question Serial No.

1486

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2003-04, it is stated that the department will conduct research related to family violence. Please state in details the objectives, the methodology and the expected completion date of the research as well as the amount of resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : SWD invited in January 2003 tertiary institutions to submit proposals to conduct a study on child abuse and spouse battering with the objectives to estimate prevalence of the problems, analyse the profiles of the victims and perpetrators, identify elements contributing to effective prevention and intervention, and develop assessment tool(s) to facilitate early identification of at-risk cases and timely intervention. The tertiary institutions interested in conducting the study were required to design the methodology to be adopted and provide relevant details in their proposals. The study is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2003-04 and will take two years to complete.

A Lotteries Fund grant of \$1.3 m has been approved to cater for the study, including the staff costs required. However, the ultimate cost will be subject to competitive bidding amongst the local tertiary institutions invited to submit proposals. The proposals will be assessed on both quality and cost considerations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB239

Question Serial No.

1515

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will conduct research related to family violence. Please give details about the research, such as its objectives, methodology employed, schedule and the funding involved.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : SWD invited in January 2003 tertiary institutions to submit proposals to conduct a study on child abuse and spouse battering with the objectives to estimate prevalence of the problems, analyse the profiles of the victims and perpetrators, identify elements contributing to effective prevention and intervention, and develop assessment tool(s) to facilitate early identification of at-risk cases and timely intervention. The tertiary institutions interested in conducting the study were required to design the methodology to be adopted and provide relevant details in their proposals. The study is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2003-04 and will take two years to complete.

A Lotteries Fund grant of \$1.3 m has been approved to cater for the study, including the staff costs required. However, the ultimate cost will be subject to competitive bidding amongst the local tertiary institutions invited to submit proposals. The proposals will be assessed on both quality and cost considerations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB240

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 4 Curative Care

1050

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the reduction in provision for the Department of Health (DH) as a result of the transfer of 59 General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority? What are the ranks and number of staff currently working in GOPCs? How are these people to be deployed after the transfer of services to the Hospital Authority?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

With the transfer of 59 General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority in July 2003, the financial provision for the Department of Health (DH) will be reduced by \$367.5M in 2003-04, being nine months' provision for operating these clinics.

There are some 1 100 civil servants in medical, nursing, dispensing, general and common grades working in the 59 GOPCs. DH will in the coming months redeploy some of these staff to alternative jobs in DH or other Government departments. It is envisaged that by July 2003 some 800 of them will continue to work in GOPCs and retain their civil servant status.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB241

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

1051

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the establishment of the outreaching teams which are set up to promote psychosocial health among secondary school students under the above Programme? What are the provision and the estimated number of service recipients?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The provision for setting up outreaching teams to promote psychosocial health among secondary school students in 2003-04 is \$146.3M and the number of staff is as follows :

<u>Grade</u>	
Medical	8
Nursing	235
Allied Health	59
Executive and Clerical	23
Other Supporting	<u>10</u>
	335

The Department plans to serve about 155 000 students in 336 secondary schools for the year 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB242

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

1052

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the additional provision planned for the cervical cancer screening programme in 2003-04? What is the estimated number of people who will benefit from this programme?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The recurrent provision in 2003-04 for the cervical cancer screening programme is \$30.8M.

There are about 2 100 000 women aged 25-64 years. They will be advised to have Pap smears every three years after two consecutive yearly negative smears. The target coverage rate of 60% will be achieved in phases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB243

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

1194

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : An additional provision of \$75.0 million has been planned for 2003-04 (Estimate) under this programme (39.5% higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03). Please provide details of :

- the reasons for the additional provision;
- the projects for which the additional provision has been allocated and the amount involved;
- the increase in establishment and the additional vacancies, with a breakdown of the professional grades, their ranks, remuneration package and terms of appointment planned under this programme; and
- the cost-effectiveness expected to achieve with the additional provision.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The increased funding is mainly attributable to the rolling out of the adolescent health programme in 2003-04. A total of 167 secondary schools joined the programme in 2002-03. The plan for 2003-04 is to recruit another 169 schools into the programme.

The staff complement will be increased by 116 to 335. They are mainly registered nurses. As civil servants, they enjoy the usual civil service conditions of service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB244

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

1195

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the financial provision, please provide details of :

- the reasons for the additional provision of \$1,294M;
- the expenditure on various specific areas of work;
- the resources, manpower and service indicators involved in maintaining the surveillance and control of communicable diseases; and
- the resources, manpower and service indicators involved in providing laboratory services and other screening services.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The provision in 2003-04 will be increased by \$130.6M to \$1,294M. The increase is mainly due to full year provision for the Fanling Primary Health Care Centre and the Public Health Laboratory Centre, launching of cervical cancer screening, parenting and men's health programmes, and the recurrent consequence for the Public Health Information System.

As surveillance and control of communicable diseases are an integral part of various services, the resources and manpower involved cannot be easily identified. The target is to investigate all reported outbreaks of communicable diseases within 24 hours.

The provision in 2003-04 for the laboratory service relating to surveillance of communicable diseases is about \$150M, with a staffing of 259 posts. The target is to report test results of 75% of specimens within four days.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB245

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

1278

Operational
Programme :
 expenses

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the expenditure incurred for 2002-03? Is there any plan to recruit additional or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If yes, what are the reasons, and the number of staff and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

For 2002-03, the revised estimate for employing non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is \$189.5M. As at 28 February 2003, the number of NCSC staff stood at 1 216.

For 2003-04, the estimated expenditure on NCSC staff will be \$169.4M. The reduction is mainly attributable to the transfer of 59 General Out-patient Clinics to the Hospital Authority in July 2003 (deletion of some 250 NCSC posts) and the deletion of some 80 NCSC posts under the Smoke-free Ambassadors Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB246

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 4 Curative Care

1378

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The actual percentage of appointment time for new dermatology cases within 12 weeks is 83% for 2001 and 80% for 2002, and the number of attendances for dermatology cases has increased from 104 000 to 125 000. I would like to ask :

- What is the reason for the actual percentage of appointment time for new cases within 12 weeks being lower than the expected target of 90%?
- What is the distribution of the above attendances at different specialised out-patient clinics?
- With the attendances for dermatology cases rising by 20%, what is the percentage of new and old cases?
- Will there be additional resources to smooth out the rise in attendances? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- Please set out in details the categories of new dermatology cases in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Increasing demand for dermatology service is the main reason for not achieving the pledged target. The service has been enhanced by deploying more doctors to dermatology clinics since mid-2002. It is anticipated that the pledge target can be achieved in 2003.

The total number of attendances in public dermatology clinics in 2002 was 127 499, of which 20% were new cases. The distribution was as follows :

Sai Ying Pun Dermatology Clinic	22 547
Cheung Sha Wan Dermatology Clinic	18 900
Yaumatei Dermatology Clinic	51 931
Yung Fung Shee Dermatology Clinic	32 096
Fanling Integrated Treatment Centre	2 025
Total	127 499

The following table shows the five commonest skin conditions diagnosed in the public dermatology service :

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Eczema	5 636	5 470	8 847
Viral wart	1 973	1 654	2 900
Skin fungal infection	1 734	1 673	2 639
Acne	1 338	1 242	1 576
Psoriasis	<u>797</u>	<u>711</u>	<u>1 078</u>
	11 478	10 750	17 040

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB247

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Question Serial No.
Programme : Operational expenses 1428

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003-04, the number of permanent posts in the Department of Health will be reduced by 999. Please set out in details the number of reduction in each post. What is the reduction in the general establishment of the Civil Service after deletion of 999 permanent posts ?

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) will delete a total of 1 001 posts, partly offset by two posts to be created. The net deletion of 999 posts is detailed as follows :

(a) Transfer of General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) to the Hospital Authority (HA)

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	47
Medical and Health Officer	111
Nursing Officer	27
Enrolled Nurse	100
Senior Dispenser	68
Dispenser	156
Assistant Clerical Officer	24
Clerical Assistant	34
Office Assistant	66
Telephone Operator	2
Motor Driver	2
Ward Attendant	7
Workman II	<u>258</u>
	902

(b) Re-engineering operations and improving efficiency

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Senior Medical and Health Officer	1
Registered Nurse	4
Enrolled Nurse	7
Inoculator	10
Midwife	25
Dental Officer	2
Dental Technician II	1
Tutor Dental Therapist	1
Dental Therapist	10
Dispenser	1
Senior Medical Technologist	1
Medical Technologist	2
Medical Laboratory Technician I	2
Audiology Technician I	1
Senior Radiographic Technician	2
Hospital Administrator I	1
Clerical Assistant	2
Personal Secretary I	1
Laboratory Attendant	7
Property Attendant	3
Workman II	<u>15</u>
	99
Total deletion	1 001

(c) Posts to be created

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>Number</u>
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	<u>1</u>
Total creation	2
Net deletion	999

It is envisaged that about 800 staff will continue to work in HA and retain their civil servant status. Hence, the reduction in the general establishment of the civil service would be about 200.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB248

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

1429

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the provision for the cervical cancer screening programme in 2003-04? What is the projected number of people who will benefit from the programme?

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

The recurrent provision in 2003-04 for the cervical cancer screening programme is \$30.8M.

There are about 2 100 000 women aged 25-64 years. They will be advised to have Pap smears every three years after two consecutive yearly negative smears. The target coverage rate of 60% will be achieved in phases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB249

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 3 Health Promotion

1430

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the amount of recurrent subvention for the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health in 2003-04? Please set out the corresponding figures for 2001-02 and 2002-03 for comparison.

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

The recurrent subvention for the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for 2001-02 to 2003-04 is as follows :

	<u>\$M</u>
2001-02	5.9
2002-03	6.9
2003-04	6.8

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB250

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

1433

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Currently, non-Hong Kong residents can receive free treatment for sexually-transmitted diseases. Will the Department revise this policy in 2003-04 so as to reduce the number of these patients for treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases utilising local resources?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In line with the recommendations of the Report of the Task Force on Population Policy, two-way permit holders and other visitors will not be eligible for free treatment of sexually transmitted infections in government clinics.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB251

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 2 Disease Prevention

1434

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give an account of the cervical cancer screening programme planned for 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The recurrent provision in 2003-04 for the cervical cancer screening programme is \$30.8M.

There are about 2 100 000 women aged 25-64 years. They will be advised to have Pap smears every three years after two consecutive yearly negative smears. The target coverage rate of 60% will be achieved in phases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title Director of Health

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB252

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

Question Serial No.

1502

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What were the longest, shortest and average waiting times for people with disabilities for scheduled route services in year 2001 and 2002?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : In 2001, the waiting time for scheduled route services ranged from four days to ten months, depending on the route under application. On average, the waiting time was 38 days. In 2002, the waiting time ranged from four days to 18 months and averaged 50 days.

The waiting time for some of the users was longer than that for others because of non-availability of a suitable route that fully met the users' requirements in terms of location and pick-up time etc. Besides, the longer waiting time in 2002 was aggravated by the delay in the commissioning of two new Rehabuses. This was because of the need to carry out vehicle modification works and the increase in demand during the period. We envisage that the waiting time will be reduced after the two new Rehabuses are put into service in April 2003.

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**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB253

Question Serial No.

1008

Head: 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Advisory & Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme 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 and below
- (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) The establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing Programme (2) are as follows:
- I. Starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate):

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Government Chemist	0.3	0.3
Assistant Government Chemist	0.5	0.5
Chief Chemist	0.9	0.9
Senior Chemist	5.5	5.5

II. Starting pay at MPS 34 to 44:

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Senior Executive Officer	1	1
Senior Training Officer	1	1

III. Starting pay at MPS 12 to 33:

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Science Laboratory Technologist	5.9	5.9
Laboratory Specialist Services Officer	1	1
Executive Officer I	2	2
Chemist	14.5	12.5
Science Laboratory Technician I	19	17
Clerical Officer	2	2
Personal Secretary I	1	1
Supplies Officer	1	1

IV. Starting pay at MPS 11 and below:

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Science Laboratory Technician II	28	28
Assistant Librarian	1	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	5	4
Supplies Supervisor II	3	3
Clerical Assistant	8	9
Office Assistant	1	1
Laboratory Attendant	5.1	5.1
Motor Driver	1	1

(b) Nil.

(c) One Chemist post will be deleted in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr D G Clarke

Post Title _____ Government Chemist

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB254

Question Serial No.

1064

Head: 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In 2002-03, we have 48 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the Laboratory, including 12 in the process of recruitment. The total expenditure incurred in 2002-03 for NCSC staff is about \$5.8 million. The Laboratory does not have any plan to increase or decrease the number of NCSC staff to be employed in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr D G Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB255

Question Serial No.

1231

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Advisory & Investigative Services and (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned that the estimates for Programmes (2) and (3) will be affected by “salary increments for staff”. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) for “salary increments for staff”, the number of staff involved and their respective ranks, as well as the amount required for 2003-04?
- (b) the room for manoeuvre by the Government Laboratory to provide equivalent or better services with less resources whilst absorbing the increased expenditure arising from salary increments for staff?
- (c) How much has actually been saved as a result of the civil service salary reduction in 2002-03 and has such reduction offset part of the expenditure mentioned in paragraph (a) above?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) For “salary increments for staff” in 2003-04 for Programme (2) and (3), the breakdown on number of staff involved and their respective ranks is as follows:

<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Rank</u>
0.7	Government Chemist
1.5	Assistant Government Chemist
4	Senior Chemist
38.5	Chemist
2	Laboratory Specialist Services Officer
4	Science Laboratory Technologist

16.5
56

Science Laboratory Technician I
Science Laboratory Technician II

<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Rank</u>
1	Senior Executive Officer
1	Supplies Officer
3	Clerical Assistant
1	Senior Training Officer
1	Assistant Clerical Officer

The estimated amount required for paying salary increments for the above staff is \$1.5 million.

- (b) Through re-organisation, re-engineering and streamlining of work, the Government Laboratory is able to achieve efficiency savings and provide equivalent or better services whilst absorbing the increased expenditure arising from salary increments for staff for these two Programmes.
- (c) About \$1.9 million has been saved as a result of the civil service salary reduction in 2002-03 for these two Programmes and this saving has offset the increase in expenditure for paying “salary increments for staff” as mentioned in part (a) of the reply.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr D G Clarke

Post Title _____ Government Chemist

Date _____ March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB256

Question Serial No.

0979

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the total expenditure required for the 15 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in 2003-04? What is the general establishment for each centre (such as the number of social workers)? Please provide a breakdown by rank.

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : Based on the recommendation of the Review of Family Services conducted by the University of Hong Kong (HKU), 15 pilot IFSCs with an in-built evaluative study conducted by HKU to test the effectiveness of IFSC have been implemented since 1 April 2002 for a duration of two years.

These pilot IFSCs are set up by integrating existing Family Services Centres and other community-based service units either through transformation, merging or strategic alliance, with manpower coming from existing service units. The transformation was done on a cost-neutral basis as far as recurrent subventions are concerned. However, to help kick start the pilots, we have provided to each pilot IFSC time-limited resources comprising \$0.13 m for two Programme Assistants and \$0.1 m to meet expenses such as publicity, programmes, staff training etc per year for two years. The latter is funded through a Lotteries Fund grant of \$4.7 m which also meets the cost of an evaluative study estimated at \$1.3 m and provides a contingency of \$0.4 m.

The number of staff of the 15 IFSCs varies, depending on their size, service boundary as well as how they are formed, eg. through transformation, merging or strategic alliance. Take the number of social workers for example, it ranges from eight to 32.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB257

Question Serial No.

0980

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the respective expenditures required for the “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” campaign in 2002-03 and 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : A non-recurrent commitment of \$1.9 m has been approved to conduct the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” from August 2002 to July 2003. The campaign includes slogan/poster competitions, “Resilient Family Ambassador” Award, production of Television Announcement of Public Interest, radio series, display of roadside banners, plywood boards and posters, and other district programmes etc. Another amount of \$0.5 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 to continue the campaign.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB258

Question Serial No.

0981

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many staff are there currently in the Special Investigation Section (SIS)? How many cases had been served by the SIS in 2002-03? What measures will the Social Welfare Department employ to enhance the efficiency of the SIS?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : There are currently 115 staff running the service.

During 2002-03, the SIS has completed 4 487 random check cases, 3 549 reported/suspected fraud cases and 24 127 data-matching cases making a total of 32 163.

The SIS will enhance its efficiency in combating fraud and abuse by improving work processes and strengthening human resources.

To achieve optimal results, the SIS will prioritise cases referred to it according to sufficiency of evidence and reliability of information. It will refocus work targets to prevent, detect and deter fraud by adopting a risk management approach. It will streamline work procedures to speed up case processing.

The SIS has also strengthened the quality of its manpower through various training programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB259

Question Serial No.

0984

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the current number of people with disabilities waiting for places in the sheltered workshops? What is the average waiting time for each applicant?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : The current total provision of sheltered workshop are 7 527 places. As at December 2002, there were 1 566 people with disabilities waiting for the service. The average waiting time for the service in 2002 was 7.2 months. Arising from an internal value for money study, we are taking various measures as recommended to make fuller use of existing services with a view to shortening the waiting time for admission into sheltered workshops.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB260

Question Serial No.

0985

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : During 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department will continue to improve social rehabilitation for people with disabilities by providing additional day and residential places.
How many people are still on the waiting list for such places and how long is their waiting time?
How many additional places will the department provide and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : In 2003-04, the department will expand the following number of day and residential places. The number of persons on the waiting list for these services, the average waiting time and the number of places to be expanded are as follows:

Service	Waiting list (Dec. 2002)	Average waiting time (months) in 2002	Planned additional places in 2003-04
Day Activity Centre	940	26	100
Early Education & Training Centre	540	7	80
Special Child Care Centre	383	10	80
Supported Employment	183	3	300
Integrated Vocational Training	N.A.	N.A.	351
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped	1 169	37	80
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped	1 789	40	100
Care & Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	331	29	50
Supported Hostel	247	13	20

The provision for the increase is \$64.5 m for 2003-04 and \$79.5 m in a full year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB261

Question Serial No.

1046

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare
(3) Services for Elders
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(5) Services for Offenders
(6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : There will be a total decrease of 67 posts under the above programmes in 2003-04. Please provide information in terms of the rank and number of deleted posts and the amount of savings achieved under each programme.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : Programme (1): The net decrease of 28 posts involves one Social Work Officer, one Assistant Social Work Officer, one Chief Social Work Assistant, four Senior Social Work Assistant, five Social Work Assistant, one Senior Welfare Worker, one Executive Officer II, one Assistant Clerical Officer, 11 Clerical Assistant, one Motor Driver and one Property Attendant. The savings arising from the deletion of 28 posts amount to \$7,079,640 in terms of Notional Annual Mid-point Salary (NAMS) value.

Programme (3): The net decrease of ten posts involves the deletion of one Social Work Officer, one Chief Social Work Assistant, two Welfare Worker, one Assistant Clerical Officer, six Clerical Assistant and one Cook offset by the creation of one Social Work Assistant and one Clerical Assistant. The savings arising from the net deletion of ten posts amount to \$2,410,500 in terms of NAMS value.

Programme (4): The net decrease of 18 posts involves one Senior Social Work Assistant, one Social Work Assistant, four Ward Attendant and 12 Clerical Assistant. The savings arising from the net deletion of 18 posts amount to \$2,857,320 in terms of NAMS value.

Programme (5): The net decrease of ten posts involves one Social Work Officer and nine Clerical Assistant. The savings arising from the net deletion of ten posts amount to \$1,949,160 in terms of NAMS value.

Programme (6): There will be a net decrease of one Clerical Assistant post. The savings arising therefrom amount to \$142,980 in terms of NAMS value.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB262

Question Serial No.

1047

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The planned targets for 2003-04 indicate that there would be an increase in quite a number of rehabilitation services including 80 places in hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons, 100 in hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, 50 in care and attention home for severely disabled persons, 20 in supported hostel, 100 in day activity centre, 80 in early education and training centre, and 80 in special child care centre. How many of those additional places are in-service expansion and how many places involve new facilities?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : Of the above planned 510 places, 270 places are planned in new facilities comprising the Fanling Rehabilitation Complex (converted from the former Fanling Hospital) and the Queen Street Project. Another 95 places will be implemented through in-situ expansion by securing additional premises for the existing service units. We shall implement the remaining 145 places made up of 65 special child care centre places and 80 early education and training centre places through in-situ expansion in existing premises or in new premises to be identified.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB263

Question Serial No.

1048

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the resources allocated for running Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) through open tender exercise in 2003-04? What are the numbers of residential care homes and places to be provided?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : Total provision of \$91.6 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 for providing subsidised places in RCHEs under the contract mode, i.e. operator selected through competitive bidding. This will meet contract payments for three existing homes providing 319 subsidised places, 185 subsidised places in two homes with contracts awarded and are currently undergoing fitting-out works, and 70 subsidised places in one home currently in the tendering process as well as an estimated additional 700 subsidised places in another five new homes with premises available within the year. The exact number of subsidised places to be provided in each contract home will be determined in the preparation of each tender exercise.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB264

Question Serial No.

1049

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) Out of the \$301.4 m additional provision for this programme area in 2003-04, what is the amount allocated for upgrading Home Help Teams (HHTs) to Integrated Home Care Services Teams (IHCSTs)? As the future IHCSTs will have to take care of people with a relatively higher degree of frailty, what is the amount of resources to be deployed to provide training for home helpers to upgrade their skills?
 - (b) What is the estimated expenditure required in 2003-04 for launching the Opportunities for the Elderly Project (OEP) as a regular provision? Out of the estimated expenditure of the Project, what is the amount allocated for promoting learning and use of Information Technology (IT) amongst elders? Please provide a breakdown of expenditure of the information technology training programmes to be provided.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : (a) Additional provision of \$58.8 m has been earmarked for upgrading the HHTs to IHCSTs in 2003-04.

Provision of \$2.1 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 for providing a total of 560 training places for elderly carers. These will be open to home helpers serving in the upgraded teams to enable them to deliver quality service to the frail elders in the community. Moreover, home helpers will be arranged to attend

training programmes on dementia care and elder abuse. As these courses are not tailor-made specially for home helpers, no breakdown on the expenses for home helpers is available.

- (b) In 2003-04, \$4.1 m has been earmarked to support the OEP, hitherto funded by a Lotteries Fund (LF) grant, on an ongoing basis. The Project provides subsidies to community organisations to implement innovative programmes to promote a sense of worthiness among elders and to create community spirit of care for elders. IT training for elders may be one form of the programme activities to achieve the project objective. Organisations planning to promote learning and use of IT among elders are encouraged to submit applications for consideration.

To promote wider use of computers and IT among elders, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented various measures. In the past few years, with total funding of \$2.2 m from various sources, such as LF, fund from Information Technology Services Department and Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund, SWD has launched three batches of territory-wide "IT Awareness Programme for Elders" providing totally 16 500 free training places to elders from 2000 to 2003. Besides, \$0.1 m was also secured from LF to train up 500 volunteers including seniors and staff members of the elderly service units to equip them with technical knowledge and skills in coaching elders to use personal computers and IT.

Supported by another \$6.1 m LF grant, SWD has installed a total of 284 sets of personal computers at all Multi-service Centres for the Elderly and Social Centres for the Elderly by end 2001. A further grant of \$3.4 m from LF was also secured to support two-year Internet access to these centres from October 2001 to September 2003.

To further encourage our elders to learn IT, SWD will continue the provision of personal computers for use by the elders in all new centres coming on stream. Furthermore, SWD will encourage the elderly service centres to organise more IT training programmes to train up elders to learn to use IT with their own resources. They can also seek funding support from OEP and other trust funds.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB265

Question Serial No.

1151

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance cases, would the Administration inform this Committee of how to maximize the Social Welfare Department's efficiency in investigating fraud and abuse without increasing the number of staff?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : Despite not taking on additional manpower, the department will maximize its efficiency in combating fraud and abuse by improving work processes and strengthening staff's competence, supplemented by adopting a risk management approach. This means that random checking and data matching to detect irregularities will be done in a more targeted manner. Cases will be prioritised according to sufficiency of evidence and reliability of information. We expect that investigations will be speeded up as a result of these measures.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB266

Question Serial No.

1152

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated that the Social Welfare Department will extend the service hours of medical social services (MSS) in hospitals. Would the Administration inform this Committee details on this? How does the Administration provide support to the frontline medical social workers to help ease their working pressure?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : With effect from 1 April 2003, the service hours of MSS at six major acute hospitals will be extended to 8:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. These six major acute hospitals are: Queen Mary Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital. The purpose of extending service hours is to allow patients and their families enhanced access to medical social workers (MSWs) for timely assistance.

This initiative is a result of re-organising and re-engineering the work and deployment of existing MSS resources. MSWs serving these six hospitals will be arranged to work on duty rosters. At each hospital, at least two MSWs with the needed clerical support will be on duty during the extended hours. The department will closely monitor the progress of the extension of the service hours and will provide every support to colleagues working in the hospital.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB267

Question Serial No.

1212

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the 2003-04 Estimates that the Social Welfare Department will continue with the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme and extend the implementation of the Special Job Attachment Programme and the Intensive Employment Assistance Fund Programme. Would the Administration inform us of the estimated number of participants in the SFS Scheme and the expenditure incurred in the year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : As at the end of February 2003, there are 44 918 active participants in the SFS Scheme. Under the SFS Scheme, all unemployed and low-income recipients without a full-time job are required to enroll in the Active Employment Assistance programme as a condition of receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payment. We have not estimated the number of participants in 2003-04. However, it is expected that the number of participants will increase amid the current economic situation and high unemployment rate.

The estimated expenditure for implementing the SFS Scheme for 2003-04 is \$63.5 m. In addition, we plan to seek a grant of \$100 m from the Lotteries Fund to commission non-governmental organisations to run more Intensive Employment Assistance Projects.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB268

Question Serial No.

1215

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of services for elders, would the Administration inform Members of the following:

- (a) the amount of additional expenditure required in 2003-04 for launching the Opportunities for the Elderly Project (OEP) as a regular and on-going exercise after expiry of the support from the Lotteries Fund (LF); and
- (b) the detailed work plan and the amount of additional expenditure required in 2003-04 for upgrading the Home Help Teams (HHTs), expanding the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) and increasing the subsidised residential care places for elders.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (a) In 2003-04, \$4.1 m has been earmarked for launching OEP on an ongoing basis after expiry of the support from the LF.
 - (b) To provide holistic care and support to the elders, disabled and needy families living in the community, the department launched a re-engineering exercise of community support services for elders in 2002-03, resulting in the upgrading of HHTs to Integrated Home Care Services Teams (IHCSTs) to serve both frail and disabled cases. These upgraded teams will come into operation from April 2003. The additional funding allocation for upgrading the IHCSTs is about \$58.8 m.

To meet the service demand of frail elders, the department has from January 2002 onwards procured additional places through variation of contract to the 18 existing EHCCS teams at an additional cost of \$32 m. The maximum case volume of the 18 teams is now 2 189, representing an increase of over 50% over the original pledged target in the first batch of EHCCS contracts. The department has also earmarked funding of \$62.9 m for a second batch of EHCCS contracts in 2003-04.

In 2003-04, subsidised residential care places for elders will be increased through contracting out Residential Care Homes for the Elderly, purchasing additional places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme and upgrading the existing places under the Bought Place Scheme. An additional provision of \$131.5 m has been earmarked in 2003-04 for such purposes but the exact number of places to be procured from the various sources has to be further deliberated in light of changing developments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB269

Question Serial No.

1216

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will continue to implement the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders in 2003-04. What is the specific work plan of the exercise and amount of resources required?

Asked by : Hon. Chan Yuen-han

Reply : With the endorsement of the Elderly Commission, the department has launched a re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders in 2002-03. Starting from April 2003, we will proceed to upgrade the centre-based services (i.e. Social Centres for the Elderly to Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Multi-service Centres for the Elderly to District Elderly Community Centres), and home-based service (i.e. Home Help Teams to Integrated Home Care Services Teams). Both home-based and centre-based services are expected to complete the transformation and perform the enhanced functions by the last quarter in 2003-04. The total additional resources injected by the department for the re-engineering exercise is about \$98.8 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

HWFB270

Question Serial No.

1217

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04 that the Administration will formulate strategy to adopt a risk management approach in the administration of social security schemes based on the recommendations of the consultancy study on risk management on social security schemes. Would the Administration inform this Committee details of the recommendations of the study and the cost involved in implementing such recommendations?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The consultancy has identified strategic change initiatives to assist the department to develop new risk control measures and to strengthen those already in place. The key associated tasks required to implement the strategic change initiatives are to perform risk assessment exercises to devise effective risk control measures; and to use risk profiles as a tool in risk control measures. The adoption of a risk management approach in the administration of the social security schemes involves re-organising the structure, re-engineering the procedures and re-prioritising the services in order to maximize the use of the existing resources and will not incur additional expenditure.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB271

Question Serial No.

1227

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, would the Administration provide:

- (1) a breakdown of the caseload, the provisions allocated and the average waiting time of applicants in the last three years by categories of cases;
- (2) the number of reported fraud cases in the last three years by categories of cases; and
- (3) the current number of the Social Welfare Department staff members handling CSSA cases and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) Statistics on the number of CSSA cases by categories for the years 2000 to 2002 are provided below:

Category of cases	2000	2001	2002
Old age	134 230	138 232	142 762
Permanent disability	12 243	13 522	14 717
Temporary disability/ Ill health	19 800	19 705	20 874
Single parent family	25 902	28 504	33 156
Low earnings	8 432	9 008	10 607
Unemployment	23 573	28 886	40 513
Others	3 880	3 816	3 942
Total	228 060	241 673	266 571

Note : Figures refer to end of the year.

Provision for CSSA for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is \$13.6 b (actual), \$14.4 b (actual) and \$16.2 b (revised estimate) respectively. CSSA provision is approved to meet the demand from all categories of recipients. There is thus no breakdown on the allocation of provision by categories of cases.

The average time for processing a new CSSA case in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is 25, 28 and 28 (estimate) working days respectively. There is no breakdown available on the processing time for individual categories of cases.

- (2) Over the last three years (up to 28 February 2003), 9 155 reports of suspected fraud cases have been received through the Report Fraud Hotline, Special Report Form, letter and walk-in customers, as follows:

• 2000-01	2 617 cases
• 2001-02	2 989 cases
• 2002-03(up to 28 February 2003)	3 549 cases

These reported fraud cases could be broadly categorised as:

- Unreported income
- Unreported assets
- Unreported rental payment
- Withheld other information such as absence from Hong Kong or changes in family circumstances.

We are not able to break down the reports received according to these different categories.

- (3) There are 38 Social Security Field Units responsible for processing applications for social security benefits including CSSA. These offices have a total of 1 152 posts under the approved establishment, and the staff costs in terms of Notional Annual Mid-point Salary value amount to \$304,832,580. In addition, a total of 187 contract staff, comprising 171 Social Security Assistants and 16 clerical staff, are employed at an annual cost of about \$26,473,475, including the employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund for these staff. The above has not included staffing and resources devoted to administering the Active Employment Assistance Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB272

Question Serial No.

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

1327

Programme : (2) Advisory and Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding Programme (2) Advisory and Investigative Services, the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Hong Kong is included as one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04. In this connection, will the workload of the Government Laboratory be increased after the implementation of the Convention? If yes, please provide information on the additional staff and expenditure thus incurred.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

The Government Laboratory has already created 1 post of Senior Chemist and 2 posts of Chemist to cater for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the HKSAR. No additional resources will be required after the implementation of the Convention.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr D G Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date _____

Reply Serial No.

HWFB273

Question Serial No.

0536

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

Head : 703 - Buildings

Subhead : 3010NG Health Education
Exhibition and Resource
Centre at Kowloon Park

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The actual expenditure to 31.3.2002 for this approved project was only \$92,000 while the revised estimate for 2002-03 is also just \$20,000 and the estimate for 2003-04 is \$10,000. Why is there such a disparity between these figures and the approved project estimate of \$1,650,000 ?

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply : The project was transferred from the former Provisional Urban Council to Government when it was nearing completion. The Approved Project Estimate (APE) of this project was a new item set up under the Public Works Programme to cover the anticipated outstanding work and the funds for finalisation of accounts. Following a recent review, the Department considers some outstanding work (e.g. improvement for enhancement of air quality in the Exhibition Centre) unnecessary. This explains the discrepancy between the APE and the actual expenditure. In any case, the account will be finalized in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Leisure and Cultural Services Department	7	7	\$456,000
Water Supplies Department	50	50	\$3,874,500
Hospital Authority	2,500	1,858	\$160,000,000
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	285	-	-
Total	3,629	2,592	\$193,003,500

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 21 March 2003