

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Session No: 2. :

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>S-ETWB(W)001</u>	SV002	LI Wah-ming, Fred	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<u>S-ETWB(W)002</u>	S001	LI Wah-ming, Fred	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
<u>S-ETWB(W)003</u>	S002	LI Wah-ming, Fred	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(W)001

Question Serial No.

SV002

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

- Question : (a) To provide information on the volume of annual consumption of fresh water in Hong Kong and annual supply of Dongjiang water to Hong Kong in the past five years; and
- (b) To advise members whether there was over-supply of Dongjiang water to Hong Kong in the past five years, and if yes, to provide information on the volume of and expenditure on surplus Dongjiang water purchased in each year.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The information regarding the annual consumption of fresh water in Hong Kong and the supply of Dongjiang water to Hong Kong in the past five years is set out in the Annex. The Administration has in fact made every effort to reduce the supply quantities and requested a more flexible supply arrangement. When negotiating the 1998 Loan Agreement for the construction of the close adqueduct, a total reduction of 560 million cubic metres in the supply of Dongjiang water was achieved as compared to the 1989 Water Supply Agreement.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: William C G KO

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 14 April 2004

**Annual Consumption of Fresh Water
and Supply of Dongjiang Water to Hong Kong
From 1999 to 2003**

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Annual consumption of fresh water	mcm	911	924	940	949	974
Quantity of Dongjiang water in Agreement	mcm	770	780	790	800	810
Actual quantity of Dongjiang water supplied	mcm	738	706	729	744	761
Under-supply of Dongjiang water quantity	mcm	32	74	61	56	49
Unit price of Dongjiang water	HK\$/cu.m	3.085	3.085	3.085	3.085	3.085
Cost of under-supply of Dongjiang water quantity	HK\$M	99	228	188	173	151

Legend for unit - mcm : million cubic metre

HK\$/cu. m : Hong Kong dollar per cubic metre

HK\$M : Hong Kong dollar in million

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(W)002

Question Serial No.

S001

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : Follow-up on Question Serial Nos. 0823 and 1197

Could the authorities concerned expedite the replacement and rehabilitation programme so as to reduce water leakage and waste of fresh water? The Water Supplies Department spent close to \$50 million on the replacement of watermain in 2002-03 and spent more than \$90 million in 2003-04, but the progress of the replacement works is still slow. Why is it so?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The first phase of Stage 1 of the Replacement and Rehabilitation Programme commenced in December 2000. In implementing the programme, WSD has endeavoured to quickly implement the project while striking a balance between the early improvement to watermain system to reduce leakage and waste and the need to minimise disruption to road traffic and the local environment. With completion of the advanced works including site investigation, detailed design and tender preparation, we awarded the major works contracts in late 2003. The progress has been in accordance with the programme and the public will notice more construction activities in the coming years.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ William C G KO

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 14 April 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ETWB(W)003

Question Serial No.

S002

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : Follow-up on Question Serial No. 1198

Presently, 20% of the population in Hong Kong is still using fresh water for flushing purpose. The cost of using fresh water for flushing is much higher than that of using salt water. What are the cost and feasibility of changing to salt water or other water resources (recycling of sewage effluent) for flushing? The Administration is planning a number of salt water supply projects for areas in Pok Fu Lam, Tung Chung, Tai Ho, Tuen Mun East and Tin Shui Wai, and is also considering the possible use of other alternative water resources for flushing. Could the Administration provide details of the planning work and specify whether it can reduce the rate of using fresh water for flushing? If yes, what is the percentage of reduction? Apart from this, does the Administration have any other plans for the next few years to reduce the rate of using fresh water for flushing?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In 2002-2003, the cost of supplying salt water for flushing is \$2.5 per cubic metre. In a study completed in 2002, the cost of providing treated sewage effluent (TSE) for non-potable re-uses was estimated to be in the range of \$3.5 to \$4.4 per cubic metre. An important factor to be considered for the use of either fresh water, salt water or TSE for flushing in a particular area is the overall cost-effectiveness. For TSE, public acceptance is also of importance.

The projects for provision of separate flushing supplies for Pokfulam, Tung Chung, Tai Ho, Tuen Mun East and Tin Shui Wai are in various stages of planning study. WSD is monitoring the development of these areas and will seek funding to

implement these projects whenever it is cost-effective to do so. If all these projects are completed, the percentage of population using fresh water for flushing will be further reduced from the existing 20% to about 11%. In the next few years, WSD will focus on the implementation of these projects and the study on the feasibility of a more extensive application of recycling of TSE for non-potable uses in Hong Kong.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: William C G KO

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 14 April 2004