

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

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Session No: 2. :

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

ETWB(W)001

Question Serial No.

0006

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

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

Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

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

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

Question: The approved commitment of consultancy study on benchmark comparison on construction cost and establishment of performance indicators is \$1,300,000. The balance is now at \$100,000. What is the estimated cost of the remaining work? How does the Administration ensure that the remaining work would not be run out of the budget?

Asked by: Hon. Abraham SHEK

Reply: The study is substantially completed. The 2004-05 provision is to pay for the finalisation and submission of the Final Report. The estimated final cost of the study is \$1,241,500, which is within the approved commitment of \$1,300,000. Therefore, the study will not run out of budget.

Signature
Name in block letters

Post Title
Date

Y C LO

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

22 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)002

Question Serial
No.

0094

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)
Head 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Head 43 – Civil Engineering Department
Head 194 – Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No.& title):

Programme: (2) Water Supply
(3) Intra-Governmental Services

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

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

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

(1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2003-04:

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 (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

(2) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05? If yes, please provide the following details :

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.	Name of consultants (if available)

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: A number of consultancy studies have been or will be commissioned by the Works Branch (WB) of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and Water Supplies Department (WSD) for the purpose of policy making or policy assessment in 2003-04 and 2004-05. Details of the studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are -

Studies with provision in 2003-04

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 (if available)	Whether study reports are completed; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Davis Langdon & Seah Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy study on benchmark comparison on construction cost and establishment of performance indicators (WB)	716,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
AON Hong Kong Ltd	Consultancy study on construction related insurance (WB)	95,000	Substantially completed	Report recommendations being considered for formulation of general guidelines on the procurement of construction related insurance.	The stakeholders of the construction industry have been consulted throughout the consultancy study.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy study on contract price fluctuation system for public works contracts^ (WB)	385,000	To be completed in mid 2004	Not applicable	As the study is related only to the contractual arrangements in the public works and the industry stakeholders will be consulted, the study report is not intended to be publicized.
CH2M - IDC (Hong Kong) Limited	Pilot plant study on development of desalination facilities in Hong Kong - investigation (WSD)	776,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	Developing and implementing Public Private Partnership for reprovisioning of Sha Tin Water Treatment Works (WSD)	944,500	To be completed by end of March 2004	The Administration is now considering the way forward in the light of the findings of this feasibility study.	Not applicable

^ The funding for the study was only initiated in 2003-04.

For other departments, there have been no provision for conducting such consultancy studies in 2003-04.
Studies with provision in 2004-05

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Davis Langdon & Seah Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy study on benchmark comparison on construction cost and establishment of performance indicators# (WB)	100,000	In progress	The construction industry stakeholders will be consulted through established channels, e.g. advisory bodies, professional institutions, trade associations etc.
CH2M – IDC (Hong Kong) Limited	Pilot plant study on development of desalination facilities in Hong Kong – investigation# (WSD)	482,000	In progress	Not applicable (The study will not be completed in 2004-05)

The study has started since 2003-04

For other departments, there have been no provision for conducting such consultancy studies in 2004-05.

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Name in block letters

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Date

Y C Lo
Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)
24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)003

Question Serial No.

0819

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title):

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

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

Question: The Bureau estimated an increase of 17.2% or \$1.1 million in the expenses in 2004-05 to meet the remuneration of 2 Technical Advisers. What are the justifications for the creation of such posts, the actual expenses required, terms of appointment and the respective duties of the 2 Technical Advisers?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply: The two Technical Advisors are required to assist the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works for the planning, co-ordination and conduct of researches on matters relating to policy areas under the portfolio of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau. The provision reserved in 2004-05 is estimated to be \$1.36 million and the advisors are appointed on non-civil service contract terms. Major duties include research and analysis on international experience regarding policies and practices, as well as compilation of research reports.

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Name in block letters

Y C LO

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

Date

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)004

Question Serial No.

0821

Head: 159- Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

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

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

Question:

Please provide the following information in connection with the Works Branch's "Resources Management in Public Works Programme" for 2002-03 and 2003-04:

- a) the number of projects managed by the Branch;
- b) the titles and project numbers of works items which have an overspending of 5% or more and the reasons for such overspending;
- c) the titles and project numbers of works items which have an underspending of 5% or more and the reasons for such underspending; and
- b) the titles and project numbers of delayed projects and the reasons for such delays.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply:

The Works Branch is responsible for the management of the Public Works Programme (PWP) (Heads 702 to 707, 709 and 711), which includes monitoring the progress and spending of the projects therein. In 2002-03 and 2003-04, the Works Branch managed 1 350 and 1 250 projects respectively.

In each year, Government will derive an estimated expenditure for each works project in the coming year based on a predicted cost of works or actual tender price, and having regard to the contract period and anticipated progress of works. Due to the nature of civil engineering and building works, the progress of works is often affected by weather, actual performance of contractors, works site ground conditions, underground utilities and other unforeseen factors. Some deviations between actual spending and the original estimated expenditure of projects are therefore inevitable.

In 2002-03, the number of public works projects with actual spending higher than the original estimate by 5% or more was about 320. The number of projects with actual spending lower than the original estimate by 5% or more was about 305. In 2003-04, these corresponding numbers were 300 and 245.

As the titles and numbers of individual projects involve substantial information, it is not practicable to list them one by one in this reply. However, the same information is already shown in the "Capital Works Reserve Fund" account in the Budget. In general, higher actual spending in some of the projects compared with their original estimates can be mainly attributed to a faster progress of works than the original programmes which had the effect of bringing forward some of the expenditures. As regards the titles, numbers and the reasons for those projects suffering delay, the information is available in the Quarterly Reports on Public Works Programme which Works Branch submits to the LegCo Public Works Sub-committee for Members' reference.

In 2002-03 and 2003-04, the progress and expenditure of the overall PWP was in fact good. In 2002-03, the total actual spending under the PWP was \$25.3 billion, about 7% higher than the original estimates of \$23.6 billion. In 2003-04, the total revised estimate under the PWP was \$26.8 billion, about 6% higher than the original estimates of \$25.3 billion. These total expenditure figures indicate that the actual progress of most projects in the PWP has achieved or exceeded the original spending targets.

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Date	24 March 2004

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)005

Question Serial No.

0822

Head: 159- Government Secretariat: Environment, Subhead(No. & title):
Transport and Works Bureau
(Works Branch)
Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

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

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

Question:

What achievements have been attained in your effort to shorten the leadtime for public works in 2003-04?
What do you expect for 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply:

In October 2001, the Works Branch completed a review of the procedures for the delivery of public works and implemented a series of measures. These measures include simplifying the preliminary feasibility studies of works projects, allowing parallel actions between the statutory gazettal of projects and environmental impact assessments, expediting the administration procedures for land resumption and allowing works departments to invite tenders before funding for the works is secured. As a result of these measures, the pre-construction leadtime of an average civil engineering project has been reduced from six years to less than four years. In the past two years, the Works Branch has continued to expedite the delivery of works. In April 2003, the Works Branch promulgated a set of administrative procedures requiring works departments to enhance the consultation and notification of projects and expedite the resolution of public objections to roads, sewerage and reclamation projects under gazettals so as to speed up the completion of statutory procedures for the proposed projects. In October 2003, we also promulgated a new technical circular to enhance the control of proposed changes by policy bureaux and works departments to the original projects so as to minimize delay to the programme caused by changes that might not be strictly essential.

Through the implementation of these measures, the pre-construction leadtime of an average civil engineering project from inception to the commencement of construction has been reduced to a little more than three years. This will be conducive to the smooth delivery of the overall Public Works Programme (PWP).

Looking ahead, we are currently upgrading the existing computer system for the monitoring of public works projects and expect to commission a new Public Works Programme Information System by end 2004. The new system will provide works departments and policy bureaux with more up-to-date project information so as to enhance the monitoring of the progress of projects. We expect to smoothen thereby the delivery of the overall PWP.

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Y C LO
Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)
24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)006

Question Serial No.

0837

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

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

Question: Regarding the estimated expenditure of Director of Bureau's Office for 2004-05, please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure by (1) purposes (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions, etc.), and (2) expenditure items (salaries and establishment, allowances, job-related allowances and departmental expenses).

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: The financial provisions of the Director of Bureau's Office in 2004-05 amount to \$7.5M, which include the salaries and allowances of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (SETW) and staff in her office. The staff in SETW's office provide her with support to discharge the full range of duties under her policy portfolio. It will not be possible to analyze the provisions by nature of jobs. A breakdown of the financial provisions by expenditure items and establishment is shown as follows:

	\$ million
Salary for Director of Bureau	3.2
Salaries and allowances for staff in Director of Bureau's Office (comprising Administrative Assistant 2 Technical Advisors Personal Assistant Chauffeur Personal Secretary I Personal Secretary II Clerical Assistant)	4.3
Total	7.5

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Date	24 March 2004

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)007

Question Serial No.

1163

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme:

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

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

Question: Please list the revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works), with particulars of: (1) the purposes and details of the visits; (2) the main means of public transport and related expenses for the visits; (3) board and lodging expenses for the visits. What is the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Has the Administration laid down a ceiling on the amount of allowances that can be granted and a set of criteria for approving such allowances?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: There is no breakdown of expenditure on duty visits outside Hong Kong for the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) since they would have attended the visits with other officers. The purposes of the visits varied, which included direct personal communication with other Government officials on general or specific issues, and participation in conferences for promotion of business for Hong Kong. Transportation would be by air or land transport as appropriate. The revised estimate for travelling and board and lodging expenses for duty visits outside Hong Kong in respect of the Works Branch in 2003-04 is \$270,000.

It is estimated that the travelling and board and lodging expenses for duty visits outside Hong Kong in respect of the Works Branch in 2004-05 will be at about the same level as in the current year.

Under the current policy, an officer who is on duty outside Hong Kong may be granted a subsistence allowance at specified daily rates to cover the cost of the appropriate standard of accommodation and meals, laundry charges, gratuities, travelling expenses within town and all minor incidental out-of-pocket expenses. The rates of the subsistence allowance differ from country to country to take into account the different costs in different countries. The amount of allowance paid is abated in case of sponsorship of hotel accommodation or in cash.

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Name in block letters

Y C LO

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)008

Question Serial No.

1164

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme:

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

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

Question: Please provide a breakdown of the provision for entertainment expenses to be incurred by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works), such as hosting receptions, in the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: There is no breakdown of the entertainment expenses as to the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) individually since they would have attended the same functions such as meetings with the media and the Mainland officials with other officers. An estimate for the Works Branch can however be provided. The revised estimate for official entertainment of the Works Branch in 2003-04 is approximately \$100,000. As there is no fixed plan at the moment for the coming year, it is estimated that the official entertainment of the Works Branch in 2004-05 will be at about the same level as in current year.

Under the current policy, expenditure on entertainment may be charged to public funds only when it is directly related to the discharge of an officer's duties or is a necessary part of making or maintaining contacts in his official capacity, and is in the public interest. All such expenditure must be approved by the head or deputy head of the bureau or department personally, or by a directorate officer duly authorised by the head of department.

There are Civil Service Regulations and general guidelines issued by the Director of Administration governing the charging of the entertainment expenses to public funds.

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Y C LO

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)009

Question Serial No.

1167

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title):

Programme:

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

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

Question: Regarding policy research projects and the expenditure involved, please provide detailed information on the policy research projects commenced or being conducted by the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau itself or with the funding of the Bureau in 2003-04, including

- 1) project title, objective and subject matter;
- 2) expenses;
- 3) latest progress;
- 4) whether the Administration has followed up on the research results.

Also, is there any provision earmarked for policy research in 2004-05? If yes, what is the amount? What are the objectives and subject matters of the respective projects?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply: Our major task is to formulate and co-ordinate policies in respect of areas under our purview. To achieve this, we carry out extensive and intensive research into these areas using as far as possible information available and with in-house resources. In view of the wide range and the large amount of such research work, it is impossible to list each and every task. If consultants are used, we have prepared a breakdown in response to a separate question on that particular subject. Details of the more important items for ongoing work and new initiatives are listed in the Policy Agenda accompanying the CE's policy addresses and highlighted in the Controlling Officer's report. It is impossible to give a breakdown on expenditure for each of these items as we have not conducted detailed costing work for each of them. However, we have provided an indication of the expenditure involved in each of our programmes in the Controlling Officer's report. If after research, consultation and deliberation, a new policy should be introduced, we shall consult the relevant panel of the Legislative Council.

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Name in block letters

Y C LO

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)010

Question Serial No.

1266

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title):

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

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

Question: The estimated expenditure of Director of Bureau's Office under Programme (1) for 2004-05 is 17.2 % or \$1.1 million higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. According to the Estimates, this is mainly due to the provision for the remuneration of two technical advisors to the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works. In this connection, may the Administration inform this Council of the following:

- (a) What are the duties of the two technical advisors and what policy areas are they involved in?
- (b) Are the posts of the two technical advisors permanent ones? If those are supernumerary posts, how long will they last? Please provide the terms and conditions of employment and other details.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: (a) The major duties of the two Technical Advisors include research and analysis on international experience regarding policies and practices, as well as compilation of research reports. They are required to assist the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works on matters relating to policy areas under the portfolio of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau.

- (b) The two posts are not permanent establishment. The two Technical Advisors are appointed on non-civil service contract terms for two years.

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Name in block letters

Y C LO

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Post Title

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)011

Question Serial No.

1648

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)
Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

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

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

Question: Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05:

What arrangements will there be in 2004-05 to explore ways to further enhance the cost-effectiveness of slope works? How much is the provision?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply: The maintenance of government slopes adjacent to public housing estates is funded by Head 159.

In order to further enhance the cost-effectiveness of slope maintenance works, the technical standards for slope maintenance have been reviewed and optimized in 2003. We will continue to explore ways to optimize the cost-effectiveness of slope works in 2004-05.

The provision for 2004-05 under Head 159 is \$3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y C LO

Permanent Secretary for the
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)012

Question Serial No.

1649

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme:

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

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

Question: Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05:

What arrangements will there be in 2004-05 to promote local professional services in the construction industry to the Mainland? How much is the provision?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply: In 2004-05, we have reserved an amount of about \$0.7M for the following activities to promote our construction related professional services in the Mainland -

- organize jointly with the Ministry of Construction a large scale conference and study mission in the Mainland;
- organize jointly with the Ministry of Construction a CEPA briefing seminar in Hong Kong;
- organize jointly with the Chongqing Municipal Construction Commission a topical seminar for the construction industry during the Chongqing – Hong Kong Week; and
- continue the facilitation of the negotiation of mutual recognition of professional qualifications between the local professional bodies and their Mainland counterparts.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y C LO

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Works)

Post Title

Date

25 March 2004

[Top](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)013

Question Serial No.

1763

Head 159 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead (No.& title):

Programme:

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

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

Question: The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned about the need to raise the standard of policy research undertaken by the Government:

“To improve our governance, we must raise the level of sophistication with which both the Government and the community handle policy issues. We need to do more public policy research, particularly from a macro and long-term perspective. Objective and concrete public policy research will help us better realize the objectives of effective governance. It will help us avoid sweeping, politicised and emotional policy debates, thus making it easier for the Government and various sectors of the community to reach a consensus on public issues. This will ensure that our policies are implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong.”

Please advise whether provision has been made or resources deployed in the 2004-05 Estimates to take forward a stated commitment of the Policy Address that public policy matters will be pursued with a higher standard. If yes, please give a detailed account of the projects funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: Despite no specific funding has been earmarked for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau for this purpose, it is understood that since the publication of the 2004 Policy Address, Central Policy Unit (CPU) has been exploring ways to promote research on public policy issues and develop the human resources required. CPU is formulating an agenda for policy research so as to take forward research on priority issues. To meet this objective, CPU will carry out relevant research work using in-house resource as far as possible.

Name in block letters

Y C LO

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

Date

25 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)014

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

0171

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : What are the details of the deletion of 69 posts in 2004-05 under this Programme ? How many of them belong to the professional grades ? The number of projects completed in 2002 and 2003 were 78 and 92 respectively while the number planned to be completed in 2004 is 108, what are the Administration's plans for the completion of more projects with less manpower ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : Of the 69 posts we are planning to delete in 2004-05 under this Programme, 11 of them belong to the professional grades. Please see the attached list for detailed breakdown.

The Department's plans for the completion of more projects with less manpower are to increase progressively the outsourcing of the professional and technical services for the delivery of projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Breakdown of the 69 posts to be deleted
under Programme (3) - Facilities Development

Rank	No. of posts to be deleted
Chief Architect	1*
Architect/Assistant Architect	2*
Structural Engineer/ Assistant Structural Engineer	4*
Building Services Engineer/ Assistant Building Services Engineer	4*
Principal Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Principal Technical Officer (Building Services)	1
Senior Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Senior Technical Officer (Building Services)	6
Senior Technical Officer (Structural)	1
Principal Survey Officer (Quantity)	2
Senior Survey Officer (Quantity)	4
Survey Officer (Quantity)	1
Technical Officer (Architectural)	3
Technical Officer (Building Services)	1
Technical Officer (Structural)	1
Senior Building Services Inspector	1
Building Services Inspector	2
Assistant Building Services Inspector	2
Clerk of Works	5
Assistant Clerk of Works	2
Works Supervisor I (Building)	5
Works Supervisor I (Building Services)	4
Works Supervisor II (Building)	2
Works Supervisor II (Building Services)	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	3
Personal Secretary II	2
Photoprinter I	1
Photoprinter II	1
Total :	69

*Professional grade post

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

Question Serial No.

0612

Head : 25 – Architectural Services DepartmentSubhead :

Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services
(2) – Facilities Upkeep
(3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (For Programmes (1) and (3))
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (For Programme (2))

Question : The department estimates that 93 permanent posts will be deleted in 2004-05. Will the Administration provide information on the ranks, complement, terms of appointment and ways of deletion of these posts? Is the deletion related to outsourcing of specific types of work? If yes, what are the ranks, staff complement, terms of appointment and types of works involved and what is the timetable for outsourcing? How is the manpower cut going to affect the department's monitoring and advisory services as well as the maintenance and development of facilities? What will the department do to ensure that the morale of its staff will not be affected by the downsizing? How will the department effectively monitor outsourcing and ensure the workers concerned will not be exploited in terms of remuneration and benefits?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wahReply : Details of the 93 permanent posts which will be deleted in 2004-05 are shown in the Appendix.

To achieve Government's target on the reduction of civil service establishment, posts are deleted when vacancies arise from natural wastage, Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme, expiry of time lapse posts, and end of contract agreement. The outsourcing arrangement may, to a certain extent, facilitate manpower reduction.

The Architectural Services Department (Arch S D) has progressively outsourced the professional, technical and site supervisory services for project delivery and devolved some of the maintenance works to subvented organisations and government departments. The outsourcing initiative and the related manpower reduction will not in any way undermine the maintenance and development of facilities as ArchSD has also enhanced its monitoring and advisory roles by enforcing its building authority role for government premises, and promoting best practices in the construction industry. We have achieved the outsourcing of professional and technical services for the delivery of projects as follows :

As at Feb 2001	35% (baseline)
End 2002/03	54% (achieved)
End 2003/04	60% (achieved)

The Department has set up a dedicated Staff Relations Unit to enhance the communication between the management and staff. Through regular meetings and informal exchanges of views, staff are well aware of the objectives and development of the Department's Re-engineering Programme. The management will take appropriate measures to address staff concern such as reshuffling the duties of the serving staff where necessary in the light of the progress of the Re-engineering Programme to ensure a fair distribution of workload. With such measures, we are confident that the staff morale will not be affected by the deletion of the 93 posts.

There are already well established mechanism in monitoring performance of consultants for outsourced projects. Up to now, we have not received complaints from consultants' employees on wage disputes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

**The breakdown of the 93 permanent posts to be deleted
in 2004/05 is as follows:**

Rank	No. of posts to be deleted
Senior Architect	1
Architect/Assistant Architect	2
Senior Structural Engineer	1
Structural Engineer/Assistant Structural Engineer	4
Senior Quantity Surveyor	2
Assistant Maintenance Surveyor	3
Building Services Engineer/Assistant Building Services Engineer	4
Principal Survey Officer (Quantity)	2
Senior Survey Officer (Quantity)	4
Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Quantity)	1
Principal Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Senior Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Architectural)	4
Senior Technical Officer (Structural)	1
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Structural)	1
Principal Technical Officer (Building Services)	1
Senior Technical Officer (Building Services)	6
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Building Services)	1
Chief Technical Officer (Building)	1
Senior Clerk of Works	1
Clerk of Works	8
Assistant Clerk of Works	5
Senior Building Services Inspector	1
Building Services Inspector	2
Assistant Building Services Inspector	2
Works Supervisor I (Building)	8
Works Supervisor II (Building)	2
Works Supervisor I (Building Services)	4
Works Supervisor II (Building Services)	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	2
Clerical Assistant	4
Office Assistant	1
Personal Secretary II	2
Senior Typist	1
Artisan	1
Workman II	1
Photoprinter I	1
Photoprinter II	1
Total :	93

The 93 posts will be deleted through existing vacancies, natural wastage and wastage arising from the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)016

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

Question Serial No.

0818

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services
 (2) – Facilities Upkeep
 (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
 (For Programmes (1) and (3))
 Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
 (For Programme (2))

Question : Over the past three years, how many posts on establishment have been deleted, and how many posts on contract terms created ?

How many temporary contract posts will be retained or created by the department in 2004-05 ?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Arch SD has achieved a net total deletion of 178 posts in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 while the number of non-civil service contract staff has increased by only 1 from 27 to 28.

Arch SD will retain the services of the 28 non-civil service contract staff in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)017

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

Question Serial No.

0832

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) – Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : Regarding Programme (3), provision for 2004-05 is 3.9% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04, which is mainly due to the effect of reduced operating expenses and deletion of 69 posts. In this regard, please advise :

- (1) How can the operating expenses be reduced by ways other than civil service pay cut ? What is the total estimated reduction in expenditure ?
- (2) How many of the 69 deleted posts belong to the engineer category ? How much savings in expenditure can be achieved as a result of the post deletion ?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : We hope to reduce the operating expenses by about \$3.6 million. This is mainly due to the reduced expenses in non-project related consultancies and general departmental expenses.

Of the 69 posts to be deleted, eight of them belong to the engineer grades. We anticipate to achieve savings of about \$5.7 million from deletion of posts under Programme (3).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Question Serial No.

1443

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :Programme : (3) – Facilities DevelopmentControlling Officer : Director of Architectural ServicesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under Programme (3) Facilities Development, the provision for 2004-05 is 3.9% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to the effect of civil service pay cut, consequent reduced operating expenses and deletion of 69 posts in 2004-05. Please list out the ranks of the 69 posts, and indicate whether the department will outsource the work of the posts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : For the rank of the 69 posts which will be deleted in 2004-05, please refer to the Annex.

The Department will continue to outsource progressively the professional, technical and site supervisory services for the delivery of projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Breakdown of the 69 posts to be deleted
under Programme (3) - Facilities Development

Rank	No. of posts to be deleted
Chief Architect	1
Architect/Assistant Architect	2
Structural Engineer/ Assistant Structural Engineer	4
Building Services Engineer/ Assistant Building Services Engineer	4
Principal Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Principal Technical Officer (Building Services)	1
Senior Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Senior Technical Officer (Building Services)	6
Senior Technical Officer (Structural)	1
Principal Survey Officer (Quantity)	2
Senior Survey Officer (Quantity)	4
Survey Officer (Quantity)	1
Technical Officer (Architectural)	3
Technical Officer (Building Services)	1
Technical Officer (Structural)	1
Senior Building Services Inspector	1
Building Services Inspector	2
Assistant Building Services Inspector	2
Clerk of Works	5
Assistant Clerk of Works	2
Works Supervisor I (Building)	5
Works Supervisor I (Building Services)	4
Works Supervisor II (Building)	2
Works Supervisor II (Building Services)	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	3
Personal Secretary II	2
Photoprinter I	1
Photoprinter II	1
Total :	69

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)019

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

1444

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) – Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : Under Programme (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services, one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 is that the department will further enhance its building authority role for government buildings, resulting from more outsourcing of new projects. However, it is shown in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision that 5 posts will be deleted under Programme (1) in 2004-05. Please list out the ranks of the 5 posts, and give reason(s) for the deletion and indicate the ways to ensure that the monitoring role of the department will not be affected.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : To achieve Government's target on the reduction of civil services establishment, posts are deleted when vacancies arise from natural wastage, 2nd voluntary retirement, expiry of time-limited posts, and end of contract agreement. Under the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the following 5 posts will be deleted under Programme (1) -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Senior Architect	1
Senior Quantity Surveyor	2
Senior Structural Engineer	1
Office Assistant	1
Total :	<u>5</u>

The Department has critically reviewed its monitoring and advisory roles, streamlined the working procedures, re-organised its structure and re-distributed its resources. Through this re-engineering exercise, the Department has enhanced its monitoring and advisory roles with less staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

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

ETWB(W)020

Question Serial

1475

Head : 42 – EMSD Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : Please provide the following information on Programme (4) Centralised services and special support:

The total salary savings in the 2004-05 Estimates due to the two civil service pay cuts.

The 6 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 and the savings arising from the deletion of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : In Programme (4) Centralised services and special support,

- (1) the total salary savings in the 2004-05 Estimates due to the two civil service pay cut is \$1.19M.
- (2) the posts identified for deletion in 2004-05 are 2 Chief Technical Officers, 1 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Clerical Officer and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The total savings from the deletion of these 6 posts is \$2.29M.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Roger S. H. LAI

Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

24 March 2004

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

Head : 42 – EMSDSubhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : 1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety
 2 – Mechanical engineering installations safety
 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality
 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical ServicesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the allowances under personal emoluments, please list the various allowances for 2004-05 (Estimate) and 2003-04 (Revised).

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-yingReply : The various allowances under personal emoluments are :Allowances2003-042004-05

(Revised)

(Estimate)

\$'000

\$'000

Overtime

825

850

Acting

1,695

2,250

Shift duty

110

110

On-call duty

40

40

2,670
3,250

=====
=====

The additional provision for acting allowance in 2004-05 is to cater for increasing number of officers on pre-retirement leave in 2004-05 and hence more officers are required to take up posts vacated by officers on pre-retirement leave by acting appointment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

ETWB(W)022

Question Serial

1477

Head : 42 – EMSD Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : In 2004-05, the estimated expenditure on Technical Services Agreement (TSA) is \$11,753,000, which is higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04 (\$11,234,000). Please explain why. What is the difference between the content of the Technical Services Agreement in 2004-05 and that in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : EMSD manages and provides funding for the Simultaneous Interpretation Systems (SIS) operated by departments under the TSA. In 2003-04, EMSD works closely with the services provider for better utilization of staff resources and adjustment of shift patterns. As a result, a total savings of \$1M is achieved. The provision for 2004-05 is \$0.519M higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to additional provision for increasing operating hours required by user departments and additional contribution to the retirement scheme for the staff of the contractor.

There is no change in the terms and conditions under the TSA in 2004-05 in comparison with that in 2003-04.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Roger S. H. LAI

Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)023

Question Serial No.

0979

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

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: Under the Indicator for Programme 4304, the number of slopes and retaining walls to be registered in 2004 is 500, which is much lower than the numbers of 1 303 and 4 013 in 2002 and 2003 respectively. What is the reason for such large decrease? How many slopes and retaining walls have not been registered yet? How long will it take to complete all the registration?

Asked by: Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply: In response to the recommendations in the Director of Audit Report No. 38 - Chapter 10, a special 2-year cataloguing exercise commenced in 2002 to identify and register 'missed' existing slopes meeting the registration criteria.

After completion of the special exercise by late 2003, some 4000 slopes have been identified and registered. Following this exercise, the estimated number of slopes to be registered in 2004 will return to the normal average level of 500.

Slope registration is an on-going long-term exercise as there are new slopes formed every year in public and private development projects and small existing slopes occasionally found as part of our slope safety work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K TSAO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)024

Question Serial No.

1510

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

Programme: (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Question: The Government will improve the targets for three applications in 2004 : a Licence to Manufacture Explosives will be issued within two days of an application, where pre-licensing requirements have been satisfied; a Licence to Use Explosives will be issued within three days where pre-licensing requirements have been satisfied; a Mine Blasting Certificate will be issued within one day of an application passing an examination.

For the above applications, the targets will be reduced by 10% after shortening the processing time. Would the Government please explain the reason for reducing the targets?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: Based on past records, the target level of the three government services concerned have been 100% (i.e. the processing time of issuing the licence/certificate concerned are three days, four days and two days respectively). With a view to further promoting efficiency, we have set out higher targets by shortening the processing time to two days, three days and one day respectively. Based on our new targets, we estimate that the initial target level will be just about 90%. We will, from time to time, review the processes involved. After further enhancing our efficiency, the target level will be raised to 100% gradually in the coming two to three years having regard to the actual circumstances.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)025

Question Serial No.

1511

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: (a) The Government carried out a special slope cataloguing task to register 3 700 slopes into the Catalogue of Slopes in 2003. However, the estimated number of newly registered slopes and retaining walls in 2004 is 500. Please explain the details of these two tasks and why there is such difference?

(b) In 2003, the actual number of slopes registered in the Catalogue of Slopes is 4 013. The estimated number for this year is substantially reduced to 500. What is the reason for such difference ?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: (a) In response to the recommendations in the Director of Audit Report No. 38 - Chapter 10, a special 2-year slope cataloguing exercise commenced in 2002 to identify and register 'missed' existing slopes meeting the registration criteria. A total of some 4 000 slopes were identified. About 3 700 were registered in 2003 and the remaining in 2002.

Slope registration is an on-going long-term exercise as there are new slopes formed every year in public and private development projects. Also, small existing slopes may occasionally be found as part of our slope safety work. We estimate that about 500 new slopes will be registered in 2004.

(b) After completion of the special exercise by late 2003, the estimated number of slopes to be registered in 2004 returns to the normal average level of 500.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Head: 43 – Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title): 5001BX –
Landslip preventive measure

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: (a) The Government will improve the appearance of the slopes to be upgraded under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme in 2004-05. What landscape methods will be employed and what will be the associated expenditure?

(b) Is putting up advertisements on slopes one of the methods to improve slope appearance?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: (a) In 2004-05, 250 slopes and retaining walls will be landscaped under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme managed by the Civil Engineering Department. The methods adopted include soft landscaping or hard landscaping, or a combination of both. Some examples of soft landscaping works are (i) hydroseeding, (ii) seedling planting, and (iii) planting trees, shrubs and creeping plants. Examples of hard landscaping are (i) planter walls, (ii) tree rings to preserve existing trees and shrubs, (iii) plant holes for creepers, (iv) masonry dressed block, and (v) colouring to sprayed concrete.

The total expenditure on landscaping under the CWRP will be about \$60 million, out of which about \$43 million will be spent on greening.

(b) Putting up advertisements on slopes is not one of our methods of enhancing slope appearance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

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

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment Transport and Works

Question: It is stated in the Brief Description that safety screening studies of 320 private slopes were completed in 2003:

- (a) How many of these slopes are located in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts? Please list their locations. Which slopes require repair or upgrading works?
- (b) Of the 320 private slopes that will be subject to safety screening studies in the coming year, how many are located in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts? If possible, please list their locations.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

- (a) Of the 320 private slopes with safety screening studies completed in 2003, 4 are located in Kwun Tong district and 1 in the Wong Tai Sin district. The findings of these studies are –

District	Slope No.	Slope Location	Findings of Safety Screening Study
Kwun Tong	11NE-C/CR88	Hong Lee Road	Maintenance works required
	11NE-D/C358	Yuet Wah Street	Maintenance works required
	11NE-D/C359	Yuet Wah Street	Investigation and possible upgrading works required
	11NE-D/CR877	Yuet Wah Street	Maintenance works required
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/C14	Po Kong Village Road	Maintenance works required

- (b) We plan to complete safety screening studies on 320 private slopes in 2004. 21 of these are located in Kwun Tong district and 6 in Wong Tai Sin district. The locations of these slopes are as follows:

District	Slope No.	Slope Location
Kwun Tong	11NE-D/C65	Fuk Ning Road
	11NE-C/C32	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/C34	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/C67	Hong Lee Road
	11NE-C/C68	Hong Lee Road
	11NE-C/C75	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/C76	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/CR33	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/CR35	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/CR36	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/CR37	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/CR39	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/CR248	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-D/C53	Hip Wo Street
	11NE-D/CR48	Tsui Ping Road
	11SE-B/C165	Ko Chiu Road
	11NE-D/C67	Hip Wo Street
	11NE-D/R49	Hip Wo Street
	11NE-D/F15	Wo Hong Path
	11NE-C/FR81	Hong Lee Road
	11NE-C/C71	Kung Lok Road
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/C58	Ngau Chi Wan Street
	11NE-A/C224	Shatin Pass Road
	11NE-A/R14	Sheung Fung Street
	11NE-A/FR324	Shatin Pass Road
	11NE-A/R95	Pui Man Street
	11NE-A/CR624	Pui Man Street

Information on the above slopes can be obtained from the Hong Kong Slope Safety website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>)

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

- Question:
- (a) What are the changes in staff resources in 2004-05 when compared with the previous two years?
 - (b) As compared with 2003-04, a decrease of 4.7% of financial provision for Programme (4) is envisaged in the Estimate in the coming year. What effects will have on the advisory service to private slope owners on slope maintenance and improvement works?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

- Reply:
- (a) Compared with 2002-03, three staff were redeployed to this programme area in 2003-04 and six posts are planned for deletion in 2004-05.
 - (b) As part of our strategy to promote slope safety, we will continue to give high priority to providing assistance and advice to private slope owners to help them maintain their slopes. The Community Advisory Unit of this department, which provides direct community advisory service to private slope owners, will continue to improve its service level with the financial provision in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)029

Question Serial No.

1525

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

Programme: (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: How many environmental and ecological studies will CED carry out in 2004-05 to determine the effect of mud dredging and marine disposal on the marine ecology? What is the estimated expenditure for these studies?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: CED is undertaking eight environmental and ecological assessments and studies related to mud dredging and marine disposal in 2004-05. This is to ensure that the effect of mud dredging and marine disposal on the environment is acceptable in accordance with internationally recognized standards. The cost for undertaking the assessments and studies is about \$18 million in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)030

Question Serial No.

1526

Head: 43 – Civil Engineering Department

Subhead (No. & title): 5001 BX –

Landslip preventive measures

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

- Question:
- (a) How much resources will be allocated for the enhancement of public education campaigns on slope safety and landscaping slopes?
 - (b) How much resources will be allocated for the work on upgrading of dangerous slopes? How many upgrading works are expected to be carried out next year?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

- Reply:
- (a) We have a Public Education Unit to promote slope safety and its aesthetic improvement through educational and publicity programme. The Unit comprises two geotechnical engineers and two technical staff and is under the supervision of a Chief Geotechnical Engineer in the Slope Safety Division of the Geotechnical Engineering Office of this Department. It is estimated that non-staff expenditure in 2004-05, including production and distribution of publicity and educational materials, organization of talks, seminars, exhibitions and associated education activities, and public opinion survey, is about \$ 0.6 million.
 - (b) The Government has pledged to upgrade 2,500 substandard government man-made slopes and carry out safety-screening studies on 3,000 private man-made slopes under the 10-year Extended Landslip Preventive Measures Programme between 2000 and 2010. We will spend \$870 million in 2004-05 under the CWRP to upgrade at least 250 substandard government man-made slopes and carry out safety-screening studies on at least 300 private man-made slopes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)031

Question Serial No.

1670

Head: 43 – Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title): 841
Minor consultancy studies
(block vote)

Programme: (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: Please list the topic, objectives and estimated expenditure of each item of minor consultancy studies to be carried out in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply: The minor consultancy studies to be carried out in 2004-05 are as follows -

Topic	Estimated Expenditure in 2004-05 (\$'000)	Study Objective
(a) Engagement of Reinforced Fill Engineering Expert	384	CED operates a certification system to regulate the use of reinforced fill products. The expert is to provide technical advice on the performance of such products as part of the certification process.
(b) Employment of Expert for Production of Reinforced Fill Design Guide	527	The expert is to prepare technical guidelines and standards for the design and construction of reinforced fill structures and slopes in Hong Kong.
(c) Minor Consultancy Studies for Research on Concrete Technology	400	The studies are to provide expert technical advice to improve the current practice/knowledge on some concrete technology related subjects.
	1,311	

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)032

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

0413

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The number of excavation/road work permits authorised in 2003 was only 27 973. However, the number of permits to be authorised in 2004-05 is estimated to be increased significantly by 82.5% to 51 045. What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Government departments, including Highways Department, are not bound by the existing ordinance. Under the existing administrative arrangement, works orders issued by Highways Department to its contractors to carry out road works are not covered separately by excavation permits. However, under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Ordinance which will come into operation on 1 April 2004, Highways Department itself is also required to obtain a separate excavation permit for any excavation works. Owing to this change, we estimate that the number of excavation permits to be issued by Highways Department will increase significantly from 27 973 to 51 045.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MAK CHAI KWONG

Director of Highways

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)033

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0816

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Highways Department estimates that the number of excavation/road work permits authorised will be increased by about 85% from some 27 000 in 2002 and 2003 to 51 045 in 2004-05. However, the department estimates that the number of inspections carried out on utility excavation in the same year will only be increased by 22% to 98 052. What is the reason? The department has indicated that it would streamline the procedure of issuing excavation/road work permits, but the estimated time required for issuing permits in 2004-05 has not been shortened. What are the details of the streamlining of procedure?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : The number of audit inspections on works under any excavation/road work permit (XP) depends on the duration of the permit, i.e. permit days. Highways Department maintains a frequency of no less than one inspection in every seven permit days. XPs with duration less than seven days are also subject to spot checks. The majority of the increased number of 23 000 XPs concerns minor maintenance works which require short durations to complete. Therefore the increase in the estimated number of inspections is not proportional to the number of permits issued.

Highways Department has set up streamlined procedures with which the utility undertakings and the relevant authorities can expeditiously obtain/exchange information, and agree on the detailed arrangement for the works by electronic means. Standard methods for calculation of required permit periods have also been agreed between Highways Departments and the utility undertakings. With these streamlined procedures, the necessary approvals would be provided in a timely manner.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MAK CHAI KWONG

Director of Highways

24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

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

ETWB(W)034

Question Serial No.

Head : 60 Highways Department Subhead (No. & title) :

1080

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : It is estimated that the number of excavation/road work permits authorised in 2004 will be substantially higher than that in 2003. What is the reason? Does the department has adequate staff to handle the anticipated increase of application?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Government departments, including Highways Department, are not bound by the existing ordinance. Under the existing administrative arrangement, works orders issued by Highways Department to its contractors to carry out road works are not covered separately by excavation permits. However, under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Ordinance which will come into operation on 1 April 2004, Highways Department itself is also required to obtain a separate excavation permit for any excavation works. Owing to this change, we estimate that the number of excavation permits to be issued by Highways Department will increase significantly from 27 973 to 51 045.

Highways Department has already undertaken a re-organisation exercise on 27 February 2004 to make available the manpower required to handle the large increase in the number of excavation permits. Dedicated teams are now established to deal with the different requirements under the amended Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance to process applications and issue permits, to conduct regular inspections on excavations to see works are carried out in accordance with the permit conditions, and to collect evidence necessary for any prosecutions on offences.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MAK CHAI KWONG

Director of Highways

24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

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

ETWB(W)035

Question Serial

1081

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the improvement of appearance and safety of roadside slopes by a greening and enhanced maintenance programme in 2004-05, what are the details and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Under the current enhanced maintenance programme for roadside slopes by Highways Department, we plan to upgrade 150 slopes adjacent to buildings or major roads in the next four years to current standards. These include 90 slopes in the urban area and 60 slopes in the New Territories area. The slope upgrading works will also incorporate greening and landscaping.

In 2004-05, we plan to complete investigation and design of upgrading and landscaping works on 70 slopes and carry out construction works on 20 slopes. The total expenditure is estimated at \$34 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MAK CHAI KWONG

Director of Highways

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)036

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1417

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the extension of excavation permits, how many extension application has been submitted in 2003. What are the numbers of applications approved and rejected? What is the reason for rejection in general?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In 2003, Highways Department received 11 299 applications for extension of the excavation permit. Out of these, 9 893 were approved and 1 406 were rejected. Common reasons for rejection include -

- a) the extension applications were not supported by any reasons;
- b) reasons for extension were not valid, e.g. revision of alignment, delay in work commencement;
- c) failing to meet the minimum lead time for extension application; and
- d) the extension applications were submitted after the expiry date.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MAK CHAI KWONG

Director of Highways

24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)037

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

1657

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Please explain the reason why the estimated number of excavation/road work permits authorised in 2004-05 is the double of that in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : Government departments, including Highways Department, are not bound by the existing ordinance. Under the existing administrative arrangement, works orders issued by Highways Department to its contractors to carry out road works are not covered separately by excavation permits. However, under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Ordinance which will come into operation on 1 April 2004, Highways Department itself is also required to obtain a separate excavation permit for any excavation works. Owing to this change, we estimate that the number of excavation permits to be issued by Highways Department will increase significantly from 27 973 to 51 045.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MAK CHAI KWONG

Director of Highways

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)038

Question Serial No.

1647

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

(1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer:

Director of Lands

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Regarding the key performance measures in respect of land administration – Maintenance of slopes on unallocated and unleased government land, why is there a significant increase in the workload for maintenance of slopes in 2004? What will be the amount of expenses in this respect? Is there a need for additional staff? Why?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The increase in the number of slopes to be improved from 3 400 in 2003 to 5 300 in 2004 is due to an increase in the number of slopes assigned for maintenance by Lands Department. Most significantly, Civil Engineering Department has recently completed an exercise to register those newly-identified slopes that had not previously been included in Government's Catalogue of Slopes. Lands Department will likely be responsible for about 1 400 of the newly-identified slopes. An outsourcing arrangement for routine maintenance works is contributing to better planning and more efficient implementation of works, leading to an increasing number of slopes being maintained in line with current standards.

The estimated expenditure for 2004-05 is about \$99 million.

As consultants are employed to undertake the work, there is no need for additional government staff for the purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

PATRICK L C LAU

Director of Lands

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W) 039

Question Serial No.

1671

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

(1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer:

Director of Lands

Director of Bureau:

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: Regarding the key performance measures in respect of land administration – Maintenance of slopes on unallocated and unleased government land, the number of man-made slopes to be improved increases from 3 400 in 2003 to 5 300 in 2004. Please explain why.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The increase in the number of slopes to be improved from 3 400 in 2003 to 5 300 in 2004 is due to an increase in the number of slopes assigned for maintenance by Lands Department. Most significantly, Civil Engineering Department has recently completed an exercise to register those newly-identified slopes that had not previously been included in Government's Catalogue of Slopes. Lands Department will likely be responsible for about 1 400 of the newly-identified slopes. An outsourcing arrangement for routine maintenance works is contributing to better planning and more efficient implementation of works, leading to an increasing number of slopes being maintained in line with current standards.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

PATRICK L C LAU

Director of Lands

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)040

Question Serial No.

0823

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 : Since 1998, the Department has started a number of replacement works on leaking watermains, but in 2001-2003 and 2004, the leakage rate of watermains remained and is expected to remain at 25%. Will the Department estimate in which year the leakage rate of watermains will fall below 25%? What is the estimated annual losses caused by the 25% leakage rate?

Asked by : Hon.TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Works under stage I of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme commenced in December 2000. However the early phase of the works only covered some 40 km of watermains representing about 1.3% of the total length (3 000 km) of watermains proposed to be replaced or rehabilitated. The leakage rate has not yet shown improvement because only a relatively small amount of R&R works have been completed but the condition of the remaining distribution network continues to deteriorate. With the implementation of R&R works of some 300 km of watermains included in PWP item 9090WC which commenced in June 2003, we expect a slight improvement in leakage rate in the years to come and a measurable improvement will surface in about 2008 when the present Stage I Phase I R&R works are completed. The improvement is expected to continue and increase if subsequent stages of the R&R works can proceed.

The current loss of water at a 25% leakage rate is estimated to be in the order of 200 million cubic metres per year. It should be noted that the leakage percentage will be brought down to 15% upon the completion of the R&R programme, and other leakage detection and reduction works. This level represents a very good performance when compared to other international cities.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: William C G KO

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 24 March 2004

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

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

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : Regarding the accuracy of water meters, please inform this council of :

- a. the number of customers affected by the inaccuracy of water meters, and the total overcharged or undercharged amount involved in 2002-03 and 2003-04.
- b. the ten cases with the highest \pm inaccuracy percentages, the inaccuracy percentages and the money involved respectively.
- c. what is the plan of the Department to deal with the problem of inaccurate water meters?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

- a. Water meters are accurate when installed. However, having served for a considerable period of time, they may become less accurate and normally tend to under-register, i.e. run slower due to mechanical wear and tear. According to the Waterworks Ordinance, water meters are considered accurate if the inaccuracy is not more than 3%. WSD issued 7,537,134 water bills in 2002-03 and 5,184,581 water bills in 2003-04 (up to Feb. 04). There were 451 dispute cases in 2002-03 and 689 dispute cases in 2003-04 (up to February 2004) about the accuracy of water meters. For all these dispute cases, the water meters were removed and tested for accuracy in WSD's accredited meter testing laboratory. Most of them were found to be accurate. Only a small proportion were found to be inaccurate. The results are tabulated below:

Year	Dispute Cases	Test Result		
		Accurate	Over-register	Under-register
2002-03	451	370	4	77
2003-04 (up to Feb. 04)	689	592	4	93

For all cases where the meters were found to be inaccurate, the bills were adjusted accordingly to remove any over-charge or under-charge.

- b. Ten cases of significant variations in 2003-04 (up to Feb. 04) are:

Under-register (%) : 24.29, 13.85, 13.66, 10.00, 9.97, 9.09, 9.09, 9.08, 8.00

Over-register (%) : 9.11

- c. As water meters normally tend to under-register due to mechanical wear and tear, WSD has an on-going programme to replace the aged meters to progressively improve the general accuracy of water meters. Based on the test results on random samples, we found that the percentage of meters complying with the accuracy requirement was 92.5% in 2003-04 compared with 91.5% in 2002-03. WSD will continue with the meter replacement programme to improve the overall meter accuracy.

Signature:	_____
Name in block letters:	_____ William C G KO
Post Title:	_____ Director of Water Supplies
Date:	_____ 24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)042

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

Question Serial No.

1194

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead 700 General non-recurrent
(No.& title) (516) Replacement of imperial meters

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : Please specify in detail the contents and purposes of the meter replacement programme and the number of meters to be replaced under the programme.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : WSD has an on-going programme to replace about 100 000 aged water meters annually. Through this meter replacement programme, WSD has been able to progressively improve the general accuracy of water meters. Based on the test results on random samples, we found that the percentage of meters complying with the accuracy requirement was 92.5% in 2003-04 compared with 91.5% in 2002-03. WSD will continue with the meter replacement programme to improve the overall meter accuracy.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ William C G KO

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

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

ETWB(W)043

Question Serial No.

1195

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department	Subhead (No. & title)	700 General non-recurrent - (507) Consultancy on underground asset management (508) Consultancy for the surface asset management study (510) Hire of service for implementation of the surface asset management and the pressure management schemes Programme :
--------------------------------------	--------------------------	--

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : In regard to the three non-recurrent expenditure items mentioned above, would the Administration inform us of the contents and progress of the respective programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

(1) Item 507 Consultancy on underground asset management

The scope of this item includes:

- (a) to study the condition and performance of the underground water supply system and to develop a comprehensive and cost-effective asset management plan for the system; and
- (b) to digitize paper record drawings of the water supply and distribution system to make full use of computerized mapping technology for easy updating, retrieval and information exchange.

This item has been substantially completed.

(2) Item 508 Consultancy for the surface asset management study

The scope of this item includes:

- (a) to develop a surface asset management strategy;

- (b) to develop detailed methodology on the preparation of a 20-year surface asset management plan;
- (c) to provide a framework and procedures for building a comprehensive asset register for the surface assets; and
- (d) to develop and set up a Surface Asset Inventory System.

The Final Report and the Surface Asset Management Manuals have been produced.

WSD has built up the surface asset inventory and followed up with the recommendations in the Final Report.

(3) Item 510 Hire of service for implementation of the surface asset management and the pressure management schemes

This item covers various assignments arising from Item 508 and implementation of pressure management schemes as follows:-

- (a) to establish Surface Asset Register;
- (b) to conduct Complete On-condition Monitoring;
- (c) to form Asset Management Review Team;
- (d) to carry out Asset Valuation; and
- (e) to produce Surface Asset Management Plan.

Up to now, about half of the requirements of this item have been completed and the whole item is scheduled to be completed in 2005-06.

Signature:	_____
Name in block letters:	_____ William C G KO
Post Title:	_____ Director of Water Supplies
Date:	_____ 24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)044

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

Question Serial No.

1196

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : The revised estimated expenditure of \$66,457,000 on hire of services and professional fees in 2003-04 is lower than the original estimate. In 2004-05, the estimated expenditure on this item is \$64,962,000. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Council of the details of the services concerned and give reasons for the reduction in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming Fred

Reply : Expenditures on hire of services and professional fees mainly cover the provision of connections to customers, installation of water meters, hire of consultants, hire of temporary staff and hire of security services. The decrease in 2004-05 estimates is mainly due to the reduction in the number of temporary staff required in 2004-05 as a result of maximising staff redeployment and streamlining of working procedures.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Post Title:

Date:

William C G KO

Director of Water Supplies

24 March 2004

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

ETWB(W) 045

Question Serial No.

1197

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 : In 2002-03 and 2003-04, what measures were taken by the Administration to reduce the leakage of watermains? What was the expenditure incurred? Has the Administration set a target for reducing the leakage rate of watermains?

Asked by : Hon. Li Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Deterioration due to aging of watermains is the principal factor contributing to water leakage in the water distribution system. To combat the water leakage problem, WSD has implemented the following measures-

(1) Continuous Monitoring

Continuous monitoring of the water distribution system using district meters, and electronic data logging and transmission technology is employed to pick up early signs of suspected leakage in the district under monitoring.

(2) Proactive Leakage Control

Regular and systematic leak detection tests over the water distribution system are carried out so that underground leaks can be located and repaired as early as possible.

(3) Pressure Management

Flow-modulated pressure reducing valves are installed at strategic locations to regulate water pressure in the water distribution system to reduce water leakage while maintaining an adequate water pressure.

(4) Replacement and Rehabilitation of Watermains

Use of the statistical data of watermains, e.g. age, material, main burst records, maintenance history, to work out the 20-year watermains replacement and rehabilitation programme covering about 3 000 kilometres of watermains.

Implementation of the replacement and rehabilitation programme will prevent further deterioration of the water distribution system.

WSD spent \$49.8 million on the replacement and rehabilitation of watermains in 2002-03 and will spend \$99.6 million in 2003-04. WSD also spent \$14 million on water leakage control in 2002-03 and will increase such spending to \$16 million in 2003-04.

WSD's target is to prevent further deterioration of the water distribution system and reduce the leakage level to 15% as a long term objective by the implementation of the watermains replacement and rehabilitation programme together with the leakage control measures.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

William C G KO

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

24 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)046

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

Question Serial No.

1198

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 : What is the number of consumers presently using fresh water for flushing purpose? the quantity of fresh water used for that purpose? the cost of supplying fresh water for that purpose? the difference in cost as compared with the supply of salt water for flushing? Does the Administration have any concrete plan to assist those consumers to change to salt water for flushing?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : In 2003, the number of registered accounts for using fresh water for flushing is approximately 23 000 representing about 20% of the total population. The average consumption is about 140 000 cubic metres per day. In 2002-03, the cost of fresh water is \$9.7 per cubic metre whereas the cost of salt water is \$2.5 per cubic metre. However, a substantial infrastructure, including salt water pumping stations, distribution mains and service reservoirs, has to be constructed before WSD can supply salt water to consumers. There are a number of salt water supply projects under planning for areas in Pok Fu Lam, Tung Chung, Tai Ho, Tuen Mun East and Tin Shui Wai. WSD is also considering the possible use of other alternative water resources in order to arrive at the most cost-effective solution.

Signature:	_____
Name in block letters:	_____ William C G KO _____
Post Title:	_____ Director of Water Supplies _____
Date:	_____ 24 March 2004 _____

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)047

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

Question Serial No.

1199

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 : As regards the development of water resources, what are the new jobs to be carried out by the Administration in 2004-05 and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : In the development of water resources, WSD has been focusing on seawater desalination and recycling of treated sewage effluent. A pilot desalination plant study is being carried out and the pilot projects at Ngong Ping for the supply of treated sewage effluent for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses are now under construction. The estimated expenditure in 2004-05 for seawater desalination and recycling of treated sewage effluent are \$7 million and \$10 million respectively.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Post Title:

Date:

William C G KO

Director of Water Supplies

24 March 2004

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

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 : It is mentioned in the document that the work of WSD includes the development of water resources to cope with the requirements. At the same time, the expenditure for Programme (1) has decreased by \$85.2 million (or 1.8%) as compared with the revised expenditure for 2003-04, which is partly due to the deletion of 69 posts. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Council of:

- (a) the progress of the work on the development of water resources, and whether it will be affected by the deletion of posts; and
- (b) the details of the 69 posts to be deleted.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) Apart from continuing the extension of salt water supply for toilet flushing, WSD is investigating the possibility of developing seawater desalination and recycling of treated sewage effluent (TSE) as alternative water resources.

For seawater desalination, WSD has started a pilot desalination plant study in May 2003 as an in-depth investigation on the application of seawater desalination by reverse osmosis in Hong Kong. WSD has already awarded a contract for the supply, installation and operation of a pilot desalination plant in February 2004. It is expected that the pilot plant would be in operation by middle of this year and preliminary results would be available by the end of this year.

For recycling of TSE, the pilot project on the supply of TSE has commenced. A tertiary sewage treatment plant at Ngong Ping, Lantau is currently under construction. The pilot TSE re-use scheme would provide further treatment to the effluent from that treatment plant before supplying it for flushing. The scheme would be put into operation in conjunction with the commissioning of the cable car in Ngong Ping in 2005-06. WSD is also exploring the feasibility of a wider use of the high quality TSE and, taking into account the experience gained in Ngong Ping, the feasibility of a more extensive application of recycling of TSE for non-potable uses in Hong Kong.

The progress on development of alternative water resources will not be affected by the reduction of posts in 2004-05, which is the result of enhancement of efficiency and streamlining of work procedures.

- (b) The details of the 69 posts to be deleted are set out in the Annex.

Signature:	_____
Name in block letters:	<u>William C G KO</u>
Post Title:	<u>Director of Water Supplies</u>
Date:	<u>24 March 2004</u>

Water Supplies Department
69 Posts to be deleted in 2004-05 under Programme (1)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Artisan	8
Assistant Clerical Officer	3
Assistant Waterworks Inspector	5
Clerical Assistant	2
Clerical Officer	2
Electrical Engineer and Assistant Electrical Engineer	1
Official Language Officer I	2
Official Language Officer II	1
Principal Technical Officer	3
Senior Engineer	1
Senior Mechanical Engineer	1
Senior Official Language Officer	1
Senior Waterworks Inspector	4
Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Supervisor II	3
Survey Officer and Survey Officer Trainee	2
Technical Officer and Technical Officer Trainee	1
Waterworks Inspector	5
Workman I	1
Workman II	3
Works Supervisor I	11
Works Supervisor II	6
Total	69

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

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

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
(2) Water Quality Control
(3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : The Water Supplies Department plans to delete 135 permanent posts in 2004-05. In this regard,

- (1) what are the ranks and number of staff mainly affected and the means through which the posts will be deleted?
- (2) is the deletion of posts related to the out-sourcing of certain jobs? If yes, please specify the ranks, number and types of work of the staff affected.
- (3) will the reduction of manpower establishment increase the workload of some of the staff of WSD and affect the service quality? If yes, how will the Department ensure that staff morale will not be undermined?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

- (1) The ranks and number of permanent posts planned to be deleted in 2004-05 are set out at Annex. Deletion of posts will be effected by phases through voluntary retirement, natural wastage and deleting existing vacancies.
- (2) The planned deletion of posts is not related to out-sourcing of work.
- (3) As the reduction in establishment will be achieved through the use of information technology, re-engineering and streamlining of work processes and procedures, the quality of service will not be lowered. The WSD management will also ensure that there are appropriate staff communication and training to uphold staff morale and meet its performance standards.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Post Title:

Date:

William C G KO

Director of Water Supplies

24 March 2004

Water Supplies Department
Posts to be deleted in 2004-05

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Accounting Officer I	2
Artisan	8
Assistant Clerical Officer	19
Assistant Waterworks Inspector	9
Clerical Assistant	13
Clerical Officer	20
Consumer Services Inspector	3
Electrical Engineer and Assistant Electrical Engineer	1
Engineering Laboratory Technician II/	1
Student Engineering Laboratory Technician	
Engineering Laboratory Technician I	1
Meter Reader I	3
Meter Reader II	2
Official Language Officer I	2
Official Language Officer II	1
Principal Technical Officer	3
Senior Clerical Officer	2
Senior Engineer	1
Senior Mechanical Engineer	1
Senior Official Language Officer	1
Senior Waterworks Inspector	4
Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Supervisor II	3
Survey Officer and Survey Officer Trainee	2
Technical Officer and Technical Officer Trainee	1
Water Sampler	3
Waterworks Inspector	5
Workman I	1
Workman II	3
Works Supervisor I	11
Works Supervisor II	6
Total	135

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)050

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

1744

Head : CWRP Head 703 - Buildings

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : The provision for Head 703 in 2004-05 was drastically cut by about 26% with respect to that for the revised estimates in 2003-04. What is the main reason for this ? Is it because the Government wants to control total spending on public works to below \$30 billion and so spending on building projects has to be reduced ? Are some of the building projects planned to be started in 2004-05 delayed as a result ? Is there any impact on cultural and recreational facilities projects previously undertaken by the Urban Council and the Regional Council ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The total provision for Head 703 has decreased from \$9,191.027 million for 2003-04 Revised Estimate to \$6,783.612 million for 2004-05 Estimate, i.e. by \$2,407.415 million or 26%. This is mainly attributable to –

- (a) The forecast reduction in the block allocations under Head 703 by \$1,355 million in 2004-05. The Government pledged in 2001 to spend an additional \$2 billion each for 2002-03 and 2003-04 financial year under the CWRP works-related block allocations to improve various public facilities and to create job. Out of the 2 billion, \$1.5 billion is attributable to minor building works undertaken by Architectural Services Department. The allocation in 2004-05 is on par with the level before the additional allocation came into play.
- (b) Also, there is a reduction of \$905 million in the anticipated spending for the project 3234LP : “Redevelopment of Police Headquarters at Arsenal Street, Wan Chai (Arsenal Yard phase 3 development) – stage 2” in 2004-05. As the majority of works will be completed in mid-April 2004, a substantial part of the payments for the project has been made in 2003-04.

The two reductions are not related to the cultural and recreational facilities projects undertaken by the former Urban Council and Regional Council. Also as explained above, the reduction in the provision for Head 703 in 2004-05 is not due to the alleged control over public works to below \$30 billion. In fact, the allocation for 2004-05 amounts to about \$32 billion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)051

Question Serial No.

0453

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund – Head 705

Subhead (No. & title): 5001BX –
Landslip preventive measures and
5101CX – Civil engineering works, studies
and investigations for items in Category D
of the Public Works Programme

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: How many slopes will be greened and landscaped in 2003-04 and 2004-05 by the Civil Engineering Department? What will be the related expenditure? Generally speaking, what percentage of cost does landscape works constitute amongst the total cost of slope upgrading works?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: In 2003-04 and 2004-05, 501 slopes and retaining walls will be landscaped under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme managed by the Civil Engineering Department. Amongst these, 375 will be greened. The total expenditure on landscaping under the CWRF 5001BX block vote will be \$120 million, out of which \$97 million will be spent on greening. Generally speaking, the cost of landscape works constitutes about 10% of the total cost of slope upgrading works. The breakdown of the above figures amongst these two years is as follows –

Year	Estimated no. of slopes and retaining walls to be landscaped (greened)	Estimated expenditure on landscaping (greening) \$ million
2003-04	251 (195)	60 (54)
2004-05	<u>250 (180)</u>	<u>60 (43)</u>
Total	501 (375)	120 (97)

In addition, nine slopes and retaining walls were landscaped under the slope stabilization works under the CWRF 5101CX block vote in 2003-04. All of them were greened. The total expenditure on landscaping and greening of slopes and retaining walls was \$0.70 million. The cost of landscape works constitutes about 12% of the total cost of slope stabilization works. We have no plan for any slope stabilization works and hence for landscaping works under the block vote in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)052

Question Serial No.

1428

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund – Head 705 - Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5001BX – Landslip preventive measures and
5101CX – Civil engineering works, studies and investigations for items
in Category D of the Public Works Programme

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: Please provide details of works in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts under Subheads 5001BX 'Landslip preventive measures' and 5101CX 'Civil engineering works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme'.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: With regard to Subhead 5001BX, we plan to carry out investigation and, when required, upgrading works on the following slopes in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts in 2004-05 Landslip Preventive Measures Programme -

District	Slope No.	Slope Location
Kwun Tong	11NE-C/C77	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/C78	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/C79	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/C219	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/C242	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-C/CR243	Ngau Tau Kok Road
	11NE-D/C47	Hiu Ming Street
	11NE-C/C10	Choi Ha Road
	11NE-D/C372	Tseung Kwan O Road
	11NE-D/C380	Cha Kwo Ling Road
	11NE-D/CR368	Yau Hong Street
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/C43	Fung Shing Street
	11NE-A/C134	Ngau Chi Wan Service Reservoir
	11NE-A/C317	Chui Chuk Street
	11NW-B/C437	Lok Fu Service Reservoir
	11NW-B/F202	Fu On street
	11NW-B/F206	Fu On street
	11NW-B/R144	Broadcast Drive

With regard to Subhead 5101CX, we plan to carry out investigation and minor slope improvement works for the following slopes in the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts -

District	Slope No.	Slope Location
Kwun Tong	11NE-D/C403	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-D/C409	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-D/C579	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-D/F309	Kwong Tin Estate
	11NE-A/R5	Ping Shek Estate
	11NE-D/C20	Sau Mau Ping Estate
	11NE-B/C10	Shun Lee Estate
	11NE-A/C433	Shun Lee Estate
	11NE-A/C457	Shun Lee Estate
	11NE-D/C77	Ping Tin Estate
	11NE-D/F43	Ping Tin Estate
Wong Tai Sin	11NW-B/CR349(4)	Mei Tung Estate
	11NE-A/C4	Shatin Pass Estate
	11NE-A/C844	Shatin Pass Estate
	11NW-B/C168	Lok Fu Estate
	11NE-A/C5(2)	Tsz Ching Estate
	11NW-B/FR220	Wang Tau Hom Estate

Information on the above 35 slopes, together with other slopes funded from Subheads 5001BX and 5101CX, can be obtained from the Hong Kong Slope Safety Website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>).

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K TSAO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 24 March 2004

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

Head : Capital Works
 Reserve Fund
 Head 709 - Waterworks

Subhead 9091WC - Water supply to new
 (No. & title): developments in Yau Tong Area

9042WS - Ring mains for Cha Kwo Ling salt
 water system - advance mainlaying at
 Cha Kwo Ling road

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : What is the progress of the following PWP items? For what purposes will the provision in the next financial year be used?

- (a) 9091WC Water supply to new developments in Yau Tong area
- (b) 9042WS Ring mains for Cha Kwo Ling salt water system -
advance mainlaying at Cha Kwo Ling road

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The scope of 9091WC comprises the construction of Yau Tong No. 2 fresh water service reservoir as well as the associated mainlaying works. To date, all mainlaying works are completed and the service reservoir will be completed in June 2004. The provision in the next financial year is to settle the payment for the completed mainlaying works as well as the construction of the service reservoir.
- (b) The mainlaying works under 9042WS have been entrusted to Housing Department for execution in conjunction with their road works and drainage works. The mainlaying works will commence in April 2004 and the provision in the next financial year is to pay for the completed mainlaying works.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Post Title:

Date:

William C G KO

Director of Water Supplies

24 March 2004

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

Head: Capital Works Subhead 9100WX – Waterworks, studies and
Reserve Fund (No. & title): investigations for items in Category D of
Head 709 - Waterworks the Public Works Programme

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question : With respect to the block allocation Subhead 9100WX - “Waterworks, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme”, please list out in detail the items in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The items under Subhead 9100WX in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts include:

- (a) Replacement and improvement of fresh and salt water mains in Kwun Tong and Lei Yue Mun areas, 2003-04 programme;
- (b) Replacement and improvement of fresh and salt water mains in Wong Tai Sin and Ngau Tau Kok areas, 2003-04 programme;
- (c) Refurbishment and improvement works for service reservoirs in Kowloon Region, 2004-05 programme;
- (d) Minor renovation and improvement works (civil works) for waterworks buildings and pumping stations in Kowloon region, 2004-05 programme;
- (e) Replacement and improvement of fresh and salt water mains in Wong Tai Sin and Ngau Tau Kok areas, 2004-05 programme; and
- (f) Provision of a cover deck to Kwun Tong high level salt water service reservoir.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Post Title:

Date:

William C G KO

Director of Water Supplies

24 March 2004