

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

**Controlling Officer : Commissioner, Independent Commission
Against Corruption**

Session No. : 7

File name : ICAC-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>ICAC001</u>	0267	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	72	Enlisting Support
<u>ICAC002</u>	0268	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	72	Operations
<u>ICAC003</u>	0393	CHAN Bernard	72	Operations
<u>ICAC004</u>	0442	YEUNG Sum	72	Operations
<u>ICAC005</u>	0482	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Operations
<u>ICAC006</u>	0483	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Operations
<u>ICAC007</u>	0489	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Operations
<u>ICAC008</u>	0490	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Operations
<u>ICAC009</u>	0567	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Operations
<u>ICAC010</u>	0568	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Corruption Prevention
<u>ICAC011</u>	0573	TO Kun-sun, James	72	Operations
<u>ICAC012</u>	1697	SIN Chung-kai	72	Operations

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 001

Question Serial No.

0267

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Subhead (No. & title): –
Against Corruption

Programme: (4) - Enlisting Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: –

Question : What is the estimated expenditure earmarked for producing and broadcasting ICAC's Announcements of Public Interest (APIs) for the year 2004-05? How would the ICAC assess if the APIs could significantly enhance the public's support to the ICAC?

Asked by: Hon EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The ICAC plans to produce for release an Announcement of Public Interest (API) in 2004-05 at an estimated cost of \$700,000. This includes the production costs of the API for release on television and radio, and expenditure for poster production and supporting media. The API is broadcast free on televisions and radios through the arrangement of the Information Services Department.

Over the years, the ICAC has made use of various channels, including the mass media, the internet and direct contact with the public, to publicise and promote the anti-corruption messages. Such publicity work has proven to be effective. Through its annual surveys, the ICAC systematically monitors the public's views on corruption-related issues and assesses the effectiveness of its publicity strategy. Findings of the 2003 Annual Survey revealed that up to 99% of respondents considered that the ICAC deserved their support, while over 70% expressed an willingness to reveal their identities when lodging corruption complaints. The ICAC will continue to use different media to publicise the evils of corruption and ensure a high level of public awareness to the problem.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond H C WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 002

Question Serial No.

0268

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Subhead (No. & title):
Against Corruption

Programme: (2) - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: -

Question : It is mentioned that during 2004-05, the Operations Department will conduct a full review of ICAC's standing orders on working practices and procedures with a view to enhancing supervision and improving the quality of investigations. What are the details of such review and what kind of operational procedures will it focus upon?

Asked by: Hon EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply: The operational part of the ICAC's standing orders covers various facets of investigation work and procedures. It contains up-to-date information on essential aspects of investigation work and serves as an operational manual for investigators.

Over the years, ad hoc amendments to these standing orders have been made on account of changes in government policies or legislation, important judgments handed down by the courts, internal management or policy reviews, organisational re-structuring, and professional experience. To ensure that front-line investigators are provided with the most up-to-date and well-coordinated guidance available, the Operations Department plans to conduct a comprehensive review of this part of the standing orders to make them more cohesive, consistent and user-friendly. With such improvements, we expect the professional application by investigators and the quality of investigations would be enhanced. It would also facilitate the management and supervision of investigation cases.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 003

Question Serial No.

0393

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Subhead (No. & title):
Against Corruption

Programme: (2) - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: -

Question : Para 5 of Details of Expenditure by Subhead – The *Investigation Expenses* in year 2002-03 was \$7,920,000; the revised figure was reduced to \$4,500,000 in 2003-04, and the estimate for 2004-05 would be further decreased to \$4,234,000. What would be the reasons for the decrease of expenses? Would that affect both the quantity and quality of investigation?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply: Provision under *Investigation Expenses* is to cater for overseas enquiries; charges levied by banks, clearing houses, share registrars and similar bodies for information, documents and services supplied to the ICAC in connection with investigations and enquiries; fees for professional services (e.g. accountancy and surveying services); and other minor expenses incurred during investigations. Our annual estimates are prepared on the basis of known or anticipated operational requirements. As investigation expenses are largely operational driven, the actual level of expenditure would fluctuate from year to year.

The actual expenditure for 2002-03 included the hiring of additional professional services in connection with a number of huge and complex fraud-related corruption cases we dealt with in that year.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

Date : 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 005

Question Serial No.

0482

Head : 72 – Independent Commission
Against Corruption

Subhead (No. & title): 103-Rewards and Special
Services

Programme : (2) - Operations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau : -

- Question : (a) What is the number of persons who received rewards/special services fee in 2003-04? Please state the number of cases involved and the amount of such expenditure?
- (b) Please list out the cases attracting wanted persons rewards, the amount of rewards offered, the number of occasions where payment were made, the actual expenditure and the number of rewards recipients in 2003-04.
- (c) Under Subhead 103, what is the amount of expenditure in 2003-04 for procurement and maintenance of equipment?
- (d) Among the provision of \$14,768,000 under Subhead 103 for 2004-05, what will be the respective amount allocated for rewards on wanted persons and procurement and maintenance of equipment?

Asked by : Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply : Subhead 103 caters for expenditure on rewards and procurement of special services and equipment of a confidential nature. This subhead provides an essential source of funding for covert operational activities and intelligence gathering. Disclosure of such expenditure details is therefore not appropriate.

The total expenditure of Subhead 103 (Rewards and Special Services) for 2003-04 is estimated to be \$14.768M. Rewards were provided on 123 occasions so far this financial year.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 006

Question Serial No.

0483

Head : 72 – Independent Commission
Against Corruption

Subhead (No. & title): 103-Rewards and Special
Services

Programme : (2) - Operations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau : -

- Question :
- (a) Under Subhead 103, the actual expenditure in 2002-03 was \$15,684,000 while the revised estimate for 2003-04 has dropped to \$14,768,000. What is the reason for this change?
 - (b) As for the estimates for 2004-05, why does the proposed provision remain at \$14,768,000? The provision proposed by the Hong Kong Police Force under this Subhead far exceeds the actual expenditure. Why does the ICAC adopt a different approach from the Hong Kong Police Force in making provision for Subhead 103?

Asked by : Hon TO Kun-sun, James

- Reply :
- (a) Subhead 103 caters for expenditure on rewards and procurement of special services and equipment of a confidential nature. As expenses under this subhead are largely operational driven, the actual level of expenditure would fluctuate from year to year. Our annual estimates are prepared on the basis of anticipated operational requirements and with reference to past expenditure pattern.
 - (b) As the ICAC is entrusted with functions and responsibilities different from those of the Hong Kong Police Force, our resource requirements would also be different.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 007

Question Serial No.

0489

Head: 72 – Independent Commission
Against Corruption

Subhead (No. & title): 103-Rewards and Special
Services

Programme: (2) - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: -

Question : Concerning this Subhead, please provide the following details for 2003-04 :

- the rank of officers who have conducted surprise inspections on the expenditure under this Subhead;
- the number of inspections conducted; and
- the number of occasions when irregularity was discovered.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply: The ICAC exercises strict control over the expenditure under Subhead 103 'Rewards and Special Services'. All claims under the Subhead are scrutinized by senior officers. Apart from the inspections carried out by the Director of Audit, the Commissioner, the Head of Operations, and the Assistant Director (Administration) also conducted surprise inspections on the accounts of this Subhead. In 2003-04, six such surprise inspections were carried out with no anomalies found.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 008

Question Serial No.

0490

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Against Corruption Subhead (No. & title): 103-Rewards and Special Services

Programme : 2 - Operations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau : -

- Question : (a) Please provide the amount of expenditure in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 on information obtained from abroad in connection with investigations and enquiries as well as the overseas places involved.
- (b) Please provide the amount of expenditure in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 on information obtained locally in connection with investigations and enquiries.
- (c) Among the proposed provision for 2004-05, what is the estimated percentage of expenditure on information obtained from abroad in connection with investigations and enquiries?

Asked by : Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply : Subhead 103 caters for expenditure on rewards and procurement of special services and equipment of a confidential nature. This subhead provides an essential source of funding for covert operational activities and intelligence gathering. Disclosure of such expenditure details is not appropriate.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 009

Question Serial No.

0567

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Subhead (No. & title): –
Against Corruption

Programme: (2) – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Bureau Secretary: –

Question :

- (a) During the past year, on how many occasions did ICAC officers visit the Mainland for investigation or testifying in court? Please state the number of such cases and the expenditure incurred.
- (b) When testifying in court in the Mainland, were these ICAC officers required to give evidence? If yes, how many cases were involved?
- (c) Please state the number of occasions on which Mainland officials were invited to Hong Kong for investigation or testifying in court and the expenditure incurred in the past year.
- (d) When testifying in court in Hong Kong, were the Mainland officials required to give evidence? If yes, how many cases were involved?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) In 2003-04, ICAC officers made 29 visits to the Mainland involving 20 cases for the purpose of investigation. The total expenditure involved was \$167,122, mainly for the payment of travelling expenses, board and lodging incurred by the officers concerned.
- (b) In 2003-04, no ICAC officer was required to give evidence in Mainland courts.
- (c) & (d) In 2003-04, no Mainland official was invited to Hong Kong by the ICAC for investigation or testifying in court.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 010

Question Serial No.

0568

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Against
Corruption

Subhead (No. & title): –

Programme: (3) – Preventive Education

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Bureau Secretary: –

Question :

- (d) Please state the number of occasions on which ICAC officers visited Mainland organisations and attended forums/talks in the Mainland in 2003-04, and the number of ICAC officers involved and the expenses incurred. Please also state the related estimated expenditure in 2004-05.
- (e) Please state the number of occasions on which Mainland officials were invited to visit the ICAC and attend forums/talks in Hong Kong 2003-04, and the number of Mainland officials involved and the expenses incurred. Please also state the related estimated expenditure in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply: The related statistics are tabulated below –

	Visit to the Mainland by ICAC Officer		Mainland Officials invited to visit ICAC	
	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Estimate)	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Estimate)
Number of visits/forums/talks/ liaison activities attended	5	2	1	2
Number of ICAC officers/Mainland officials involved	26	7	2	4
Expenses covering passage/ subsistence allowance for ICAC officers and transport/liaison management for Mainland officials	\$222,300	\$62,500	\$2,011	\$7,400

The ICAC also organises, on request, visits and talks for Mainlanders including Mainland officials. In 2003-04, 184 talks were conducted for 6 506 Mainland visitors, and the expenses incurred were \$2,580.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ICAC 011

Question Serial No.

0573

Head: 72 – Independent Commission Subhead (No. & title): -
Against Corruption

Programme: (2) - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: -

Question : (a) Please set out the establishment of the Technical Services Division by rank and the resources allocated to the Division for 2004-05.

(d) Please provide a detailed list of the work undertaken by the Technical Services Division in 2003-04, including the types of support services it has provided.

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James

<u>Reply:</u> (a)	<u>Establishment</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
	Senior Commission Against Corruption Officer	2
	Commission Against Corruption Officer (Upper)	6
	Commission Against Corruption Officer (Middle/Lower)	24
	Assistant Commission Against Corruption Officer	21
	Senior Personal Secretary / Personal Secretary II	2
	Clerical Assistant / Workman II	2
		<u>57</u>
	<u>Resources (\$M)</u>	
	Personal Emoluments	26.011
	Capital projects for major system and equipment	1.900
	Minor equipment, consumables, maintenance services, etc.	<u>3.367</u>
		31.278

- (b) The main role of Technical Services Division is to provide technical support to the Operations Department of the ICAC in the investigation of corruption. To disclose the details of the technical support provided by the Technical Services Division will inevitably compromise the effectiveness and efficiency as well as the strategic approach of the ICAC investigative work. It is hence not in the public interest to disclose such details.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Raymond HC WONG

Post title : Commissioner, ICAC

Date : 25 March 2004

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