

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 9

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

Reply Serial No.

SB001

Question Serial No.

0080

Head: 151-Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

28-Civil Aviation Department
30-Correctional Services Department
37-Department of Health
42-Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department
45-Fire Services Department
70-Immigration Department
100-Marine Department
122-Hong Kong Police Force
170-Social Welfare Department

Programme: Internal Security and Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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 respectively 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.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

In 2003-04 and 2004-05, the total costs of consultancy studies for the formulation and assessment of policies incurred by the Security Bureau and its departments are \$1,750,680 and \$865,620 respectively.

(1) Consultancy studies for which financial provision was 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.
Head 30: Correctional Services Department					
Correctional Service Canada and Chinese University of Hong Kong	To develop an integrated system for evaluating the security and re-offending risks as well as rehabilitative needs of offenders with a view to enhancing the overall management and rehabilitation of offenders. (Continuation of a study in 2002-03)	\$390,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
The University of Hong Kong	To develop preventive and treatment programmes for offenders with problems of psychotropic substance abuse.	\$500,000	In progress	Not applicable	Not applicable
Head 151: Security Bureau					
Youth Studies Net, City University of Hong Kong	A consultancy study on measures adopted by overseas countries in handling unruly children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility and mischievous juveniles above the minimum age, the objective of which is to facilitate the Administration's consideration of effective means in dealing with and rehabilitating such children/juveniles	\$51,600	Completed	The Administration has decided to adopt some of the recommendations of the consultancy and has reported its decisions to the Legislative Council Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice System. It will follow up the accepted recommendations accordingly.	The Administration briefed the Legislative Council Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice System on the findings and recommendations of the consultancy report in December 2003. Copies of the report have been provided to the Subcommittee and other interested parties, including some

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.
	after the minimum age was raised from seven to ten. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2002-03)				non-governmental organisations.
Dr. Joseph Lau (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)	Cross-boundary substance abuse problem among youths in Hong Kong. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2002-03)	\$88,150	Completed	<p>The report of the consultancy has been submitted to the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) Sub-committee on Research for discussion.</p> <p>The Government has also exchanged and discussed findings of the consultancy with relevant authorities from Guangdong. Under the established cooperation framework of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Tripartite Conference, the Government will continue to liaise closely with relevant authorities in mapping out strategies to tackle the drug abuse problem.</p>	<p>Major findings of the research have been released to the public through a press release.</p> <p>A copy of the report is kept in the library of the Drug InfoCentre for public access. The executive summary has also been uploaded onto the website of the Narcotics Division.</p>
Dr. Karen Laidler, Dr. Jeffrey Day, Mr. David Hodson (The University of Hong Kong)	Initiation, continuation and impact of drug use among females. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2002-03)	\$50,000	In progress	The draft report of the consultancy has been submitted to the ACAN Sub-committee on Research for discussion and it is being examined by the Sub-committee.	Not applicable

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.
Dr. Chiu-wan Lam, Dr. Kam-weng, Boey (The University of Hong Kong)	Study of substance abuse in the context of underground rave culture. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2002-03)	\$88,065	In progress	The researchers submit the progress report to the ACAN Sub-committee on Research regularly. The Sub-committee will also provide their advice to the researchers as and when required.	Not applicable
Dr. Ronald Chen Dr. Antoinette Marie Lee Dr. Raymond Chan (The University of Hong Kong)	Study on the cognitive impairment and other harmful effects from ecstasy and ketamine abuse in Hong Kong Chinese. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2002-03)	\$200,000	In progress	The researchers submit the progress report to the ACAN Sub-committee on Research regularly. The Sub-committee will also provide their advice to the researchers as and when required.	Not applicable
Dr. Alex Fung (Hong Kong Baptist University)	2004 survey of drug use among students.	\$350,000	Being planned	The researchers submit the progress report to the ACAN Sub-committee on Research regularly. The Sub-committee will also provide their advice to the researchers as and when required.	Not applicable

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.
Dr. Shung-pun Leung (Castle Peak Hospital) Dr. Chee-wing Wong (Kwai Chung Hospital) Ms Cherry Lee (SARDA) and Ms Anissa Lui (Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service)	Development of procedures for the screening and assessment of poly-drug users as a reference tool for frontline social workers in handling cases, so as to facilitate the appropriate screening of drug abusers seeking treatment and referrals for relevant treatment. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2002-03)	\$32,865	Completed	The protocol of screening and assessment of poly-drug abusers has been discussed at the ACAN Treatment and Rehabilitation Sub-committee. The Narcotics Division of Security Bureau organized a briefing session on the protocol for health care workers, social workers, as well as frontline workers of non-government organisations and Government departments on 31 October 2003.	The protocol on screening and assessment of poly-drug abusers is produced in CD-ROM version and has been distributed to drug treatment agencies and related organisations, youth services organization, schools and Government departments. It can also be downloaded from the Narcotics Division's website for easy reference of anti-drug workers.
Total:		\$1,750,680			

(2) Consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated 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.
Head 30: Correctional Services Department				
Correctional Service Canada and Chinese University of Hong Kong	To develop an integrated system for evaluating the security and re-offending risks as well as rehabilitative needs of offenders with a view to enhancing the overall management and rehabilitation of offenders. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2003-04)	\$380,000	In progress	Not applicable
The University of Hong Kong	To develop preventive and treatment programmes for offenders with problems of psychotropic substance abuse. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2003-04)	\$300,000	In progress	Not applicable
Head 151: Security Bureau				
Dr. Ronald Chen Dr. Antoinette Marie Lee Dr. Raymond Chan (The University of Hong Kong)	Study on the cognitive impairment and other harmful effects from ecstasy and ketamine abuse in Hong Kong Chinese. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2003-04)	\$80,000	In progress	The reports of the consultancies will be submitted to the Action Committee Against Narcotics and its subcommittees for discussion. Copies of the executive summaries will also be distributed to relevant Government departments and professionals working in the related areas for reference. Copies of the reports will also be kept in the library of the Drug InfoCentre. The executive summaries will also be uploaded onto the website of the Narcotics Division.
Dr. Alex Fung (Hong Kong Baptist University)	2004 survey of drug use among students. (Continuation of a study of the same name in 2003-04)	\$105,620	Being planned	
Total:		\$865,620		

The departments under the following heads have not commissioned or planned to conduct this type of studies in 2003-04 and 2004-05: Head 28 – Civil Aviation Department, Head 37 – Department of Health, Head 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Head 45 – Fire Services Department, Head 70 – Immigration Department, Head 100 – Marine Department, Head 122 – Hong Kong Police Force and Head 170 - Social Welfare Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB002

Question Serial No.

0160

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 14402 Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under the heading of "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05", it was mentioned that the bureau will "continue with the preparation of the draft legislation to provide a statutory basis for the operation of the Independent Police Complaints Council". Please provide details of the work and the expenditures involved. What measures will be taken and how much resource will be allocated to enhance the credibility and transparency of the police complaints system?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply

The preparation of the draft legislation to provide a statutory basis for the operation of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) is one of the tasks under "Programme (2): Internal Security" of the Security Bureau and we do not have a separate breakdown for its expenditure. The draft legislation being prepared is to provide a statutory basis for the existing operation of the IPCC and to empower the IPCC to appoint the Secretary, Legal Adviser and other staff of its secretariat. The existing police complaints system is fairly transparent and has credibility. With regard to resources, the estimated expenditure for 2004-05 under Head 121-Independent Police Complaints Council is \$13.1 m while the estimated expenditure for the Complaints Against Police Office in 2004-05 under Head 122-Hong Kong Police Force is \$55.5 m. The proposed bill will further enhance the independence of the IPCC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley YING

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 24.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB003

Question Serial No.

0161

Head: 151 Government Secretariat : Security Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the work on the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law in 2004-05 and how much expenses will be involved? How will the Committee on Legislation for Article 23 conduct its review and public consultation? What is the timetable of its work and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The Security Bureau has set up a working group for the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. Its primary task is to review the work done previously and the information gathered on this subject in the past. Meanwhile, there is no timetable for such work and the expenditure involved will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Security Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security _____

Date 20.3.2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB004

Head : 151 - Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) - Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question Serial No.

0298

Question : Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, it is stated that the bureau will take measures to combat the problem of drug abuse in particular that of psychotropic substance. What are the specific measures? How many resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply :

The Government adopts a multi-pronged strategy comprising legislation and law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education and publicity, research and international cooperation to combat the problem of drug abuse.

In 2004-2005, the Hong Kong Police Force will continue to take enforcement action against drug-related offences, particularly offences related to psychotropic substance while the Customs and Excise Department will take proactive action against drug trafficking activities through border control points.

On regional cooperation, the Security Bureau will continue to work closely with Guangdong and Macao on coordinating anti-drug measures in the three places. The Narcotics Division of Security Bureau and related Government departments will take part in the third tripartite conference on policy to tackle drug abuse and trafficking to be hosted by Macao in September 2004.

Regarding treatment and rehabilitation services, the Security Bureau will oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2003-2005) and the licensing scheme for residential drug treatment centres.

On the preventive education and publicity front, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre (DIC), an anti-drug education centre specially designed to deliver preventive education activities to young people, will be opened for public use in June 2004. Furthermore, a new publicity campaign comprising TV and radio APIs aimed at steering young people away from substance abuse will be launched in June 2004 to tie in with the grand opening of the DIC. These special initiatives will complement the regular programmes conducted by government departments and non-government organizations such as school talks, counselling services for high risk groups, etc.

To promote exchanges between local professionals in the anti-drug and anti-money laundering fields and their overseas counterparts, an international conference on combating drug trafficking, drug abuse and related crimes as well as money laundering will be held within 2004-2005.

In total, the government expenditure on anti-drug work for 2004-2005 is estimated at \$603.25 million.

Signature _____

Name in Block Letters Stanley Ying

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB005

Head : 151

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(3) Immigration Control

0299

Controlling Officer :

Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

It is stated that a new machine-readable Document of Identity for Visa Purposes with enhanced security features will be implemented. What will be the expenses incurred? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The new machine-readable Document of Identity for Visa Purposes with enhanced security features was introduced on 1 September 2003. System development cost of about HK\$198,000 was absorbed within the project vote of the Travel Document Information System: Head 710 Computerization Subhead A016YF.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB006

Head : 151 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question Serial No.

0300

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, it is stated that the bureau will continue to co-operate with relevant bureaux and departments in the fight against illegal employment and to step up enforcement actions on this front. What are the concrete plans and how much resource and manpower will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The Government has always been vigilant against illegal employment. Vigorous efforts have been and will continue to be made by all enforcement agencies to tackle the problem.

An Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures, including combating illegal employment. Its membership includes the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations among various departments in order to combat illegal employment in a focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (i) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
- (ii) To implement a facial recognition system to detect visitors seeking entry on false identities;
- (iii) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
- (iv) To hold capacity building seminars for property management companies so that they can help to prevent illegal decoration workers from entering public

and private housing estates;

- (v) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to enhance the efficiency in handling report from the public on illegal employment; and
- (vi) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal activities would be carefully scrutinised.

The costs incurred by the above efforts are absorbed within the existing resources of the Departments concerned and not met through a specific provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley Ying

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB007

Head : 151 - Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0301

Programme : (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please provide details of the initiative to take forward further improvement works for the Lo Wu Footbridge and the Lo Wu Control Point. How much resources and manpower will be involved.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

At the Lo Wu Terminal Building, improvement works mainly comprise widening of the passageway to the Departure Hall, expansion of the Departure Hall to provide 14 additional immigration counters (+18%), and construction of a new passageway leading to the eastern Departure Hall. Upon completion of these improvement works in early 2005, there will be an extra 1,100 square metres of space at the Departure Hall, providing an additional buffer for circulation and queuing room for up to 3,800 passengers. The Finance Committee approved the funding of \$108 million for this project under head 703 – Buildings on 10 May 2002. Additional annual recurrent expenditure arising from the project is about \$1,210,000, which will be absorbed by the relevant departments from their existing resources.

As regards the Lo Wu Footbridge, improvement works include enclosing the footbridge, installation of air-conditioning system and widening the footbridge by 5.5 metres, or some 60%. These works are expected to be completed by end 2004. The Finance Committee approved the funding of \$39.7 million for this project under head 703 – Buildings on 18 July 2003. Additional annual recurrent expenditure arising from the project is about \$1.1 million, which will be absorbed by the relevant departments from their existing resources.

The above projects aim to improve the hardware facilities of the Lo Wu Control Point and will not involve additional manpower.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post title

Date

Stanley Ying

Permanent Secretary for Security

22 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB008

Head : 151-Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title):

0302

Programme: Programme (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, it is stated that Automated Passenger Clearance and Automated Vehicle Clearance systems will be rolled out on time by phases around end 2004 to enhance clearance efficiency. What are the details of these two systems? Please provide a breakdown on the phases specifying the timeframes, resources and expenses incurred.

Asked by : Hon Howard Young

Reply :

The Automated Passenger Clearance (APC) System and Automated Vehicle Clearance (AVC) System will take advantage of smart identity cards issued to Hong Kong residents and apply fingerprint recognition technologies so as to allow self-service immigration clearance. This obviates the need for manual inspection by immigration control officers.

On 24 January 2003, the Finance Committee approved the funding of \$352.753 million under Head 710 Computerisation for implementing these two systems. Additional annual recurrent expenditure arising from these systems is about \$46.194 million. Necessary financial provisions are earmarked in the draft Estimates 2004-05 under Head 70 Immigration Department.

The Immigration Department awarded the contract for implementing APC/AVC to the successful tenderer in March 2004. We expect that the two systems will be rolled out in phases around end 2004. Tentatively, AVC will be installed for all kiosks at Man Kam To, Lok Ma Chau and Sha Tau Kok control points by end 2004-05. Installation of APC channels at control points will be carried out progressively and is expected to be completed by 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB009

Head : 151 - Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) : 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment

0303

Programme (No. & title) :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Provision for 2004-05 is \$190,000 (190%) higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. It is mainly due to the provision for additional equipment for the Green Island Reception Centre. Please specify the details of the additional equipment and the expenses incurred.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The provision of \$290,000 in 2004-05 will be used to purchase new portable radio communication devices plus accessories including spare batteries, chargers, external speaker microphones, leather holsters and relevant programme software. The devices will improve radio communication at Green Island Reception Centre and in case of emergency, provide reinforcing staff with adequate communication equipment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB010

Question Serial No.

0304

Head : 151 - Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 - Operational Expenses

Programme : 2 - Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : For the Subhead 000 Operational Expenses, the estimate of Action Committee Against Narcotics for 2004-05 is \$1,700,000 (46%) lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please account for the reduction in resources allocation.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply :

The total amount of resources to be allocated to support anti-drug activities by the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) in 2004-05 will be \$4.88 million. The total operating expenditure of \$4.88 million is made up of a recurrent allocation of \$3.48 million and a one-off capital allocation of \$1.4 million.

Regarding the recurrent provisions, \$2 million will be allocated to the ACAN vote to undertake various educational / publicity programmes while the remaining \$1.48 million to be paid from the operating expenditure of Security Bureau, Government Property Agency and Architectural Services Department will be used to meet the operating cost of the Drug InfoCentre, a new anti-drug initiative to be launched in June 2004. The InfoCentre, a brainchild of ACAN, will be the first ever exhibition centre in Hong Kong dedicated towards drug information and education. It will adopt the new and innovative approach of making use of multi-media exhibits and interactive games to help disseminate the anti-drug messages to young people.

Separately, a capital allocation of \$1.4 million will be provided to ACAN for organizing in Hong Kong an international conference on combating drug trafficking, drug abuse, money laundering and other related crimes.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Post Title

Date

Stanley Ying

Permanent Secretary for Security

23 March 2004

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

Head : 151 – Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

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

Programme : 2 – Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary :

Question : Regarding the Daya Bay Contingency Plan, there is a remaining balance of \$1,950,000 and \$1,337,000 for the implementation plan and its communication link respectively. Will the bureau inform this council the purposes of the remaining balances?

Asked by : Hon. Howard Young

Reply : The remaining balance under the item “Implementation of Daya Bay Contingency Plan” will be used to meet expenses in intercomparison of radiological measurements with Guangdong authorities (to ensure measurements by both sides are reliable and compatible), public education (to increase public awareness about the plan) and procurement of equipment (for the implementation of the plan by the operational departments).

The remaining balance under the item “Communication links for the implementation of Daya Bay Contingency Plan” will be used to meet expenses for improving the communication network of the Emergency Radiation Data Management System which provides access to real time radiation monitoring and assessment data by the Security Bureau and other relevant Departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mr. Stanley Ying
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Security
Date	March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB012

Head : 151-Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title):

0394

Programme: Programme (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Paragraph 13 states that during 2004-05, the Bureau will take steps to facilitate private sector participation in the "solemnisation of marriage". Would the Government further elaborate on this? Please provide the details of this initiative and the breakdown of estimate involved.

Asked by : Hon. Bernard Chan

Reply :

Our proposal is to allow the private sector to provide services relating to celebration of marriages in order to provide greater flexibility and convenience to members of the public. Conceptually, it involves appointment of suitable persons (e.g. solicitors) as celebrants of marriages under a fair and open system so that marrying parties can choose to celebrate their marriages at places other than marriage registries or licensed places of public worship. Details of the proposal are being drawn up and necessary legislative amendments being examined. The proposal, if implemented, will generate savings in the long run when more members of the public decide to make use of the services provided by the private sector. We however cannot commit at this stage the magnitude of the savings and whether any marriage registry can be closed as a result.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Security _____

Date _____ March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB013

Question Serial No.

0487

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please provide the member list of the inter-departmental working group (the working group) responsible for reviewing the work related to interception of communications as well as the rank and number of officers of the Security Bureau who provide supporting services to the working group.
- (b) How many meetings have been held in the past four years since the working group's establishment in late 1999? Which overseas countries' interception of communications issues and related legislation have been studied?
- (c) The working group has anticipated to finish the review by the end of 2003, what is the progress? Is the review completed? If yes, when will the report of the review be published? If no, what is the reason for the delay?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) The working group comprises representatives of the Security Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force, Independent Commission Against Corruption and Department of Justice. Its supporting services are mainly rendered by a Principal Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Secretary in the Security Bureau. They are required to perform other duties within the Bureau as well.
- (b) The working group and its two sub-committees have convened a total of 11 meetings so far. Members have also examined issues on interception of communications through other means. During the review, references are made to related legislation of overseas countries, including the UK, the US and Australia.
- (c) Since relevant legislation of overseas jurisdictions have been amended following the 911 incident in the US, the working group has to conduct a thorough study on the relevant developments. At the same time, there are other more pressing tasks that the Security Bureau has to deal with under a higher priority. Hence, the review is still underway, and no specific timetable has been fixed for the task.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley YING

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 24.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB014

Question Serial No.

0662

Head : 151 Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The Security Bureau states in the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05" that it will "continue to seek the implementation of a long term prison development plan". What is the specific plan? How much is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose

Reply :

For the purpose of a long-term prison development plan, we propose to build a 7 220-place prison complex at Hei Ling Chau to address the problems of prison overcrowding and archaic facilities, and to meet the forecast growth in penal population in the coming decade. The proposed development will relocate all existing penal institutions on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon and all remand facilities in the territory, and will provide 2 600 additional places. The preliminary estimated capital cost of the whole project is \$12 billion.

Given the scale of the proposed project, a feasibility study and preliminary site investigation for land formation and infrastructure works (FS) is now being conducted. The Finance Committee (FC) has approved \$46.7 million under Head 705 – Civil Engineering for carrying out the FS in two stages. Stage 1 of the FS will be completed by mid-2004. We will report to the FC on the findings of the Stage 1 study before starting stage 2 of the FS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB015

Question Serial No.

0670

Head: 151 - Government Secretariat : Security Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the measures, timetable, manpower and expenditure for continuing to work on the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The Security Bureau has set up a working group for the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. Its primary task is to review the work done previously and the information gathered on this subject in the past. Meanwhile, there is no timetable for such work and the expenditure involved will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Security Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security _____

Date 20.3.2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB016

Question Serial No.

0671

Head: 151 - Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The level of expenditure and staffing in respect of the programmes "Internal Security" and "Immigration Control" will be decreased due to civil service pay cut. How will the Government spend the savings to be achieved through pay cut or deletion of posts under the programme "Director of Bureau's Office"?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

In 2004-05, the estimate for Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office has also been curtailed as that for the other two programmes. The estimate for Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office in 2004-05 is \$5.6 million, representing a decrease of \$100,000 against the original estimate of \$5.7 million for 2003-04. The reduction covers the decrease in expenditure due to civil service pay cut in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters YING Yiu-hong, Stanley

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 24.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB017

Question Serial No.

0842

Head: 151-Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the revised estimate for overseas duty visits in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security, 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:

Details of overseas duty visits conducted by the Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security in 2003-04 are as follows:

- (1) The Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security have conducted six overseas duty visits in 2003-04. These include trips to Beijing, Guangzhou, Macau, Washington D.C. of the U.S. and Ottawa of Canada, mainly for the purposes of meeting with and holding liaison conferences with local senior government officials of security and relevant departments.
- (2) The duty visits were mainly made by through train, hoverferry and air, and the total expenditure in 2003-04 was \$86,252.
- (3) The board and lodging expenditure incurred in 2003-04 was \$25,951.

The estimated expenditure for overseas duty visits of the Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security in 2004-05 will be \$120,000.

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, casual entertainment, gratuities, traveling 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.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB018

Question Serial No.

0843

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the provision for entertainment expenses to be incurred by the Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security, such as hosting and attending 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:

The Security Bureau, as a whole, has \$289,000 on official entertainment expenses in 2003-04. There is no specific allocation for Secretary for Security and the Permanent Secretary for Security. The estimate for 2004-05 is \$290,000.

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.

To further enhance the exercise of economy when entertaining guests, the prevailing general guideline issued is that departments should aim to spend not more than \$250 per person for lunch and not more than \$400 per person for dinner, inclusive of tips.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stanley Ying
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Security
Date	26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB019

Question Serial No.

0844

Head: 151 Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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 estimated expenditure of the Office of the Secretary for Security covers the salaries and allowances of the Secretary and the staff of his office. Since the day-to-day work of the Secretary and the staff of his office encompasses all types of official duties, it is difficult to provide a breakdown of the estimate for their salaries and allowances by official duties. Nevertheless, the breakdown of the nature of expenditure item and the establishment of his office can be provided as follows:

The estimated expenditure for 2004-05 covers

Salaries for the Secretary	\$3,232,000
Salaries for the staff of his office (which include Administrative Assistant Personal Assistant Chauffeur Personal Secretary I)	\$2,251,000
Allowances for staff	\$155,000
Job-related allowances	—

Signature _____

Name in block letters YING Yiu-hong, Stanley

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Security

Date 22.3.2004

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

Head : 151 – Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding policy research projects and the expenditure involved, please provide detailed information on the policy research projects commenced or being conducted by the Security 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 so, what will be the expenses incurred? What will be 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 research into these areas using as far as possible information available and with inhouse 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.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stanley Ying

Permanent Secretary for Security

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB021

Head : 151 Security Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 8

Question Serial No.

Programme : 14402 Internal Security

1025

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What practical steps does the Security Bureau intend to carry out to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law? How much will it cost?

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Security Bureau has established an internal working group to review our earlier efforts and consider the way forward regarding the implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. The related research and support duties will be undertaken within SB's existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 22 March 2004

@ *Delete if not applicable.*

The name of FC Members quoted on both the reply form and the "index page" of the consolidated computer file (a sample at Appendix 4) should begin with the surname in capital letters.

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

Head : 151 – Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned 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 realise 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 so, please give a detailed account of the projects to be funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

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. We understand that the 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. It is hard to estimate the full resource implications at this juncture.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB023

Question Serial No.

1364

Head: 151 - Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05", it is stated that the Bureau will take steps to facilitate private sector participation in the solemnisation of marriages. Please provide the details and timetable for implementing the proposal. Will there be any savings as a result of implementing the proposal?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Allowing the private sector to participate in the solemnisation of marriages will provide greater flexibility and convenience to members of the public. Conceptually, it involves appointment of suitable persons (e.g. solicitors) as celebrants of marriages under a fair and open system so that marrying parties can choose to celebrate their marriages at places other than marriage registries or licensed places of public worship. Details of the proposal are being drawn up and necessary legislative amendments being examined. Taking into account the time required for legislative amendments, we expect that the proposal may be implemented in the latter half of 2005 at the earliest. The proposal, if implemented, will generate savings in the long run when more members of the public choose to make use of the services provided by the private sector. We however cannot commit at this stage the magnitude of the savings and whether any marriage registry can be closed as a result.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB024

Question Serial No.

1368

Head: 151 Government Secretariat: Security
Bureau

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The provision for the Action Committee Against Narcotics has been cut substantially.

- What are the reasons?
- Please provide a breakdown of the expenditures of the Committee in the past three years

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

The total amount of resources to be allocated to support the work of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) in 2004-05 will be \$4.88 m, including a recurrent allocation of \$3.48 m and a one-off capital allocation of \$1.4 m.

As for recurrent expenses, apart from a provision of \$2 m to fund ACAN's educational and publicity programmes, the total estimates also include a provision of \$1.48 m to be paid from the Security Bureau, the Government Property Agency and the Architectural Services Department will be used to meet the operating cost of the "Drug InfoCentre", a brainchild of ACAN and Hong Kong's first permanent anti-drug exhibition centre. As for general non-recurrent expenses, an additional \$1.4 m will be provided in the estimates for the organisation of an international conference on combating drug trafficking, drug abuse, money laundering and related crimes.

A breakdown of the major expenditures of ACAN in the past three years is as follows:

<u>Items / Year</u>	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	Actual expenditure	Actual expenditure	Revised Estimates
Preventive education and publicity programmes	\$2,634,000	\$2,296,000	\$2,605,000
Research	\$947,000	\$1,026,000	\$776,000
Drug treatment and rehabilitation related activities	\$14,000	\$281,000	\$79,000
General expenses	\$338,000	\$296,000	\$240,000
Total expenditure	\$3,933,000	\$3,899,000	\$3,700,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters Stanley YING

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB025

Question Serial No.

1394

Head: 151 Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the long-term prison development plan to be implemented in 2004-05? Would you please provide details of the progress of the study on the plan and the timetable for the whole plan?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

For the purpose of a long-term prison development plan, we propose to build a 7 220-place prison complex at Hei Ling Chau to address the problems of prison overcrowding and archaic facilities, and to meet the forecast growth in penal population in the coming decade. The proposed development will relocate all existing penal institutions on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon and all remand facilities in the territory, and will provide 2 600 additional places. The preliminary estimated capital cost of the whole project is \$12 billion. The proposed project is scheduled for completion by 2013.

Given the scale of the project, a feasibility study and preliminary site investigation for land formation and infrastructure works (FS) is now being conducted. The Finance Committee (FC) has approved \$46.7 million for carrying out the FS in two stages. Stage 1 of the FS will be completed by mid-2004. We will report to the FC on the findings of the Stage 1 study before starting stage 2 of the FS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB026

Question Serial No.

1395

Head: 151 - Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Will the Government organise an international conference on combating drug trafficking, drug abuse and related crimes in 2004-05? What are the details and expenditure involved? Which countries will be invited to participate in the conference?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Action Committee Against Narcotics and the Narcotics Division plan to organise an international conference on combating drug trafficking, drug abuse, money laundering and related crimes in February 2005 in Hong Kong. The objective is to enable local professionals and their overseas counterparts in the anti-drug and anti-money laundering fields to share information and exchange views on the policies, strategies and measures on combating drug trafficking, drug abuse and money laundering so that co-operation in the prevention and combat of related crimes between Hong Kong and other places in the world can be enhanced. Representatives from across the world, Asia-Pacific region in particular, will be invited to the conference. The estimated expenditure of the conference is \$1.4 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters YING Yiu-hong, Stanley

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Security

Date 23.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB027

Head : 151 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Immigration Control

1396

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for SecurityDirector of Bureau : Secretary for SecurityQuestion :

During 2004-05, the Security Bureau will continue to co-operate with relevant bureaux in the fight against illegal employment. What are the details of such work? Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of such work in 2003-04 and will it revise accordingly the measures against illegal employment in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wahReply :

Protection of job opportunities for local workers remains one of the top priorities of the Administration. In this connection, enforcement actions against hiring of illegal workers have been stepped up as reflected in the increase in the number of arrests and prosecution of illegal workers and their employers. In 2003, Immigration Department conducted 5 739 operations against illegal employment, representing an increase of 60% as compared to the 3 580 operations conducted in 2002. The number of arrests and prosecution made in 2002 and 2003 is shown below:

	No. of arrests		No of prosecution	
	Illegal Workers	Employers	Illegal Workers	Employers
2002	3 534	918	2 322	383
2003	5 317 (+50.45%)	1 078 (+17.43%)	3 120 (+34.37%)	445 (+16.19%)

An Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures and enforcement action against illegal activities, including illegal employment. Its membership includes the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations among various departments in order to combat illegal employment in a focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (vii) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
- (viii) To implement a facial recognition system to detect visitors seeking entry on false identities;

- (ix) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
- (x) To hold capacity building seminars for property management companies so that they can help to prevent illegal decoration workers from entering public and private housing estates;
- (xi) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to enhance the efficiency in handling report from the public on illegal employment; and
- (xii) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal activities would be carefully scrutinised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stanley Ying _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Security _____

Date _____ 25 March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB028

Head : 151 - Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1397

Programme : (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the progress of the improvement works for the Lo Wu Footbridge and the Lo Wu Control Point? When are the works expected to be completed? Has the Administration assessed whether the progress of the works is behind schedule? If affirmative, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Improvement works at the Lo Wu Footbridge and the Lo Wu Terminal Building are being carried out on schedule.

The design work of the working drawing of the Lo Wu Footbridge is almost finished. We plan to start the construction works in May 2004 with a view to completing them by the end of 2004.

The construction works of the Lo Wu Terminal Building in June 2003 and are expected to complete by February 2005.

We will continue to monitor the progress of the above projects closely to ensure their timely completion.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post title

Date

Stanley Ying

Permanent Secretary for Security

23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB029

Question Serial No.

1398

Head: 151 - Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2004-05, the Bureau will take steps to facilitate private sector participation in the solemnisation of marriages. Does the Bureau have any initial details of the study on the proposal? Will the proposal have any financial implications for the Administration?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

To allow the private sector to participate in the solemnisation of marriages will provide greater flexibility and convenience to members of the public. Conceptually, it involves appointment of suitable persons (e.g. solicitors) as celebrants of marriages under a fair and open system so that marrying parties can choose to celebrate their marriages at places other than marriage registries or licensed places of public worship. Details of the proposal are being drawn up and necessary legislative amendments being examined. The proposal, if implemented, will generate savings in the long run when more members of the public decide to make use of the services provided by the private sector. We however cannot commit at this stage the magnitude of the savings and whether any marriage registry can be closed as a result.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Stanley Ying

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Security

Date 23.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB030

Question Serial No.

0105

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since the implementation of the Individual Visit Scheme, figures on the crimes involving prostitution and frauds have increased significantly. The Individual Visit Scheme will be further extended to 21 cities in Guangdong province this May and three provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Fujian this June, why is there still a reduction of \$52.3 m (2.2%) in the estimated provision for the prevention and detection of crime?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The estimated provision the Programme of Prevention and Detection of Crime for 2004-05 is \$52.3 m (2.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to the civil service pay cut in 2004-05. The actual amount of resources allocated for the prevention and detection of crime has not been reduced.

After the implementation of the "Individual Visit Scheme" by the end of July 2003, the number of visitors under this scheme arrested for cases involving criminal offences or prostitution as at the end of 2003 were merely 44 and 38 respectively. According to the figures, the "Individual Visit Scheme" policy has not brought about any significant impact on law and order in Hong Kong. The Force will continue to closely monitor the situations.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB031

Question Serial No.

0107

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since the enforcement of the "Prevention of Child Pornography Ordinance" in 2003, how many people have been arrested for contravention of the Ordinance? In 2004-05, what resources will be allocated for cracking down the crimes in connection with child pornography?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

After the "Prevention of Child Pornography Ordinance" took effect on 19 December 2003, a total of seven people were arrested for "Possession of Child Pornography", three of them being convicted by court. During the enforcement actions, the Police also seized more than 40 child pornography compact discs.

The work of the fight against the crimes of child pornography and the enforcement of the "Prevention of Child Pornography Ordinance" falls under the Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime" and no specific breakdown of the expenditure is available in the estimates.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB032

Question Serial No.

0108

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2004-05, what resources will be allocated for cracking down sexual offences? What measures will be adopted? Will there be any additional resources for strengthening the support provided to the victims of sexual offences? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The work of cracking down sexual offences falls under the Programme of Prevention and Detection of Crime and no specific breakdown of the expenditure is available in the estimates.

In handling complaints about sexual offences, the Force will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach and join efforts with the Social Welfare Department, Department of Health and non-government organizations to provide the appropriate support and emotional counselling to victims. Resources will be allocated to provide appropriate support to victims according to actual needs.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB033

Question Serial No.

0109

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the following information :-

- (a) In 2004-05, what resources will be allocated for the prevention of juvenile crimes? What measures will be taken?
- (b) How do you assess the effectiveness of the "Secondary School Liaison Officers" Programme? What is the expenditure incurred for 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

- (a) Juvenile delinquency and involvement in crime is a complicated problem. Government departments including the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Police Force, schools and non-government organizations offering youth services all share the view that the multi-agency approach can effectively address youth problems.

On this premise, the Police launched the "Secondary School Liaison Officers" Programme in 2001. The work of the Liaison Officers including visits, seminars, group/individual discussions, etc., aims at conveying to students the importance of observing the law. Students will learn that the use of violence and certain bullying acts may constitute criminal offences and the consequences are very serious. The work will strengthen the students' awareness of civil responsibilities, moral values and discipline norms, and reinforce their communications with the Police.

Juvenile crime prevention work falls under the Programme of Prevention and Detection of Crime. No specific breakdown of the expenditure in this area is available.

In 2004-05, the Police will continue to co-operate with the Social Welfare Department, voluntary organizations and schools for the prevention of juvenile crimes. The Police will also continue to initiate co-operation with secondary and primary schools through the "Liaison Officers" in various police districts. Talks and activities will be organized to publicize fight-crime messages.

The Police have also participated in more than 40 youth programmes organized by different organizations. Through their activities, the programmes help instil positive values of life in the youths and prevent them from going astray. Examples of the programmes are the "Smart Teen Challenge Camp" jointly organized with the Education and Manpower Bureau and the "Junior Police Call Scheme" implemented by the Police for 30 years.

Moreover, during routine enforcement actions and inspections, the Police will constantly take note of places where youths frequent for juvenile crime prevention.

- (b) The Police attach great importance to the work of the Secondary School Liaison Officers. A full review was made a year after the implementation of the “Secondary School Liaison Officers” Programme (i.e. in September and October 2002). The result indicated that the parties concerned (the school management and the students in particular) had a very high opinion of the Programme and recognized its role. In a questionnaire survey conducted, 447 (86%) out of 520 headmasters considered the Programme useful to both schools and students. The Police will conduct regular reviews of this Programme to ensure the appropriate use of resources and the effective reduction of crimes at school.

The Police consider the present deployment of resources appropriate. In 2004-05, the Police will maintain the present 33 Secondary School Liaison Officer posts and the manpower expenditure required is around \$8.6 m a year.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB034

Question Serial No.

0110

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As mentioned in the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05", the Force will "enhance efficiency by streamlining police districts through adoption of the single-division district structure as the norm, with the multi-division district structure being the exception". How much savings are expected to be achieved? What will be its effects on patrol coverage?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The Force will implement the Sham Shui Po Division Amalgamation Project in 2004-05 to realign and amalgamate the Sham Shui Po Division, Cheung Sha Wan Division and Shek Kip Mei Division. After the amalgamation, 16 front-line police officer posts will be created while 25 disciplined posts and 15 civilian posts will be deleted. As a result, the Force will save about \$9.7 m in emolument per year.

The patrol coverage will remain unchanged after the amalgamation. The manpower of the patrol sub-units and their supervision will be enhanced, thus further strengthening the front-line policing work with greater flexibility in staff deployment.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB035

Question Serial No.

0111

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 207 - Expenses of witnesses, prisoners
and deportees

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual and estimated expenditure under this subhead in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The actual expenditure incurred for 2003-04 (as at the end of February) under Subhead 207 was \$3.99 m. The estimated provision of \$5.5 m for 2004-05 is mainly used to pay for the travelling and hotel lodging expenses of witnesses from abroad, and for the meals and necessities for people detained in police station cells and people waiting for deportation.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB036

Question Serial No.

0356

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead(No. & title): 700 - general non-recurrent expenditureProgramme:Controlling Officer: Commissioner of PoliceDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In the 2004-05 estimates, the Hong Kong Police Force will allocate \$3.14 m for the general non-recurrent expenditure, which is almost five-fold of the revised estimate of \$0.65 m for 2003-04, and the revised estimate for 2003-04 was \$1.3 m lower than the original estimate. In this connection:

- (a) why does the estimated general non-recurrent expenditure for 2004-05 show a marked increase over the revised estimate for 2003-04?
- (b) how will the estimated general non-recurrent expenditure of \$3.14 m for 2004-05 be allocated? Please provide the specific expenditure items, the cost involved in respective items and the implementation schedule;
- (c) why did the revised estimate of the general non-recurrent expenditure for 2003-04 only account for 33% of the original estimate?
- (d) what were the main items covered by the revised general non-recurrent expenditure of \$0.65 m for 2003-04? What was the cost involved in each item and how about their progress and effects?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wahReply:

The resources for the general non-recurrent expenditure items are controlled according to the commitments of individual expenditure items. The commitment is the total expenditure of a specific proposal in the implementation period. The annual cashflow requirement for each item is determined by the progress of the item. Details of the expenditure for the relevant items are given below :-

		Approved Commitment	2003-04 Approved Estimate	2003-04 Revised Estimate	2004-05 Estimate
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
764	Replacement of departmental logos and symbols on Police buildings, vehicles and launches	6,000,000	100,000	11,000	11,000
770	Hire of consultancy on implementation of the Force Strategy on Service Quality	3,500,000	801,000	0	0
787	May House removal exercise	5,000,000	50,000	0	0
811	Outsourcing the production of 12 training videos for Basic Training Division of Police Training School	1,800,000	1,000,000	0	0
822	E-learning Development Project	3,765,000	0	640,000	3,125,000
	Total	20,065,000	1,951,000	651,000	3,136,000

The estimate for 2004-05 shows a marked increase over the revised estimate for 2003-04 because a new e-learning development project was introduced in 2003-04. The expenditure for this project is mainly used for developing 13 multi-media interactive e-learning kits in two years and purchasing an e-learning programme software. Apart from this new item, the work concerning the rest of the non-recurrent expenditure items has been completed. Since the funding requirements for these items were less than expected, the revised estimate for 2003-04 was lower than the original estimate.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB037

Question Serial No.

0477

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards & special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) In 2003-04, what was the number of cases and people involved in the payment of rewards and special services? What was the actual expenditure for the cases involved?
- (b) Please list the cases and amount of the police rewards offered in 2003-04, the actual number of cases and expenditure involved and the number of people receiving reward offers.
- (c) What was the expenditure for the purchase and maintenance of equipment under this subhead in 2003-04?
- (d) In 2004-05, the estimated expenditure under this subhead is \$80 m. How much of it is expected to be allocated for police rewards and how much for the purchase and maintenance of equipment?
- (e) In 2004-05, the estimated expenditure under this subhead is \$80 m. How much of it is expected to be allocated for combating serious crimes and drug offences and for security purpose? Please list by type.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) The number of payments for rewards was 1 218 in 2003-04. Expenses paid under Rewards and Special Services involve police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. Disclosing any other relevant information will reveal detailed operational arrangements of the Force and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice, thus jeopardizing public interests. Therefore, other information required cannot be provided.
- (b) In 2003-04 (as at 17 March 2004), the number of cases and the amount of reward offers were 51 and \$23.25 m. Disclosing any other relevant information will jeopardize public interests. Therefore, other information required cannot be provided.
- (c)-(e) As explained in (a), disclosing the relevant information will jeopardize public interest and therefore, the information required cannot be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB038

Question Serial No.

0478

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Under this subhead, the actual expenditure was \$61,842,000 in 1999-2000, \$67,375,000 in 2000-01, \$61,438,000 in 2001-02 and \$62,839,000 in 2002-03. The actual expenditure for each year remained at about \$60 m. However, in their respective estimates, the approved provisions all exceeded the actual expenditures by 50% to nearly 70%, amounting to over \$90 m to \$100 m. Why?
- (b) Why does the proposed provision still remain at \$80 m in the 2004-05 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenditure under this subhead involve police operations of confidential nature, including the fight against serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. The estimated expenditures of these years were calculated on the basis of the possible actions taken in respective years.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB039

Question Serial No.

0479

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please state the expenditure on the information useful to investigation provided overseas for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, and the overseas areas involved.
- (b) Please state the expenditure on the information useful to investigation provided locally for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.
- (c) In the proposed provision for 2004-05, what is the estimated percentage of the expenditure on the information useful to investigation provided overseas?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The expenditure and the allocation of funds under this subhead involve confidential police operations. Disclosing such information would compromise the work and is not in the interest of the public. Therefore, relevant particulars will not be provided.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB040

Question Serial No.

0480

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Under this Subhead, were there any funds allocated to meet the expenditure for the Technical Services Division in 2002-03 and 2003-04? If so, what is the number of cases and what is the expenditure involved?
- (b) For 2004-05, have you reserved any funding to meet the expenditure for the Technical Services Division? Are there any constraints on the amount of expenditure it can approve? If so, what is the ceiling? How is it compared to that for 2003-04?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenditure for the Technical Services Division on the police work has been included in the vote under Subhead 103. No specific funding is reserved under this subhead for the Division and funds will be allocated to cover the expenditure as actual needs arise. Disclosing information on the expenditure is not in the interest of the public as it will reveal the detailed operational arrangements of the Police and its law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB041

Question Serial No.

0481

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 - Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the ranks of officers conducting surprise inspections under this subhead in 2003-04 and state the number of such inspections. How many irregular cases have been detected during such inspections?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Surprise inspections of the Rewards and Special Services Fund sub-imprest carried out by Inspecting Officers in 2003-04 (to date) are summarized as follows :-

<u>Inspecting Officer</u>	No of Inspection
	<u>2003-04</u> (to date)
Commissioner of Police	8
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations)	10
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Management)	3
Director of Crime & Security	22
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime)	21
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Security)	3
Regional Commander (Hong Kong Island)	15
Regional Commander (Kowloon East)	15
Regional Commander (Kowloon West)	18
Regional Commander (New Territories North)	15
Regional Commander (New Territories South)	18
Regional Commander (Marine)	6
Senior Executive Officer (Internal Audit)	35

No irregular cases have been detected during the inspections.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB042

Question Serial No.

0486

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please state the number of cases handled by the Complaints Against Police Office in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, the manpower required and the actual expenditure incurred.
- (b) Please state the estimated establishment and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office for 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) The information required is given below :-

	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
<u>No. of Cases</u>	3 246	3 833	3 384
<u>Manpower Required (rank)</u>	<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Establishment</u>
Senior Superintendent	1	1	1
Superintendent	4	4	4
Chief Inspector	14	14	14
Senior Inspector	23	23	23
Station Sergeant	10	10	10
Sergeant	66	65	65
Police Constable	6	5	5
Senior Police Translator	2	2	2
Police Translator I	17	8	4
Assistant Clerical Officer	4	4	4
Clerical Assistant	14	14	14
Personal Secretary II	4	4	4
Senior Typist	3	3	3
Typist	10	10	10
Workman II	3	3	3
Total	181	170	166
<u>Actual/Estimated Expenditure</u>	\$64 m	\$60.2 m	\$57.2 m

- (b) The estimated establishment of the Complaint Against Police Office (CAPO) for 2004-05 is as

follows :-

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Establishment</u>
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	4
Chief Inspector	14
Senior Inspector	23
Station Sergeant	10
Sergeant	65
Police Constable	5
Senior Police Translator	2
Police Translator I	4
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Clerical Assistant	14
Personal Secretary II	4
Senior Typist	3
Typist	10
Workman II	3
Total	<hr/> 166 <hr/>

The estimated expenditure for CAPO for 2004-05 is \$55.5 m.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB043

Question Serial No.

0488

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (d) What are the number of officers of the operations formations responsible for intercepting communications in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (e) What are the actual and estimated expenditure for intercepting communications by operations formations in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (f) What is the number of messages intercepted and estimated to be intercepted by operations formations in intercepting communications in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05? Amongst them, how many are intercepted under Section 33 of the Telecommunication Ordinance and Section 13 of the Post Office Ordinance respectively?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

For operational and security reasons, I am unable to comment on the work relating to interception of communications.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB044

Question Serial No.

0569

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please give a breakdown of the establishment of officers in Security Wing by rank. What was the total provision for the Wing in 2003-04?
- (b) Has the Government any plans to increase the manpower and resources of the Security Wing in 2004-05. If yes, what are the estimated figures for the establishment and the total provision?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) In 2003-04, the Security Wing has an establishment of 409 officers. A breakdown by rank is shown in the table attached. The total provision for Security Wing is \$125.7 m for the year.
- (b) Presently, the Government has no specific plan to increase the manpower and resources of the Security Wing in 2004-05.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

<u>Rank</u>	No of Post
<u>Disciplined Staff</u>	2003-04 (to date)
Assistant Commissioner	1
Chief Superintendent	1
Senior Superintendent	3
Superintendent	9
Chief Inspector	22
Inspector/Senior Inspector	54
Station Sergeant	22
Sergeant	80
Police Constable	<u>131</u>
Sub-total	<u>323</u>
 <u>Civilian Staff</u>	
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Officer	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	8
Clerical Assistant	9
Office Assistant	1
Senior Confidential Assistant	3
Confidential Assistant	42
Executive Officer I	1
Senior Chinese Language Officer	1
Chinese Language Officer I	2
Personal Secretary I	1
Personal Secretary II	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Supplies Assistant	1
Workman II	<u>12</u>
 Sub-total	<u>86</u>
 TOTAL	<u>409</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

SB045

Question Serial No.

0572

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (c) Please give an account of the locations, duration, purposes and expenditure for the temporary installation of CCTVs in public places in 2003-04.
- (d) Is there any plan for the temporary installation of CCTVs in public places in 2004-05? If so, please give an account of the manpower and equipment required. What is the estimated amount of funding?
- (e) Is there any plan for the permanent installation of CCTVs in public places in 2004-05? If so, please give an account of the manpower and equipment required. What is the estimated amount of funding?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) In 2003-04, the expenditure for the temporary installation of CCTVs in public places was mainly on renting telephone lines, which amounted to \$80,000. In the year under review, temporary CCTVs installations were set up at places with heavy pedestrians flow and where great numbers of people gathered for the celebration of festivals in 13 crowd management operations. Amongst the operations, eight lasted for a day, four for two to three days, and the remaining one, 30 days, a special case on the "Hong Kong Harbour Fest" held at the Tamar site.
- (b) In 2004-05, the estimated expenditure for renting telephone lines for the installation of temporary CCTVs is \$80,000.
- (c) There are no immediate plans to install permanent CCTVs.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB046

Question Serial No.

0574

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead(No. & title):Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of PoliceDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

- (a) Please list the establishment of the Technical Services Division by rank and the total provision for 2004-05.
- (b) Please give the details of the work of the Technical Services Division in 2003-04, including the technical services provided.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, JamesReply:

- (a) A breakdown of the establishment of the Technical Services Division by rank and the total provision for 2004-05 are as follows :-

Rank	Establishment
Disciplined Staff	
Chief Superintendent	1
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	5
Chief Inspector	8
Inspector/Senior Inspector	21
Station Sergeant	16
Sergeant	23
Police Constable	<u>39</u>
Sub-total :	<u>114</u>
Civilian Staff	
Confidential Assistant	9
Police Communications Officer	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Personal Secretary I	1
Personal Secretary II	2
Clerical Assistant	1
Technical Officer	1
Workman II	<u>1</u>
Sub-total :	<u>18</u>
Total :	<u>132</u>

Total provision for the Technical Services Division for 2004-05 excluding Rewards and Special Services Fees is \$41.48 m.

- (b) The main role of the Technical Services Division is to assist other formations in investigating crimes and gathering evidence by providing them with technical services. Disclosure of details of the work provided by the Division is not in the interest of the public as it will reveal the Force's law enforcement capabilities to the criminals, who may be able to elude justice.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB047

Question Serial No.

0582

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information concerning juvenile crimes-

- (a) Please list the number of juveniles arrested for crime in 2003 by age group (including 7-15, 16-18 and 19-25) and by type of crimes.
- (b) In view of the crimes committed by young persons and juveniles in 2003, what measures and resources will be available in 2004-05 to prevent such crimes?
- (c) In view of bullying at schools, what measures and resources will be available to prevent the use of violence by primary and secondary students?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

- (a) The number of juveniles arrested for crime by type of crimes and age group are given in Annex (1).
- (b) Juvenile delinquency and involvement in crime is a complicated problem. Government departments including the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Police Force, schools and non-government organizations offering youth services all share the view that the multi-agency approach can effectively address youth problems.

The Police have now initiated co-operation with secondary and primary schools through the School Liaison Officers in various police districts to publicize the fight-crime messages and the consequences of committing crimes, and strengthen the students' civil responsibilities, moral values and discipline norms by holding talks and organizing activities. The Liaison Officers will advise the school management on the appropriate approach in regard to unruly behaviour of secondary school students as required.

The Police have participated in more than 40 youth programmes organized by different organizations. Through their activities, the programmes help instil positive values of life in the youths. Examples of the programmes are the "Smart Teen Challenge Camp" jointly organized with the Education and Manpower Bureau and the "Junior Police Call Scheme" implemented by the Police for 30 years.

In 2004-05, the Police will continue its work and co-operate with the Social Welfare Department, voluntary organizations and schools to prevent the youths from going astray. During routine enforcement actions and inspections, the Police will constantly take note of places where youths frequent for juvenile crime prevention.

The resources required for prevention of juvenile crimes are included in the Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime" and no separate breakdown is available. Appropriate resources will be allocated when actual situations so required for the prevention of juvenile crimes.

- (c) In general, bullying acts at schools may not constitute criminal offences, while acts involving the use of violence, damage of property or intimidation are treated as criminal offences.

Although recently the incidents involving bullying acts of students have aroused the public concern, there was in fact no great change in the criminal offences involving students in the past two years as indicated in our records.

As regards the bullying cases at school of comparatively minor nature, in general, the schools can handle them properly. In this respect, the school management, social workers and parents can make better coordination to deal with the problems. The Police can provide advice and assistance through the School Liaison Officers as required.

The work in this area is part of our routine policing work. The resources including those for the crime investigation work fall under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime” and no separate breakdown is available.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Juveniles Arrested For Crime In 2003

Type of Crimes	7-15*	Age 16-18	19-25
Violent Crimes			
Rape	8	11	22
Indecent Assault	76	27	112
Murder and Manslaughter	-	6	28
Wounding	108	186	316
Serious Assault	596	533	615
Criminal Intimidation	53	37	88
Robbery	387	300	248
Blackmail	102	81	128
Arson	37	9	7
Other Violent Crimes	9	22	92
Non-Violent Crimes			
Burglary	123	89	191
Snatching, Pickpocketing, Shop Theft	1688	532	1144
Theft from Vehicle	68	38	114
Taking Conveyance without Authority	20	37	52
Other Miscellaneous Thefts	904	536	1058
Handling Stolen Goods	32	14	31
Fraud and Forgery	31	80	468
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	52	93	49
Other Sexual Offences	3	13	104
Serious Narcotics Offences	44	216	767
Mislead/Give False Information to Police	32	19	54
Using ID Card Relating to Another	18	46	61
Criminal Damage	172	163	295
Disorder/Fighting in Public Place	109	254	724
Offences Against Public Order	135	199	191
Unlawful Society Offences	145	148	121
Serious Gambling Offence	-	2	41
Possession of Offensive Weapons	82	73	176
Going Equipped for Stealing	28	26	47
Loitering	8	13	52
Other Non-Violent Crimes	86	120	496
Total Number of Juveniles Arrested	5156	3923	7892

* Effective as from 1.7.2003, the minimum age for criminal responsibility has been raised from 7 to 10.

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

Reply Serial No.

SB048

Question Serial No.

0609

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime
12203 - Reduction of Traffic Accidents
12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the estimated deletion of 658 permanent posts in the Hong Kong Police Force in 2004-05, please answer the following questions :-

- (a) What are the ranks and number of the incumbent officers, the form of their employment and the way of deletion;
- (b) Does the deletion of these posts have anything to do with the outsourcing of individual work? If so, what are the ranks and number of officers involved, the form of their employment and the work categories?
- (c) What is the number of front-line police officers after the deletion? Is there any change in the ratio between the front-line police officers and the Hong Kong population? Is the change in the ratio reasonable and appropriate? How does the change affect the workload of the front-line police officers and the work and performance of the Force as a whole?
- (d) How can the Force ensure that staff morale will not be cracked by the cut in manpower?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

- (a) There will be a net deletion of 658 posts in 2004-05, all of which are on permanent establishment. The posts will be deleted primarily through re-engineering of work processes, structure and priorities, etc., and coupled with natural wastage and the voluntary retirement scheme for the civil servants. The target will be achieved. The ranks and number of officers involved are categorized as follows :-

Ranks

No. of Posts to be Deleted

Disciplined Staff

Senior Superintendent

Superintendent

	12
Chief Inspector	15
Senior Inspector/Inspector	72
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	132
Police Constable	<u>319</u>
Sub-total	553
Civilian Staff	<u>105</u>
Total	<u>658</u>

(b) Among the posts to be deleted, staff involved in the outsourcing of work are 5 sergeants, 21 police constables and 3 civilian staff. Categories of the work outsourced include security work at the regional headquarters, driving courses, lifeguard services at the swimming-pool of the Police Training School and so on.

(c) The above deleted posts are training posts or supporting posts. Front-line police officers will not be affected.

(d) Impacts on staff morale caused by the deletion will be reduced through pilot schemes and effective communications with staff prior to the manpower cut.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB049

Question Serial No.

0611

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Hong Kong Police Force plans to create 87 posts and 7 posts under Programme (1) and Programme (4) respectively in 2004-05. Please inform this Committee of the number of officers by rank and the form of their employment in respect of these posts. How many of these additional officers will fill the new posts and how many of them will fill the existing vacancies?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

The 94 posts planned under Programmes (1) and (4) for 2004-05 are created primarily to carry out additional front-line operational duties resulting from the opening of the Ma On Shan Extension and the West Kowloon Reclamation development. They are newly created civil service posts. The number of officers involved by rank is given below :-

Rank	No. of Officers		
	Programme (1)	Programme (4)	Total
Senior Inspector/Inspector	1	-	1
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	8	2	10
Police Constable	78	5	83
	87	7	94

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB050

Question Serial No.

0669

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime
12203 - Reduction of Traffic Accidents
12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is expected that 658 permanent posts will be deleted in the Force in 2004-05. What are the ranks involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The ranks involved in the expected net deletion of 658 permanent posts in the Force in 2004-05 are given below :-

Rank	No. of posts to be deleted
Disciplined Staff	
Senior Superintendent	3
Superintendent	12
Chief Inspector	15
Senior Inspector/Inspector	72
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	132
Police Constable	<u>319</u>
Sub-total	553
Civilian Staff	<u>105</u>
Total	<u>658</u>

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB051

Question Serial No.

1264

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in the estimates that the Force will deploy staff to achieve high profile policing and streamline police districts. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee :-

- (a) of the impact of staff deployment on the establishment of the Force and the expenditure;
- (b) whether the Force has any plans for streamlining police districts; if so, of the timetable and the savings achieved?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- (a) In 2004-05, the Force will continue to deploy available uniformed officers in all regions for front-line operational duties as far as possible. In order to achieve efficiency savings, internal support officers will be deployed to provide the additional front-line resources required. As a result, the overall establishment and expenditure of the Force will not increase.
- (b) The Force will implement the Sham Shui Po Police District Amalgamation Project in 2004-05 to realign and amalgamate the Sham Shui Po Division, Cheung Sha Wan Division and Shek Kip Mei Division. After the amalgamation, 16 front-line police officer posts will be created while 25 disciplined posts and 15 civilian posts will be deleted. As a result, the Force will save about \$9.7 m in emolument per year.

The patrol coverage will remain unchanged after the amalgamation. The manpower of the patrol sub-units and their supervision will be enhanced, thus further strengthening the front-line policing work with greater flexibility in staff deployment.

The Sham Shui Po Police District Amalgamation Project will be implemented in April 2004.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB052

Question Serial No.

1372

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime
12203 - Reduction of Traffic Accidents
12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of posts of the Force is estimated to be 33 203 in 2004-05. It represents a deletion of 658 posts against the 2004 revised estimate. Please inform this Committee of the breakdown of the incumbent officers by rank and by the category of their respective operation units.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung

Reply:

The ranks involved in the expected net deletion of 658 permanent posts in the Force in 2004-05 are given below :-

Rank	No. of posts to be deleted					
	Operations	Crime & Security	Personnel & Training	Management Services	Finance, Administration and Planning	Total
Disciplined Staff						
Senior Superintendent	1	2	-	-	-	3
Superintendent	10	2	-	-	-	12
Chief Inspector	9	4	2	-	-	15
Senior Inspector/Inspector	34	4	33	1	-	72
Station Sergeant/Sergeant	106	4	18	4	-	132
Police Constable	204	15	100	-	-	319
Sub-total	364	31	153	5	-	553
Civilian Staff	82	8	6	7	2	105
Total	446	39	159	12	2	658

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB053

Question Serial No.

1373

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The financial provision for Operations in 2004-05 is 5.7% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please answer the following questions :-

- What are the reasons?
- Has the Authority assessed whether the reduction in the financial provision for Operations would affect the fight against crime and the efficiency in detecting crime?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

The financial provision for Operations for 2004-05 is 5.7% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to the effect of the civil service pay cut and the deletion of 304 posts in operational units in 2004-05 to achieve efficiency savings.

The deleted posts in operational units are mainly the Police Tactical Unit training posts, which are cut due to the decreasing need for internal security training as the Force has recruited fewer officers these years. They also include the logistic support posts cut in the Marine region after restructuring. Posts of front-line operations have not been cut and the Force's capabilities in maintaining law and order are not affected.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB054

Question Serial No.

1374

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of officers who have received internal security training has been on the decrease year by year. Why?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

In order to achieve efficiency savings, there has been a substantial reduction in the number of new recruits in recent years and hence less need for internal security training and less officers who have not received such training. At present, there is an adequate supply of officers who have already received internal security training and they are able to provide effective services for internal security purpose. Therefore, the internal security training structure has been streamlined since 2003, and the number of the Police Tactical Unit Training Companies and the number of officers on training have been on the decrease each year.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB055

Question Serial No.

1375

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The total number of crimes reported and calls to the police hotline have both increased significantly. Please answer the following questions :-

- What are the reasons?
- Please provide a breakdown of the number of crimes reported and calls to the police hotline.
- What will you expect in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

The total number of crimes reported in 2003 increases by 12 500 compared with 2002. Those on the increase are mostly non-violent crimes, including miscellaneous thefts, theft from vehicles, criminal damage and shop theft, which adds up to 9 500 cases. Apart from depending on the efforts of the Police to reduce such crimes, it is also vital that the public maintain their awareness of theft prevention. In this respect, the Police will continue to step up its publicity on theft prevention, reminding the public not to leave their personal belongings unattended at public places in order to reduce such crimes.

The breakdown of the main crimes reported in 2003 is at Annex 1.

In respect of the police hotlines, a total of 35 981 calls in connection of crimes were made to the hotlines in 2003.

In the first two months of 2004, 6 400 reported crime cases were recorded on average each month. In comparison to the 7 364 cases on average per month recorded for 2003, it represents a decrease of 13%. The Police will continue its efforts on the prevention and detection of crimes. In respect of the number of calls to the hotlines, it is estimated that it will be very much the same in 2004-05.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Annex 1

MAIN CRIMES REPORTED IN 2003

Violent Crime	14 542
Non-violent Crime	<u>73 835</u>
Overall crimes	<u>88 377</u>

Main type of Violent Crimes, including:

Robbery	3 215
Murder and Manslaughter	52
Blackmail	592
Criminal Intimidation	933
Wounding	1 723
Serious Assault	5 424
Rape	70
Indecent Assault	1 018

Main type of Non-violent Crimes, including:

Burglary	9 076
Criminal Damage	7 608
Unlawful Society Offences	764
Serious Narcotics Offences	2 142
Stolen Vehicles	2 301
Snatching	1 117
Pickpocketing	1 681
Shop Theft	9 304
Theft from Vehicles	4 232
Miscellaneous Thefts	20 015
Deception	4 732

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

Reply Serial No.

SB056

Question Serial No.

1376

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The actual number of raids conducted dropped from 24 600 in 2002 to 21 038 in 2003. Please answer the following questions :-

- (a) What are the reasons for the drop in the number of raids?
- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of raids conducted by category of crimes.
- (c) What will you expect in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung

Reply:

- (a) Raids are operations against premises relating to dangerous drugs, illegal gambling and vice activities. In the year under review, the number of raids dropped was primarily because the Force had pooled a certain number of staff during the period from March to May in 2003 to support other government departments in handling the SARS incident.
- (b) As we do not keep separate records of the breakdown of the raids conducted by category of crimes, we are unable to give the details.
- (c) In the coming year, the Force will continue to enhance cooperation with the enforcement authorities in the Mainland and overseas. The Force will also join forces with local enforcement departments and related public organizations in conducting raids, and collecting intelligence against the activities concerning dangerous drugs, illegal gambling and vice.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB057

Question Serial No.

1458

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Did the Force use small patrol vehicles to prevent crimes in rural areas in 2003? If so, what was the number and time of the patrols each day?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2003, the Police made use of small patrol vehicles to conduct regular patrols in sparsely-populated remote areas which are not easily accessible on foot. Each police district will decide on its own deployment tactics of small patrol vehicles to remote areas as well as the number and time of patrols each day according to the topography and the actual crime situation.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB058

Question Serial No.

1459

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What was the number of robberies committed by illegal immigrants in rural/remote areas last year?
Has the Authority assessed whether the use of small patrol vehicles to increase patrol coverage can effectively reduce the number of such crimes?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Police has not kept records of the breakdown and details of the robberies involving illegal immigrants in rural and remote areas.

Small patrol vehicles have been used by the Police to conduct regular patrols in sparsely-populated remote areas which are not easily accessible on foot. The patrol coverage of each police district will be decided by the topography and the actual crime situations. Apart from the use of small patrol vehicles, the Police will, in view of the actual situations, deploy additional manpower (e.g. Police Tactical Unit and Quick Reaction Force) to rural and remote areas for patrol and other duties to prevent crimes. The Police will from time to time review the strategy and deployment for the maintenance of law and order.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB059

Question Serial No.

1460

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Has the effectiveness of the Force-wide process improvements study embarked in 2003 been assessed?
Have any proposals for manpower adjustment been included in the study?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Force has committed to providing quality service to the public. The effectiveness of the study is assessed by the Performance Review Branch, the Research and Inspections Branch and the Complaints Against Police Office of the Service Quality Wing for service improvement through different levels/areas of monitoring and with reference to the staff's feedback.

The Force-wide process improvements study aims at enhancing the efficiency, productivity and management of the Force with the view of meeting public expectations, effectively streamlining its work flows and processes and improving its quality and efficiency. We may also be able to save manpower in the course, though this is not the main purpose of the study.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB060

Question Serial No.

1461

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime
12203 - Reduction of Traffic Accidents
12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the specific plan for the reduction of disciplined manpower on administrative duties to the minimum and deployment of these resources to operations? How to increase the number of disciplined staff deployed for operational duties? What is the percentage of administrative duties thus reduced in the overall administrative duties of the Force?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Administrative work of the Force has been streamlined through work process re-engineering, civilianization, outsourcing and computerization. As the Force has recruited significantly fewer officers in recent years, posts of surplus training officers arising from the decreasing need for training will also be deleted. Some of the police officers deployed for administrative and training duties will be re-deployed to take up other operational work.

As at 1 March 2004, the Force has 2 093 police officers who take up full-time administrative and training work. It is estimated that in 2004-05, there will be a net deletion of 658 permanent posts, 334 of them are of police officers deployed for full-time administrative and training work. This represents an approximately 16% of the total number of 2 093 police officers who take up full-time administrative and training work in the Force.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB061

Question Serial No.

1462

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the anti-crime publicity programmes organized to address specific crime problems in 2003, who were the targets of the "Tourist Crime" publicity programme? Did the programme aim at raising the Mainland visitors' awareness of crimes in Hong Kong? Or did it aim at reminding Hong Kong shop owners of the consequences of cheating visitors? Will these publicity activities be held in places outside Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The anti-crime publicity programme for "Tourist Crime" in 2003 was primarily targeted on visitors to Hong Kong, especially the Mainland visitors. The programme mainly aimed at raising their awareness of the protection of personal property and precautions against deception. It also advised the visitors to make purchases in shops with "Hong Kong Tourism Board's QTS sign of quality". Publicity pamphlets and posters were distributed and posted in all border crossing points, the Hong Kong International Airport, all KCR stations, hotels and peak trams. The Police also gave advice to visitors on the protection of personal property through the media. Since the implementation of the Mainland's "Individual Visit Scheme", anti-crime publicity leaflets have also been distributed in the exit endorsement issuing offices in the Mainland through the relevant Mainland department.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB062

Question Serial No.

1463

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Secondary School Liaison Programme launched by the Police in 2003 aimed at enhancing the effectiveness in combating juvenile delinquency and crime. Has the effectiveness of the Programme been assessed? In view of the growing public concern over the number of cases and seriousness of juvenile crimes involving the use of violence in 2003, will there be any work or activities conducted in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Juvenile delinquency and involvement in crime is a complicated problem. Government departments including the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Police Force, schools and non-government organizations offering youth services all share the view that the multi-agency approach can effectively address youth problems.

On this premise, the Police launched the "Secondary School Liaison Officers" Programme in 2001. The work of the Liaison Officers, including visits, seminars, group/individual discussions, etc., aims at conveying to students the importance of observing the law. Students will learn that the use of violence and certain bullying acts may constitute criminal offences and the consequences are very serious. The work will strengthen the students' awareness of civil responsibilities, moral values and discipline norms, and reinforce their communications with the Police.

Since the implementation of the Programme, the Secondary School Liaison Officers have established good relations and maintained close liaison with the school management, school social workers, parents and non-government organizations in a joint effort to take preventive initiatives targeted on susceptible youths to help them stay away from crimes.

More than 40 youth programmes are now being organized by the Police in various districts with the participation of the Police under a multi-agency approach. Through various activities, a sense of discipline is instilled in the youths, so as to prevent youth crimes and reduce recidivism. The Secondary School Liaison Officers will play an important role by co-ordinating, organizing or participating in such activities.

The Police attach great importance to the work of the Secondary School Liaison Officers. A full review was made a year after the implementation of the "Secondary School Liaison Officers" Programme (i.e. in September and October 2002). The results indicated that the parties concerned (the school management and the students in particular) had a very high opinion of the Programme and recognized its role. In a questionnaire survey conducted, 447 (86%) out of 520 headmasters considered the Programme useful to both schools and students. The Police will conduct regular reviews of this Programme to ensure the appropriate use of resources and the effective reduction of

crimes at schools.

In 2003, the Secondary School Liaison Officers made 10 941 visits and interviewed 2 041 secondary school students. The Police will continue to work closely with the school management and the school community to prevent the involvement of students in crime. The number of seminars and group/individual discussions will be increased as required.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB063

Question Serial No.

1464

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is the target of the Force under Programme (2) to give top priority to violent and syndicated crime. However, as indicated in the crime categories and figures for 2003 in Hong Kong, serious and violent crimes have decreased whereas the growth of minor crimes becomes a matter of concern. So, can the target and the allocation of resources under Programme (2) keep pace with the actual situation of the community?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Force will conduct regular reviews of crime figures and allocate adequate resources for combating crimes to cater for the actual needs.

Apart from giving priority to violent and syndicated crimes, the Force will also organize anti-crime publicity programmes to tackle a number of minor crimes such as 'Quick Cash Crime' and 'Street Deception', in particular pickpocketing, with a view to raising the public awareness of theft prevention and anti-crime, and engaging the security and property management industries in the prevention of these crimes. One of the targets of the Force in 2004 is to crack down on crimes like 'Quick Cash Crime'. This will be achieved through the enhancement of intelligence and the continuous strategic deployment of police resources.

To prevent these crimes, apart from the Police enforcement actions, it is also essential for the public to be well aware of theft prevention. In this respect, the Force will continue to step up its publicity on theft prevention and remind the public not to leave their personal belongings unattended at public places in order to reduce these crimes.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB064

Question Serial No.

1465

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, the Force does not express any concern over the significant rising trend of minor crimes under the Investigation of Crime item. Why?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Force is quite concerned about the upward trend of minor crimes. One of the targets of the Force in 2004 is to crack down on crimes like 'Quick Cash Crime'. This will be achieved through the enhancement of intelligence and the continuous strategic deployment of police resources. Anti-crime publicity programmes will also be organized to tackle minor crimes such as 'Pickpocketing' and 'Street Deception' with a view to raising the public awareness of theft prevention and anti-crime, and engaging the security and property management industries in the prevention of these crimes.

To prevent these crimes, apart from the Police enforcement actions, it is also essential for the public to be well aware of theft prevention. In this respect, the Force will continue to step up its publicity on theft prevention and remind the public not to leave their personal belongings unattended at public places in order to reduce these crimes.

The Force will conduct regular reviews of crime figures and allocate adequate resources for combating crimes to cater for the actual needs.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB065

Question Serial No.

1466

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Reduction of Traffic Accidents

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In its efforts to strengthen traffic law enforcement against “offences which are leading factors in causing accidents” under this programme, has the Force considered the traffic accidents caused by temporary or frequent road diversions as a result of road works? If not, will this be regarded as the major factor when considering future enforcement actions? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In its efforts to strengthen traffic law enforcement against “offences which are leading factors in causing accidents”, one of the important job for the Force is to reduce traffic accidents caused by temporary or frequent road diversions as a result of road works. In examining the temporary traffic control proposals due to road works submitted by the Transport Department or other government departments, the Force will pay attention to the adequacy of warning signs and informatory signs and ensure that the relevant signs placed at road works site comply with the requirements of the law.

The Force will also conduct constant patrols and prosecute drivers or pedestrians who disobey the temporary traffic signs or traffic arrangements with a view to reducing traffic accidents.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB066

Question Serial No.

1467

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12203 - Reduction of Traffic Accidents

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In its enforcement of “parking restrictions and removal of obstructions” under this programme, does the Force have any rule that no penalty ticket will be issued to the same vehicle within two hours? If so, will the Force consider shortening this time restriction to strengthen the deterrent effect?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Under the law enforcement policy of the Police on parking offences, when vehicles which are illegally parked constitute serious obstructions to road traffic and pose imminent danger to other road users, the Police will take legal actions to remove or drive them to safe places. However, for general illegal parking where the vehicle does not constitute serious obstruction or pose imminent danger, a fixed penalty ticket will be issued every two hours. If the vehicle is not driven away after a number of fixed penalty tickets have been issued, the Police will consider towing it away under the law.

The guideline that no penalty ticket will be issued to the same vehicle within two hours is targeted on vehicles which do not constitute serious obstructions and which left unattended. In making this guideline, the Police has sought to strike a proper balance between public acceptability and deterrent effect. It is regarded that the guideline needs not to be changed for the time being. Moreover, the Police will review its traffic prosecution policy including this guideline every year. Appropriate amendments will be made as necessary.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB067

Question Serial No.

1468

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12204 - Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Is the detection and neutralization work of the Force on the production and sale of forged identity cards targeted primarily on the non-Smart ID Cards currently in use? Has the Force started to detect and collect information about the preliminary activities of the crime syndicates on the production and sale of forged Smart ID Cards?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In respect of the detection and neutralization work on the production and sale of forged identity cards, the Force targets primarily on criminal acts, including forged Smart or non-Smart ID Cards. Before the launch of the Smart ID Cards, the Force has already provided training to front-line police officers to equip them with the capability to detect crimes involving forged Smart ID Cards. With the launch of Smart ID Cards, the Force has maintained close liaison with the Immigration Department to guard against any possible activities in connection with forged Smart ID Cards through intelligence collection and detection.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB068

Question Serial No.

1583

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the following information in respect of technology and cyber crimes :-

- (a) What was the actual expenditure incurred for 2003-04 on the prevention and detection of the above crimes? What is the estimated expenditure for 2004-05?
- (b) What specific measures will be taken to strengthen the Force's capability in preventing and detecting the above crimes in 2004-05? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) How many police officers will be expected to enhance their capability in detecting the above crimes in 2004-05? How many of them are front-line officers and how many are officers under the Technology Crime Division?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

- (a) As the expenditure for the prevention and detection of technology and cyber crimes is part of the expenditure for Commercial Crime Bureau, no specific breakdown is available in the estimates.

In 2003-04, apart from the expenditure for detection operations, the actual expenditure for training in handling technology and cyber crimes and installation of computer equipment was around \$300,000.

- (b) In 2004-05, in order to strengthen the capabilities in preventing and detecting such crimes, the Force will continue to keep abreast of the development of information technology, enhance its capabilities in collecting intelligence, develop computer forensics technology, maintain links with the industry and overseas enforcement agencies, organize and launch anti-computer crime publicity activities etc. As the relevant estimated expenditure is included in the expenditure for Commercial Crime Bureau, no specific breakdown is available.
- (c) The 58 members in Technology Crime Division and 160 front-line officers in regions have already undertaken training in the investigation of technology crimes. In 2004-05, about 112 regional front-line officers will receive such training to enhance the Force's capabilities in detecting such crimes.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB069

Question Serial No.

1730

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12201 - Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As shown in Programme (1), the financial provision for the maintenance of law and order in the community under will be reduced by 3.3% in 2004-05. Given the decrease in the financial provision, how can the Authority effectively reduce the rising :-

- (a) burglary crimes; and
- (b) criminal debt collection and non-criminal nuisance activities.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The estimated provision for Programme (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community in 2004-05 is 3.3% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to the civil service pay cut in 2004-05. The actual amount of resources allocated for the maintenance of law and order has not been reduced.

- (a) The Police will continue to conduct anti-burglary publicity activities to teach shopkeepers precautions against burglary and remind the public to keep their doors secured and take care of their property through publicity leaflets, posters and publicity buses. The Police will also maintain a close liaison with the property management sector to join efforts in burglary prevention. For the first two months in 2004, there has been an average of 629 burglary cases each month, 16.8% less than the monthly average of 756 cases in 2003. All police districts will continue to conduct patrols in areas where burglaries are likely to occur and stop check suspicious people for crime prevention.
- (b) The Police will continue to enforce the existing law to fight against illegal debt collection activities. Cases involving criminal activities will be followed up by crime investigation officers. Moreover, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, in its "Code of Banking Practice", has also laid down guidelines for loan recovery and stipulated that the approved institutions should ensure that the debt collection agencies they hired do not collect debts by way of harassment or improper means.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

SB070

Question Serial No.

1731

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As shown in Programme (2), the financial provision for maintenance of law and order in the community will be reduced by 2.2% in 2004-05. Given the decrease in the financial provision, how can the Authority effectively prevent and detect the rising :-

- (c) criminal crimes and non-criminal nuisance activities; and
- (d) burglary crimes.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The estimated provision for Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime" in 2004-05 will be 2.2% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to the civil service pay cut in 2004-05. The actual amount of resources allocated for the prevention and detection of crime has not been reduced.

- (c) In respect of the prevention and detection of criminal offences and non-criminal nuisance activities, the Police will continue to enforce the existing law to fight against illegal activities.
- (d) The Police will continue to conduct anti-burglary publicity activities to teach shopkeepers precautions against burglary and remind the public to keep their doors locked and take care of their property through publicity leaflets, posters and publicity buses. The Police will also maintain a close liaison with the property management sector to join efforts in burglary prevention. All police districts will continue to conduct patrols in areas where burglaries are likely to occur and stop check suspicious people for crime prevention.

Name in block letters LEE Ming-kwai

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB071

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0095

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) What are the numbers of posts deleted/to be deleted and created/to be created in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively? Among the deleted and the newly created posts, what are the numbers and ranks of civil service permanent establishment posts, civil service contract posts and temporary posts respectively? What is the amount involved? What is the average length of service of staff leaving the service?
- (b) Is the deletion of posts to tie in with outsourcing? Will there be any outsourcing in 2004-05? If yes, what are the projects to be outsourced? What are the provisions required for the projects? What are the actual savings in relation to the posts deleted?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The net creation and deletion of civil service posts by grade in 2003-04 and 2004-05 as well as their financial implications are shown below:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2003-04</u> (Actual)	<u>2004-05</u> (Planned)
Immigration Officer	-8	+32
Immigration Assistant	+67	+264
Executive Officer	+4	0
Clerical Officer	+54	-4
Clerical Assistant	-22	-11
Personal Secretary	-1	-1
Confidential Assistant	-1	-2
Official Languages Officer	-1	-2
Analyst/Programmer	+4	-2
Computer Operator	+1	-4
Data Processor	-1	0
Supplies Supervisor	0	+1
Photographer	-34	0
Medical and Health Officer	0	+1
Registered Nurse	0	+16
Special Driver	0	-3
Motor Driver	0	-2
Workman II	-3	+6
Total	+59	+289
Additional Annual Salary Cost	\$39.5 million	\$71.9 million

A total of 89 civil service staff in the Department left the service in 2003-04. Their average length of service is 26 years.

- (b) In 2003-04, 44 Immigration Assistant grade posts were deleted as a result of the further outsourcing of crowd management work at boundary control points, which is a non-core immigration task, to private security guard companies. This resulted in annual savings of \$3.3 million. The resources released have been redeployed to strengthen cross-boundary immigration clearance services. Currently we do not have further outsourcing plan in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB072

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0232

Controlling Officer : Director of ImmigrationDirector of Bureau : Secretary for SecurityQuestion :

According to the details of expenditure on operating account, it is expected that there will be an increase of 289 permanent posts in 2004-05. Please provide a breakdown of the additional posts with a specification of their ranks, job duties and salaries.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG HowardReply :

The breakdown of the net creation of 289 posts by grade in 2004-05 is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No.</u>
Immigration Officer	+32
Immigration Assistant	+264
Clerical Officer	-4
Clerical Assistant	-11
Personal Secretary	-1
Confidential Assistant	-2
Official Languages Officer	-2
Analyst/Programmer	-2
Computer Operator	-4
Supplies Supervisor	+1
Medical and Health Officer	+1
Registered Nurse	+16
Special Driver	-3
Motor Driver	-2
Workman II	+6
Total	+289

The additional resources in question will mainly be deployed for strengthening immigration clearance services at the boundary control points and for manning the new immigration detention centre at Castle Peak Bay. The additional annual salary cost for the net creation of 289 posts is estimated to be \$71.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB073

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(1) Pre-entry control

0233

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of applications for HKSAR Travel Pass is estimated to be 900 in 2004. How much resource has been allocated to promote the HKSAR Travel Pass Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Promotion of the HKSAR Travel Pass Scheme is conducted through a variety of channels including the network of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices overseas where relevant posters are displayed and application forms and information leaflets are distributed. Application forms and information leaflets are also available at more than 200 Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions overseas and the Immigration Department. They can also be downloaded from the Immigration Department Homepage. From time to time, we enlist the assistance of the Trade Development Council, the Tourism Board and also various chambers of commerce in Hong Kong to promote the Scheme. There are also designated counters at various control points with prominent overhead signs to provide expeditious clearance service to Travel Pass holders. The costs incurred by the above activities are not met by a specific provision but are absorbed by the Department and organizations concerned within their existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB074

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry control

0234

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The estimated number of APEC Business Travel Card – referral applications issued in 2004 will be 3 000. How much resource has been allocated to promote the travel card?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) Scheme is an initiative spearheaded by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation to enhance the mobility of business people in the region. Each participating economy is expected to make its own efforts to promote the Scheme. In the case of Hong Kong, we have written to various chambers of commerce, airlines and shipping companies as well as prominent business persons to publicise the ABTC. Information about ABTC is also posted on the Immigration Department website. There are designated counters at various control points with prominent overhead signs to provide expeditious clearance services to holders of ABTC. The costs of these efforts are absorbed within the Department's existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI _____

Post Title Director of Immigration _____

Date 25 March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB075

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(2) Control upon Entry

0235

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

While the number of passengers/ vehicles/ vessels examined is forecast to increase in 2004, the estimate percentages of passengers cleared within the specific time frames are on the decrease. Please account for the reduction in this estimate. In order to speed up the clearing process, is there any plan to improve efficiency? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The Controlling Officer's Report reflects our performance pledge, i.e. to clear 92% of passengers within 15 minutes for the Airport and 30 minutes for the land and sea control points. The actual performance achieved in 2003 is 99.7%, 99.5% and 99.7% respectively for these control points. We expect that the actual performance for 2004 will continue to exceed the pledged targets.

To cope with growing passenger and vehicular traffic, we will continue to improve the efficiency of immigration clearance through flexible redeployment of staff, streamlining of procedures and use of technology. Following the installation of Expeditious Immigration Clearance System in 2003, the Department will roll out the Automated Passenger and Vehicle Clearance Systems in phases from end 2004. The Finance Committee approved on 24 January 2003 the funding of \$352,753,000 under Head 710 - Computerization for implementing these systems. Additional annual recurrent expenditure arising from these systems is \$46,194,000. Necessary financial provisions are earmarked in the draft Estimates for 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

T K LAI

Post Title _____

Director of Immigration

Date _____

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB076

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(2) Control upon Entry

0236

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

Concerning the enhancement of front-line defence at all control points under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, what are the measures to be undertaken under this enhancement and how much resources will be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

To prevent people from neighbouring economies to seek entry into Hong Kong for unapproved employment and other undesirable activities, we have implemented more pro-active measures to enhance our front-line defence at all control points. These include stepping up the vigilance of front-line staff and conducting detailed examination on suspicious visitors. To an extent, the effectiveness of these measures is reflected by the increase in the number of visitors refused entry. In 2003, a total of 27 655 visitors were refused entry into Hong Kong, as compared to 21 221 in 2002.

In 2004-05, we shall continue to step up these measures within our existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

T K LAI

Post Title _____

Director of Immigration

Date _____

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB077

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(2) Control upon Entry

0237

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, it is stated that the Automated Passenger Clearance and Automated Vehicle Clearance Systems will be implemented to enhance the overall throughput at control points. What are the concrete plans for the systems and the resources requirements?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The contract for the Automated Passenger Clearance (APC) System and the Automated Vehicle Clearance (AVC) System was awarded in March 2004. System design and development work is in full swing. Our aim is to roll out both systems in phases from end-2004.

The Finance Committee approved on 24 January 2003 the funding of \$352,753,000 under Head 710 Computerisation for implementing these two systems. Additional annual recurrent expenditure arising from these systems is \$46,194,000. Necessary financial provisions are earmarked in the draft Estimates for 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI _____

Post Title Director of Immigration _____

Date 25 March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB078

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

0238

Controlling Officer : Director of ImmigrationDirector of Bureau : Secretary for SecurityQuestion :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, it is stated that enforcement action will be stepped up against visitors engaged in unlawful employment after entry or overstaying beyond their limits of stay. What are the details of the enforcement action? How much expenditure and manpower will be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG HowardReply :

Protection of job opportunities for local workers remains one of the top priorities of the Administration. In this connection, enforcement actions against hiring of illegal workers have been stepped up as reflected in the increase in the number of arrests and prosecution of illegal workers and their employers. In 2003, Immigration Department conducted 5 739 operations against illegal employment, representing an increase of 60% as compared to the 3 580 operations conducted in 2002. The number of arrests and prosecution made in 2002 and 2003 is shown below:

	No. of arrests		No of prosecution	
	Illegal Workers	Employers	Illegal Workers	Employers
2002	3 534	918	2 322	383
2003	5 317 (+50.45%)	1 078 (+17.43%)	3 120 (+34.37%)	445 (+16.19%)

In parallel, an Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures and enforcement action against illegal activities, including illegal employment. Its membership includes the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations among various departments in order to combat illegal employment in a focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (i) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;

- (ii) To implement a facial recognition system to detect visitors seeking entry on false identities;
- (iii) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
- (iv) To hold capacity building seminars for property management companies so that they can help to prevent illegal decoration workers from entering public and private housing estates;
- (v) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to enhance the efficiency in handling report from the public on illegal employment; and
- (vi) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal activities would be carefully scrutinised.

The costs incurred by the above law enforcement efforts are not met through a specific provision but absorbed within the existing resources of the Departments concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB079

Head : 70

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

(3) Control after Entry

0239

Controlling Officer :

Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau :

Secretary for Security

Question :

Concerning the new immigration detention centre at the Castle Peak Bay under program 3, how much expenditure and manpower will be required?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The Finance Committee, in approving the 6GD project - Immigration Service Training School and Perowne Immigration Centre at Castle Peak Bay at its meeting held on 21 June 2002, noted an additional annual recurrent expenditure of \$71.3 million arising from the project. A provision of \$46.4 million for staff and other operating costs has been included in the 2004-05 Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title _____

Director of Immigration

Date _____

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB080

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

0240

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the estimated expenditure for the feasibility studies of introducing HKSAR passport with biometric data? When will the studies be completed?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

An in-house task team, comprising one Immigration Service staff on full-time basis and supported by 9 others on part-time basis, was formed in 2003 to conduct a feasibility study on HKSAR passport with biometric data. The expenditure is absorbed through redeployment of resources within the Immigration Department.

The study is in good progress and is expected to be completed within this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI _____

Post Title Director of Immigration _____

Date 25 March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB081

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

0241

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

With regard to lobbying more foreign countries to grant visa-free to holders of HKSAR passport, will the bureau inform this council of the details of the target countries and the respective schedules? Have resources been earmarked for the lobbying work?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Enhancing visa-free access for HKSAR passport holders remains an on-going priority of the HKSARG. Currently, a total of 131 countries and territories have agreed to grant visa-free access to HKSAR passport holders. While we will continue to lobby for visa-free access to more countries, it is unrealistic to draw up any rigid schedule as visa-free access hinges on a variety of factors including immigration and security considerations, trade relations, reciprocity and circumstances of individual country or territory.

The Director of Immigration personally steers the visa-free lobbying work of the Immigration Department. Other senior officials of the Government also contribute towards the lobbying work when suitable opportunity arises. The costs incurred by these lobbying activities are not met by a specific provision but are absorbed by the Bureau/Departments concerned within their existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB082

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0242

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the estimate of Civil Service Provident Fund contribution for 2004-05 is \$8,162,000 (1,126%) higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. What accounts for this increased amount?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The Civil Service Provident Fund Scheme (CSPF) is applicable to civil servants who joined the Civil Service on or after 1 June 2000 on new entry terms and subsequently progress to permanent terms of appointment upon completion of probation and/or agreement(s).

In 2003-04, 42 members of the Immigration Service were eligible for the CSPF. It is expected that the number of eligible staff will increase to 221 in 2004-05. This accounts for the increase in provision for CSPF in 2004-05 as compared to that in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB083

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) - (5)

0357

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The Immigration Department estimates that 289 permanent posts will be created in 2004-05. Regarding this:

1. What are the ranks, numbers and terms of appointment of the newly created posts respectively?
2. Among the newly created posts, will there be members of Task Force responsible for combating illegal workers and foreign domestic helpers engaged in unlawful activities? If yes, what are the numbers of additional staff respectively? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

1. The breakdown of the net creation of 289 posts by grade in 2004-05 is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No.</u>
Immigration Officer	+32
Immigration Assistant	+264
Clerical Officer	-4
Clerical Assistant	-11
Personal Secretary	-1
Confidential Assistant	-2
Official Languages Officer	-2
Analyst/Programmer	-2
Computer Operator	-4
Supplies Supervisor	+1
Medical and Health Officer	+1
Registered Nurse	+16
Special Driver	-3
Motor Driver	-2
Workman II	+6
Total	+289

These newly created posts are to be filled either by serving officers or new civil service recruits.

2. The Immigration Task Force, currently with 95 members, is responsible for combating illegal employment. There is no plan to change its establishment in 2004-05.

However, enforcement actions will be stepped up through flexible deployment of resources, made possible by re-organising, re-prioritising and re-engineering the work of the Department. Where situations so warrant, the Department will mount joint operations with other law enforcement agencies to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB084

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

0358

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In 2004-05 Estimates, the Immigration Department has allocated \$423m to matters concerning control after entry, among which is the stepping up of enforcement action against illegal workers and foreign domestic helpers engaged in unlawful activities. In this connection:

- (a) What is the expenditure on combating illegal workers and foreign domestic helpers engaged in unlawful activities? How does this compare to the actual expenditure in 2002-03 and 2003-04?
- (b) How many members of the Immigration Task Force are at present tasked to combat illegal workers and domestic helpers engaged in unlawful activities respectively? With reference to the existing size and workload of the Task Force and taking into account the actual situation, is the Task Force adequately staffed? Is there any room to increase the number of staff? If yes, will the Department recruit new staff for the Task Force in the coming 3 years? Please provide the timetable of recruitment and the number of new recruits. If not, why not?
- (c) What specific measures will be put in place to combat illegal workers and foreign domestic helpers engaged in unlawful activities? Is there any new initiative among these measures?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

- (a) Combating illegal employment is one of the top priorities of the Administration and a large number of measures have been put in place on this front. However, the costs incurred by these measures are not met through a specific provision but absorbed within the existing resources of the Departments concerned.
- (b) An important aspect of the work of the Immigration Task Force, currently with 95 members and an annual salary cost of \$27.2 million, relates to investigative and enforcement actions against illegal employment, including the engagement of foreign domestic helpers in non-domestic duties. Its establishment has not changed since 2002-03 and there is no plan to change it in 2004-05. Nevertheless, enforcement actions on this front will continue to be stepped up through flexible deployment of resources made possible by re-organising, re-prioritising and re-engineering the work of the Department. Where situations so warrant, the Department will mount joint operations with other law enforcement agencies to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement work.

- (c) We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:
- (vii) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
 - (viii) To implement a facial recognition system to detect visitors seeking entry on false identities;
 - (ix) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
 - (x) To hold capacity building seminars for property management companies so that they can help to prevent illegal decoration workers from entering public and private housing estates;
 - (xi) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to enhance the efficiency in handling report from the public on illegal employment; and
 - (xii) To maintain close liaison with Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal activities would be carefully scrutinised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB085

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry control
(3) Control after entry

0575

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) How many Business Visit Endorsements were issued to Mainlanders by the Immigration Department in 2002 and 2003? What is the estimated number for 2004-05?
- (b) How many Mainland visitors with Business Visit Endorsements were found to have taken unlawful employment in Hong Kong in 2002 and 2003? What is the estimated number for 2004-05?
- (c) What measures were / will be taken to prevent Mainland visitors with Business Visit Endorsements from taking unlawful employment in Hong Kong? What were / are the number of staff and level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) Business Visit Endorsements are issued to Mainland residents by Mainland Public Security Bureau Offices. We do not have information on the number of such endorsements issued by Mainland authorities.
- (b) In 2002 and 2003, 1 552 and 2 823 Business Visa Endorsement holders respectively were arrested for taking up unapproved employment. It is difficult to come up with a realistic estimate of the number of such arrests in 2004-05 because a variety of factors are at play. These include the economic situation, the prevailing labour market, the deterrent effects of penalties meted out by the court, public education, the intensity and the effectiveness of law enforcement and the co-operation of other relevant authorities.

- (c) Protecting employment opportunities for the local workforce is a top priority for the Immigration Department as well as the Government as a whole. In this connection, an Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures and enforcement action against illegal activities, including illegal employment. Its membership includes the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations among various departments in order to combat illegal employment in a focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (i) To strengthen control at immigration control points to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
- (ii) To implement a facial recognition system to detect visitors seeking entry on false identities;
- (iii) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving law enforcement agencies with a role to play;
- (iv) To hold capacity building seminars for property management companies so that they can help to prevent illegal decoration workers from entering public and private housing estates;
- (v) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to enhance the efficiency in handling report from the public on illegal employment; and
- (vi) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal employment activities would be carefully scrutinized.

The costs incurred by the above efforts are absorbed within the existing resources of the Departments concerned and not met through a specific provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB086

Question Serial No.

0576

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of passenger clearance counters at all boundary control points by the end of March 2004 and the daily average number of passengers cleared in 2003.
- (b) Please list the respective establishment and strength of all boundary control points by the end of March 2004.

Asked by : Hon. To Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The current number of passenger clearance counters and daily average number of passengers cleared in 2003 at the five land boundary control points are as follows:

Control Point	Lo Wu	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok	Hung Hom
No. of passenger clearance counters	212	50	28	16	48
Daily average no. of passengers	233 337	67 065	5 237	4 803	6 019

- (b) The establishment and strength of the above boundary control points as at 1 March 2004 are as follows:

Control Point	Lo Wu	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok	Hung Hom
Establishment	765	308	107	53	72
Strength	747	358	106	51	71

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB087

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0577

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please give a breakdown by reason and by place of origin of the passengers and seamen who were refused entry in 2003.
- (b) How many appeals arose from these cases of refused entry and what were the results?
- (c) Of those who were refused entry, how many were refused entry because of "genuineness of visit in doubt"? What were the "purposes of visit" furnished to the government by these people?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) Of the 27 655 persons refused permission to land in 2003, 26 076 were passengers and 1 579 were seamen. These refused landing cases, broken down according to places of origin and reasons for refusal, are set out as follows –

Places of Origin Reasons for Refusal	Africa	Asia & Pacific *	Europe	Mainland	North America	South America	Total
Genuineness of visit in doubt	146	3 014	11	15 702	11	44	18 928
Improperly Documented	144	3 707	94	3 129	38	22	7 134
Use of Forged Travel Documents	98	405	54	972	39	25	1 593
Total	388	7 126	159	19 803	88	91	27 655

(* "Asia & Pacific" refers to countries in Asia and the Pacific region, as well as Australia and New Zealand, but excludes Mainland China.)

- (b) In 2003, no objection was lodged under section 53 of the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115, against the Director of Immigration's decision to refuse entry.
- (c) In 2003, 18 928 persons were refused entry on grounds of "genuineness of visit in doubt". Usually these passengers claimed that they came to Hong Kong for sightseeing, business visits or visiting friends/relatives when examined by immigration

control officers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB088

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

0665

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The Immigration Department estimates that the number of secondary examinations upon entry and the number of passengers/seamen refused entry in 2004 will increase by 16.8% and 23.15% respectively as compared to 2003. Among the passengers refused entry in 2003, how many were pregnant women suspected of coming to Hong Kong to give birth? What are the staffing and funding arrangements of the Immigration Department for the removal of pregnant women suspected of coming to Hong Kong to give birth and other undesirable persons in 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose

Reply :

In 2003, 27 655 visitors were refused permission to land.

The fact that a visitor seeking entry into Hong Kong is pregnant does not per se constitute a valid ground for refusal of permission to land. A pregnant visitor may still be allowed to enter Hong Kong if she is a bona fide visitor with a valid travel document.

The Removal Sub-division is responsible for removal of persons liable to be removed under the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115. In addition, the San Uk Ling Immigration Clearance Centre is responsible for processing and repatriating illegal immigrants from the Mainland. The total staff establishment of the Sub-division and the Centre is 98 (annual salary cost at \$30.5 million). There is no plan to change the establishment in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB089

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

0743

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of Certificate of Entitlement, please provide the following information:

- (a) Of the cases actually processed in 2003, how many were brought forward from 2002?
- (b) What is the estimated number of cases to be processed in 2004? How many of these cases are outstanding applications as at the end of 2003? How many are new applications?
- (c) Of the cases to be processed in 2004, how many are applications expected to be referred from the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon. SZETO Wah

Reply :

- (a) Of the 14 536 Certificate of Entitlement (COE) cases processed in 2003, 5 416 cases were brought forward from 2002.
- (b) Of the 16 700 COE cases estimated to be processed in 2004, 6 333 cases are brought forward from 2003. Therefore, the estimated number of new cases for 2004 is 10 367.
- (c) It is estimated that 16 200 or 97% of the COE applications to be processed in 2004 would be made through the Mainland authorities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB090

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

1057

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

As shown in Programme (2), the financial provision for "Control Upon Entry" in 2004-05 will be 2.7% lower than the original estimate in 2003-04. Given a decrease in financial provision, how can the waiting time for cross-boundary passengers be reduced in face of the ever-increasing passenger movement between Hong Kong and the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Although the financial provision for Programme (2) for 2004-05 will be 2.7% lower than the 2003-04 Original Estimate, additional resources will in fact be provided under this Programme to fund the creation of 191 posts for strengthening immigration clearance services at existing control points and providing such services at the new Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal in 2004-05. The increase in provision can however be fully offset by the effect of the civil service pay cut as well as the deletion of 43 posts upon completion of time-limited projects and delivery of efficiency savings. This accounts for the decrease in provision for this Programme area in 2004-05.

To cope with growing passenger and vehicular traffic, we will continue to improve the efficiency of immigration clearance through flexible redeployment of staff, streamlining of procedures, improvement works and use of technology. For example, following the installation of Expeditious Immigration Clearance System in 2003, the Automated Passenger and Vehicle Clearance Systems will be rolled out in phases around end 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB091

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR
 Residents outside Hong Kong

1263

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

As mentioned in the document, the work under Programme (5) in 2004-05 involves providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure is \$5.6m and the staffing provision is 13. In this respect, the number of requests for assistance in 2003 is 1 470 and the number of such requests in 2004 is expected to be 2 200. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) The number of requests is expected to increase by almost a half while the expenditure is reduced by 6.7%. What is the department's staffing provision for dealing with requests for assistance by residents in distress outside Hong Kong? Is there any increase?
- (b) Of the 1 470 requests for assistance cases in 2003, how many involved Hong Kong residents stranded on the Mainland and how many of these residents returned to Hong Kong with the assistance provided by the department?
- (c) Please provide details of the staff establishment that deals with requests for assistance by residents in distress outside Hong Kong, including the ranks and number of staff, and whether they have Mainland legal knowledge or are qualified for practising law on the Mainland.
- (d) With this establishment, 6 request for assistance cases have to be handled on average per day, and each case may involve legal or administrative issues on the Mainland. Is the present establishment adequate? In view of the increasing movement between Hong Kong and the Mainland, does the Security Bureau have any plans to allocate more resources so that effective assistance can be provided? If yes, what is the amount of additional resources needed? If not, please give reasons.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) comprises 1 Senior Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Clerical Assistant. Following a reorganization of duties in July 2003, the AHU comes under the line management of the head of the International Co-operation Section (ICS), who is a Chief Immigration Officer. To cope with the increasing workload, 3 Immigration Officers and 1 General Clerk have been redeployed to reinforce the Section.
- (b) Among the 1 470 request for assistance cases, there were 903 persons who were stranded in the Mainland for various reasons such as loss of travel documents, traffic accidents, hospitalization or being subject to criminal compulsory measures. We have no statistics on the number of persons who have returned to Hong Kong as a result of our efforts.
- (c) The establishment of ICS is set out in (a) above. To facilitate the discharge of their duties, the officers concerned will make reference to booklets on the “Introduction to Mainland Criminal Procedure” published by the Security Bureau, “Mainland Criminal Law and Regulations” published by the Beijing Office and “A Comparative Study - Criminal Procedure in the Mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” jointly published by the Procuratorate Theory Research Institute of the Mainland, Department of Justice and Security Bureau. Legal advice will be sought from the Department of Justice where necessary.
- (d) The responsible team has endeavoured to cope with the increasing workload to the best of their abilities. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and seek reinforcement through internal redeployment as and when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title _____
Director of Immigration

Date _____
25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB092

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Personal Documentation

1584

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the estimated expenditure for the feasibility study for introducing HKSAR passports with biometric data? Please give a detailed breakdown of the expenditure, including consultant fees (if any).

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

An in-house task team comprising one Immigration Service staff on full-time basis and supported by 9 others on part-time basis was formed in 2003 to conduct a feasibility study on HKSAR passport with biometric data. The expenditure is absorbed through redeployment of resources within the Immigration Department.

The study is in good progress and is expected to be completed within this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB093

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

1707

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The department will examine critically cases of foreign nationals seeking to stay in Hong Kong through marriages of convenience in 2004-05. In this connection, did the department reject any applications for the above reason in the past year? If yes, why?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In 2003, there were refusals of applications from foreign nationals who sought to stay in Hong Kong through marriage of convenience. Under current immigration policy, approval of an application for a foreign national to join his/her spouse (the sponsor) for residence in Hong Kong is contingent upon, among other things, a genuine matrimonial relationship between the applicant and the sponsor and that they intend to live together permanently as husband and wife.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB094

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

1708

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of passengers/seamen refused entry has increased significantly by more than 30% from 21,221 in 2002 to 27,655 in 2003. What is the reason for the sharp increase? And what are the reasons for refusing entry of the passengers/seamen concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

We believe that a major factor underscoring the increase in refusals of entry was the fact that vigilance at all levels has been stepped up to prevent visitors with doubtful purposes to enter Hong Kong. This is a key component of our initiatives in order to combat illegal employment and other illicit activities, e.g. street prostitution that have become causes for concern in our community in recent years. To an extent, the increase in refusal cases reflects the effectiveness of our preventive efforts.

The reasons for refusal include doubts over the genuineness of visit, improper documentation and the use of forged travel document.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title _____
Director of Immigration

Date _____
25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB095

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

1709

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Has it been estimated how significantly will the number of Mainland visitors increase in 2004-05 as a result of the implementation of the Mainland Individual Visit Scheme? What measure(s) will be taken to cope with the future demand of the cross-boundary movement?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Following the implementation of the "Individual Visit Scheme" (IVS) since 28 July 2003, the number of Mainland visitors to Hong Kong has continued to grow. In 2003, the daily average arrival of Mainland visitors was 23 059, representing an increase of 24.2% over 2002. In the first two months of 2004, the average daily arrival of Mainland visitors surged to 32 050. We expect this figure to continue to grow as the IVS extends to cover the entire Guangdong province by May 2004 and to other Mainland cities progressively thereafter. We however do not have any specific estimate, as much would depend on the operation of market forces.

We will continue to improve conditions at our control points and to cope with the increase in workload arising from the implementation of IVS through flexible redeployment of staff, streamlining of procedures, improvement works and use of technology. For example, following the installation of Expeditious Immigration Clearance System in 2003, the Automated Passenger and Vehicle Clearance Systems will be rolled out in phases around end 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB096

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

1710

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the number of enforcement actions taken against visitors engaged in unlawful employment after entry over the past year and how effective were the actions? Is there any indication of an upward trend of the above offence? If yes, what will the Administration do to step up enforcement actions against such offence?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In 2003, the Immigration Department conducted 5 739 operations and arrested 6 395 persons (including 5 317 illegal workers and 1 078 employers), representing an increase of 60.3% and 43.6% respectively as compared with 3 580 operations and 4 452 arrests (including 3 534 illegal workers and 918 employers) in 2002.

Protection of job opportunities for local workers remains one of the top priorities of the Administration. In this connection, an Inter-departmental Task Force was set up in April 2003 to strengthen crime-prevention measures and enforcement action against illegal activities, including illegal employment. Its membership includes the Security Bureau, Police, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Labour Department, Lands Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Through close coordination and enhanced intelligence exchange, the Task Force has launched proactive and pre-emptive measures to identify black spots of illegal employment, strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of joint operations among various departments in order to combat illegal employment in a focused manner.

We will adopt the following measures in the coming year in order to achieve better results in terms of prevention and tackling the problem at source:

- (i) To strengthen control at immigration control points so as to keep away visitors whose bona fides are in doubt;
- (ii) To implement a facial recognition system to detect visitors seeking entry on false identities;
- (iii) To step up anti-illegal employment operations and joint operations involving all enforcement agencies with a role to play;

- (iv) To hold capacity building seminars for property management companies so that they can help to prevent illegal decoration workers from entering public and private housing estates;
- (v) To step up publicity campaigns against the hiring of persons not lawfully employable and to enhance the efficiency in handling report from the public on illegal employment; and
- (vi) To maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities so as to ensure that future visit applications of Mainland residents suspected, arrested or prosecuted for involvement in illegal activities would be carefully scrutinized.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB097

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

1711

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

How effective were the efforts in investigating the use or manufacture of forged travel documents by individuals or syndicates over the past year? Did such efforts successfully lead to the dissolution of any forgery syndicate?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Combating the use of forged travel documents and preventing clandestine migrants from using Hong Kong as a springboard in their journey to destined countries are priorities of the Immigration Department. Through heightened efforts at the airport and co-operation and joint operations with counterparts in Mainland and overseas, we have seen the number of forged travel document detected dropping by 13% from 3 549 in 2002 to 3 094 in 2003.

In a joint operation with the Police and Guangdong Public Security Bureau in November 2002, the Immigration Department cracked down a cross-boundary illegal syndicate soliciting Hong Kong residents to sell their HKSAR passports. The operation eventually led to successful prosecution of 9 persons in late 2002 and 2003.

In July 2003, 17 Mainland visitors being smuggled to South Korea and USA were found hiding inside a storeroom of a container vessel 'Hyundai Kingdom' at Kwai Chung Container Terminals. They were subsequently prosecuted and repatriated to the Mainland after imprisonment. Further liaison and intelligence exchange with the Fujian Public Security Bureau have led to the arrest of three syndicate members in Fujian who now await trial in the Mainland.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI _____

Post Title Director of Immigration _____

Date 25 March 2004 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

SB098

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR
Residents outside Hong Kong

1712

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The number of requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong was 1 470 in 2003 and 994 in 2002. What is the reason for the upsurge in number? What follow-up action was taken after receipt of these cases? What is the number of cases in which assistance could not be provided successfully to the residents in distress? Why?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The number of requests for assistance increased from 994 in 2002 to 1 470 in 2003. Possible reasons are set out below:

- (a) With the partnership between Hong Kong and the Mainland getting strengthened and becoming more diversified on various fronts, more and more Hong Kong residents frequently travel to or live in the Mainland;
- (b) the increased occurrences of traffic accidents in the Mainland involving Hong Kong residents; and
- (c) with its hotline more widely publicized, the service of our Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) has been well received by the public. For example, many Hong Kong residents who have lost their identity cards or home visit permits would approach the Immigration Department for assistance.

On receipt of a request for assistance in relation to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong, the AHU will normally seek to establish contact and maintain close liaison with their family members in Hong Kong as a first step. Depending on the circumstances of individual cases, the AHU will also contact overseas Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Hong Kong, the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing, relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, as well as private organizations such as airlines and the Travel Industry Council to render suitable assistance.

The AHU did its best to render assistance in respect of all cases where a request for such assistance had been made in 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB099

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :
202 Repatriation Expenses

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1713

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The financial provision under the above subhead is \$9.857m. What is the breakdown of the expenditure involved? What is the actual total expenditure under the above subhead in 2003-04? Has any study been made regarding the growth in the number of cases of removal of illegal immigrants or immigration offenders in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The provision for repatriation expenses in 2004-05 is \$9.857 million which is the same as that in 2003-04. Of this provision, about \$9 million is set aside for expenses relating to the handling of illegal immigrants, overstayers, immigration offenders, convicted criminals and undesirable persons, while the remaining \$0.857 million relates to the handling of Vietnamese migrants /illegal migrants.

The number of repatriation cases has remained steady in recent years and we expect this to continue in 2004-05. We will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K LAI

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB100

Question Serial No.

0037

Head: 45- Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : In respect of the Fire Services Department's plan to delete 97 permanent posts in 2004-05,

1. what are the ranks and number of staff involved and the modes of deletion regarding the 97 posts?
2. is the deletion of posts related to outsourcing of services? If yes, what are the ranks, number of staff and services involved?
3. will the reduction in manpower increase the workload of firemen and ambulancemen? What are the impacts on fire and ambulance services?
4. how will the Department ensure staff morale will not be affected as a result of the reduction in manpower?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply: 1. The Department will delete 99 posts in 2004-05. However, due to the creation of 2 Ambulance Officer posts for the Penny's Bay Ambulance Depot, the net number of posts to be deleted will be 97. The ranks and number of staff involved as well as the modes of deletion are :

Mode of Deletion	Rank	Number of Staff
Deletion of vacancies arising from natural wastage	Principal Fireman	2
	Senior Fireman (Control)	4
	Fireman (Operational)	48
	Fireman (Workshop)	3
	Ambulanceman	2
	Sub-total	59

Deletion of vacancies arising from the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme/inter-departmental transfers	Assistant Clerical Officer	18
	Clerical Assistant	2
	Office Assistant	1
	Cook	3

	Senior Typist	1
	Senior Computer Operator	1
	Computer Operator I	3
	Property Attendant	2
	Workman II	7
	Official Languages Officer I	1
	Executive Officer I	1
	Sub-total	40
	Total	99

2. Outsourcing of services will be arranged for some of the deleted posts, which are established for provision of non-core services including catering, property security and cleaning services. The staff so affected include 3 Cooks, 2 Property Attendants and 7 Workman II.
3. The Fire Services Department will minimize the impact of the manpower reduction on staff workload and strive to maintain the quality of services through flexible re-deployment of resources, re-engineering/re-organizing/outsourcing of services and wider use of E-Office.
4. The Fire Services Department's management will continue to adopt an open and pragmatic attitude, strengthen communication with staff, and exchange views with them on issues of common concern. In addition to the existing communication machineries, such as the Departmental Consultative Committee, Command/Divisional Staff Relations Units, goodwill visits, etc. the Fire Services Department has been producing a series of VCDs, through which staff are briefed on the Department's latest developments by senior officers. We believe that good communication can promote trust and understanding between management and staff in meeting the challenges ahead.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB101

Question Serial No.

0947

Head: 45- Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : In respect of the “analysis of financial provision and establishment” under Programme (1) - Fire Service, please provide the following information:

1. please list the ranks and savings involved regarding the net deletion of 93 posts in 2004-05; and
2. please provide details on the posts and provision requirement regarding “provision for filling vacancies”.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: 1. The Fire Services Department will delete 93 posts in 2004-05 and the savings so achieved are about \$15.4 m. The table below shows the ranks and number of staff involved:

Rank	Number of Staff
Principal Fireman	2
Senior Fireman (Control)	4
Fireman (Operational)	48
Fireman (Workshop)	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	17
Cook	3
Senior Typist	1
Senior Computer Operator	1

Rank	Number of Staff
Computer Operator I	3
Property Attendant	2
Workman II	7

Official Languages Officer I	1
Executive Officer I	1
Total	93

2. In 2004-05, the Fire Services Department will fill 15 Senior/Station Officer and 27 Fireman vacancies. The required provision is \$7.3 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB102

Question Serial No.

0948

Head: 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : In 2002, 91.8% of emergency calls could be met within the 12-minute target response time. The percentage rose to 93.2% in 2003 and then dropped to 92.5% in 2004. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The performance pledge for ambulance service of the Fire Services Department is to respond to emergency ambulance calls within a response time of 12 minutes. The target is to meet this response time in 92.5% of all emergency calls.

In 2002, the total number of emergency ambulance calls was 505 980, representing an increase of 4.4% as compared with 2001. The response time performance was slightly below the pledged target because of the increase in the number of calls.

In 2003, the total number of emergency calls dropped to 478 109, representing a decrease of 5.5% as compared with 2002. This might be due to the effect of charging for Accident and Emergency Service and the SARS outbreak, which resulted in a decrease in public demand for using ambulance to convey patients/casualties to the Accident and Emergency Departments of hospitals. Furthermore, the Fire Services Department has implemented a series of management measures to better match the deployment of ambulance resources with service demand. These include the introduction of a staggered shift system, the establishment of an urgent care fleet, etc. As a result of the above, the response time performance in 2003 exceeded the pledged target.

It is expected that the overall demand for ambulance services will resume its rising trend in 2004. The Fire Services Department will continue to flexibly deploy ambulance resources and endeavour to meet the pledged performance target.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB103

Question Serial No.

1060

Head: 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :The population in Tung Chung area is growing and the response time of ambulance service for the area is comparatively longer. According to Programme (3), the financial provision for ambulance service in 2004-2005 will drop by 4.8%. What items will reflect such decrease in financial provision? Will such decrease in provision affect the ambulance service of Tung Chung, and how to ensure that the public can enjoy efficient and effective emergency ambulance services?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply: In 2004-05, the financial provision for ambulance service is 4.8% (or about \$41.6 m) lower than the Revised Estimate for 2003-04. The expenditure items with decrease in provision mainly include personal emolument and capital account. The reduction of provision for personal emolument is mainly due to the civil service pay cuts in 2004 and 2005. As for capital account, residual payment for the additional and replacement ambulances procured was fully or largely settled in 2003-04, resulting in a decrease in the cash flow requirement. The reduced provision for the above two items is partly offset by the additional provision required for filling of vacancies.

The reduction in provision will have no impact on the provision of ambulance service for Tung Chung. In 2003, there were only 3 075 emergency ambulance calls from Tung Chung, representing about 0.6% of the territory's total emergency calls. 97.1% of these calls were responded within the 12-minute target response time, which is 4.6% higher than the performance pledge target of 92.5%. The Fire Services Department will continue to closely monitor and flexibly re-deploy ambulance resources to meet service demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB104

Question Serial No.

1262

Head: 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : According to the document, the department will commission a new mobilizing system in 2004-05 to replace the existing one, with a view to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness in the mobilization of fire and ambulance resources. In this connection, will the Government advise this Council:

the details of the new mobilizing system and the impact of the system on service quality, performance indicators, the number of fire stations, staff establishment, expenditure on equipment and public expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: The Third Generation Mobilizing System will replace the existing one. The new system, with enhanced functions and efficiency as compared with the existing system, comprises 21 sub-systems, including a computerized mobilizing system, a geographical information system, a wireless digital network, an automatic vehicle location system, an information management system, a calling line identification system, a telephone system, a mobile data terminal, etc.

As regards service quality, the new system will enable staff of the Fire Services Communication Centre to speedily confirm the address of the scene of incident, promptly turn out resources, and provide all relevant information to facilitate emergency operations. These are conducive to further enhancing the quality of fire and ambulance services.

As regards performance indicators, the new system can conduct a more accurate and effective search for appropriate resources, and a higher accuracy of resource mobilization can be achieved through the automation of certain intercommunication and information exchange procedures. The activation time for fire and that for ambulance operations are one minute and two minutes respectively. For fire operations, the current one-minute activation time is already a very quick response and there is little scope for further shortening. As for ambulance operations, we envisage that there may be scope for further improvement. Actual improvement will be subject to thorough assessment and analysis of all relevant data after the commissioning of the new system.

The new system will have no bearing on the number of fire stations. As for the manning scale of the Fire Services Communication Centre, it is anticipated that no additional console operators are required to cope with the increasing number of calls in the next ten years. As regards expenditure on equipment and public expenditure, the approved estimate for the new system is \$718.6 m, which is funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Upon commissioning of the system, the Fire Services Department will require additional recurrent expenditure estimated at \$39.4 m each year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB105

Question Serial No.

1356

Head: 45 – Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : With regard to “Analysis of Financial Provision and Establishment” of Programme (3) - Ambulance Service, please provide the following information:

- (a) the total amount of savings as a result of the two rounds of civil service pay cut in Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05.
- (b) please list the ranks, number of staff and the amount of provision required concerning “filling vacancies” in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

- Reply:
- (a) As a result of the two rounds of civil service pay cut, the total amount of savings in the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05 will be about \$20 m.
 - (b) The Fire Services Department will fill 28 Ambulanceman posts and the provision required is about \$3.7 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB106

Question Serial No.

1378

Head: 45- Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : What is the manpower deployment of the fire stations at Braemar Hill and Penny's Bay to be commissioned in 2004-05? What is the estimated annual expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: There will be an increase of about \$15.2 m in the Department's annual recurrent expenditure upon commissioning of the two new fire stations at Braemar Hill and Penny's Bay. As for manpower, the Department needs an additional 13 Senior/Station Officers. Other required posts will be filled by existing staff through internal re-deployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB107

Question Serial No.

1379

Head: Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : What is the current progress of the construction of the new Rescue Training Centre at the West Kowloon Reclamation? What is the anticipated date of completion?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The construction works of the new Rescue Training Centre at the West Kowloon Reclamation commenced in June 2003. The piling and site formation works are in progress and will be completed by April this year. Tender documents for the superstructure construction contract are now being examined and construction works are expected to commence in May this year and complete in January 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB108

Question Serial No.

1380

Head: 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : The Department will introduce the First Responder Programme to 64 fire stations in 2004-05. What are the implementation details? What are the anticipated implications on expenditure? Has the Department evaluated the effectiveness of the Programme that was introduced last year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The First Responder Programme is a value-added service provided by the Fire Services Department to the public at district level. Its objective is to deploy frontline fire-fighters who have received basic life support training to provide appropriate treatment to casualties/patients suffering from cardiac arrest, severe haemorrhage, absence of breathing or airway obstruction before the arrival of ambulance personnel. The Fire Services Department first launched the First Responder Programme in seven fire stations on a trial basis on 8 September 2003. The scheme will be extended to 28 fire stations by the end of this month. Taking into account training progress to date, we envisage that the Programme will be extended to 64 fire stations by end 2004.

The provision required for the full implementation of the First Responder Programme is about \$2.25 m, which will be mainly used for the procurement of essential tools and equipment. The expenditure will be met by departmental expenses.

The Fire Services Department has conducted a review of the programme after the 3-month trial. All participating frontline fire-fighters were supportive to the Programme and the feedback from the public was positive. As such, the Department has decided to roll out the service to all districts by phases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services

Date _____ 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB109

Question Serial No.

1381

Head: 45- Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : What was the Department's effectiveness in monitoring the performance of registered fire service installation contractors in 2003-04? How was the monitoring conducted? Were there any cases in which contractors' fire service installations were found to be defective?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The Fire Services Department monitors the performance of registered fire service installation contractors mainly through sampling inspections. In 2003, the Fire Services Department has conducted a total of 5 532 inspections. There were 13 cases in which the contractors concerned were found to be in breach of the regulations and two out of these cases involved sub-standard fire service installations and equipment. All contractors concerned were convicted in the same year.

In addition, the above 13 cases were referred to the Fire Service Installation Contractors Disciplinary Board for disciplinary proceedings, of which nine have been completed. In accordance with the results of proceedings, the Department reprimanded the registered contractors concerned or removed their names from the register temporarily. Disciplinary proceedings for the remaining four cases will take place later this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB110

Question Serial No.

1382

Head: 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : In 2004-05, the Department will continue to coordinate and expand the Fire Safety Ambassador Scheme. What are the details and estimated expenditure? What are the details of the Scheme last year and its effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: In 2004-05, the Fire Services Department will recruit 9 000 Fire Safety Ambassadors to assist the Department in promoting fire prevention messages, enhancing fire safety awareness of the public, assisting in abatement of fire hazards and reporting them to the Department. The estimated expenditure for this Scheme for 2004-05 is \$1.2 m, which will mainly be used for conducting Fire Safety Ambassador training courses, printing newsletters and organizing activities.

As at February in 2003-04, a total of 9 443 Fire Safety Ambassadors have been recruited. During the period, they actively participated and assisted in organizing various fire prevention publicity activities. Since the introduction of the Scheme in 1997, a total of 44 068 members of the public have joined as Fire Safety Ambassadors.

With regard to assistance in abating and reporting fire hazards, 162 cases of fire hazards have been reported by the Fire Safety Ambassadors up to February in 2003-04. During the period, they also assisted in 218 cases of closing wedged-open smoke stop doors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB111

Question Serial No.

1383

Head: Head 45 – Fire Services Department Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Director of Fire Services
Officer:

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : What were the number and details of inspections on emergency vehicular access used for extinguishing fire in buildings in the year 2003-04 ? Were any irregularities found during the inspections?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: As at end February in 2003-04, a total of 3 641 inspections on designated emergency vehicular access (EVA) for fire-fighting in buildings have been conducted. Amongst them, six were related to obstruction of EVA by vehicles. They were referred to the Hong Kong Police Force for follow-up action. Two other cases were related to obstruction of EVA by fixed installations. Inspecting officers issued Fire Hazard Abatement Notices to the concerned persons in those two cases, requiring them to abate the fire hazard within the prescribed period of compliance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB112

Question Serial No.

1384

Head: 45 - Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : Please provide the details of the community education programme in 2003-04. What is the expenditure involved and how effective is the programme? Please also provide the details and estimates of expenditure of the programme in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: In 2003-04, the community education programme included training of about 1 000 members of the public on the correct application of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and the publication of 140 000 promotion leaflets to educate the public on prevention of household accidents involving the elderly and children, handling of common acute illnesses, and the proper use of ambulance service, etc. Open days were regularly held in fire stations and ambulance depots to introduce the ambulance service to the public. A large-scale promotion event on the provision of ambulance service was organized at the Olympian City in Tai Kok Tsui in November 2003. The event was attended by about 20 000 members of the public with good enthusiasm and positive response. The Department's expenditure on the community education programme in 2003-04 was about \$0.4 m.

In 2004-05, the Fire Services Department will organize a large-scale promotion campaign in the fourth quarter of 2004 to introduce the full implementation of paramedic ambulance service in the first quarter of 2005. In addition, the Department will continue to provide cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training to the public and about 150 000 leaflets will be produced to promote the ambulance service. The Department has reserved \$0.4 m for the aforementioned activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB 113

Question Serial No.

1679

Head: 45 – Fire Services Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling
Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question : What is the time required (from application to approval) by the Fire Services Department to issue a fire safety license under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance to non-residential commercial premises used for conducting the following business:

- (1) jewelry or goldsmith business; and
- (2) supermarket and department store or shopping arcade.

Asked by: Hon. CHOW Liang Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply: According to the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, prescribed commercial premises used for conducting jewelry or goldsmith business, or as a supermarket, department store, shopping arcade, etc. are not required to obtain a fire safety license. However, the Fire Services Department may issue fire safety directions to the owners or occupiers of these prescribed commercial premises after inspection, so as to improve or upgrade the fire service installations and equipment in these premises. On average, the period for complying with the fire safety direction ranges from 6 to 12 months, depending on the complexity of the required improvement works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LAM CHUN MAN

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 25.3.2004

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

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/ Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question : An estimated provision of \$328,000 will be allocated for Rent Allowance Scheme by the Customs and Excise Department in 2004/05. In this respect,

1. Is the scheme a new scheme? If not, why there was no expenditure for this item in 2002-03 and 2003-04?
2. What are the targets and the specific details of the scheme? What are the estimated number of beneficiaries and their ranks under the scheme in the coming financial year? And what is the implementation timetable for the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

1. The Rent Allowance Scheme is not a new scheme. Rent allowance is payable to officers posted outside Hong Kong to cover the rent and rates for the accommodation rented by officers for themselves and their families in the city of posting. Officers may be reimbursed the amount up to the specified ceilings. It is not a fringe benefit and is fully accountable. Before the 2004-05 Financial Year, rent allowance in respect of Customs and Excise Department was paid from Head 046 – General Expenses of the Civil Service whereas rent allowance in respect of staff in other bureaux/departments who were on external postings was paid from the vote of the concerned bureaux/departments. To align the arrangement with the normal practice, starting from 2004-05, Customs and Excise Department will pay rent allowance for its own staff who are on external postings from its own vote.
2. The Department has seconded a senior inspector to work in the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Asia and Pacific Region in Beijing. Her job is to assist in the coordination and dissemination of intelligence on customs-related offences such as drug trafficking, smuggling, etc. among member administrations within the Region. The estimated provision for the Rent Allowance Scheme covers her rental expenses during 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB115

Question Serial No.

0104

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and
Technology/ Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question : With regard to Control and Enforcement, the Customs and Excise Department will delete 53 posts and at the same time create a total of 78 posts in 2004-05. Please list out the ranks of these posts separately. Please also explain whether the decrease in the provision for 2004-05 by \$55.6 million (4.7%) than that for 2003-04 is due to the fact that most of the posts to be deleted are in the higher ranks.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2004-05, the posts to be deleted and created under Programme Area (1) Control and Enforcement are listed below -

<u>Posts to be deleted</u>	<u>No.</u>
Customs Officer	10
Senior Trade Controls Officer	4
Trade Controls Officer	2
Assistant Trade Controls Officer	1
Executive Officer II	1
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Clerical Assistant	4
Office Assistant	1
Confidential Assistant	2
Typist	1
Assistant Data Preparation Supervisor	1
Supplies Assistant	2
Special Driver	1
Motor Driver	3
Workman II	1
Cook	2
Senior Launch Master	4
Launch Assistant	8
	<hr/>
	53

/

Posts to be created

Senior Inspector	2
Chief Customs Officer	2
Senior Customs Officer	35
Customs Officer	39
	<hr/>
	78

The decrease in the level of provision for this Programme for 2004-05 over 2003-04 is mainly due to the effect of the civil service pay cut in 2004 and 2005, reduced operational expenses through streamlining procedures and adopting cost-savings measures, and reduced cashflow requirement for capital projects. The savings from the deletion of the above 53 posts will partly offset the increased expenditure arising from the creation of the 78 new posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB116

Question Serial No.

0474

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) : 103 Rewards and Special Services

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement
(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
(3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection
(4) Revenue Protection and Collection
(5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

- (a) Please provide the expenditures involved in the provision of useful information from overseas for investigations and the overseas places concerned in 2001-02, 02-03 and 03-04?
- (b) Please provide the expenditures involved in the provision of useful local information for investigations in 2001-02, 02-03 and 03-04?
- (c) Regarding the recommended provision for 2004-05, what is the estimated percentage of the relevant expenditures related to the provision of useful information from overseas for investigations?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a), (b) and (c) Expenditure under Subhead 103 "Rewards and Special Services" includes payments of rewards, special services and operational expenses incurred in covert operations, including anti-narcotics, anti-illicit fuel and cigarettes, and anti-piracy operations. The actual expenditure under this subhead in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (up to 19 March 2004) is \$7.47 million, \$7.46 million and \$8.64 million respectively. It would not be appropriate to reveal the expenditure details under this subhead because the disclosure of such information would compromise the operational effectiveness of our investigations.

Signature

Name in block letters

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB117

Question Serial No.

0475

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) : 103 Rewards and Special Services

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement
 (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
 (3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection
 (4) Revenue Protection and Collection
 (5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

- (a) Did the approved estimates for this subhead in 2002-03 and 2003-04 include the expenditure of the "Technical Services Division" under the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau? If so, what were the number of such items of expenditure and the amount involved?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure of the Technical Services Division for 2004-05? Are there any restrictions on the amount of expenditure which can be approved? If so, what are the upper limits of expenditure, and how do they compare with those in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The Customs Drug Investigation Bureau does not have a "Technical Services Division". However, the Bureau has a Technical Support Team (TST) to provide logistics and technical support services, such as servicing and maintaining operational equipment. In 2002-03 and 2003-04, the TST did not incur any expenditure under subhead 103.
- (b) For 2004-05, the TST is not expected to incur any expenditure under this subhead.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB118

Question Serial No.

0476

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) : 103 Rewards and Special Services

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement
(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
(3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection
(4) Revenue Protection and Collection
(5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

Please give the rank(s) of officers who carried out surprise checks on the above subhead in 2003-04, as well as the number of checks. During the period, how many abnormal cases were found on the accounts ?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

Periodic surprise inspections of expenses under Subhead 103 Rewards and Special Services (RSS) are carried out by officers at and above the Assistant Commissioner level. The Director of Audit and the Internal Audit Division of the department also carry out audits on RSS expenditure.

Twenty inspections were conducted in 2003-04. No irregularities were found.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

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

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement
(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
(3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection
(4) Revenue Protection and Collection
(5) Trade Controls

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and
Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

- (a) What are the number of cases and persons granted with rewards and special services payments in 2003-04? What are the number of cases involved and the actual expenditures?
- (b) Please list out the cases involving the offer of rewards for the arrest of offenders and their respective amounts, the actual number of cases paid, the actual expenditures involved, and the number of recipients of such rewards in 2003-04.
- (c) What are the expenditures on the procurement and maintenance of equipment under this subhead in 2003-04?
- (d) The estimated expenditure under this subhead for 2004-05 is \$9 m. How much of the estimated expenditure will be used for rewards for the arrest of offenders and how much will be used for procurement and maintenance of equipment?
- (e) The estimated expenditure under this subhead for 2004-05 is \$9 m. How much of the estimated expenditure will be used for the suppression of serious crimes and the protection of intellectual property rights? Please give the breakdown figures.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) and (c) There were 49 reward payments made in 2003-04. The total expenditure of rewards and special services in 2003-04 (up to 17 March 2004) is \$8.64 million. As subhead 103 provides funding for covert operations and intelligence gathering, it would not be appropriate to reveal further expenditure details under this subhead.
- (b) The department did not offer any rewards for the arrest of offenders in 2003-04.
- (d) Rewards are paid to informers who provide information leading to discovery of offences with seizures of offending goods and/or arrests. Special services payments are made in relation to covert operations. The two expenditure items are within the same subhead, and funds are transferable between them if necessary.
- (e) The expenditure under this subhead will be used for combating Customs-related offences. There is no specific allocation to different types of Customs-related offences.

Signature

Name in block letters

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Post Title

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB120

Question Serial No.

0579

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and
Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question :

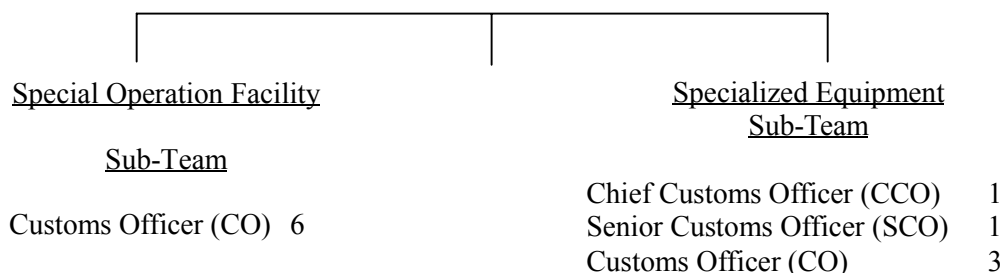
Please list the breakdown figures for the establishment and ranks in the “Technical Services Division” under the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau together with the total provision for 2004-05, as well as the work of the “Technical Services Division” in 2003-04, including the technical support services it has provided.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

The Customs Drug Investigation Bureau does not have a “Technical Services Division”. However, the Bureau has a Technical Support Team (TST) to provide logistics and technical support services such as servicing and maintenance of operational equipment. In 2004-05, the breakdown of the establishment of the TST by rank is as follows -

Technical Support Team

Inspector (I) 1



The salary provision for the TST in 2004-05 is about \$2.7 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB121

Question Serial No.

0658

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and
Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question : Under the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05", the Customs and Excise Department indicated that it would continue to improve clearance services to facilitate efficient passenger and cargo flows across the boundary. What are the relevant specific measures? What is the projected target for efficiency enhancement? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose

Reply :

The measures for further improving clearance services in the coming year to facilitate efficient passenger and cargo flows across the boundary are as follows -

- (a) Customs Clearance Cubicle for baggage examination
The department has been installing Customs Clearance Cubicles at various boundary control points by phases since 2003. The new clearance mode will provide more privacy for passengers undergoing baggage examination and smoothen the passenger flow at the control points. The Lowu project, which costs \$8.75 million, is the last phase of the initiative and will be completed by mid 2004.
- (b) Reengineering of customs clearance procedure for goods vehicles
In 2003, through a series of process reengineering and automation, the department successfully reduced the clearance time for laden vehicles from 45 seconds to 30 seconds. In 2004, the department will introduce further automation with a view to reducing the clearance time from 30 seconds to 27 seconds. The capital cost for further automation is \$4.84 million and the estimated recurrent cost is about \$0.45 million per annum.
- (c) Development of Road Cargo Manifest System (ROMAN)
The department is actively working with the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and other government departments on the development of an electronic manifest system for cross-boundary road cargoes, which will facilitate the submission of pre-arrival / pre-departure cargo data and the provision of more speedy customs clearance service at the land boundary. Details of the implementation plan and development cost for the system are being worked out.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB122

Question Serial No.

0708

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 perational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury/Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question : Please explain why there are increases in all kinds of operational expenses except salaries and Grant to the Customs and Excise Service Welfare Fund.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The department has been operating under the one-line vote arrangement since 2002-03 which authorizes the controlling officer to utilise resources flexibly under Subhead 000 Operational Expenses to meet the requirements of the department. Despite the increasing demand for services of the department, the provision for the Operational Expenses for 2004-05 is \$29.8 million (or 1.6%) lower than the revised estimates for 2003-04. This has been achieved through containing the growth of the establishment of the department and providing our services through other means.

For 2004-05, the department has to undertake a number of new activities including the implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, the strengthening of the cross-boundary services for passengers and vehicles and providing customs clearance services at the new Container Terminal No. 9 at Kwai Chung and new Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal.

Despite the above new requirements, the department would still manage to fulfil its obligations with a reduced number of staff. To enable us to do so, we have been adopting measures such as making use of more information technology systems (e.g. Electronic Data Interchange System for Cargo Manifests) to replace manual processes, installing specialist equipment (e.g. fixed and mobile x-ray systems) for the efficient examination of cargo and luggage, hiring of services and asking staff to work overtime when necessary to maximize our operational efficiency. This largely explains why we require less provision for salaries but more for departmental expenses and allowances within the overall reduced level of total Operational Expenses of the department.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB123

Question Serial No.

1058

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and
Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question : Programme (1) indicates that the financial provision for control and enforcement in 2004-05 will be decreased by 4.7%. With the reduction of the above financial provision, how will the authority continue to improve clearance services to facilitate efficient passenger and cargo flows across the boundary?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The decrease in the level of provision for this Programme for 2004-05 over 2003-04 is mainly due to the effect of the civil service pay cut in 2004 and 2005, reduced operational expenses through streamlining procedures and adopting cost-savings measures, and reduced cashflow requirement for capital projects. The savings from the deletion of the 53 posts for administrative and support services will partly offset the funds for the creation of 78 posts for frontline operations at various control points. In addition, the department will improve clearance services in the coming year through the following measures -

- (a) Customs Clearance Cubicle for baggage examination
The department has been installing Customs Clearance Cubicles at various boundary control points by phases since 2003. The new clearance mode will provide more privacy for passengers undergoing baggage examination and smoothen the passenger flow at the control points. The Lowu project which is the last phase of the initiative will be completed by mid 2004.
- (b) Reengineering of customs clearance procedure for goods vehicles
In 2003, through a series of process reengineering and automation, the department successfully reduced the clearance time for laden vehicles from 45 seconds to 30 seconds. In 2004, the department will introduce further automation with a view to reducing the clearance time from 30 seconds to 27 seconds.
- (c) Development of Road Cargo Manifest System (ROMAN)
The department is actively working with the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and other government departments on the development of an electronic manifest system for cross-boundary road cargoes, which will facilitate the submission of pre-arrival / pre-departure cargo data and the provision of more speedy customs clearance service at the land boundary. Details of the implementation plan and development cost for the system are being worked out.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB124

Question Serial No.

1261

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security/Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury/Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question : The estimate for "Job-related allowances" increases from last year's Revised Estimate of \$8,175,000 to \$9,050,000 for 2004/05, representing an increase of about 11%. Regarding this, would the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) What are the reasons for and the nature of the increase? Please list out the amounts of increase by reasons and nature.
- (b) Regarding the proposed increase in the expenditure of Job-related allowances, will the department consider measures to streamline work procedures and reduce expenses or redeploy other resources to enhance efficiency? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The increase of \$0.875 million (or 10.7%) in Job-related Allowances in 2004-05 over the revised estimate for 2003-04 is mainly to meet the increased operational needs arising from the establishment of two new Explosives Detector Dog Teams, manning of the four new high speed pursuit crafts to strengthen maritime patrol duties for combating sea smuggling, and the increase in the requirement for undertaking driving and detective duties to strengthen enforcement action against Customs related offences.
- (b) The department has streamlined work procedures and reduced expenses and will continue to do so. The department exercises a tight control over the payment of Job-related allowances. Only where there are definite operational needs and where the specified payment criteria are met will the allowances be paid. The department will, together with the Civil Service Bureau, review the job-related allowances payable to its staff on a regular basis to ensure that only justified ones will continue to be paid.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB125

Question Serial No.

1369

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : The number of MDMA (ecstasy) tablets, a psychotropic drug, seized by the Customs and Excise Department in 2003 increased significantly when compared to that of 2002. May I ask the authority:

- Through what channels was the drug seized?
- What are the main sources of illegal inflow of the drug into Hong Kong?
- How to strengthen the measures against illegal inflow of psychotropic drugs into Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

About 75% of the MDMA tablets seized in 2003 were smuggled by drug couriers via the airport. Besides, small quantities of MDMA were smuggled via the land boundary control points. The high volume of seizure in 2003 was attributable to a significant case in which 22 542 tablets of MDMA were found from two Hong Kong men who were about to depart for Japan in January 2003.

2. The major sources of "ecstasy" are Europe and the Mainland.
3. The department takes the following measures in the suppression of the inflow of psychotropic drugs -
 - (a) strengthening intelligence collection and analysis to support the application of risk management to achieve greater accuracy for screening and selection of passengers and cargoes for inspection;
 - (b) enhancing cooperation and intelligence exchange with the Mainland and overseas enforcement agencies focusing on a pre-emptive approach to intercept psychotropic drugs before they reach Hong Kong;
 - (c) stepping up enforcement actions by mounting joint/parallel operations with other law enforcement agencies in Hong Kong and the Mainland at various control points; and
 - (d) enhancing anti-drugs publicity at control points.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB126

Question Serial No.

1454

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : It is one of the responsibilities of the Customs and Excise Department to trace the drug traffickers' assets derived from offences committed in or outside Hong Kong. For the past year, how many cases were detected due to the information provided by institutions, such as the financial institutions, with the duty of disclosure under the laws of Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Under the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance and the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance, everyone, including financial institutions, has a statutory obligation to disclose information on suspected transactions. During the past year, there was no successful prosecution arising from financial institutions' disclosures as required by the above ordinances.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB127

Question Serial No.

1603

Head : 31 Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : For poisons/anti-biotics seized in Hong Kong, please provide the following information -

- (a) The actual figures of poisons/anti-biotics seized in 2003 were projected on the basis of the actual performance of the first 11 months of the year only. But why is there a substantial difference between these figures and the actual figures for 2002?
- (b) There was an increase of 3 seizure cases of poisons/anti-biotics in 2003 when compared with that of 2002 but the volume (kg) and number of tablets seized had decreased significantly. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) The substantial difference between the seizure figures in 2002 and 2003 was mainly attributable to the detection of two significant cases in 2002, which led to the seizure of large quantities of poisons and antibiotics (i.e. 12 kg and about 55 000 tablets of poisons and antibiotics).
- (b) Most of the cases detected in 2003 were related to pharmaceutical products brought in by Hong Kong citizens returning from their visits to the Mainland. In these cases, the offenders usually carried a small quantity of pharmaceutical products. This explains the drop in the total quantities of poisons and antibiotics seized despite a slight increase in the number of cases detected in 2003 as compared to 2002.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

TIMOTHY H M TONG

Commissioner of Customs and Excise

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB128

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0027

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Over admission is still a common phenomenon in Hong Kong's prisons and there have been several occasions when the correctional services staff express their discontent concerning the acute shortage of manpower. However, the Administration plans to delete a further 80 permanent posts in 2004-05. Would the Administration inform this Council of the following:

1. Which ranks (and the corresponding number of staff) will be affected by the deletion of these 80 posts? How will these posts be deleted?
2. Whether the deletion of posts is related to the outsourcing of work? If so, please give a breakdown of the ranks, number of staff and kinds of work that will be affected.
3. After the reduction in staff establishment, what will be the ratio of frontline staff to inmates as compared with the existing one? Is the new ratio reasonable and proper?
4. Will the new ratio of frontline staff to inmates result in an increase in workload of and work pressure on the correctional services staff? If so, what measures will be taken by the Department to reduce and allay such workload and pressure respectively? How will the Department ensure that the quality of service and the morale of its staff will not be compromised?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

1. The ranks of the 80 posts and the corresponding number of posts to be deleted in 2004-05 are set out below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of posts to be deleted</u>
<u>Disciplined posts</u>	
Chief Officer	1
Principal Officer	8
Officer	12
Assistant Officer I	42
Assistant Officer II	1
Technical Instructor	1
Instructor	2

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of posts to be deleted</u>
sub-total:	67
<u>Civilian posts</u>	
Clerical Officer	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Clerical Assistant	2
Confidential Assistant	1
Personal Secretary I	2
Personal Secretary II	1
Workman II	2
sub-total:	13
Total:	80

The deletion of posts will be achieved through organizational restructuring and work process re-engineering within the Department, including re-ranking of posts to allow for redistribution of duties; re-assessing job requirements and merging work areas to cut down manpower provision; and reducing staff resources in less essential services. All deletion of posts will be absorbed through natural wastage or internal redeployment.

2. The deletion of posts is not related to outsourcing of work.
3. After the reduction in staff establishment, the ratio of frontline staff (custodial staff in CSD's context) to inmates as compared with the existing one is summarized below:

1 staff : 3.4 inmates (as at 15.3.2004 before the deletion of 80 posts)

1 staff : 3.5 inmates (projected figure after the deletion of 80 posts)

There is no significant change in the ratio of staff to inmates.

4. The savings concerned are generally achieved through careful re-engineering of work processes, re-prioritizing of needs and re-organizing of departmental structure. We have also done extensive job-matching and introduced the use of technology where appropriate. By these methods, we would be able to maintain an acceptable standard of service after implementing the savings proposal. As there will be minimal change in the ratio of staff to inmates, there will be no significant impact on staff workload and work pressure.

To maintain the quality of service and staff morale, we will step up training and coaching to ensure that the quality of our staff will not be compromised while implementing the savings proposal. In fact, we have all along been maintaining a regular dialogue with all levels of staff, and review with them regularly on how best to ensure smooth delivery of our services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB129

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

0028

Programme : (1) Prison Management / (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The Correctional Services Department will reduce staff allowances and job-related allowances from the revised \$43.99 m and \$27.73 m in 2003-04 to the estimated \$30.51 m and \$26.79 m in 2004-05 respectively. Would the Administration inform this Council of the following:

1. Which existing allowances, including job-related allowances, will cease and which will be adjusted? What is the range of adjustment?
2. How many staff by ranks will be affected? What are the average amounts of reduction per month respectively?
3. Has the Department consulted its staff before the deletion of or adjustment in allowances took place? If so, what is the result of consultation? If not so, why? Will the Department undertake to consult its staff before deciding to delete or reduce other allowances in the future?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

(1) & (2)

Staff Allowances

The reduction of staff allowances provision from the revised \$43.99 m in 2003-04 to \$30.51 m in 2004-05 is mainly attributable to a reduction in the provision for Standby Duty Allowance. CSD has reviewed its operational needs and concluded that there is scope to reduce the number of Assistant Officers (AO) performing "Sleep-in Standby" duties in some CSD institutions. As a result, the maximum number of AOI & II who are required to perform "Sleep-in Standby" at CSD institutions every night will be reduced from 34 and 94 respectively in 2003-04 to 27 and 57 respectively in 2004-05. Standby duty allowance is payable on an hourly basis at a specified percentage of the officer's monthly salary. The allowance rate will be reduced in step with the civil service pay reduction which will take effect from 1 January 2005. The 2004-05 draft estimate for staff allowances provision has taken this factor into account.

Job-related Allowances

The following job-related allowances were ceased in 2003-04. The corresponding ranks and number of staff affected, as well as the amount of the allowances are set out below –

Allowances that have been ceased in 2003-04	Reasons for cessation	Ranks of officers affected	No. of officers affected	Average amount of allowance reduced per officer per month
Remote Stations Allowance for civilian staff working and living at remote areas	The staff concerned no longer meet the established payment criteria	Clinical Psychologist Senior Masters Masters Senior Clerical Officers Clerical Officers Assistant Clerical Officers Clerical Assistants Office Assistants Personal Secretary II Supplies Assistants Supplies Supervisors II Artisan Telephone Operators Workmen II Works Supervisors II	1 2 4 2 7 31 16 4 1 5 9 1 2 17 2	\$572 or \$1,143 a month depending on the location of the institution where the staff works
Hardship Allowance for civilian staff	Working in prison setting and contact with mental inmates are no longer considered a hardship that should attract an allowance	Senior Clerical Officer Clerical Officers Assistant Clerical Officers Clerical Assistants Supplies Supervisors II Personal Secretary II Cooks Workmen II Dispenser	1 2 2 2 1 1 7 6 1	\$365 a month

- (3) The Department consulted the affected staff on the proposed cessation of the Remote Stations Allowance and Hardship Allowance before implementation and explained to them the rationale underlying the proposal. Understandably, the staff would wish the payment of the allowance to continue. The decision to cease the payment of the two allowances to the affected staff had taken into account feedback received during the staff consultation and the relevant policy considerations. The Department will, in line with the established practice, carry out staff consultation as appropriate before implementing changes to the payment of allowances in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB130

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0578

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Would the Administration, by classifying inmates/prisoners into females, those under 21 and those at 21 or above, list out their actual occupation rates in each institution in 2003-04? Amongst these groups, which institutions are not detaining remands/inmates/offenders under 21 and those at 21 or above separately and what is the population for each? What is the progress on measures to relieve the overcrowding problem?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The average daily population¹ and occupancy rate of female penal institutions in 2003-04 are listed below:

Institution	Average Daily Population		Average Occupancy Rate (%)
	Age >=21	Age <21	
Tai Lam Centre for Women	665	2	239.8
Chimawan Correctional Institution	611	0	180.9
Victoria Prison (Female Section)	428	9	157.2
Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre (Annex)	272	28	152.7
Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution	13	215	142.6
Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre (Female Section)	24	2	127.2
Chimawan Drug Addiction Treatment Centre	233	9	127.1
Ma Hang Prison	193	0	117.4
Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre	0	16	39.6
Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre	0	8	34

¹ The average daily population is calculated from 1 April 2003 to 19 March 2004.

- (b) Inmates under 21 and inmates at 21 or above are kept separately if detained in the same institution.
- (c) The following measures have been carried out to alleviate the overcrowding problem in female penal institutions : -
- (i) Conversion of the entire Ma Hang Prison by phases to provide 220 penal places for female prisoners. Works completed in February 2004.
 - (ii) Construction of sleeping accommodation to provide 80 additional penal places with associated workshop facilities for female inmates at Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre (Annex). Works commenced in April 2003 for completion by April 2004.
 - (iii) The Finance Committee has approved \$229.4 million to convert some of the staff married quarters at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre into a 650-place temporary female prison for reprovisioning of Victoria Prison and to accommodate more female prisoners. Works commenced in March 2004 and the project is scheduled for completion in end 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB131

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0583

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Would the Administration, by the type of institution, list out the figures of male and female remands or convicted offenders at or under 21 in custody in 2003-04 as well as the estimated figures in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply :

The average daily population under the age of 21 in 2003-04 by type of institution is shown below:

Type of Sentence	Male	Female
Sentenced Persons		
Prison	212	204
Training Centre	215	25
Drug Addiction Treatment Centre	71	9
Detention Centre	130	Not Applicable
Rehabilitation Centre	85	25
Remands / Detainees	179	24
Overall Penal Population	891	287

Note 1 : The average daily population is calculated from 1 April 2003 to 19 March 2004.

Note 2 : Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

We do not have projections on the daily penal population by age group.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB132

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0974

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Have the authorities concerned added more resources and taken measures to prevent the recurrence of incidents like that happened a couple of months ago when senior officials of the Department were attacked by a prisoner in the presence of visiting Justices of the Peace?
- (b) What is the average unit cost of each prisoner at present?
- (c) What is the difference between the unit cost of a prisoner convicted of breaching the condition of stay and that of an ordinary prisoner?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) In the light of the attack on CSD staff at Stanley Prison on 26 January 2004, additional precautionary measures have been implemented to strengthen the management of dangerous prisoners. Adequate escort will be arranged and, where necessary, mechanical restraints such as handcuffs will be applied on a dangerous prisoner when he is taken to interview with visitors. CSD will ensure that there is no physical contact between such prisoner and the visitors anytime during the interview. Specially trained staff are assigned for the escort duties through internal deployment and no additional resources are required.
- (b) The revised estimate of the operating expenditure of CSD is \$2,578.5 m in 2003-04 and the average daily penal population is estimated at 12 632 persons.

It is difficult to provide an estimation of the average unit cost of detaining a prisoner. This is because apart from detaining prisoners, the day-to-day operation of CSD includes the admission and discharge of prisoners, escort of prisoners to and from courts and hospitals, transfer of prisoners in custody between penal institutions, handling visits to prisoners, provision of training and supervision in workshops, as well as medical and welfare services for prisoners. In addition, there are on average 3 000 discharged prisoners receiving aftercare counselling/supervision every day. Some of such services are not applicable to the penal population. If an estimation has to be made on the average daily cost of detaining a prisoner, a rough calculation is to divide the operating expenditure by the penal population and the corresponding figure in 2003-04 is \$558.

- (c) CSD has not made such estimation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB133

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1260

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

As mentioned in the draft Estimates, the occupancy rate of the prisons stood at 119% in 2003 and the prime task of CSD in 2004-05 would be to continue relieving prison overcrowding through expansion and improvement of prison facilities. In this respect, would the Administration advise –

- (a) What is the annual average population, and the respective percentage of total penal population, of Mainland offenders in custody since 2002? What is the total expenditure to be incurred in detaining Mainland offenders in the estimate for 2004?
- (b) Does the Security Bureau have any plans in hand to expedite the transfer of Mainland offenders back to the Mainland? Please give a brief account of the progress and the implications on occupancy rate.
- (c) Which prisons are scheduled for expansion and improvement works in 2004-05? How will the occupancy rates of these prisons be improved after such works? What is the expenditure to be incurred in each of these works? Please list out the details.
- (d) When will the proposed works as mentioned above be submitted to the Legislative Council?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) Since 2002, the annual average daily Mainland Chinese penal population and the average daily total penal population are as follows:

Year	Average Daily Population		Proportion of Mainland Chinese
	Mainland Chinese	Total Population	
2002	3 569	12 412	28.8%
2003	3 674	12 472	29.5%
2004 (Jan – 19 Mar)	4 074	12 723	32.0%

All prisoners receive the same treatment irrespective of nationality or ethnicity. CSD does not make a separate estimate on the expenditure incurred/to be incurred for detaining a specific group of prisoners.

- (b) **The authorities of the HKSAR and the Mainland commenced discussions on the arrangements for transfer of sentenced persons in March 2000. Because of the differences in the legal and judicial systems of the two places and the complexity of the issues involved, the discussions have not been completed. We will continue to pursue this subject with a view to reaching early agreement with the relevant Mainland experts on an appropriate arrangement for the transfer of sentenced persons between the HKSAR and the Mainland.**

The transfer of a prisoner is subject to the conclusion of a satisfactory arrangement between the two governments concerned and the consent of the prisoner himself. It is not clear how many Mainlanders would apply to be transferred, even if a transfer arrangement with the Mainland were in place. Moreover as stipulated in all the transfer agreements that we have signed with other countries, the prospective transferee must have a balance of at least one year to serve at the time of the request for transfer. As of end 2003, the majority (61%) of all Mainlanders imprisoned in Hong Kong were serving a sentence of one year or less. We therefore expect that, overall, implementation of the transfer arrangement with the Mainland will not have a major impact on the size of our penal population.

- (c) The following expansion and improvement works will be carried out in 2004-05:-

(i) Victoria Prison

The Victoria Prison will be decommissioned to enable the release of its site at Central for tourism and heritage development. The Lai Chi Kok old staff married quarters will be converted into a 650-place temporary female prison for reprovisioning the penal places at Victoria Prison and to provide additional penal places to relieve overcrowding in female institutions. Works on the project started in March 2004 for completion by end 2005. The capital cost is about \$230 m.

(ii) Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre

The Department has proposed to construct additional dormitory accommodation at the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre. The proposed project will provide additional sleeping accommodation and dayrooms for 144 remands. Subject to funding approval, the project is scheduled to commence in 2004 for completion in 2005. The capital cost of the project is about \$14 m.

Based on the penal population as of 19 March 2004, and assuming no change in the penal population, the overall occupancy rate of penal institutions will be reduced from 115.7% to 112.2% after completion of the above mentioned projects.

- (d) (i) The 'Reprovisioning of Victoria Prison at Lai Chi Kok Old Staff Married Quarters Site' project was approved by the Finance Committee in May 2003. No further submission to the Legislative Council is required.
- (ii) Since the cost of the 'Proposed Additional Dormitory Accommodation at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre' project is below \$15 m and within the ambit of Minor Building Works, submission to the Legislative Council for funding approval is not required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB134

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1370

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Why was the average daily number of young prisoners and inmates engaged in correctional education (including vocational training) dropped from the actual 1 128 in 2002 to the actual 849 in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The decrease in the number of young prisoners and inmates receiving education (including vocational training) is mainly due to the following reasons:

- (a) The average daily number of young prisoners and inmates decreased from 1 128 in 2002 to 1 012 in 2003; and
- (b) As one of the preventive measures against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) during its outbreak in 2003, all evening classes provided to the young inmates in drug addiction treatment centres and detainees of detention centre were suspended from mid-April to September 2003. This resulted in the decrease in the average daily number of young prisoners and inmates receiving education in 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB135

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1371

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The expenses of prisoners' welfare are decreasing markedly year after year, would the Administration provide:

- (1) the reasons;
- (2) a breakdown of expenses on prisoners' welfare over the past 5 years?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

(1) & (2)

The breakdown of expenses under "prisoners' welfare" over the past five years is as follows and the major changes are explained in the corresponding footnotes:

	Actual Expenditure 1999-2000	Actual Expenditure 2000-2001	Actual Expenditure 2001-2002	Actual Expenditure 2002-2003	Revised Estimates 2003-2004
Adult Education Classes	2,149,087 ¹	1,782,998	2,301,784 ³	1,869,808	1,040,000 ⁴
Young Offenders' Education Classes	1,245,025	1,814,000 ²	1,588,942	1,518,523	1,500,000
Recreation Expenses	349,700	320,463	398,965	390,311	424,000
Religious Ministration	536,470	585,240	611,585	602,855	614,000
Hobby Classes	-- ¹	355,681	262,326	308,874	250,000 ⁵
Total Expenses	\$4,280,282	\$4,858,382	\$5,163,602	\$4,690,371	\$3,828,000

Note :

- 1 No separate account kept on "Hobby Classes" before 1999-2000 as such expenditure was included under "Adult Education Classes."

- 2 Increased expenditure to support the opening of Multi-media Learning Centres at two young offender institutions (Tai Tam Gap and Lai Sun Correctional Institutions) in 2000-01.
- 3 Increased expenditure to support the opening of the computer room at Cat. A Complex, Stanley Prison and the Multi-media Learning Centres at Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Shek Pik Prison.
- 4
 - Suspension of evening education classes conducted by part-time teachers from April to June and during September 2003 due to the outbreak of SARS.
 - Hourly rate for part-time teachers adjusted from \$295 to \$215 per hour with effect from September 2003 to reflect market rate.
- 5 Suspension of hobby classes conducted by external instructors/non-government organizations from April to September 2003 due to SARS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB136

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1455

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Although the number of concerted acts of indiscipline in 2003 was lower, individual indiscipline acts, especially some attacks on correctional services staff, attracted public attention. Has the Correctional Services Department taken measures in respect of management and discipline training, including the provision of more psychological counselling services, to cope with the situation?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

CSD has all along been taking a serious view on incidents concerning "violence on staff". As part of their basic training, staff are provided with training on communication skills, confrontation/conflict/stress management, complaints handling, managing problematic inmates, self-defence tactics, situational training, etc. Staff continually receive the above training at different stages of their career. Clinical Psychologists will provide post-incident counselling services to staff as necessary. As regards prisoners, regular counselling sessions are conducted by the Clinical Psychologists for those identified to have adjustment and/or behavioural problems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB137

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1456

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The Administration will replace the existing mechanical patrol monitoring system in penal institutions with smart card patrol management system in 2004-05. What are the concrete measures for the replacement and the advantages of the new system? Will the replacement affect or reduce the in-person inspection and monitoring by correctional services staff on prisoners/inmates/remands and thus overlook such incidents as the mishaps causing deaths of detainees in detention rooms?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The smart card patrol management system is one of the on-going projects to upgrade the surveillance systems in penal institutions/premises. The smart card system will replace the mechanical system used to record the visit history of patrol staff. As of March 2004, 21 penal institutions/premises have installed the smart card system. The remaining eight penal institutions/premises will install the new system in two phases in 2004 and 2005.

The smart card system is more user-friendly than the mechanical system and will enhance the efficiency of patrol duties. The implementation of the smart card system will not reduce the frequency of visits to the required locations by patrol staff nor lower the level of direct supervision of inmates and prisoners.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB138

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1457

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under this Programme, the actual success rates of "the re-integration programmes within the supervision period" among prisoners/inmates in 2003 are higher than those in 2002. Is it because the average daily number of "prisoners and inmates under re-integration cum supervision programmes" and of "young prisoners and inmates engaged in correctional education" in 2003 are both lower than those of 2002? And as a result of relatively fewer participants, the success rates of the re-integration programmes in 2003 are therefore higher?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The success rate of a re-integration programme is defined as the percentage of expired supervision cases without reconviction during a specific year. For cases involving persons discharged from drug addiction treatment centres, the persons should also remain drug-free. The number of expired cases and the overall success rate for 2002 and 2003 are as follows :

	2002	2003
Total no. of expired cases	2 976	2 502
Total no. of successful cases	2 171	1 930
Overall success rate	73.0 %	77.1 %

The computation of the success rate of a re-integration programme is based on the percentage of reconviction/relapse to drugs against the expired cases. In general, the average daily number of prisoners of a particular re-integration or supervision programme has no direct bearing on its success rate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PANG SUNG YUEN

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Head : 23-Auxiliary Medical Service Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer : Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please provide information on the types of duties the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) was involved during the SARS outbreak last year.
- (b) Please provide information on whether the existing AMS members have received any training in handling infectious diseases. If the answer is affirmative, please provide the number of these members and their percentage under the AMS establishment. If the answer is negative, please confirm whether there would be any plans and budgets for conducting such training during 2004-05. What would be the budgets and how many members would be covered? If there are no plans or budgets for conducting such training, what would be the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

- (a) Under the health surveillance programme drawn up to combat the SARS outbreak last year, the AMS assisted the Department of Health in temperature screening of all inbound and outbound travellers at the Hong Kong International Airport. This temperature screening service was subsequently extended to cover all travellers arriving at land and sea immigration control points, where an average of 350 AMS members were deployed daily until mid-November 2003. At the peak of the SARS outbreak, the AMS also mobilised members for duty at the medical stations set up in the Amoy Gardens, where they carried out temperature checks on residents and distributed SARS-related information. In addition, AMS members reinforced the staff at the four designated medical centres and the three isolation centres established under the mandatory medical surveillance programme for persons who had had close contact with SARS patients and the Amoy Gardens residents who were required to undergo the 10-day period of quarantine.
- (b) Starting from June 2003, AMS has provided training to members on handling infectious diseases, and as at today, 500 members have completed such training. Together with 260 doctors and nurses under the AMS establishment, there are a total of 760 volunteer members (representing 17.2% of the total number of AMS members) who have received training in handling infectious diseases. In 2004-05, AMS plans to include the infectious diseases training as part of the general regular training without incurring additional resources.

Signature	
Name in block letters	CHAN Yiu-wing
Post Title	Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service
Date	25 March 2004

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

Head : 23-Auxiliary Medical Service Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer : Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the demand of first aiders, please provide information on:

- (a) According to "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05", first aid training will be provided to cope with the demand for first aiders arising from the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulation. While the actual number of persons attending first aid qualifying course in 2002 and 2003 were 3 650 and 3 860 respectively, the estimated number of persons who will attend first aid qualifying course in 2004 is 3 800, with a corresponding decrease of 2% in the financial provision. Does it mean that the demand of first aiders in the community has slowed down?
- (b) Is there any indicator that can show the demand of first aiders in the community, e.g. adequate, insufficient or serious shortage?

Asked by: Hon. *LI Ka-cheung, Eric*

Reply:

- (a) The increase in the number of participants for first aid training in 2003 was mainly due to the additional demand of the Department of Health (DH). In order to take over AMS's duty of temperature screening of inbound and outbound travellers arriving at land and sea control points, DH recruited a large number of Health Surveillance Supervisors and Assistants in 2003 whose basic entry requirement was the possession of a valid first aid certificate. In anticipation of the decrease in number of Health Surveillance Supervisors and Assistants to be recruited by DH in 2004, the number of persons attending the first aid training in 2004 is estimated to be smaller than that in 2003.
- (b) As the first aid training provided by AMS are mainly for civil servants, there is no indicator to show the demand for first aiders in the community.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHAN Yiu-wing

Chief Staff Officer,
Auxiliary Medical Service

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB141

Question Serial No.

0776

Head: 23-Auxiliary Medical Service

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the "Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision", the decrease in provision is mainly due to the re-engineering of the Auxiliary Medical Service. Please give an outline of the re-engineering and explain how it relates to the decrease in provision.

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply:

The decrease in provision as mentioned in the "Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision" is mainly due to the re-engineering and repackaging of AMS training activities. It does not refer to the re-engineering of the AMS. In 2004-05, courses run by the AMS Training Institute will be repackaged to reduce the requirement for training provision. New training activities include delivery of teaching kits to members prior to their attending classes, and introduction of e-learning through the Internet, so that the number of hours spent in classrooms can be reduced. By so doing, the amount of pay and allowances can be reduced.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	CHAN Yiu-wing
Post Title	Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service
Date	25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB142

Question Serial
No.

0777

Head: 23-Auxiliary Medical Service
Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses
Programme: Auxiliary Medical Service
Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many out of the establishment are front-line staff and how many are administrative staff?
Please prepare a breakdown according to ranks and numbers.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply:

Out of AMS's establishment of 99 posts, 25 are front-line staff, 7 are administrative staff, and the rest are supporting staff such as Workman II and Motor Drivers. Breakdowns of front-line staff and administrative staff are as follows:

<u>Front-line Staff</u>		<u>Administrative Staff</u>	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>
5	Senior Operations & Training Officer	1	Chief Staff Officer
20	Operations & Training Officer	1	Staff Officer
		1	Senior Executive Officer
		1	Executive Officer II
		1	Supplies Officer
		1	Official Languages Officer II
		1	Senior Clerical Officer
Total	<u>25</u>	Total	<u>7</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHAN Yiu-wing

Chief Staff Officer,
Auxiliary Medical Service

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB143

Question Serial No.

1259

Head : 23-Auxiliary Medical Service
Subhead (No. & title) : 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)
Programme : Auxiliary Medical Service
Controlling Officer : Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service
Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

According to the Draft Estimates of Expenditure for 2004-05, the reduced expenditure is partly offset by the provision for the replacement of fire services installation at the Auxiliary Medical Service Headquarters (AMS HQ)

- (a) Please provide information on replacement items and estimated cost of the fire services installation at AMS HQ.
- (b) Regarding the replacement of fire services installation at AMS HQ, did AMS act according to the instruction of the Fire Services Department? If the answer is negative, please explain why such replacement is needed.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) Replacement items and estimated cost of the fire services installation at Auxiliary Medical Service Headquarters (AMS HQ) are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Pump Installation	\$ 296,000
2. Automatic Fire Alarm Installation	197,000
3. Hose Reels	29,000
Total :	<u>522,000</u>

- (b) The fire services installation at AMS HQ has been in use for over 13 years. The performance of the system has deteriorated with frequent false alarms and high down-time. Annual overhaul of the system can neither extend its lifetime nor improve its performance. To ensure a reliable fire fighting system for the HQ building, the maintenance contractor has recommended replacement of the fire services installation.

Signature	
Name in block letters	CHAN Yiu-wing
Post Title	Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service
Date	25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB144

Question Serial No.

0378

Head: 166 - Government Flying Service Subhead (No. & title): 000 - Operational expenses

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

Why is there an increase (of 140%) in the Civil Service Provident Fund contribution from \$47,000 in the revised estimate for 2003-04 to \$113,000 in the estimate for 2004-05 when the number of staff has decreased?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

Civil Service Provident Fund (CSPF) is applicable to officers appointed to the civil service on or after 1 June 2000 on new entry terms and when they progress onto permanent terms of appointment upon completion of probation and/or agreement. The \$47,000 in 2003-04 was the part year cost for one officer progressing onto permanent terms of appointment during the year. The increase of provision for 2004-05 is to cover the full year cost of provident fund contribution for that officer plus the provident fund contribution for another officer progressing onto permanent terms during 2004-05. The reduction in the number of staff for 2004-05 involves officers appointed prior to 1 June 2000 who are not subject to CSPF contribution and hence the reduction will not affect the CSPF provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ HUDSON VOWELL

Post Title _____ Controller, Government Flying Service (Ag.)

Date _____ 25.3.2004

Date 25.3.2004

Date 25.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB147

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (6) Treatment of Drug Abusers

0512

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : Under this programme, the estimated provision allocated to the subvented sector will be decreased by about 7%. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the reason for the subvention cut. Will the number of recipients be affected by the cut? What is the average unit cost for offering treatment to a patient by the subvented organisations?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The lower provision in 2004-05 is due to salary reduction and reduced operating expenditure achieved through various efficiency improvement measures such as re-engineering of processes, reprioritisation of work and streamlining of management structure and procedures. The service will not be adversely affected as a result of the reduction in subvention.

Due to the different durations and programme content and services offered by different drug treatment centres, it is difficult to work out an average unit cost for offering treatment to a patient. As a general indication of the cost per course of treatment, the average unit cost of these different treatment programmes ranges from \$23,000 to \$89,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB148

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (6) Treatment of Drug Abusers

0619

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : Under this Programme, it is stated that the number of patients admitted for residential treatment has increased from 2 250 (actual) in the year 2003 to 2 400 (estimate) in the year 2004 (representing an increase of 6.66%) but the figure of bed-days occupied at residential treatment and rehabilitation centres has just increased from 108 000 (actual) in the year 2003 to 112 000 (estimate) in the year 2004 (representing an increase of 3.70%). Will the Department set out in detail :

- reasons for the smaller increase in bed-days occupied than in residential patients?
- reasons for no corresponding increase in provision despite the increase in residential patients and bed-days occupied?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Based on the average number of bed-days occupied per patient in the past four years and the estimated number of patients in 2004, we have worked out the figure of 112 000 bed-days in 2004.

No increase in provision is required due to salary reduction and reduced operating expenditure achieved through various efficiency improvement measures including re-engineering of processes, re-prioritisation of work and streamlining of management structure and procedures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB149

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (6) Treatment of Drug Abusers

1493

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : Under 2004-05 (Estimate), the total provision for the subvented sector serving drug abusers shows a reduction of 6.9% in comparison with that in 2003-04. Please set out the reasons for such reduction and the respective cut in provision induced by each of these reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

Half of the reduced provision in 2004-05 is due to salary reduction. The remaining half is attributable to reduced operating expenditure achieved through various efficiency improvement measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB150

Question Serial No.

0570

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide in detail the establishment and strength of the Secretariat in 2003-04 and the estimated figures for 2004-05.
- (b) Please provide in detail the number of observers and resources involved as well as the numbers of observations and complaint cases involved in 2003-04 and the estimated figures for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The establishment and strength position of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) Secretariat for 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as follows:-

	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
Establishment	24	23*
Strength	24	23

* It is anticipated that 1 permanent post will be deleted in 2004-05.

- (b) The number of IPCC Observers in 2003-04 (as at 17 March 2004) was 81 (including 19 IPCC Members and 62 Lay Observers). Resources required for the IPCC Observers Scheme are mainly in the form of travelling allowance payable to the Lay Observers. In 2003-04, a total of \$27,260 (up to 17 March 2004) was paid to the Lay Observers as travelling allowance.

In 2003, 231 observations involving 163 complaint cases were conducted by the Observers.

The number of Observers in 2004-05 is not available as serving Lay Observers may retire while additional Lay Observers may be appointed by the Secretary for Security during the year. Expenditure on travelling allowance to be incurred in 2004-05 depends on the number of observations made and the rate of travelling allowance payable to Lay Observers. The current rate of the allowance is \$175 for each visit.

It is estimated that the number of observations and complaint cases involved in 2004 will be similar to that for 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS ANNIE LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent
Police Complaints Council

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB151

Question Serial No.

0571

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the number of complaint cases found substantiated by IPCC after review in 2003 and the number of police officers involved.
- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of complaint cases in which the classifications of CAPO were not endorsed by IPCC after review in 2003 and the follow-up actions taken by IPCC.
- (c) Regarding the cases reviewed in 2003, please provide the number of comments given by IPCC because the disciplinary actions and warnings initiated against the police officers concerned were found not commensurate with the gravity of their misconduct, the number of times such comments were accepted by the Police, the number of times such comments were not accepted and no follow-up actions were taken subsequent to explanation or clarification, as well as the number of times recommendations to the Commissioner of Police or the Chief Executive were required.
- (d) What is the anticipated scenario of 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) Among the 3,569 cases endorsed by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in 2003, 212 (involving 286 allegations) were found to be substantiated. These cases involved 316 police officers.
- (b) In examining the complaint investigation reports submitted by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO), the IPCC may propose to re-classify the investigation results depending on the evidence available. In 2003, the IPCC raised 151 queries of this kind with CAPO. As a result of these queries, 105 investigation results were changed subsequently. All the investigation results concluded by CAPO in the year, except for one complaint case, were endorsed by the IPCC after its review and in the light of the amendments, explanation and clarification by CAPO. As regards the case in which no

consensus could be reached with the Police regarding the classifications of the allegations, the IPCC has made a report to the Chief Executive.

- (c) The imposition of disciplinary action and warning on police officers is the prerogative of the Commissioner of Police. The IPCC may, however, comment on whether the level of the disciplinary action or warning is commensurate with the gravity of the misconduct. The IPCC made 24 such comments in 2003. Of these, 22 (91.7%) were accepted by the Police and 2 (8.3%) were satisfactorily explained/followed-up. The IPCC had no further question about the disciplinary action or warning imposed on police officers after explanation or clarification was furnished by the Police and made no suggestion in this regard to the Commissioner of Police or the Chief Executive in 2003.
- (d) It is anticipated that the number of complaint cases considered in 2004 will be similar to that for 2003. As regards the complaint investigation results, since each and every complaint case has to be examined on its own merits, it is not possible to predict the proportion of complaint cases that will be substantiated.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS ANNIE LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent
Police Complaints Council

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB152

Question Serial No.

1683

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please provide the details and the expenditure of the publicity activities organised in the past year to enhance public awareness and understanding of the IPCC? Has the effectiveness of these activities been assessed? What is the estimated expenditure for such publicity activities in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In 2003-04, the publicity activities organised by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) included organisation of talks for secondary school students, broadcasting of the Council's corporate video on public transport and distribution of the corporate video (in the form of video compact discs), publicity booklets and leaflets to the public. The expenditure on these publicity activities was about \$470,000. The activities had helped publicize the independent image and monitoring role of the IPCC to people from all walks of life.

Planned publicity activities for 2004-05 include organisation of talks for secondary school students, enhancement of the IPCC Homepage and distribution of the IPCC Annual Report, publicity booklets and leaflets to members of the public. The expenditure is estimated to be \$120,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS ANNIE LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent
Police Complaints Council

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB153

Question Serial No.

0654

Head: 35 Government Secretariat:
Beijing Office

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the cases of Hong Kong people missing in the Mainland, please provide details on the following:

- a. the number of cases for which assistance was sought in 2003, with a breakdown by place of occurrence, departments to which the cases were referred, the type or nature of cases;
- b. the number of cases for which assistance was sought from the Beijing Office but the missing person could not be found, with a breakdown by missing time, reason or nature of cases;
- c. the number of cases for which assistance was sought from the Beijing Office and the missing person was found, with a breakdown by reason of recovering the person or nature of cases.

Asked by: Hon. Martin Lee Chu-ming

Reply:

- a. In 2003, the Beijing Office handled 4 cases of missing Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In all cases, the Hong Kong residents had been found. The breakdowns of the cases were as follows:
 - i) place of occurrence: 2 cases in Shenzhen, 2 cases in Tianjin;
 - ii) reasons of missing: arrest (2 cases), mental illness (1 case), business dispute (1 case).
- b. From March 1999 to 29 February 2004, there was still one outstanding missing person case, which involved a mentally retarded child, reported missing in August 2000.

- c. From March 1999 to 29 February 2004, 12 missing persons reported to the Beijing Office had been found. Five of them were found by the Public Security Department, four found to be under arrest, two returned to Hong Kong on their own, and one withdrawal of request for assistance by family members.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 24.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB154

Question Serial No.

0655

Head: 35 Government Secretariat:
Beijing Office

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the cases of Hong Kong people being detained in the Mainland, please provide details on the following:

- a. the number of cases for which assistance was sought in 2003, with a breakdown by the departments and Mainland authorities to which the cases were referred;
- b. the number of cases for which assistance was sought from the Beijing Office but the person concerned was still being detained, with a breakdown by detention time, reason for detention or nature of cases;
- c. the number of cases for which assistance was sought from the Beijing Office and the person concerned was allowed to leave the Mainland, with a breakdown by reason of being allowed to leave the Mainland or nature of the cases.

Asked by: Hon. Martin Lee Chu-ming

Reply:

- a. In 2003, the Beijing Office received 96 requests for assistance involving detention cases. The Beijing Office sent letters to the relevant Mainland authorities according to the case nature and requests of family members. A total of 339 letters were issued, as follows- People's Courts (121), People's Procuratorates (72), Public Security Departments (48), Customs (10), Bureau for Letters and Calls (16), National People's Congress Standing Committee/ National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (26), People's Government Offices (8), Prison/Detention Centre (20), Committee of Political Science and Law under the Communist Party of China Central Committee/Central Committee of Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (13), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1), Provincial Justice Department (1), Hospital (3).

- b. From March 1999 to 29 February 2004, 38 detention cases which sought assistance from the Beijing Office were still under detention. The period of detention of these 38 cases were (with the number of cases in brackets) : less than one year (26); between one to two years (6); between two to three years (6).

The reasons for detention were (with the number of cases in brackets): fraud/illegal operation/false capital contribution (13), smuggling/tax evasion (11), trafficking/possession of narcotics (4), misuse of office tort/misappropriation (2), murder (4), robbery (1), organizing illegal migration (1), breach of state order (1), giving away information without authorization (1).

- c. From March 1999 to 29 February 2004, there were 187 cases which sought assistance from the Beijing Office with the persons concerned eventually allowed to leave the Mainland. Reasons for their release were (with the number of cases in brackets): discharged after serving sentence (77), released/acquitted (72), released on bail (38).

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters BOWEN LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 24.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB155

Question Serial No.

1265

Head: 27-Civil Aid Service

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: Civil Aid Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the Estimates, provision of full-time and part-time training for volunteers to ensure high standard of performance will be reduced from the actual man-hours of 96 960 in 2003 to the planned man-hours of 47 000 in 2004-05. At the same time, the Civil Aid Service will decentralize about 40% of the courses being run by the Training School and incorporate them into regular training of individual units. Could the Government inform us of the following: -

- (a) How much could it be saved through decentralization of training courses? What mechanism does the Department possess to ensure the performance quality in providing emergency services?
- (b) The target man-hours of training are reduced by over 50% when compared with the actual man-hours in the last year; whereas about 40% of the training will be decentralized and incorporated into individual units. Does it imply that actual training hours for volunteers will be reduced by 10%? Does such arrangement involve reduction of expenses?
- (c) What is the estimated cost of providing performances for major government activities? Please explain why the performance expenses are not reduced while the training hours are largely deducted.
- (d) There will be no change to the establishment of the Department in the next year while the training hours are largely reduced. Please provide the number of staff in the Department responsible for providing training to the volunteers and explain why there is no reduction of those training staff due to reduction of training hours.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- (a) Decentralizing 40% of the courses being run by the Training School and incorporating them into the regular training of individual units would achieve an estimated saving of \$1,500,000. The following measures will ensure the performance quality in providing emergency services: -

- The CAS Training School will centrally administer the training manuals used by individual units and train up sufficient instructors for them to conduct training on the decentralized subjects.
 - Individual units are required to submit quarterly unit training programmes to ensure that the decentralized subjects are properly included.
 - CAS Training School inspectors and permanent training staff of the Department will periodically inspect the unit training sessions.
 - Examinations will continue to be centrally organized by the CAS Training School.
- (b) In the year 2003, full-time and part-time training provided by the CAS Training School amounted to 96 960 man-hours, which is more than the target of 78 000 man-hours for the year. It was mainly because two instead of one recruit courses had to be run to meet the need to fill 500 vacancies. There is no direct relationship between the figure of 50% in reduction of planned training man-hours and the figure of 40% in decentralization of courses for incorporation into regular training of individual units.
- (c) The planned 8 000 man-hours in providing performances for the public on major government campaigns and activities bear an estimated cost of \$384,000. There is no plan to reduce this expense because staging performances to enhance public attention to major campaigns or activities organized by government departments and outside agencies is one of the duties of the Service.
- (d) Restructuring of training mode will not reduce the workload of the 38 permanent training staff of the Department. More effort will be required from them in supporting the Training School and in monitoring the unit training sessions.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Robert M K CHAN
Post Title	Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service
Date	25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

SB156

Question Serial No.

1306

Head: 27-Civil Aid Service

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: Civil Aid Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Provision for 2004-05 is lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to regrouping of the CAS cadet offices. Please list out details of the regrouping situation.

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply:

Regrouping of CAS cadet offices is only one of the various items which have resulted in the reduced provision. In 2004-05, the cadet offices will be regrouped as follows:-

- (a) On Lantau Island, the unit at Mui Wo Government Offices will move to share the same office with the unit at Tung Chung Post Office Building.
- (b) In Shatin, the units at Lek Yuen Estate, Mei Lam Estate and Sha Kok Estate will move to share a new office at Shatin Government Offices.
- (c) In Tuen Mun, the unit at Tai Hing Estate will move to share the same office with the unit at Tuen Mun Government Offices.

The regrouping in fact aims at enhancing efficiency in administering the cadet units.

Signature

Name in block letters

Robert M K CHAN

Post Title

Chief Staff Officer,
Civil Aid Service

Date

25 March 2004

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

SB157

0657

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

Programme: 1 – Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the performance target for nuclear safety, what will be done to ensure the availability of fully-trained and competent officers round the clock to provide an immediate response to an initial alert. Is there any indicator for the response time? Is there any plan to upgrade the target in 2004-05 and what are the estimated resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply: Since 1985, EMSD has been providing regular local and overseas nuclear engineering training to in-house staff to support the Daya Bay Contingency Plan. In the past five years, we arranged overseas nuclear engineering training courses for four engineers. In April 2004, we will send two engineers for a 4-week nuclear energy training programme to be held in Korea. Further local training will also be planned in 2004-05 financial year. Hence, there are adequate trained staff within EMSD to cater for an immediate response in the unlikely occurrence of any emergency at the Guangdong Nuclear Power Station or LingAo Nuclear Power Station.

At present, there are one senior engineer and two engineers specially assigned to respond to nuclear emergency or alert on a round-the-clock basis. They are provided with radio pagers and mobile telephones to facilitate performing their jobs. Each engineer takes turn as the duty officer on a monthly basis to serve as the first point of contact. The directorate staff in the Department are also equipped with mobile telephones for backup purpose. It is always our target to provide an immediate response to an initial alert. There is no plan to increase the existing resources for this service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Roger S. H. LAI
Post Title	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date	24 March 2004