Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development
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Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-SJ01	SV25	NG Margaret	92	(1) Prosecutions

Reply Serial No.

S-SJ01

Question Serial No.

SV25

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 92 Department of Justice Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prosecutions

Controlling Officer : Director of Administration and Development

Question :
The Director of Administration and Development to provide information on the staffing and expenditure of the Court Prosecutor (CP) grade in 2004-05 as compared with 2003-04 including the work done by CPs in relation to departmental summons.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :
The establishment and strength of the CP grade in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are provided below:

	Establishment as at		**Strength as at**		**Vacancies as at**	
	31.3.04	**31.3.05**	**31.3.04**	**31.3.05**	**31.3.04**	**31.3.05**
Chief Court Prosecutor	2	2	2	2	0	0
Senior Court Prosecutor I	8	8	8	8	0	0
Senior Court Prosecutor II	28	28	26	28	2	0
Court Prosecutor	74	70	70	63	4	7
Total	112	108	106	101	6	7

The CPs provide a cost-effective service to the community. The average cost, including the accommodation cost, of a CP conducting prosecutions is about $2,622 per court day in 2004 ($3,079 in 2003). This compares favourably with the fees for counsel prosecuting on general fiat which is $5,430 per day. These calculations do not include those CP grade officers who are on administration and supervisory duties (the officers involved in these duties include the two Chief Court Prosecutors, all Senior Court Prosecutor I and some of the Senior Court Prosecutor II). This is because even if prosecution work is briefed out, there is still a need for senior officers in the CP grade to manage the cases in relation to both charges and summonses, to provide instructions to counsel, to liaise with police and departmental prosecutors and to manage the day-to-day deployment of manpower at the magistracies.

Whilst a number of Government Departments and authorities undertake their own prosecutions, the court prosecutors do, from time to time, prosecute cases on behalf of the following departments and authorities:

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Customs and Excise Department
Education and Manpower Bureau
Fire Services Department
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Department of Health
Highways Department
Home Affairs Department
Housing Department
Immigration Department
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority
Rating and Valuation Department
Social Welfare Department
Office of the Telecommunications Authority
Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Statistics are not maintained for the actual number of departmental summons cases the CPs prosecuted.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Miss Annie Tam
Post Title	Director of Administration and Development
Date	18 April 2005