

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

JA012

Question Serial No.

1847

Head: 80 JudiciarySubhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Courts and TribunalsControlling Officer: Judiciary AdministratorDirector of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question: What are the respective numbers of deputy judges appointed in 2002, 2003, 2004 and the current year up to now and their tenure of office. What is the policy on the appointment of deputy judges in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, AlbertReply:

The respective numbers of deputy judges and judicial officers (JJOs) appointed by ranks as at 1.4.2002, 1.4.2003, 1.4.2004 and 1.4.2005 are at the Annex.

Where budgetary constraints permit, deputy JJOs are appointed to meet operational needs, usually for the following periods :

		<u>Period</u>
1.	Court of First Instance and High Court Registry appointed from within the Judiciary*	9 months
2.	District Court appointed from within the Judiciary*	6 months
3.	Deputies in the Small Claims and Labour Tribunals and the Magistrates' Courts	9 months

* Where appointed from the profession, the period is 1 month.

The period of appointment may be extended if necessary to meet operational needs, e.g. where the case is part heard.

The policy to appoint deputy JJOs to meet operational needs where budgetary constraints permit will remain unchanged in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Wilfred TsuiPost Title Judiciary AdministratorDate 8.4.2005

Appointment of Deputy Judges and Judicial Officers

Rank	As at 1.4.2002		As at 1.4.2003		As at 1.4.2004		As at 1.4.2005	
	Internal*	External*	Internal	External	Internal	External	Internal	External
1. Deputy Judges of the Court of First Instance	13	2	13	1	7	0	13	0
2. Temporary Deputy Registrars, High Court	5	1	5	1	6	1	5	0
3. Deputy District Judges	10	0	12	1	6	0	12	0
4. Deputy Magistrates	1	28	0	6	2	7	1	9
5. Deputy Special Magistrates	0	3	0	4	0	2	0	3
Total	29	34	30	13	21	10	31	12

*Note : Internal – appointments from lower courts
 External – appointments from the legal profession