

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance
Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs
Session No. : 6**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB001

Question Serial No.

0098

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The number of enquiries handled by the Equal Opportunities Commission rose from 17 303 in 2004 to 31 396 in 2005, representing a significant increase of 81%. Please state the reasons for the increase and the additional manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The increase was mainly due to the 12 585 expressions of views on sexual orientation discrimination received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in 2005.

The additional workload arising from the increase in the number of enquiries was absorbed by existing staff using existing resources of the EOC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)** _____

Date _____ **2 March 2006** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB002

Question Serial No.

0099

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 942 Hong
Kong Academy for
Performing Arts

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Concerning the sub-head, please provide information on (a) the schedule of migration of the Academy information infrastructure to an e-campus environment and upgrading of the current Student / Finance / Human Resources System, and reasons for not implementing the project for the time being; and (b) the implementation schedule of Performing Arts Digital Initiative, and reasons for not implementing the project for the time being.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

'Migration of the Academy information infrastructure to an e-campus environment and upgrading of the current Student/ Finance/ Human Resources System' and 'Performing Arts Digital Initiative' are newly-funded projects in 2006-07. The projects will be carried out in two phases and Phase I will start in the second quarter of 2006-07. Both projects are expected to be completed in 21 months' time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB003

Question Serial No.

0169

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the estimated provision for 2006-07 is 7.5% higher than that for 2005-06. Regarding the Administration's efforts to curb the rising trend of gambling, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In 2006-07, what is the amount of additional provision for public education, in particular for assisting and counselling pathological gamblers?
- (b) According to statistics, there is an increasing trend of youngsters' participation in gambling activities. Will part of the increased provision be allocated to deal with and follow up on this issue in order to prevent the increase of young pathological gamblers?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Of the various responsibilities under Programme 4, we will continue our efforts in the prevention of gambling activities. In 2003, we set up the Ping Wo Fund to finance preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems. The Hong Kong Jockey Club contributed \$25 million to the Fund from 2003 to 2005 and will continue to make contributions from 2006 to 2008. The Fund also accepts public donations.

In 2006-07, we will continue to implement measures to address gambling-related problems, including prevention, counselling and treatment as well as other remedial services for problem and pathological gamblers. The overall expenditure for the various measures will be \$12 to \$15 million, and financed by both the Ping Wo Fund and the operating expenditure of HAB.

We will also continue to launch public education programmes to educate the general public against excessive gambling, as well as to remind the public to seek assistance in tackling gambling-related problems. We are planning to commission organizations with experience in conducting school and youth education programmes to launch youth education campaigns in schools and districts to drive home the message of the adverse consequences of excessive gambling to young people.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB004

Question Serial No.

0170

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that HAB will explore the feasibility of obtaining new sites for the Board of the Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (BMCPC) to develop columbarium facilities. What is the progress? How many target sites are involved? When will the Administration inform this Committee of the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The BMCPC is exploring the feasibility of Government allocating an area in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery currently under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the BMCPC for the development of new columbarium facilities to cater for longer term demand. The public will be consulted on the development proposal in due course.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HAB005

Question Serial No.

0210

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the Administration will promote awareness of racial harmony and equality in 2006-07. What are the specific work plans and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2006-07, we plan to spend approximately \$7.79 million to promote racial harmony and equality and to provide services for the ethnic communities. The breakdown is as follows -

Item	Estimated expenditure
Race Relations Unit	\$ 1.58 million
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	\$ 0.6 million
Mobile Information Service at the Airport	\$ 1 million
Service Guide Books	\$ 0.3 million
Language classes	\$ 0.98 million
After school support programme	\$ 0.7 million
Radio programmes	\$0.8 million
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	\$ 0.64 million
Website for ethnic communities	\$0.1 million
Culture in Motion	\$0.24 million
Printing and operational expenses	\$ 0.76 million
Promotional activities and others	\$ 0.09 million
Total:	<u>\$ 7.79 million</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HAB006

Question Serial No.

0211

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the Administration will carry out the legislative programme of the Race Discrimination Bill in 2006-07. Please give details of the specific work plans and the estimated expenditure for such work as well as the related public consultation exercise.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

There are no specific funds reserved for this purpose. The ongoing costs are being absorbed from existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____ 2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB007

Question Serial No.

0212

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Regarding the handling of issues relating to sexual minorities, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has the Administration any plan to legislate against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation or conduct consultation on the issue in 2006-07? If so, what are the specific work plans and the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Regarding the Administration's efforts to eliminate discrimination against sexual minorities, what are the specific work plans and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) The Government has not yet come to a view on whether to legislate against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and has no fixed timetable on this. The issue impinges on deeply ingrained values and notions of morality. The building of public consensus through public education and publicity is required before we take the matter forward. We will continue to listen to the views of the community and foster, through public education in the community, a culture of tolerance and mutual respect.

- (b) In 2006-07, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) will continue to -
- (i) manage and monitor the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme;
 - (ii) set up and maintain a hotline for enquiries and complaints in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity;
 - (iii) provide secretariat support to the Sexual Minorities Forum and implement any work plan decided by it;
 - (iv) launch publicity and education programmes to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and gender identity; and
 - (v) conduct research on issues regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

We have earmarked \$1.5 million in 2006-07 to support the work of the GISOU -

Item	Estimated Expenditure
Staff cost of the GISOU	\$0.5 million
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	\$0.5 million
Education and publicity programmes (involving programme and promotional expenses)	\$0.5 million
Total	<u>\$1.5 million</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date

2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB008

Question Serial No.

0213

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (3) Information Policy

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The responsibilities of the Administration under this programme include, inter alia, formulating and developing policy in respect of information and focussing attention on freedom of information. Recently, some internet firms have agreed to weed out sensitive information at the request of the Central Government in order to develop the Mainland market. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of its specific work plans and the estimated expenditure for maintaining freedom of information in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Home Affairs Bureau will work to protect and promote freedom of opinion and expression. We believe that a free and vibrant press is one of the most effective means to safeguard freedom of opinion and expression and other freedoms guaranteed by the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights. On public access to Government information, we shall monitor compliance by bureaux and departments under the Code on Access to Information. We will promote the use of the Internet for dissemination of Government information.

A provision of \$9.7 million is proposed under Programme (3) : Information Policy. The provision will cover salary and departmental expenses relating to the formulation and development of policy in respect of information, assistance to bureaux and departments to comply with the Code on Access to Information, promotion of the dissemination of Government information on the Internet, and undertaking housekeeping functions for the Information Services Department. No separate breakdown of expenditure for maintaining freedom of information is available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) _____

Date _____ 3 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB010

Question Serial No.

0628

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In respect of promotion of arts and culture in Hong Kong, please inform the Committee of :

- (a) In the 2006-07 estimates, has the Administration earmarked any fund for review and study on the difficulty as considered by the cultural sector in finding appropriate performing venues due to shortage and smallness of performing venues? What is the estimated expenditure?
- (b) In the 2006-07 estimates, has the Administration earmarked any fund for study on whether and how the arts venues will/should be corporatized so that the direction of venue development can be adjusted more flexibly and arts groups can be invited for long term partnership? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Committee on Performing Arts (CPA) has been set up to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on the development and promotion of performing arts in Hong Kong. A sub-committee on venue policy has been established under the CPA to look at issues relating to performance venues.

In its consultation paper issued in November 2005, the CPA proposes to introduce a venue partnership scheme in order to better utilize venue resources and to help enlarge the audience base for performing arts. The CPA is now analysing and studying public reviews received during the consultation. It plans to submit a report on its recommendations to the Secretary for Home Affairs in 2006-07.

The work of the CPA is conducted through internal redeployment of manpower resources. The estimated expenditure to be incurred is \$200,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER_____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)_____

Date 7.3.2006_____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB011

Question Serial No.

0648

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Will the Administration review the operation and organisational structure of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in 2006-07 so as to ensure that the individual's privacy is truly protected? If so, what are the specific work plans and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PC) is an independent statutory body established by law to promote and enforce compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) by all data users, including the Government. The PC is autonomous in its operations. That said, the powers of the PC are not unfettered. The PDPO provides for checks and balances. Decisions of the PC with regard to refusal or cessation of an investigation into a complaint, disclosure of information relating to an investigation, serving an enforcement notice or otherwise, and a matching procedure request may be reviewed by the Administrative Appeals Board. The Director of Audit may, in respect of any financial year, conduct an examination into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Commissioner has expended his resources in performing his functions and exercising his powers; and the Director may report to the President of the Legislative Council the results of an examination conducted by him. Decisions of the PC may be subject to judicial review. PC's administrative actions may also be subject to the investigation of the Ombudsman.

The PDPO also provides for the establishment of the Personal Data (Privacy) Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioner upon any matter relevant to the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data or otherwise relevant to the implementation of the Ordinance.

There is no evidence to suggest that the PC has failed to carry out its statutory duties to protect the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data. We have no plan to review the operation and organizational structure of the Commissioner's Office in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB012

Question Serial No.

0649

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, the disclosure of information is exempt for the purposes of (a) safeguarding security, defence or international relations in respect of Hong Kong (section 57); and (b) prevention or detection of crime, or the apprehension, prosecution or detention of offenders (section 58). Considering the wide scope of the exemption, will the Administration examine the areas exempted to ensure that the principle of freedom of speech is complied with? If so, please give details of the specific work plans and estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

According to data protection principle 3 (the use limitation principle) of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), except with the consent of the data subject, personal data should only be used for the purposes for which it was collected. The unrestricted application of the use limitation principle however would have serious adverse impact on a variety of important public interests objectives, such as safeguarding security, defence and international relations in respect of Hong Kong; the prevention and detection of crime, etc. To strike an appropriate balance between the protection of privacy interest and certain public interests, section 57 (security, etc. in respect of Hong Kong) and section 58 (crime, etc.) of the PDPO provides for narrowly defined exemptions from the use limitation principle. The exemptions are not intended to suppress freedom of speech. Similar exemptions from the use limitation principle on the ground of public interests are also found in overseas privacy laws such as the Data Protection Act 1998 of the United Kingdom and the Privacy Act of Canada.

It will be a defence to the court for a data user who discloses personal data on reliance of section 57 or section 58 that he had reasonable grounds for believing that failure to so use the personal data would have been likely to prejudice safeguarding security, defence or international relations in respect of Hong Kong, prevention or detection of crime, etc.

The rights and freedom of expression are protected by law. Article 27 of the Basic Law states that Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of speech. The relevant provision protecting freedom of opinion and expression in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has been given effect in Article 16 of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights.

There is no evidence to suggest that the application of the two exemption provisions (i.e. section 57 and section 58) of the PDPO has been at the expense of freedom of expression. We have no plan to review the exempted areas in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB013

Question Serial No.

0651

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The United Nations Human Rights Committee and the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had repeatedly recommended that the Administration should set up an independent human rights committee for Hong Kong. Last year, the Administration agreed to set up a human rights committee and indicated that three options were under consideration. Please give details of the specific work plans and estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

What we told the Committee - and have subsequently told other United Nations Treaty Bodies – is that we are not, in principle, averse to the establishment of such an institution and were actively examining options, three of which appeared to us more promising than some of the others we had considered. That is still the position and, at this stage, we have no specific timetable.

That said, we have taken steps to ensure greater transparency in the public scrutiny of human rights by developing new channels of communications between human rights ‘watchdogs’ (such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs)) and the Government, and by increasing the participation in and transparency of older ones. We have set up four NGO forums under the Home Affairs Bureau, including the Human Rights Forum, Sexual Minorities Forum, Ethnic Minorities Forum and Children’s Rights Forum. They provide official and regular platforms of exchange for NGOs to discuss relevant human rights issues with the Government directly, and ensure a high level of public participation in the formulation of human rights policies and the delivery of human rights in action. They subject the Government to an increased and increasing level and intensity of public scrutiny in the performance of its obligations under the Covenant and the other international human rights treaties.

In addition, the Government operates three funding schemes, namely the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme, the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, to fund projects by community organizations in promotion of human rights. In 2006-07, the estimated expenditure in that regard is \$1.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB014

Question Serial No.

0652

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Would the Administration conduct consultation on setting up a human rights committee in 2006-07? Please give details of the specific work plan and estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

We are still considering how best to take this forward. There is no timetable – and therefore no specific work plan - at this stage. At present, we have no plans to conduct consultations on the matter in 2006-07 but do not rule out the possibility that some such action may be desirable at some time further down the road.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB015

Question Serial No.

0653

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Does the Administration have any plans to formulate a cultural policy in 2006-07? If so, what are the details of work and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Our existing policy on the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong is to create an environment which is conducive to freedom of expression and artistic creation, and which encourages public participation in arts and cultural activities. We have been implementing this policy through the provision of venues and financial support, programme presentation, arts education and publicity. We would continue to implement this policy through all the relevant programmes and measures to be undertaken by the Home Affairs Bureau and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2006-07.

Our policy is in line with the six overall principles and strategies on promoting the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong, which were put forward by the Culture and Heritage Commission in its Policy Recommendation Report to the Government in April 2003. These six principles are namely People-oriented, Pluralism, Freedom of Expression and Protection of Intellectual Property, Holistic Approach, Partnership and Community-driven. The Commission's Report covers a wide range of issues and consists of over one hundred recommendations involving both policy considerations and specific implementation strategies.

To follow up on the recommendations in the Commission's Report, the Home Affairs Bureau set up in 2004 three committees (namely, Committee on Performing Arts, Committee on Museums and Committee on Libraries) to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) on the development and promotion of performing arts, museums and public libraries in Hong Kong.

The Committee on Performing Arts issued a consultation paper in November 2005, putting forward recommendations on reforming the system on funding, programme presentation and venue support for performing arts.

The Committee on Libraries has set up two subcommittees on (i) development strategy on provision of library services; and (ii) community involvement and promotion of reading and literary arts.

The Committee on Museums has formed two subcommittees to conduct a detailed study on (i) the modes of governance and (ii) the community involvement and development strategy of the museum services.

All the above three Committees aim to submit their recommendations to SHA in 2006-07. We would carefully consider their recommendations with a view to working out the appropriate improvement measures and the financial implications.

The work of the three Committees is being undertaken by the relevant subject officers as part and parcel of their duties and responsibilities in the bureau and it is impossible to cost the staffing resources involved. However, the non-staffing expenditure likely to be incurred in 2006-07 is estimated at \$600,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB016

Question Serial No.

0654

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is pointed out that, while a number of performing arts have been introduced into the curriculum of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong in recent years, there is a shortage of people eligible for teaching and researching on performing arts. What are the details of work and estimated expenditure in 2006-07 on nurturing such eligible people and promoting arts education in the community?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) have been, in their different ways, nurturing people eligible to teach performing arts and promote arts education in the community.

On nurturing people eligible to teach performing arts in primary and secondary schools, the Academy is running courses for training students to teach performing arts. In 2006-07, HKAPA will further explore possibilities to collaborate with local universities on ways to inject more pedagogical elements into performing arts education and training.

LCSD has been providing special workshops for serving teachers to facilitate them in playing a role in promoting the arts. It will continue to do so and in 2006-07, 11 theatre workshops will be offered to about 360 teachers. Similarly, the HKADC will strengthen its training programmes for serving teachers. A training programme 'Arts Education Training Programme for Secondary Teachers – Pilot Scheme' will be introduced to achieve a sustainable effect in promoting arts education.

On promoting arts education in the community, the HKAPA has, as part of its outreach programme, actively liaised with secondary schools to lend its support to the schools' music and drama extra curricular activities. It has also promoted these students' participation by organizing visits to the Academy. These activities are in fact part of the HKAPA's Community Relations Strategy.

LCSD promotes arts education at schools and in the community by organizing audience building and education activities on performing arts in collaboration with local performing arts groups/artists. The School Culture Day Scheme, the School Arts Amateur Scheme and

extension activities organized in the International Arts Carnival are open to participation by tertiary institutions, secondary, primary and special schools. The Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme as well as the year-round theme specific lectures, workshops and demonstrations will help the community explore and develop interests in the performing arts. HKADC will also implement several proactive projects to promote arts education in the community in 2006-07. It will organize the "Seminars Series on Children Arts Education", which aims at arousing public awareness of children arts education and multiple intelligence development, and promoting the importance of balanced education. The programme will include a series of workshops and sharing sessions. An arts education series "Arts Unlimited 3" featuring the importance of arts education will be jointly produced by the HKADC and Radio Television Hong Kong.

The estimated expenditure on the above activities to be organized by HKAPA, LCSD and HKADC is about \$15.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB017

Question Serial No.

0655

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (8) Subvention: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Arts
Development Council and Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is pointed out that while the Administration has been dedicated to nurturing a number of small-scale professional theatres in the last decade, it has neglected the development of small and medium music and dance groups. In 2006-07, does the Administration have any plans to formulate a policy in support of small and medium music and dance groups? If so, what are the details of work and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Our existing policy on the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong is to create an environment which is conducive to freedom of expression and artistic creation, and which encourages public participation in arts and cultural activities. We have been implementing this policy through the provision of venues and financial support, programme presentation, arts education and publicity.

Our policy is in line with the six overall principles and strategies on promoting the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong, which were put forward by the Culture and Heritage Commission in its Policy Recommendation Report to the Government in April 2003. These six principles are namely People-oriented, Pluralism, Freedom of Expression and Protection of Intellectual Property, Holistic Approach, Partnership and Community-driven.

To implement this policy, the Administration has all along been providing support to budding, small and medium performing arts groups through presentation of their works, provision of venue and ticketing support by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) as well as grants administered by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC).

In 2006-07, apart from providing subsidies for venue and ticketing charges to non-profit making arts groups, LCSD plans to spend \$13.2 million to support more than 180 music groups or musicians in over 700 music activities, and \$5.4 million for more than 50 dance groups/artists in over 400 dance activities.

The HKADC supports music and dance activities through the One Year Grant and Project Grant schemes. In 2006-07, the HKADC plans to allocate about \$4 million to support small-scale music and dance groups. In addition, the HKADC plans to make use of part of the Arts and Sport

Development Fund to carry out large scale music and dance promotion projects. These large scale projects include the following:

- a) The “Dance Festival” — a territory-wide dance promotion event lasting for 10 days to showcase the works of local dance groups. The estimated cost is \$3 million.
- b) The 2007 International Society for Contemporary Music-Asia Composers League World Music Days — a event to be organized with the participation of around 10 music ensembles and chamber orchestras. The estimated cost is \$1.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB018

Question Serial No.

0215

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question: It is noted that HAB will continue to work closely with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education in promoting civic education outside schools. Please give details of the estimated expenditure, the specific work plan and the estimated number of participants in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2006-07, we will be working closely with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to implement a series of activities to promote civic education outside schools. The estimated total expenditure is \$10,315,000. The major projects are as follows –

Activities	Estimated Expenditure (\$)	Estimated number of participants
(1) <u>Community Participation Scheme</u> A funding scheme whereby non-governmental organizations can apply for funding subsidy for organizing civic education activities based on a dedicated theme and the promotion of certain core civic values at the district level. <i>(The scheme will also be funded by charity donations from the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (BMCP))</i>	2,500,000 <i>(or 5,500,000 if donations from the BMCP are included)</i>	Taking account of past experience, around 170 projects would be sponsored.
(2) <u>TV Announcement of Public Interest (API) and Education Materials on National Education</u> To produce a new series of TVAPI and education materials on national education for distribution to the general public.	1,250,000	N/A
(3) <u>TVAPI on Campaign on Community Participation and Civic Responsibility in Epidemic Prevention</u> To produce TV & radio APIs to be broadcast on major TV and radio channels to help prevent the spread of avian influenza and other epidemic.	280,000	N/A

<p>(4) <u>Symposium on Civic Education</u> To organize a symposium on civic education for the purpose of sharing views and experiences from different Chinese communities in promoting civic education amongst the general public.</p>	1,000,000	1,000
<p>(5) <u>Survey on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Hong Kong</u> To conduct a comprehensive survey to find out the existing situation of CSR in Hong Kong with a view to preparing a handbook and building up a charter for corporate citizenship.</p>	907,200 <i>(Amount settled in 2005-06: 388,800)</i>	Sample size: about 10,000 target companies
<p>(6) <u>Civic Education Telephone Hotline Stories</u> To continue airing the existing teleline stories and produce a new series of stories in late 2006 for the purpose of conveying civic education messages.</p>	366,400	300,000
<p>(7) <u>Exhibition and Promotional Activities on Civic Education</u> To organise an exhibition at the Hong Kong Book Fair 2006 and various promotional activities with a view to enhancing civic awareness.</p>	373,950	N/A
<p>(8) <u>Civil Society Index Project</u> To conduct a research project which outlines the values, environment, structure and impact of civil society in order to provide a fuller picture of civil society and an enhanced policy making capacity.</p>	222,450 <i>(Amount settled in 2005-06: 150,000)</i>	N/A
<p>(9) <u>Biennial Survey on Civic Awareness</u> To gauge public views on a specified range of aspects relating to civic awareness and national identity. It is expected that the survey results will be ready in early 2007.</p>	260,000	N/A
<p>(10) <u>Promotion of the Basic Law in the local community</u> To organise activities including a contest and interactive drama to promote public understanding of the Basic Law in late 2006, and to produce/reprint education materials/teaching kits.</p>	650,000	N/A
<p>(11) <u>Education Materials and Publications</u> To continue the production of a number of publications for the purpose of disseminating messages of good citizenship and civic responsibilities.</p>	1,309,000	N/A

<p>(12) <u>Human Rights Education</u> To produce human rights promotional and educational materials; conduct a perception survey and organise a seminar for the purpose of sharing views on human rights education.</p>	<p>650,000</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>(13) <u>Evaluative Study on Civic Education Resource Centre</u> To conduct an evaluative study on the Civic Education Resource Centre for the purpose of improving the services provided to align with the new initiatives in promoting civic education.</p>	<p>546,000 <i>(Amount settled in 2005-06: 234,000)</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB019

Question Serial No.

0216

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : It is noted that the Administration will operate a “Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit” to handle issues relating to sexual minorities. Please provide details of its work and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) will continue to -

- (i) manage and monitor the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme;
- (ii) set up and maintain a hotline for enquiries and complaints in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity;
- (iii) provide secretariat support to the Sexual Minorities Forum and implement any work plan decided by it;
- (iv) launch publicity and education programmes to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- (v) conduct research on issues regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

We have earmarked \$1.5 million in 2006-07 to support the work of the GISOU -

Item	Estimated Expenditure
Staff cost of the GISOU	\$0.5 million
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	\$0.5 million
Education and publicity programmes (involving programme and promotional expenses)	\$0.5 million
Total	<u>\$1.5 million</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

STEPHEN FISHER

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB020

Question Serial No.

0217

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the improvement of the law and administrative measures affecting divorcees and children who live on alimony, what follow-up work will be carried out? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Home Affairs Bureau will take the following measures to strengthen the law and enhance administrative measures to assist maintenance payees:

- (a) we shall continue our work in preparing legislative amendments to address the problem of the maintenance payers deliberately evading the service of judgment summons;
- (b) we have commissioned the Census and Statistics Department to conduct a thematic survey on enforcement of maintenance orders in the second quarter of 2006. The objective of the survey is to study the problem concerning default in maintenance payments and enforcement of maintenance orders, as well as the reasons behind the problem; and
- (c) we shall allocate about \$300,000 to finance community involvement projects run by non-governmental organizations to enhance public awareness of the responsibilities of maintenance payers, the rights of maintenance payees, and the services available to maintenance payees in the event of default.

The relevant work is undertaken by a team consisting of an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C and an Administrative Officer, each devoting part of their working hours to such duties.

We have earmarked a total of \$1.048 million in 2006-07 for implementing the measures in (b) and (c) above, and for the production of publicity materials on maintenance payments and the maintenance of the computer program on interest and surcharge on arrears of maintenance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB023

Question Serial No.

0220

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the Administration will explore the feasibility of obtaining new sites for the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (BMCPC) to develop columbarium facilities. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Are columbarium facilities insufficient to meet public demand at present? If so, please provide the relevant figures; and
- (b) If new sites are needed, how much additional land will be required for this purpose?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In the past three years, the BMCPC sold an average of about 10,000 niches each year. Since the existing cemeteries under the BMCPC have been fully developed, the BMCPC is exploring the feasibility of Government allocating an area in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery currently under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to BMCPC for the development of new columbarium facilities to cater for longer term demand. The actual amount of land required will depend on site constraints.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) _____

Date _____ **2 March 2006** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB024

Question Serial No.

0221

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (5) Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the plans to establish district-based and post-secondary Youth Forums under the Commission on Youth, the Administration had indicated in last year's reply (reply serial no. HAB018, question serial no. 1734) that pilot district youth forums were being set up in six districts. Please inform this Committee of the effectiveness of the pilot scheme. What is the estimated expenditure on setting up district youth forums in 2006-07? Will the scheme be extended to all 18 districts in the territory? If so, please provide details; if not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

We are now working closely with major non-governmental youth organizations to set up district-based youth forums in seven districts on a pilot basis, viz. Central & Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tai Po and Yuen Long, as well as the post-secondary youth forum. Preparatory committees have been formed and the district youth forums/post-secondary youth forum are expected to be formally established in mid 2006. The pilot project, if successful, would be extended to all 18 districts in the territory. The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 on setting up district youth forums including training and publicity programmes is \$960,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

2 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB025

Question Serial No.

0222

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What plans does the Administration have for promotion of sports exchanges with neighbouring cities in Greater Pearl River Delta in 2006-07? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Administration signed three agreements on sports exchange and co-operation with, respectively, the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Sports and the Sport Development Board of Macao in late 2003, the Department of Culture, Radio, Television, Publication and Sports of Hainan Province in late 2004 and Yunnan Provincial Sports Bureau in mid-2005.

There are 2 programmes planned for 2006-07. They are : the Hong Kong-Hainan Motor Car Tour to be held in April 2006, and the third Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macao International Sporting Goods Fair to be held in Guangzhou from 1 to 3 September 2006.

These exchange and co-operation agreements aim at realising fully the economic benefits and creating synergy in sports development to Hong Kong and the neighbouring cities in the Greater Pearl River Delta. The sports exchange and co-operation programmes will tap the potential of the region in promoting sports and related economic activities. The sports authorities concerned agreed to establish a platform for participation by the sports sector, community organisations and the private sector, and to encourage the market to initiate exchange and co-operation programmes on a self-sustaining and self-financing basis. The Administration will play a promoting role; no direct expenditure will be incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____

9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB026

Question Serial No.

0223

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As regards assisting underprivileged or disabled persons and young people at risk to take courses at the Outward Bound School, please provide the number of recipients and the amount of subsidies involved in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Please find the number of participants and the amount of subsidy provided to the underprivileged or people with disabilities and young people at risk to take courses at the Outward Bound School from 2003-04 to 2005-06 as follows:

Year	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
Subvention (HK\$)	\$1,910,930	\$1,841,960	\$1,770,970
Number of underprivileged or people with disabilities and young people at risk participating in the programme	728	696	546

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7.3.2006

(a) Performing Arts

- Exchange of cultural programmes;
- Consolidation, comparison and analysis of data collected from the “Survey on Consumers’ Behaviour in the Performing Arts Market in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao”;
- Collaboration in organizing activities for the 2006 Guangdong Seminar Series on Arts Management;
- Support from Guangdong and Macao for Hong Kong in hosting the 2006 International Congress of International Society for the Performing Arts; and
- Further collaboration in introducing overseas performing arts programmes.

(b) Cultural Information

- Strengthening the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Information Net which was launched in April 2004; and
- Exploration of co-operation opportunities in cross-region ticketing services.

(c) Museum and Heritage

- Discussion with the Beijing Capital Museum on the presentation of the exhibition “East Meets West” jointly organized by the three places;
- Lingnan historical building components collection project;
- Collection and compilation of “A Corpus of Cantonese Opera Heritage Information”;
- Research project on archaeological discoveries of Hong Kong;
- Support of Guangdong and Macao for Hong Kong in planning the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum;
- Consideration to establish the “Built Heritage Restoration Craftsman Database” and the “Built Heritage Restoration Techniques Database” to share resources and exchange information in order to raise the standard of built heritage conservation in the region;
- Organization of “International Museum Day” activities;
- Joint application to the Ministry of Culture for the inclusion of herbal tea as an intangible cultural item of China; and
- Exploration to stage more joint exhibitions.

(d) Library Network

- Promotion of “Pearl River Delta Libraries Internet Reference Enquiry Service”;
- Establishment of the local document collections;
- Exploration of the creation of “Online Book Review”;
- Exchanges and visits of libraries; and
- Exchange of materials on subject talks among the libraries.

(e) Cantonese Opera

- Joint application for the declaration of Cantonese Opera as an “Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”;
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera Day activities in three places;
- Organization of “International Conference on Cantonese Opera: Following the Footprints of the Past 200 Years” in Hong Kong; and
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera through cultural exchange programmes such as “Youth Ambassador Exchange Programme in Promotion of Cantonese Opera”.

(f) Cultural and Creative Industry

- Discussion of a joint study on the development of cultural and creative industries.

Cultural Network with Other Countries

We have been making efforts to enhance cooperation with other countries in the field of culture and the arts through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation (MoU). So far, the HKSAR Government has signed MoUs with nine countries. We are planning to sign MoUs with a few more countries in the coming two years.

We will continue to organize the Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum with the objective of fostering regional cultural cooperation, sharing experience on partnership between governments and arts and cultural organizations within the region.

Cost

The estimated expenditure on developing the cultural network in the Greater Pearl River Delta and with other countries is \$6 million in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)** _____

Date _____ **7.3.2006** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB029

Question Serial No.

0918

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will promote sports exchanges with neighbouring cities in Greater Pearl River Delta. What programmes were organised in 2005-06? And what was the expenditure involved? What programmes are now under planning for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

The Administration signed three agreements on sports exchange and co-operation with, respectively, the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Sports and the Sport Development Board of Macao in late 2003, the Department of Culture, Radio, Television, Publication and Sports of Hainan Province in late 2004 and Yunnan Provincial Sports Bureau in mid-2005.

There were two programmes organised in 2005-06. They were : the Inaugural Pan-Pearl River Delta (Pan-PRD) Rally Tour held across the nine provinces and the two Special Administrative Regions of the Pan-PRD from 6 to 28 June 2005, and the second Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macao International Sporting Goods Fair held in Guangzhou from 27 to 30 October 2005.

There are two programmes planned for 2006-07. They are : the Hong Kong-Hainan Motor Car Tour to be held in April 2006, and the third Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macao International Sporting Goods Fair to be held in Guangzhou from 1 to 3 September 2006.

These exchange and co-operation agreements aim at harnessing the economic benefits and creating synergy in sports development for Hong Kong and the neighbouring cities in the Greater Pearl River Delta. The sports authorities concerned agreed to establish a platform for participation by the sports sector, community organisations and the private sectors, and to encourage the market to initiate exchange and co-operation programmes on a self-sustaining and self-financing basis. The Administration will play a promoting role; no direct expenditure will be incurred for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____

9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB030

Question Serial No.

0919

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Bureau will provide support to the Hong Kong athletes participating in the Asian Games to be held in Doha in 2006. May I know the specific measures and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau has earmarked a sum of \$20 million from the Arts and Sport Development Fund for athletes' preparation for and participation in the 2006 Doha Asian Games. Out of the \$20 million, we have approved \$9.6 million in 2005-06 for the Hong Kong Sports Institute to strengthen its elite training programme for athletes of the 13 elite sports in preparation for the Games, including employment of additional coaching staff, overseas training and competition. The remaining balance will be deployed for athletes outside the 13 elite sports to prepare for the Games and for the Hong Kong Delegation to participate in the Games.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MRS CARRIE LAM**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HAB031

Question Serial No.

0920

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Bureau will enhance closer co-operation with the Pearl River Delta Region, and organise local and international events to promote cultural exchanges. May I know the plans and estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

The Government has been implementing a series of measures to enhance cultural cooperation in the Greater Pearl River Delta Region. In 2006-07, we are planning to promote and enhance cultural cooperation in the region in the following areas:

- (a) Development and exchange of performing arts talents and programme presentations
- Exchange of cultural programmes;
 - Consolidation, comparison and analysis of data collected from the “Survey on Consumers’ Behaviour in the Performing Arts Market in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao”;
 - Collaboration in organizing activities for the 2006 Guangdong Seminar Series on Arts Management;
 - Support from Guangdong and Macao for Hong Kong in hosting the 2006 International Congress of International Society for the Performing Arts; and
 - Further collaboration in introducing overseas performing arts programmes.
- (b) Exchange of cultural information
- Strengthening the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Information Net which was launched in April 2004; and
 - Exploration of co-operation opportunities in cross-region ticketing services.
- (c) Development of museum network and archaeological excavation, conservation and promotion of heritage
- Discussion with the Beijing Capital Museum on the presentation of the exhibition “East Meets West” jointly organized by the three places;
 - Lingnan historical building components collection project;
 - Collection and compilation of “A Corpus of Cantonese Opera Heritage Information”;
 - Research project on archaeological discoveries of Hong Kong;

- Support of Guangdong and Macao for Hong Kong in planning the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum;
- Consideration to establish the “Built Heritage Restoration Craftsman Database” and the “Built Heritage Restoration Techniques Database” to share resources and exchange information in order to raise the standard of built heritage conservation in the region;
- Organization of “International Museum Day” activities;
- Joint application to the Ministry of Culture for the inclusion of herbal tea as an intangible cultural item of China; and
- Exploration to stage more joint exhibitions.

(d) Digital library network

- Promotion of “Pearl River Delta Libraries Internet Reference Enquiry Service”
- Establishment of the local document collections;
- Exploration of the creation of “Online Book Review”;
- Exchanges and visits of libraries; and
- Exchange of materials on subject talks among the libraries.

(e) Promotion of Cantonese Opera

- Joint application for the declaration of Cantonese Opera as an “Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”;
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera Day activities in three places;
- Organization of “International Conference on Cantonese Opera: Following the Footprints of the Past 200 Years” in Hong Kong; and
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera through cultural exchange programmes such as “Youth Ambassador Exchange Programme in Promotion of Cantonese Opera”.

(f) Study on the development of cultural and creative industries

- Discussion of joint study on the development of cultural and creative industries.

The estimated expenditure on developing the cultural network in the Greater Pearl River Delta Region and with other countries is \$6 million in 2006-07. The cost will be shared by the Home Affairs Bureau and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB033

Question Serial No.

0924

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As the Government will work in co-operation with the sports community on the promotion and development of major sports events, please list out the related projects and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

Through the Major Sports Events Committee under the Sports Commission, the Government launched the "M" Mark System and Support Packages in November 2004 to help local sports organizations stage major international sports events in Hong Kong.

The "M" Mark System aims to establish a closer tie between the sports and commercial sectors. It provides a platform to facilitate successful matching between potential corporate sponsors and the sport community in fostering a market-oriented and sustainable co-operation in staging major sports events.

Since the launch of the "M" Mark System, a total of five major international sports events have been awarded the "M" mark status. A total of \$7.1M have been set aside to support the said events. These are :

- (a) YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships;
- (b) Cathay Pacific Credit Suisse Privilege World Squash Open;
- (c) UBS Hong Kong Open Championship;
- (d) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon; and
- (e) Cathay Pacific/Credit Suisse Hong Kong Sevens.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB034

Question Serial No.

1428

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Would the Administration provide information of the activities to be organized in 2006-07 for promotion of creative industries in Hong Kong, their progress and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) organised and supported a variety of promotion programmes to enhance public understanding and interests in creative industries and showcase Hong Kong's winning edge in this respect to overseas countries and the Mainland during the past few years. In 2006-07, HAB will organise or sponsor activities to sustain its efforts and momentum in enhancing community awareness and appreciation of the importance of developing creative industries in Hong Kong.

The programmes under planning are as follows:

- **Youth Art Performance Scheme (Culture + 「青年藝展廣場」)**
A 12-month programme which seeks to provide a regular platform at various venues of Leisure and Cultural Services Department for youths to showcase their talents in performing arts, and enhance public awareness and participation in different forms of arts and culture.
- **Comix Home Base**
A-20 month long project comprising a series of comics exhibitions, workshops, screening, galleries and seminars which aims to unfold the force of creativity as well as explore and examine the cultural and economic values of comics.
- **Entertainment Expo 2006 (EE2006) and related events**
In view of the encouraging results of EE2005, the mega Expo amalgamating 9 events covering the scope of film, TV, music and digital entertainment will be launched again from 20 March to 19 April 2006. It aims at creating synergy by combining leading entertainment events under the united banner with increased international participation, industry attention and community-wide awareness.

- **Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2006 (ACCF2006)**

Building on the success of the past three years and to sustain the momentum of cultural exchange, as well as serving as a platform for sharing good practices in creative industries, the ACCF 2006 will be held for the fourth time in Hong Kong in November 2006. Cultural Ministers and cultural leaders of neighbouring Asian countries will be invited to attend.

- **‘Cultural and Creativity Expo’ and related events**

This is a flagship event covering over 20 cultural and creativity events to be held in Hong Kong from mid Oct to late Nov 2006. This would synchronise with the ACCF 2006. It will provide a common communication platform to optimize efforts by the creativity community in reaching out to different audiences and the public. Component events, including seminars and workshops on visual, public and media art, architecture etc, will be featured.

These programmes will provide the industries and the public with a new vision on Hong Kong’s culture and creativity, as well as enhancing Hong Kong’s profile as a creativity hub in Asia.

The above projects will be jointly organised with various NGOs, statutory bodies and government departments. On the part of the Government, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and HAB have been making a concerted effort in promoting the products and services of Hong Kong’s creative industries. In 2006-07, the estimated total expenditure to be incurred by HAB on organizing and sponsoring the above promotion activities is \$10 million, which is equivalent to that in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB035

Question Serial No.

0925

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has instructed that State Parties of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (“Convention”) are obliged to make the provisions of the Convention known to the public. Has financial provision been earmarked for the above promotion work in 2006-07? If so, what are the details? If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

We have published ‘hard’ and electronic copies of the Convention and, in 2002, we produced an API to promote the Convention through the electronic media, which is periodically re-launched to maintain public awareness. Every year we have sponsored the leading child-focused NGOs to convene the Children’s Council. And, in 2005, we established the Children’s Rights Forum to provide a regular and formal channel of communication between children’s representatives, related NGOs, and the Government. A complementary measure to be introduced in 2006-07, will be the Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme. This will provide funding for community organizations to organize projects for the promotion of children’s rights. We will also establish a Children’s Rights Unit to serve as Secretariat to the Forum and to service the Funding Scheme. Together, the new initiatives are expected to cost about \$940,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB036

Question Serial No.

1165

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

At present, the Attachment of Income Order is the major tool to help maintenance payees. However, the order is ineffective as it is not legally binding on employers. Does the Administration have any other measures (like setting up a maintenance board) to help maintenance payees? If so, what is the specific work plan and the expenditure involved? If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

According to the Attachment of Income Order Rules (Cap. 13A), where an Attachment of Income Order (“AIO”) has been made by the court, the income source shall deduct the amount specified in the AIO from the income due to the maintenance payer and pay the amount direct to the maintenance payee. In this regard, if the maintenance payer is an employee, the employer would be the income source. The AIO Rules provides that if the income source fails to comply with the AIO without reasonable excuse, he/she commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$5,000.

Apart from the AIO Scheme, a number of other legislative measures are also available to assist maintenance payees in collecting maintenance payments and enforcing maintenance orders. These measures include:

- (a) Section 53A of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179) provides that where a maintenance payer fails to make full and punctual payment in compliance with a maintenance order, the maintenance payee is entitled to interest automatically in respect of the arrears of maintenance accrued on or after 1 May 2005, the date of commencement of the provision. Where a maintenance payer repeatedly defaults without reasonable excuse, Section 53B of the Ordinance also empowers the court to order a maintenance payer to pay a surcharge up to 100% of the total arrears of maintenance accrued up to the date of payment of the surcharge; and
- (b) Where a maintenance payer has failed to make maintenance payments to a maintenance payee in full or to do so punctually, the maintenance payee may apply to the court for issuing a judgment summons to the maintenance payer, requiring him/her to appear in court to explain the reasons for default. The court may, under Rule 87 of the Matrimonial Causes Rules (Cap. 179A), commit the maintenance payer to prison or suspend the order of commitment on condition that the maintenance payer pays the arrears of maintenance, together with the interest and surcharge payable, to the maintenance payee at a specified time or by instalments.

In 2006-07, the Home Affairs Bureau will continue work in preparing legislative amendments to address the problem of the maintenance payers deliberately evading the service of judgment summons. We shall also allocate about \$300,000 to finance community involvement projects run by non-governmental organizations to enhance public awareness of the responsibilities of maintenance payers, the rights of maintenance payees, and the services available to maintenance payees in the event of default.

As regards the proposal to set up a maintenance board, the inter-departmental working group to review the law and administrative measures affecting divorcees and children who are eligible for alimony has carefully studied this matter and concluded that the proposed maintenance board would not bring any significant benefits over and above those that can be achieved by improving the existing system of collecting maintenance payments and enforcing maintenance orders.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB037

Question Serial No.

1420

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (5) Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What is the timeframe and financial input for the establishment of district-based and post-secondary Youth Forums?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

We are now working closely with major youth organizations to set up district-based youth forums in seven districts on a pilot basis, viz. Central & Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tai Po and Yuen Long, as well as the post-secondary youth forum. Preparatory committees have been formed and the district youth forums/post-secondary youth forum are expected to be formally established in mid-2006. The pilot project, if successful, would be extended to all 18 districts in Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 on setting up district youth forums and the post-secondary youth forum, including training and publicity programmes, is \$960,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB038

Question Serial No.

1562

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to 2006-07 Estimates, \$38.7M will be provided for work relating to Rights of the Individual. Please provide breakdown on the financial position for respective programmes on promoting racial harmony and equality.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

In 2006-07, we plan to spend about \$7.79 million for the promotion of racial equality and harmony and to provide services for the ethnic minorities. The breakdown is to be as follows -

Item	Estimated expenditure
Race Relations Unit	\$ 1.58 million
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	\$ 0.6 million
Mobile Information Service at the Airport	\$ 1 million
Service Guide Books	\$ 0.3 million
Language classes	\$ 0.98 million
After school support programme	\$ 0.7 million
Radio programmes	\$0.8 million
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	\$ 0.64 million
Website for ethnic communities	\$0.1 million
Culture in Motion	\$0.24 million
Printing and operational expenses	\$ 0.76 million
Promotional activities and others	\$ 0.09 million
Total:	\$ 7.79 million

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB039

Question Serial No.

0947

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2006-07, one of the issues requiring special attention is to promote the rights of children. What is the specific policy and work? And what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Our policy is to foster children's participation in public affairs and improve communication between the Government and child-focused NGOs. Our most recent major initiative in that regard was the establishment of a Children's Rights Forum to provide a formal and regular channel for the exchange of views between the Government, children's rights NGOs, and children's representatives. A complementary measure to be introduced in 2006-07, will be the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme. This will provide funding for community organizations to organize projects for the promotion of children's rights. We will also establish a Children's Rights Unit to serve as Secretariat to the Forum and to service the Funding Scheme. Together, the new initiatives are expected to cost about \$940,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB040

Question Serial No.

0948

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the promotion of human rights, various human rights treaties monitoring bodies have requested the HKSAR Government to set up a human rights committee. Please advise this Committee of the Administration's plan and work direction in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

We are still considering how best to take this forward and are examining various options. There is no timetable – and therefore no specific work plan - at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB041

Question Serial No.

0949

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is indicated in the Controlling Officer's Report that the increase in the provision for 2006-07 under this Programme is mainly due to the increased provision for promotion of equal opportunities and human rights. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The provision for promotion of racial harmony and human rights will be increased in 2006-07. Details are as follows –

(a) **racial harmony**: the breakdown is as follows -

Item	Estimated expenditure
Race Relations Unit	\$ 1.58 million
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	\$ 0.6 million
Mobile Information Service at the Airport	\$ 1 million
Service Guide Books	\$ 0.3 million
Language classes	\$ 0.98 million
After school support programme	\$ 0.7 million
Radio programmes	\$0.8 million
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	\$ 0.64 million
Website for ethnic communities	\$0.1 million
Culture in Motion	\$0.24 million
Printing and operational expenses	\$ 0.76 million
Promotional activities and others	\$ 0.09 million
Total:	<u>\$ 7.79 million</u>

(b) **human rights:** our API promoting the ICCPR and ICESCR fell under the budget for 2003-04. We recently re-launched this to raise public awareness of the two treaties in advance of the ICCPR hearing and will do so again in 2006-07. We have also published printed and electronic versions of the treaties (all the treaties, not just those covered by the question). But most of our work in this area comprises the various forums that we have established to provide regular and formal platforms for NGOs, civil society, and other interested parties to discuss rights-related issues with the Government.

In specific terms, those platforms are the Human Rights Forum, the Ethnic Minorities Forum, the Sexual Minorities Forum, and the Children's Rights Forum. The position regarding resources is as follows -

(i) **the Human Rights Forum:** the resources for servicing the Forum are entirely of an administrative nature and are met from our baseline. There is no specific budget for this purpose;

(ii) **racial harmony:** see (a) above.

(iii) **the sexual minorities:** total estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is \$1.5 million, comprising -

Item	Estimated expenditure
Staff cost of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit	\$0.5 million
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	\$0.5 million
Education and publicity programmes (involving programme and promotional expenses)	\$0.5 million
Total:	<u>\$ 1.5 million</u>

(iv) **children's rights:** we established the Children's Rights Forum to provide a regular and formal channel of communication between children's representatives, related NGOs, and the Government. A complementary measure to be introduced in 2006-07, will be the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme. This will provide funding for community organizations to organize projects for the promotion of children's rights. We will also establish a Children's Rights Unit to serve as Secretariat to the Forum and to service the Funding Scheme. Together, the new initiatives are expected to cost about \$940,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB042

Question Serial No.

0980

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Regarding the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit, would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the staff establishment?
- (b) What work has been done by the Unit since its establishment?
- (c) What are the number of enquiries received by the Unit's hotline so far?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (a) The Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) is manned by two full-time non-civil service contract staff.
- (b) The GISOU -
 - (i) manages the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and monitors projects and events funded by the scheme;
 - (ii) maintains a hotline for enquiries and complaints in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity (the hotline commenced operation on 7 July 2005);
 - (iii) provides secretariat support to the Sexual Minorities Forum and implements any work plan decided by it;
 - (iv) launches publicity and education programmes to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and gender identity; and
 - (v) conducts research on issues regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.
- (c) The GISOU handled 5 complaints and 61 enquiries between 7 July 2005 and 28 February 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

STEPHEN FISHER

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB043

Question Serial No.

0981

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (5) Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Regarding the International Youth Exchange Programme and the Community Participation Scheme for organising study tours to the Mainland, please inform this Committee of the following : (a) the organisations taking part in the above programme/scheme; (b) details of the subventions provided by the Government; and (c) whether any vetting procedures have been put in place to ensure the proper use of resources.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

International Youth Exchange Programme

- (a) International Youth Exchange Programme is a regular two-way exchange programme which is directly organized by the Home Affairs Bureau through co-operative arrangements with four overseas participating organizations including the Education and Cultural Services Department of Wirral, United Kingdom, EIL (Experiment in International Living) Ireland, Kagoshima Prefectural Government of Japan and the South West Community Development Council of Singapore.
- (b) The exchange programme is operated on the principle of reciprocity, i.e. the receiving party will bear the costs of accommodation, meals, local transport and other programme expenses whereas the visiting party will bear the cost of airfare and travel insurance. For the Hong Kong youth delegates, except for their own personal expenses, the related expenses will be met by the Home Affairs Bureau.
- (c) A selection panel will be convened to select suitable participants for the programme who are nominated by local tertiary institutions, secondary schools, local youth organizations, uniformed groups and relevant government departments.

Community Participation Scheme for Organizing Study Tours to the Mainland

- (a) The funding scheme is directly organized by the Home Affairs Bureau. It is funded by the Home Affairs Bureau and the charity donation from the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries.
- (b) Sponsorship to the successful applicant organizations is on a subsidized basis against a set of funding criteria which have been laid down in the application form. The maximum sponsorship for each project or the total sponsorship for all the projects organized by different sub-groups under a single organization shall not exceed \$200,000; if the proposed project is a two-way exchange programme, the maximum sponsorship is \$300,000.
- (c) Subsidized organizations are given a set of guidelines including reimbursement procedures and other conditions which they need to comply with when carrying out the projects. Upon completion of the projects, they are required to submit a project report with details on the actual expenses. Subject to the satisfaction of the Home Affairs Bureau, reimbursement to the organizations will be arranged.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB044

Question Serial No.

0982

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the review of the role and functions of advisory and statutory bodies, please inform this Committee of the following :

- (a) details of the review so far (including the scope of review; composition of the review committee; whether members of the community have been consulted; and the number of meetings held);
- (b) whether a timetable has been set for the review and whether public consultation has been conducted.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) conducted a public consultation exercise on the review of the role and functions of public sector advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) in April 2003, and a total of 170 submissions were received. Starting from early 2004, we have been reporting to the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs (the Panel) on the outcome of the review by way of interim reports, focusing on a wide range of issues relating to the appointment system and the operation of these bodies. Thus far 15 interim reports have been discussed at six Panel meetings. The proposals put forth in the interim reports have been implemented. The review of ASBs is an on-going process which evolves with the changing needs of the community. We shall continue with the review to enhance the representativeness, openness and efficiency of ASBs for meeting the needs of the community and new challenges.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **STEPHEN FISHER**

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB045

Question Serial No.

0983

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What are the reasons for the increase of 22.3% in the 2006-07 estimate when compared with the 2005-06 original?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The increase is mainly due to additional operational expenditures arising from the increased activities in the Recreation and Sport Section of the Bureau related to the various major sports events coming up, notably the 2006 Asian Games, and other developments on the recreation and sport front.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB046

Question Serial No.

0984

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to the estimate of the Administration, in 2006-07 it will assist over 600 underprivileged or people with disability and young people at risk to take courses at the Outward Bound School. Please inform the Committee: (a) the details of the programme, and (b) the institution responsible for approving the applications.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Outward Bound School (OBS) is a registered charity that offers outdoor training programmes to help people develop their potential. Alongside with the courses open to the public, a series of special community courses are also conducted for people involved in the community support programmes; people with physical and mental disabilities; socially disadvantaged; youth at risk; and drug addicts undergoing rehabilitation. Typical example of these courses is a 7-day Personal Development Programme designed for the underprivileged, offenders, marginal youths or ex-drug addicts to raise their sense of group and personal achievement. Special programmes will also be tailor-made for the people with mental or physical disability. Partial or fully subsidized places would be provided to participants of the special community courses if they can prove their need.

Participants who are enrolled on the public courses may also apply for course fee subsidy, up to 50% of the course fee, if they can prove that they have difficulty in paying the full rate. Applications for course fee subsidy will be passed to the Marketing and Fundraising Manager of OBS for preliminary screening. Eligibility to course fee subsidy will be assessed based on the household income as well as housing conditions of the applicants. Eligible applications will then be recommended to the Executive Director of OBS for approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MRS CARRIE LAM**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB047

Question Serial No.

1082

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (8) Subvention: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Arts
Development Council and Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide breakdown of the annual subvention to the six subvented art groups, number of audience reached and unit cost of the audience in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (estimate).

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Breakdown of the annual subvention to the six arts groups receiving three-year grants from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, number of audience outreached and the unit cost of the audience in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MRS CARRIE LAM** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs _____

Date _____ 9 March 2006 _____

**Hong Kong Arts Development Council
Three Year Grants**

	2004-05 (actual)			2005-06 (revised estimates)			2006-07 (estimates)		
	<u>Grant Amount</u> HK\$	<u>Audience Outreached</u>	<u>Unit-cost of the audience</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Audience Outreached</u>	<u>Unit-cost of the audience</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Audience Outreached</u>	<u>Unit-cost of the audience</u>
Hong Kong Ballet	\$14,047,000	57,749	\$243.24	\$13,436,000	54,230	\$247.76	\$13,436,000	74,000	\$181.57
City Dance Contemporary Company	\$8,682,000	154,390 ^{note 1}	\$56.23	\$8,304,000	179,213 ^{note 2}	\$46.34	\$8,304,000	96,000 ^{note 3}	\$86.50
Hong Kong Sinfonietta	\$11,239,000	27,281	\$411.97	\$10,750,000	36,700	\$292.92	\$10,750,000	65,000	\$165.38
Chung Ying Theatre	\$5,514,000	48,544 ^{note 4}	\$113.59	\$5,274,000	18,560	\$284.16	\$2,650,000	32,000	\$82.81
Theatre Ensemble	\$1,455,000	42,765	\$34.02	\$1,392,000	63,309	\$21.99	\$3,200,000	140,000	\$22.86
Zuni Icosahedron	\$2,022,000	64,803	\$31.20	\$1,934,000	98,500 ^{note 5}	\$19.63	\$2,750,000	93,000	\$29.57

Note: Figures include number of paid audience, and beneficiaries of exhibitions, workshops, school activities and publications. Number of audience outreached through performances or activities in which (a) the group played a minor role or (b) conducted at foyer/open-air space/shopping malls or (c) web-site hit rate is not included in the above figures.

note 1: Large scale exhibitions with beneficiaries of 84,000 were held at foyers / shopping malls in 2004-05

note 2: Large scale exhibitions with expected beneficiaries of 100,000 are scheduled to be held at foyers / shopping malls in 2005-06

note 3: No large scale exhibition has been planned to be held in 2006-07 as at 28.2.06

note 4: School education programmes with beneficiaries of 10,000 and foyer exhibitions with beneficiaries of 20,000 were held in 2004-05

note 5: A popular production “東宮西宮之西九龍皇帝” with estimated audiences of 28,000 was staged in 2005-06. No plan for staging this programme or any programme of a similar nature in 2006-07 as at 28.2.06

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB048

Question Serial No.

1083

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will formulate the future development strategies of the museum and library services as well as Cantonese Opera. Please provide details of the work and timetable, and whether public consultation will be held - if yes, what is the timetable of consultation? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2004, we set up the Committee on Museums, Committee on Libraries and the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee (COAC) to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) on the future development strategy on the development of museums, library services and Cantonese Opera in Hong Kong:

Museum services

- ◆ The Committee on Museums was formed in November 2004 to advise SHA on the provision of public museum services.
- ◆ Two Subcommittees have been formed under the Committee to study (i) the modes of governance and (ii) the community involvement and development strategy of the museum services.
- ◆ To facilitate its work, the Committee would gauge the views of relevant stakeholders and organisations. It would also make reference to international experiences. The Committee aims to submit its recommendations to SHA by the end of 2006.

Library services

- ◆ The Committee on Libraries was formed in November 2004 to advise SHA on the provision of public library services in Hong Kong.
- ◆ Two Subcommittees have been formed under the Committee to study (i) the development strategy on provision of library services and (ii) the community involvement and promotion of reading and literary arts.

- ◆ The Committee has been gauging views from different groups of stakeholders on public library services. The Committee has also established networks with overseas library organisations including Singapore, United States and Canada for an enhanced understanding of their respective library systems. The Committee aims to submit its recommendations to SHA before the end of the year.

Cantonese Opera

- ◆ The COAC was set up in May 2004 to advise SHA on the promotion, preservation, study and development of Cantonese Opera, and help formulate the strategy for development of Cantonese Opera. Four dedicated working groups on venues, development fund, promotion and heritage have been set up under the Committee.
- ◆ COAC's work will focus mainly on the following areas in 2006-07:
 - Encourage the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to provide more venues at free or low charges for budding Cantonese Opera artists
 - Produce Cantonese Opera VCD/DVD for distribution to schools
 - Support experimental and modernised version of Cantonese Opera performances
 - Organise studies on Cantonese Opera through researches, preservation of records, and publications
 - Provide educational resources such as training kits for students, and organising teaching workshops
 - Conduct researches and organize international symposiums on Cantonese Opera
 - Follow up on the Improvement works to Ko Shan Theatre
- ◆ The Committee has frequent dialogues with the Cantonese Opera sector, government departments and academics to exchange ideas on promoting Cantonese Opera.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB049

Question Serial No.

1084

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Concerning the review on the funding policy of performing arts, what is the work plan for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Committee on Performing Arts (CPA) is conducting a review on the development and promotion of performing arts in Hong Kong. The CPA is tasked to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on issues relating to the development and promotion of performing arts in Hong Kong. In November 2005, the CPA issued a consultation paper to seek the views of stakeholders on various issues, including the funding policy for performing arts groups.

The CPA is now analysing and studying public views collected. It plans to submit a report on its recommendations to the Secretary for Home Affairs in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____ 7.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB050

Question Serial No.

1054

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (8) Subvention: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Arts
Development Council and Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Programme 8 indicates an increase in the financial provision for Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited (HKSIL) in 2006-07 by \$74.3 million (76.4%) compared with 2005-06. The administration stated that the increased subvention is for enhancement of the elite training programmes of HKSIL in anticipation of the forthcoming major games including the Asian Games. Would the government inform the Committee of the details of elite training programmes of HKSIL in 2006-07 and the breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In order to enhance Hong Kong's medal hopes in the forthcoming major games, including the 2006 Doha Asian Games, 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and, in particular the 5th East Asian Games in 2009 which Hong Kong is the hosting city, an additional subvention of **\$74.3 million** will be provided to HKSIL in 2006-07 for the purpose of expanding the senior and junior squads of the 13 elite sports which are currently supported by the HKSIL; enhancing the training programmes of the expanded squads; and strengthening the technical support to individual elite athletes while they are trained and compete locally and overseas. The estimated breakdown of the additional subvention to HKSIL in 2006-07 on elite training is as follow:-

(a) Enhancement of the elite training programme (\$38.3 million)

To increase the current annual provision for the elite training programme by 50% in 2006-07, including overseas and local training of athletes, monthly stipends, allowance, on-field support, athletes' medical and insurance as well as direct incentives to athletes etc.

(b) Additional support in technical aspects (\$25.0 million)

To provide additional coaching staff and technical personnel to assist in the coordination and delivery of the elite training programme and to monitor the performance of newly recruited elite squad members.

(c) Improvement to elite training facilities and purchase of training equipment (\$11.0 million)

To cater for improvement of the velodrome at HKSI and elite training venues and purchase of additional training equipment to meet the training needs of the expanded elite squads.

The detailed apportionment of the above additional provision is however subject to further discussion and consultation with HKSIL Board and management in order to arrive at the most optimal use of resources in the enhancement of elite training.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB051

Question Serial No.

1167

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the complaint cases handled by the Equal Opportunities Commission, would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the number of complaint cases that could not be concluded within 6 months in 2005;
- (b) its percentage of the total number of complaints cases;
- (c) the time taken for handling such cases.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) concluded 719 complaint cases in 2005, of which 132 could not be completed within 6 months.
- (b) This represents 18% of the concluded cases. These cases usually involved construction of access and facilities, complicated legal issues, suspension of investigation due to uncontrollable factors (e.g. pending criminal investigation or court judgment), related parties taken longer time to provide information of significant terms of conciliation.
- (c) Except for a few complicated cases, all these cases were concluded within 12 months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) _____

Date _____ 7 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB052

Question Serial No.

1168

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

How many themes had been covered in the codes of practice issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2004 and 2005 respectively? Please list the themes covered and the expenditure involved in issuing each thematic code.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Equal Opportunities Commission had not issued any new code of practice in 2004 and 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB053

Question Serial No.

1169

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the investigations undertaken by the Equal Opportunities Commission of its own accord in 2004 and 2005, please give details of the number of cases and their respective categories, the number of staff involved and their ranking, as well as the expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) initiated investigations on 29 and 68 cases involving possible discriminatory acts in 2004 and 2005 respectively. The majority of these cases were related to barriers to access, and possible discrimination practices in employment and provision of goods and services. The investigation work of these cases was absorbed by the existing manpower of the EOC's Operations Division. As at 31.12.2005, the Operations Division had one director, 2 chief officers, 4 senior officers, 3 officers, 3 assistant officers and 3 secretaries.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) _____

Date _____ 7 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB054

Question Serial No.

1170

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2005, there were a total of 12 585 enquiries on the issue of sexual orientation discrimination. Please state the number of staff deployed to handle such enquiries and their respective ranks. How many cases of such enquiries were followed up by the Equal Opportunities Commission and how many were referred to other institutions?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The 12 585 enquiries received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in 2005 were expressions of views on the need for introducing legislation against discrimination on ground of sexual orientation. These views had been referred to the Home Affairs Bureau for reference. The work relating to these enquiries, like other enquiries received by the EOC, were absorbed by the existing manpower of the EOC's Operations Division. As at 31.12.2005, the Operations Division had one director, 2 chief officers, 3 officers, 3 assistant officers, 3 secretaries and 4 senior officers..

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB055

Question Serial No.

1171

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

How many cases of complaint received by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2004 and 2005 are related to discrimination by the public sector? Please list out the cases of complaint by the ordinance involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) received 102 and 149 complaint cases involving public organizations or government departments in 2004 and 2005 respectively. In 2004, 10% of the cases involved Sex Discrimination Ordinance, 87% involved Disability Discrimination Ordinance, and 3% involved Family Status Discrimination Ordinance. In 2005, the respective figures were 23%, 74% and 3%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)** _____

Date _____ **7 March 2006** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB056

Question Serial No.

1422

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the 15 posts newly created for the Estates Unit in 2006-07, please provide a breakdown of the posts by rank. Please also state the expenditure required and provide details on the work of the Unit.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

With the abolition of estate duty on 11 February 2006, the Government needs to provide various support services for estate beneficiaries, and the Secretary for Home Affairs (“SHA”) is the designated authority for such duties. These services include:

- (a) the issue of a Confirmation Notice in respect of the estate of a deceased person which does not exceed \$50,000 and is wholly made up of money;
- (b) the issue of a Certificate of Necessity for Inspection of Bank Deposit Box to facilitate the inspection of and the preparation of an inventory of the contents in a bank deposit box rented by the deceased;
- (c) the issue of an Authorization for Removal from Bank Deposit Box to authorize the removal of documents and/or articles from a bank deposit box; and
- (d) the issue of a Certificate of Necessity for Release of Money to authorize the release of money from a bank account of a deceased person to meet the funeral expenses of the deceased or the maintenance of his/her former dependants.

As an interim arrangement, SHA has delegated to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue the authority to deliver the above support services through the Estate Duty Office of the Inland Revenue Department (“IRD”) effective from 11 February 2006. An Estate Beneficiaries Support Services Unit will be established under the Home Affairs Bureau to take over the delivery of the above services from IRD some time in end 2006-07. 15 posts (comprising 1 Senior Executive Officer, 2 Executive Officers I, 1 Senior Clerical Officer, 6 Assistant Clerical Officers and 5 Clerical Assistants) will be created by stages starting from late 2006 in preparation for the establishment of the Unit. A provision of \$2.132 million (covering the personal emoluments and departmental expenses of the Unit) is proposed in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HAB057

Question Serial No.

1423

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the Administration is exploring the feasibility of obtaining new sites for the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (BMCPC). Please provide details of the work and a list of the sites concerned.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The BMCPC is exploring the feasibility of Government allocating an area in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery currently under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the BMCPC for the development of new columbarium facilities to cater for longer term demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) _____

Date _____ 3 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB059

Question Serial No.

1615

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the streamlining of the entertainment licensing regime, please give details of the work and its effectiveness.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

We are working on the details of the provisional licensing regime for cinemas and theatres. We aim to consult the Legislative Council on the proposed regime later this year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

STEPHEN FISHER

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB060

Question Serial No.

1616

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (8) Subvention: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Arts
Development Council and Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Would the Administration provide details of the increased expenditure on financial provision for Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited (HKSIL) in the 2006-07 estimates, and the manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In order to enhance Hong Kong's medal hopes in the forthcoming major games, including the 2006 Doha Asian Games, 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and, in particular the 5th East Asian Games in 2009 which Hong Kong is the hosting city, an additional subvention of **\$74.3 million** will be provided to HKSIL in 2006-07 for the purpose of expanding the senior and junior squads of the 13 elite sports which are currently supported by the HKSIL; enhancing the training programmes of the expanded squads; and strengthening the technical support to individual elite athletes while they are trained and compete locally and overseas. The enhancement to elite training will mainly focus on the following three areas:

(a) Enhancement of the elite training programme (\$38.3 million)

To increase the current annual provision for the elite training programme by 50% in 2006-07, including overseas and local training of athletes, monthly stipends, allowance, on-field support, athletes' medical and insurance as well as direct incentives to athletes etc.

(b) Additional support in technical aspects (\$25.0 million)

To provide additional coaching staff and technical personnel to assist in the coordination and delivery of the elite training programme and to monitor the performance of newly recruited elite squad members.

(c) Improvement to elite training facilities and purchase of training equipment (\$11.0 million)

To cater for improvement of the velodrome at HKSI and elite training venues and purchase of additional training equipment to meet the training needs of the expanded elite squads.

The detailed apportionment of the above additional provision is however subject to further discussion and consultation with HKSIL Board and management in order to arrive at the most optimal use of resources in the enhancement of elite training.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB061

Question Serial No.

2064

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question: It is noted that the Administration will promote civic education outside schools in 2006-07. Please inform this Committee of the following : (a) the estimated expenditure; (b) the target co-organiser(s); and (c) whether financial assistance will be given to the co-organiser(s).

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

(a) In 2006-07, the estimated total expenditure on the promotion of civic education outside schools is \$10,315,000. The major breakdown is as follows:

Activities	Estimated Expenditure (\$)
(i) Civic education projects sponsored under the Community Participation Scheme	2,500,000
(ii) Publicity campaigns, publications and educational materials on civic education	5,629,350
(iii) Surveys, research projects and consultancy studies on civic education	2,185,650

(b) We will co-organise some of the publicity campaigns with other government departments, non-governmental organisations or voluntary agencies; and provide sponsorship for community organisations to carry out civic education activities under the Community Participation Scheme.

(c) Under the Community Participation Scheme, we will sponsor community organisations to carry out civic education activities for the promotion of a major topical theme i.e. "Integration and Harmony" and certain core civic values at the district level. As regards publicity campaigns, publications, educational materials as well as surveys, research projects and consultancy studies on civic education, we would mainly commission relevant organisations to carry out these projects or work together with organisations concerned as a co-organiser (whether providing funding or not) in respect of large-scale / territory-wide promotional projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB062

Question Serial No.

2065

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the hearings of reports under International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), please list the expenditure involved and the ranks of staff attending the hearings. Are there any other expenditure on the promotion of the above three treaties? If so, please list the items and amount.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

(a) Hearings: the estimated expenditure incurred under the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the ranks of staff attending the hearings are as follows –

- (i) **ICESCR:** 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1(Acting), 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) and 1 Principal Information Officer (PIO) from HAB, and 1 Law Officer and 1 Government Counsel from Department of Justice (DOJ), the latter's costs being met by HAB. There were also representatives from Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB), Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, and Housing Department: their expenses were met by their respective bureaux. Expenditure totalled **\$176,476**.
- (ii) **CRC:** 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (AOSGB1), 1 SAO, and 1 PIO from HAB; and 1 Deputy Law Officer and 1 Senior Government Counsel from DOJ, expenses for both being met by HAB. There were also representatives from Education and Manpower Bureau and HWFB: their expenses were met by their respective bureaux. Expenditure totalled **\$94,827**.
- (iii) **ICCPR:** 1 AOSGB1, 1 SAO, and 1 PIO from HAB; and 1 Law Officer and 1 Government Counsel from DOJ. There will also be representatives from Constitutional Affairs Bureau and Security Bureau, whose expenses will be met by their respective bureaux. Estimated expenditure is **\$170,000**.

(b) Promotion of the treaties: our API promoting the ICCPR and ICESCR fell under the budget for 2003-04. We recently re-launched this to raise public awareness of the two treaties in advance of the ICCPR hearing. We have also published printed and electronic versions of the treaties (all the treaties, not just those covered by the question). Our API promoting the CRC was also produced in 2002 and is re-launched periodically. Every year we have sponsored the leading child-focused NGOs to convene the Children's Council. Our most recent major initiative in this area was the establishment of a Children's Rights Forum to provide a formal and regular channel for the exchange of views between the Government, children's rights NGOs, and children's representatives. A complementary measure to be introduced in 2006-07, will be the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme. This will provide funding for community organizations to organize projects for the promotion of children's rights. We will also establish a Children's Rights Unit to serve as Secretariat to the Forum and to service the Funding Scheme. Together, the new initiatives are expected to cost about \$940,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB063

Question Serial No.

2066

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Has provision been made for publicity programmes on racial discrimination and for the legislative programme? If so, what is the amount of provision? Has the Administration any plan to launch publicity programmes in collaboration with relevant organisations? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

Taking the two parts of the question seriatim –

(a) **promotion of racial harmony**: in 2006-07, we plan to spend approximately \$7.79 million to promote racial harmony and equality and to provide services for the ethnic communities. The breakdown is as follows -

Item	Estimated expenditure
Race Relations Unit	\$ 1.58 million
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	\$ 0.6 million
Mobile Information Service at the Airport	\$ 1 million
Service Guide Books	\$ 0.3 million
Language classes	\$ 0.98 million
After school support programme	\$ 0.7 million
Radio programmes	\$0.8 million
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	\$ 0.64 million
Website for ethnic communities	\$0.1 million
Culture in Motion	\$0.24 million
Printing and operational expenses	\$ 0.76 million
Promotional activities and others	\$ 0.09 million
Total:	<u>\$ 7.79 million</u>

(b) publicity for the Race Discrimination Bill: the position is as follows –

(i) **pre-drafting stage:** we think it reasonable to regard the public consultations held between September 2004 and February 2005 as a form of public education, in that alerted the public to the nature of our legislative proposals and stimulated extensive public debate. Resource expenditure comprised the cost of publishing the consultation documents and the explanatory leaflets in minority languages and related translation costs. These fell under the budget for 2004-05 and, together, totalled \$315,208. Additionally, the process included meetings and briefing for over 60 forums comprising audiences from the entire range of Hong Kong society. These were conducted by officers of the Bureau and were met from existing resources;

(ii) **during the drafting process:** officers of the Bureau continue to respond to ad hoc requests – from such bodies as NGOs, Consulates, and Chambers of Commerce – for briefings on our proposals as a whole and on specific aspects of the proposed legislation. That process is ongoing and, again, is being met from existing resources; and

(iii) **post-enactment:** our intention is that – as with the existing anti-discrimination laws - the task of promoting the new law should fall to the Equal Opportunities Commission. Initially, the Commission's priority would be to prepare Codes of Practice (on the same lines as those it prepared for the existing anti-discrimination laws) explaining the application of the law and its implications for individuals and different sectors of the community. The costs have yet to be estimated. The Commission would meet them from resources transferred from the Home Affairs Bureau: this would not entail any new funding.

Thereafter, the Commission would be thinking in terms of such standard promotional vehicles as poster campaigns, leaflets, television advertising, school talks, and so forth: similar work is currently conducted by our Race Relations Unit in regard to the promotion of racial harmony. The scope – and therefore the costs – will for the Commission to determine nearer the time.

We collaborate with NGOs in the preparation and dissemination of our publicity programmes as a matter of normal practice.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB064

Question Serial No.

2067

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What is the expenditure involved in “promoting the concept of equal pay for work of equal value (EPEV) in the context of gender equality” as mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07? Please list the expenditure required for major related activities/programmes.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has budgeted around \$1 Million in 2006-07 for this purpose. The programmes / activities being considered by the EOC are as follows -

1. To organize workshops, seminars or focused group meetings for stakeholders to discuss the findings of EOC's study on EPEV in the public sector. Human resources professionals from both the public and private sectors would be invited to share their organization's best practices on how job worth is determined and how gender bias can be eliminated in the process;
2. To support tertiary institutions to work in collaboration with stakeholder groups to conduct survey on public understanding and views of EPEV;
3. To strengthen public education on the elimination of stereotyping of gender roles and gender awareness and encourage employers to introduce family-friendly policies to enhance sideways moves of employees' career especially for male and female dominated job groups; and
4. To refine the Code of Practice (COP) on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance developed by the EOC to clarify the requirements for employers in relation to the principles of EPEV. More specific guidelines and practical examples would be provided.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB065

Question Serial No.

2068

Head : 53 – GS : Home
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the researches conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2004 and 2005, please list the subjects covered and the number of staff and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The requested information is set out below –

Year	Subject	Number of Responsible Staff	Expenses incurred
2004-05	Study cum Forum on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Universities	2	Mainly absorbed by EOC's existing manpower. HK\$3,500 incurred for miscellaneous expenses
2004-05	Survey on Stakeholders' Perception & Expectation on the Role and the Work of Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)	2	Absorbed by EOC's existing manpower
2004-05	Integrating Equal Opportunities into School Curriculum	2	Absorbed by EOC's existing manpower

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB066

Question Serial No.

2069

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the 2006 performance target of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in closing a complaint within 180 days of receipt, why is it 10% lower than that of 2005?

Asked by : Hon. Ho Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The performance target of 87% for closing a complaint case within 180 days of receipt in 2006 is an improvement over that of 2005 (at 85%). The figure of "97%" represented the actual achievement by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PC) in closing complaint cases within 180 days in 2005. In setting the performance target for 2006, the PC envisages that there would be more complicated cases in 2006 and more time would be required for conducting investigation. The PC therefore proposes to improve the 2006 target by two percentage points, instead of setting it to a level close to its actual performance in 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **STEPHEN FISHER**

Post Title **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)**

Date **7 March 2006**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB067

Question Serial No.

2070

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
 Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

How many suspected cases of violation of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance were investigated on the initiative of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in 2004 and 2005? Please provide the gist of such cases.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PC) initiated 63 and 139 investigations against organizations suspected to have violated the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) in 2004 and 2005 respectively. The compliance checks conducted are mainly related to the collection of personal data or the security measures for handling personal data. The breakdown of the compliance checks by nature is as follows-

Nature of compliance checks	No. of cases	
	2004	2005
Suspected contravention of the requirement to provide a means for identifying the prospective employer or the recruitment agency in recruitment advertisements	19	70
Suspected cases of unnecessary collection of Hong Kong Identity (HKID) Card number or photocopies of HKID card	18	24
Miscellaneous cases involving the suspected contravention of the security requirement for handling personal data as stipulated in data protection principle 4 of the PDPO	10	17
Miscellaneous cases involving the suspected contravention of other requirements of the PDPO	16	28

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB068

Question Serial No.

2071

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Of the complaint cases handled by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in 2004 and 2005, how many were taken to court? What percentage of the total number of complaint cases did they account for?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Of the 957 complaint cases completed by the Privacy Commissioner (PC) in 2005, only one case (0.1%) was taken to court. None of the 934 cases completed in 2004 resulted in prosecution action. The low incidence of prosecution was due to the following reasons-

- (a) the majority of the cases investigated were related to the contravention of data protection principles which by itself does not constitute an offence under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO); and
- (b) as for the contravention of a requirement under the PDPO (including the contravention of data protection principles), the PC may serve an enforcement notice directing a data user to take appropriate remedial actions if it is of the view that the contravention will continue or be repeated. Non-compliance with the enforcement notice constitutes an offence. All data users served with enforcement notices in 2004 and 2005 had complied with the requirements of the notices. As such, no prosecution was instituted.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB069

Question Serial No.

1219

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the legislative programme of the Race Discrimination Bill, has financial provision been made for public education programmes? If so, please give details of the programmes and the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Taking the two parts of the question seriatim –

(a) **public education programmes:** the position regarding expenditure directly incurred on public education on race discrimination legislation is as follows –

(i) **public education at the pre-drafting stage:** we think it reasonable to regard the public consultations held between September 2004 and February 2005 as a form of public education, in that alerted the public to the nature of our legislative proposals and stimulated extensive public debate. Resource expenditure comprised the cost of publishing the consultation documents and the explanatory leaflets in minority languages and related translation costs. These fell under the budget for 2004-05 and, together, totalled \$315,208. Additionally, the process included meetings and briefing for over 60 forums comprising audiences from the entire range of Hong Kong society. These were conducted by officers of the Bureau and were met from existing resources;

(ii) **public education during the drafting process:** officers of the Bureau continue to respond to ad hoc requests – from such bodies as non-governmental organisations, Consulates, and Chambers of Commerce – for briefings on our proposals as a whole and on specific aspects of the proposed legislation. That process is ongoing and, again, is being met from existing resources; and

(iii) **public education post-enactment:** our intention is that – as with the existing anti-discrimination laws - the task of promoting the new law should fall to the Equal Opportunities Commission. Initially, the Commission’s priority would be to prepare Codes of Practice (on the same lines as those it prepared for the existing anti-discrimination laws) explaining the application of the law and its implications for individuals and different sectors of the community. The costs have yet to be estimated. The Commission would meet them from resources transferred from the Home Affairs Bureau: this would not entail any new funding.

Thereafter, the Commission would be thinking in terms of such standard promotional vehicles as poster campaigns, leaflets, television advertising, school talks, and so forth: similar work is currently conducted by our Race Relations Unit in regard to the promotion of racial harmony. The scope – and therefore the costs – will for the Commission to determine nearer the time.

(b) **human resources (manpower):** the current public education programme forms part of the workload of a Principal Assistant Secretary (D2) and an Assistant Secretary (Senior Administrative Officer), under the supervision of a Deputy Secretary (D4). All the personnel involved have other tasks and there is no specific budget for public education on the Bill, the cost of which is being met on an ongoing basis from existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB070

Question Serial No.

1251

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide the details on the “review of the policy on funding for performing arts”, including the timetable, manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Committee on Performing Arts (CPA) is conducting a review on the development and promotion of performing arts in Hong Kong. The CPA is tasked to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on issues relating to the development and promotion of performing arts in Hong Kong. In November 2005, the CPA issued a consultation paper to seek the views of stakeholders on various issues, including the funding policy for performing arts groups.

The CPA is now analysing and studying public views collected. It plans to submit a report on its recommendations to the Secretary for Home Affairs in 2006-07.

The staffing requirements for the above review have been absorbed within our existing manpower resources through internal re-deployment. The estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2006-07 is \$200,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER**

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)**

Date _____ **7.3.2006**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB071

Question Serial No.

1252

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (6) Recreation, Sport and Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the introduction of the provisional licensing regime for cinemas, what are the legislative and implementation timetables? What is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

We are working on the details of the provisional licensing regime for cinemas and theatres. We aim to consult the Legislative Council on the proposed regime later this year. We envisage that the additional work arising from the implementation of the provisional licensing regime to be minimal and will be absorbed by the existing staff using existing resources of the departments concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER**

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)**

Date _____ **3 March 2006**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB072

Question Serial No.

1253

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 include “organise various activities to promote creative industries in Hong Kong”. In this connection, please inform us of:

- (a) the titles and natures of the activities concerned, types of the creative industries involved and their estimated cost;
- (b) the total estimated provision for the above activities and the manpower involved. Is there any increase or decrease in these figures when compared with 2005-06? If so, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) organised and supported a variety of promotion programmes to enhance public understanding and interests in creative industries and showcase Hong Kong's winning edge in this respect to overseas countries and the Mainland during the past few years. In 2006-07, HAB will organise or sponsor activities to sustain its efforts and momentum in enhancing community awareness and appreciation of the importance of developing creative industries in Hong Kong.

The programmes under planning are as follows:

- **Youth Art Performance Scheme (Culture + 「青年藝展廣場」)**
A 12-month programme which seeks to provide a regular platform at various venues of Leisure and Cultural Services Department for youths to showcase their talents in performing arts, and enhance public awareness and participation in different forms of arts and culture.
- **Comix Home Base**
A 20 month long project comprising a series of comics exhibitions, workshops, screening, galleries and seminars which aims to unfold the force of creativity as well as explore and examine the cultural and economic values of comics.

- **Entertainment Expo 2006 (EE2006) and related events**

In view of the encouraging results of EE2005, the mega Expo amalgamating 9 events covering the scope of film, TV, music and digital entertainment will be launched again from 20 March to 19 April 2006. It aims at creating synergy by combining leading entertainment events under the united banner with increased international participation, industry attention and community-wide awareness.

- **Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2006 (ACCF2006)**

Building on the success of the past three years and to sustain the momentum of cultural exchange, as well as serving as a platform for sharing good practices in creative industries, the ACCF 2006 will be held for the fourth time in Hong Kong in November 2006. Cultural Ministers and cultural leaders of neighbouring Asian countries will be invited to attend.

- **‘Cultural and Creativity Expo’ and related events**

This is a flagship event covering over 20 cultural and creativity events to be held in Hong Kong from mid Oct to late Nov 2006. This would synchronise with the ACCF 2006. It will provide a common communication platform to optimize efforts by the creativity community in reaching out to different audiences and the public. Component events, including seminars and workshops on visual, public and media art, architecture etc, will be featured.

These programmes will provide the industries and the public with a new vision on Hong Kong’s culture and creativity, as well as enhancing Hong Kong’s profile as a creativity hub in Asia.

The above projects will be jointly organised with various NGOs, statutory bodies and government departments. On the part of the Government, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and HAB have been making a concerted effort in promoting the products and services of Hong Kong’s creative industries. In 2006-07, the estimated total expenditure to be incurred by HAB on organizing and sponsoring the above promotion activities is \$10 million, which is equivalent to that in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date _____

7.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB073

Question Serial No.

1255

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : What are the manpower and expenditure involved in educating the public on gambling-related issues in 2006 – 07? Is there any increase when compared with the last financial year? Please provide details of the specific work plans, including the estimated expenditure of the proposed activities.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is responsible for handling public education on gambling and the administration of the Ping Wo Fund, set up in 2003 to finance preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems. The Hong Kong Jockey Club contributed \$25 million in the past two years and will continue to make contributions from 2006 to 2008. The Fund also accepts public donations. One major objective of the Fund is to finance education programmes to enhance public understanding of the nature and risks of gambling activities as well as to increase public awareness of gambling-related problems. The relevant work is undertaken by a team comprising an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1, an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, a Senior Administrative Officer and an Executive Officer in the Bureau, with each of them devoting portions of their working hours to such duties. We have kept the manpower and expenditure involved in educating the public on gambling-related issues at a level comparable to that of 2005-06. In 2006-07, we will continue to implement measures to address gambling-related problems, including prevention, counselling and treatment as well as other remedial services for problem and pathological gamblers. The overall expenditure for the various measures will be \$12 to \$15 million, and financed by both the Ping Wo Fund and the operating expenditure of HAB.

We will also continue to launch public education programmes to educate the general public against excessive gambling, as well as to remind the public to seek assistance in tackling gambling-related problems. We are planning to commission organizations with experience in conducting school and youth education programmes to launch youth education campaigns in schools and districts to drive home the message of the adverse consequences of excessive gambling to young people.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB074

Question Serial No.

1239

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the legislative programme of the Race Discrimination Bill, please give details of the following –

- (a) What was the expenditure on conducting the four-month public consultation exercise in 2005-06?
- (b) What are the specific work plans in 2006-07? What are the resources involved?
- (c) What is the specific legislative timetable?
- (d) What work had been done to promote awareness of racial harmony and equality in 2005-06? And what are the work plans for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Take the questions seriatim,

- (a) **expenditure on consultation:** the public consultation exercise took place between September 2004 and February 2005. The total expenditure – which fell within the budget for 2004-05 – was \$315,208.
- (b) **work plan of the legislative programme:** At present, we are finalising discussions with bureaux on matters of fine detail within their policy ambits. We hope to present the Bill to the Legislative Council in the second quarter of 2006-07. Time and manpower are the only costs involved and those are met from existing resources.
- (c) **legislative timetable:** please refer to the reply to question (b) above.
- (d) **promotion of racial harmony and equality:**
 - (i) In 2005-06, our Race Relations Unit delivered, inter alia, a 'Culture in Motion' on a pilot basis. This is a Sunday Cultural programme which aimed at fostering a sense of community and belonging among Hong Kong's ethnic minorities. Also ongoing is the Mobile Information Service (MIS) whose 'Information Ambassadors' provide information and assistance to migrant workers and non-Chinese persons entering for settlement on first arrival at the Airport. Other measures included giving talks to schools, maintaining a hotline for complaints and enquiries, providing radio programmes in Nepali and Pakistani, producing various publications such as comic books, service guide books and multi-lingual phrasebooks for medical emergency, and an after school support programme for ethnic minority children.

- (ii) in 2006-07, we shall continue existing long-term initiatives, such as the language classes, the Equal Opportunities Funding Scheme, the Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony, the service guidebooks, the after school support programme, and public education campaigns (school talks, posters, and so forth). New initiatives include setting up community support teams for ethnic communities and revamp of the Race Relations Unit's website.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 3 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB075

Question Serial No.

1419

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under this programme, the Bureau will organise various activities to promote creative industries in Hong Kong this year. Please list out the details regarding the followings:

- (a) what is the total estimated number of activities to promote creative industries;
- (b) what are the specific arrangements;
- (c) what is the estimated cost; and
- (d) what are the expected results.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) organised and supported a variety of promotion programmes to enhance public understanding and interests in creative industries and showcase Hong Kong's winning edge in this respect to overseas countries and the Mainland during the past few years. In 2006-07, HAB will organise or sponsor activities to sustain its efforts and momentum in enhancing community awareness and appreciation of the importance of developing creative industries in Hong Kong.

The programmes under planning are as follows:

- **Youth Art Performance Scheme (Culture + 「青年藝展廣場」)**

A 12-month programme which seeks to provide a regular platform at various venues of Leisure and Cultural Services Department for youths to showcase their talents in performing arts, and enhance public awareness and participation in different forms of arts and culture.

- **Comix Home Base**

A 20-month long project comprising a series of comics exhibitions, workshops, screening, galleries and seminars which aims to unfold the force of creativity as well as explore and examine the cultural and economic values of comics.

- **Entertainment Expo 2006 (EE2006) and related events**

In view of the encouraging results of EE2005, the mega Expo amalgamating 9 events covering the scope of film, TV, music and digital entertainment will be launched again from 20 March to 19 April 2006. It aims at creating synergy by combining leading entertainment events under the united banner with increased international participation, industry attention and community-wide awareness.

- **Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2006 (ACCF2006)**

Building on the success of the past three years and to sustain the momentum of cultural exchange, as well as serving as a platform for sharing good practices in creative industries, the ACCF 2006 will be held for the fourth time in Hong Kong in November 2006. Cultural Ministers and cultural leaders of neighbouring Asian countries will be invited to attend.

- **‘Cultural and Creativity Expo’ and related events**

This is a flagship event covering over 20 cultural and creativity events to be held in Hong Kong from mid Oct to late Nov 2006. This would synchronise with the ACCF 2006. It will provide a common communication platform to optimize efforts by the creativity community in reaching out to different audiences and the public. Component events, including seminars and workshops on visual, public and media art, architecture etc, will be featured.

These programmes will provide the industries and the public with a new vision on Hong Kong’s culture and creativity, as well as enhancing Hong Kong’s profile as a creativity hub in Asia.

The above projects will be jointly organised with various NGOs, statutory bodies and government departments. On the part of the Government, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and HAB have been making a concerted effort in promoting the products and services of Hong Kong’s creative industries. In 2006-07, the estimated total expenditure to be incurred by HAB on organizing and sponsoring the above promotion activities is \$10 million, which is equivalent to that in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB078

Question Serial No.

2168

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, the Home Affairs Bureau will continue to organize various activities to promote creative industries in Hong Kong. Please inform me of the total number of activities successfully organized in 2005-06; the expenditure involved; the results; activities continued to be organized in 2006-07; and the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the estimate.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) organised and supported a variety of promotion programmes to enhance public understanding and interests in creative industries and showcase Hong Kong's winning edge in this respect to overseas countries and the Mainland during the past few years.

In 2005-06, the following projects were successfully organized:

- The 3rd Annual University Student Film and TV Festival
- Entertainment Expo Hong Kong
- Sovereign Asian Art Prize Project
- Public Art Project in support of 2005 Hong Kong Book Fair
- Publication of study on "Hong Kong Creativity Index"
- Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2005

These programmes provided the industries and the public with a new vision on the subject of culture and creativity and stimulated highly constructive discussions, which enhanced Hong Kong's profile as a creativity hub in Asia.

In 2006-07, HAB will organise or sponsor activities to sustain its efforts and momentum in enhancing community awareness and appreciation of the importance of developing creative industries in Hong Kong.

The programmes to be organized in 2006-07 are as follows:

- **Youth Art Performance Scheme (Culture + 「青年藝展廣場」)**
A 12-month programme which seeks to provide a regular platform at various venues of Leisure and Cultural Services Department for youths to showcase their talents in performing arts, and enhance public awareness and participation in different forms of arts and culture.
- **Comix Home Base**
A 20-month long project comprising a series of comics exhibitions, workshops, screening, galleries and seminars which aims to unfold the force of creativity as well as explore and examine the cultural and economic values of comics.
- **Entertainment Expo 2006 (EE2006) and related events**
In view of the encouraging results of EE2005, the mega Expo amalgamating 9 events covering the scope of film, TV, music and digital entertainment will be launched again from 20 March to 19 April 2006. It aims at creating synergy by combining leading entertainment events under the united banner with increased international participation, industry attention and community-wide awareness.
- **Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2006 (ACCF2006)**
Building on the success of the past three years and to sustain the momentum of cultural exchange, as well as serving as a platform for sharing good practices in creative industries, the ACCF 2006 will be held for the fourth time in Hong Kong in November 2006. Cultural Ministers and cultural leaders of neighbouring Asian countries will be invited to attend.
- **‘Cultural and Creativity Expo’ and related events**
This is a flagship event covering over 20 cultural and creativity events to be held in Hong Kong from mid Oct to late Nov 2006. This would synchronise with the ACCF 2006. It will provide a common communication platform to optimize efforts by the creativity community in reaching out to different audiences and the public. Component events, including seminars and workshops on visual, public and media art, architecture etc, will be featured.

The above projects will be jointly organised with various NGOs, statutory bodies and government departments. On the part of the Government, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and HAB have been making a concerted effort in promoting the products and services of Hong Kong’s creative industries. In 2006-07, the estimated total expenditure to be incurred by HAB on organizing and sponsoring the above promotion activities is \$10 million, which is equivalent to that in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB079

Question Serial No.

1796

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : Please give details of the work relating to the promotion of equal opportunities on grounds of gender, family status, sexual orientation and race in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What are the work plans and the estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Gender and Family Status

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is currently tasked with the responsibility to implement the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) and Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO) to promote equal opportunities on grounds of sex, disability and family status.

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is responsible for the house-keeping of the EOC. The expenditure involved is absorbed within HAB's existing resources.

Sexual Orientation

On promoting equal opportunities on ground of sexual orientation, the total expenditure in 2005-06 was \$1.55 million. We –

- (i) commissioned an independent opinion survey firm to conduct a survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals; and
- (ii) established a Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) in May 2005 to handle issues relating to sexual minorities.

Details of the work of the GISOU included -

- (i) managing the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and monitoring projects and events funded by the scheme;
- (ii) maintaining a hotline for enquiries and complaints in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity (the hotline commenced operation on 7 July 2005);
- (iii) providing secretariat support to the Sexual Minorities Forum and implementing any work plan decided by it;
- (iv) launching publicity and education programmes to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- (v) conducting research on issues regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

In 2006-07, we have earmarked \$1.5 million for the GISOU to continue with its work above.

Race

Details of the work and the expenditure involved with promotion of equal opportunities on grounds of race in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows –

- (i) 2005-06

Item	Estimated expenditure
Staff cost of Race Relations Unit	\$1.44 million
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	\$0.56 million
Mobile Information Service at the Airport	\$1 million
Service Guide Books	\$0.3 million
After school support programme	\$0.48 million
Language classes	\$0.98 million
Printing and operational expenses	\$0.76 million
Culture in Motion	\$0.24 million
Radio programmes	\$0.53 million
Comic books	\$0.28 million
Emergency multilingual phrasebooks	\$0.03 million
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	\$ 0.32 million
Other promotional activities	\$0.15 million
Total:	<u>\$7.07 million</u>

(ii) 2006-07

Item	Estimated expenditure
Staff cost of Race Relations Unit	\$ 1.58 million
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	\$ 0.6 million
Mobile Information Service at the Airport	\$ 1 million
Service Guide Books	\$ 0.3 million
Language classes	\$ 0.98 million
After school support programme	\$ 0.7 million
Radio programmes	\$0.8 million
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	\$ 0.64 million
Website for ethnic communities	\$0.1 million
Culture in Motion	\$0.24 million
Printing and operational expenses	\$ 0.76 million
Promotional activities and others	\$ 0.09 million
Total:	<u>\$ 7.79 million</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB081

Question Serial No.

2058

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please give details of the work on regulating football betting and lotteries in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What is the estimated expenditure on this work for 2006-07 ?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is responsible for the formulation and implementation of gambling policy, as well as the regulation of authorized gambling activities, including authorized football betting and lotteries. We worked closely with the Football Betting and Lotteries Commission (the Commission) to ensure that authorized football betting and lotteries is properly regulated. Specifically, we monitored the operation of licensed operators of authorized football betting and lotteries, scrutinized reports submitted by the licensed operators, examined the suggestions for amendments to the code of practice for authorized football betting and lotteries, handled complaints about authorized betting activities, as well as monitored the prevalence of illegal gambling activities. In 2005 – 06, the relevant work was undertaken by a team comprising an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1, an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, a Senior Administrative Officer and an Executive Officer in the Bureau, with each of them devoting varying portions of their working hours to such duties.
- (b) The HAB will continue to work closely with the Commission to ensure that authorized football betting and lotteries is properly regulated. The manpower and resources devoted to the regulation of authorized football betting and lotteries in 2006 – 07 will be comparable to those in 2005 – 06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ STEPHEN FISHER _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) _____

Date _____ 6 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB082

Question Serial No.

2059

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please give details of the work and the expenditure on public education on gambling-related issues, counselling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers, as well as research on impact of gambling in 2005-06. What are the work plans and the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 ?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) handles gambling-related issues and the administration of the Ping Wo Fund which was set up in 2003 to finance preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems. The Hong Kong Jockey Club contributed \$25 million to the Fund for the last two years and will continue to make contributions from 2006 to 2008. The Fund also accepts public donations. The Fund has financed various education programmes and studies to enhance public understanding of the nature and risks of gambling activities and to increase public awareness of gambling-related problems. It has also financed the operation of gambling-related prevention and counselling services. In 2005-06, \$13 million had been spent on such work.

In 2005-06, we launched a public education programme to enhance public understanding about the nature and risks of gambling activities; increase awareness of gambling-related problems; and encourage people who have gambling-related problems to seek assistance. The programme included TV and radio Announcement in the Public Interest, TV documentary dramas, posters and banners to warn against excessive gambling; as well as an education programme targeting adolescents to strengthen their ability to exercise self-control from gambling. On counselling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers, we commissioned Caritas and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to operate two dedicated counselling and treatment centres for problem and pathological gamblers for a period of three years. On research on gambling-related issues, we have commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a study on the Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities; and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to conduct an evaluative study on the services of the two counselling and treatment centres for problem and pathological gamblers.

In 2006–07, we will continue to implement measures to address gambling-related problems, including prevention, counselling and treatment as well as other remedial services for problem and pathological gamblers. We are planning to commission organizations with experience in conducting school and youth education programmes to launch youth education campaigns in schools and districts to drive home the message of the adverse consequences of excessive gambling to young people. The estimated expenditure will be \$12 to \$15 million, financed by the Ping Wo Fund and the HAB.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB083

Question Serial No.

1843

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (7) Culture

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As regards organizing various activities to promote creative industries in Hong Kong, please provide information on:

- (a) In 2006-07, what promotional activities will be organized by the Administration? Which of them is specifically for the creative industries of digital entertainment and computer software? and
- (b) What are the target groups of the programmes, and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) organised and supported a variety of promotion programmes to enhance public understanding and interests in creative industries and showcase Hong Kong's winning edge in this respect to overseas countries and the Mainland during the past few years. In 2006-07, HAB will organise or sponsor activities to sustain its efforts and momentum in enhancing community awareness and appreciation of the importance of developing creative industries in Hong Kong.

The programmes under planning are as follows:

- **Youth Art Performance Scheme (Culture + 「青年藝展廣場」)**
A 12-month programme which seeks to provide a regular platform at various venues of Leisure and Cultural Services Department for youths to showcase their talents in performing arts, and enhance public awareness and participation in different forms of arts and culture.
- **Comix Home Base**
A 20-month long project comprising a series of comics exhibitions, workshops, screening, galleries and seminars which aims to unfold the force of creativity as well as explore and examine the cultural and economic values of comics.

- **Entertainment Expo 2006 (EE2006) and related events**

In view of the encouraging results of EE2005, the mega Expo amalgamating 9 events covering the scope of film, TV, music and digital entertainment will be launched again from 20 March to 19 April 2006. It aims at creating synergy by combining leading entertainment events under the united banner with increased international participation, industry attention and community-wide awareness.

- **Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2006 (ACCF2006)**

Building on the success of the past three years and to sustain the momentum of cultural exchange, as well as serving as a platform for sharing good practices in creative industries, the ACCF 2006 will be held for the fourth time in Hong Kong in November 2006. Cultural Ministers and cultural leaders of neighbouring Asian countries will be invited to attend..

- **‘Cultural and Creativity Expo’ and related events**

This is a flagship event covering over 20 cultural and creativity events to be held in Hong Kong from mid Oct to late Nov 2006. This would synchronise with the ACCF 2006. It will provide a common communication platform to optimize efforts by the creativity community in reaching out to different audiences and the public. Component events, including seminars and workshops on visual, public and media art, architecture, design etc, will be featured. Specific efforts on promotion of digital entertainment and computer software fall under the auspices of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Communication and Technology Branch of the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (CITB).

These programmes will provide the industries and the public with a new vision on Hong Kong’s culture and creativity, as well as enhancing Hong Kong’s profile as a creativity hub in Asia.

The above projects will be jointly organised with various NGOs, statutory bodies and government departments. On the part of the Government, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and HAB have been making a concerted effort in promoting the products and services of Hong Kong’s creative industries. In 2006-07, the estimated total expenditure to be incurred by HAB on organizing and sponsoring the above promotion activities is \$10 million, which is equivalent to that in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE LAM

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB084

Question Serial No.

1862

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (5) Youth Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question : It is noted that the Administration proposes to increase the expenditure under this Programme in order to enhance youth development programmes. From information available, the number of participants of overseas and mainland exchange programmes in 2005 has dropped as compared to 2004. However, the Administration anticipates an increase in the number of participants in 2006. What are the reasons? And what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

International Youth Exchange Programme

The reasons for the fluctuation in the number of participants are mainly because some of the exchange programmes are organised on alternate years. For instance, in 2005-06, there were no youth delegates to and from Japan, one of the participating countries under this programme, while the exchange would be resumed in 2006-07. As a result, the number of participants is expected to increase in 2006-07. The estimated expenditure under this programme in 2006-07 is \$1,350,000.

Community Participation Scheme for Organising Study Tours to the Mainland

The reasons for the fluctuation in the number of participants are mainly because:

- (i) all the applications under this scheme are assessed on the merits of individual projects, on the advice of a designated working group under the Commission on Youth. The major consideration for assessing the applications is whether the proposed project could effectively meet the objectives specified, taking into account its contents, creativity, target groups, number of beneficiaries, self-assessment performance indicators and cost-effectiveness; and
- (ii) in previous years, the scheme only sponsored projects organised during the 7-month period from July to early January the following year. In 2005-06, the project period has been extended to a 12-month period from July 2005 to June 2006. Hence, instead of organising the projects mainly in the summer vacation and the Christmas holidays as in previous years, a number of projects will be organised during the Chinese New Year and Easter holidays in 2006, which leads to a drop in number of participants in 2005 and a corresponding estimated increase in 2006.

Broadly speaking, the quality of applications, the assessment criteria and the duration of the project period would affect the number of projects sponsored and, in turn the number of participants, each year. The estimated expenditure in sponsoring organisations to organise study tours to the Mainland in 2006-07 is about \$10 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB085

Question Serial No.

2152

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational
Expenses

Programme : 000 Operational Expenses

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that HAB will create 16 non-directorate posts in 2006-07. Please list:

- (a) the title and rank of each new post;
- (b) the department(s) for which the posts are created and the annual remuneration expenditure; and
- (c) the reason for creating such posts.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

15 non-directorate posts, namely one Senior Executive Officer, two Executive Officers I, one Senior Clerical Officer, six Assistant Clerical Officers, and five Clerical Assistants will be created in the Home Affairs Bureau for the establishment of an Estate Beneficiaries Support Services Unit to provide estate-related public services following the abolition of estate duty. The estimated annual remuneration expenditure is \$3,652,000.

One Structural Engineer post will be created in the Home Affairs Bureau for secondment to the Trust Funds, Temples and Cemeteries Joint Secretariat which serves as the secretarial and executive arms of the Chinese Temples Committee, the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries and eight Trust Fund Committees. The estimated annual remuneration expenditure is \$443,000 which will be fully reimbursed by the relevant Committees and Board of Management.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB086

Question Serial No.

2156

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (4) District and Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding public education on gambling-related issues, counseling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers, as well as research on the impact of gambling, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) what have been done in these three areas of work in 2005? Please also provide the specific details of such work, stating their effectiveness and the total expenditure involved;
- (b) what are the specific work plans and estimated expenditure in 2006?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) handles gambling-related issues and the administration of the Ping Wo Fund which was set up in 2003 to finance preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems. The Hong Kong Jockey Club contributed \$25 million to the Fund for the last two years and will continue to make contributions from 2006 to 2008. The Fund also accepts public donations. The Fund has financed various education programmes and studies to enhance public understanding of the nature and risks of gambling activities and to increase public awareness of gambling-related problems. It has also financed the operation of gambling-related prevention and counselling services. In 2005-06, \$13 million had been spent on such work.

In 2005-06, we launched a public education programme to enhance public understanding about the nature and risks of gambling activities; increase awareness of gambling-related problems; and encourage people who have gambling-related problems to seek assistance. The programme included TV and radio Announcement in the Public Interest, TV documentary dramas, posters and banners to warn against excessive gambling; as well as an education programme targeting adolescents to strengthen their ability to exercise self-control from gambling. On counselling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers, we commissioned Caritas and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to operate two dedicated counselling and treatment centres for problem and pathological gamblers for a period of three years. On research on gambling-related issues, we have commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a study on the Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities; and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to conduct an evaluative study on the services of the two counselling and treatment centres for problem and pathological gamblers.

Our efforts are well spent as we find that the overall participation rate in gambling activities and the overall percentage of problem and pathological gamblers have not increased in recent years, as revealed by the survey results of the Study on Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities conducted last year. There is also a decline in the overall participation rate in illegal gambling activities.

In 2006–07, we will continue to implement measures to address gambling-related problems, including prevention, counselling and treatment as well as other remedial services for problem and pathological gamblers. We are planning to commission organizations with experience in conducting school and youth education programmes to launch youth education campaigns in schools and districts to drive home the message of the adverse consequences of excessive gambling to young people. The estimated expenditure will be \$12 to \$15 million, financed by the Ping Wo Fund and the HAB.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 6 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB087

Question Serial No.

2157

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the
 Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2005, a total of 33 major promotional activities were organized by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). Please give details of the activities and the expenditure involved. In 2006, the EOC intends to organize 33 major promotional activities. Please give details of the activities and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The major promotional activities organized by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in 2005 covered the following –

- (i) “Equal Opportunities Through Your Eyes”: a territory-wide photo competition cum prize presentation ceremony held on 6 August 2005 at Central Plaza. A roving exhibition on the winning entries was held in six districts including Wan Chai, Shau Kei Wan, Wong Tai Sin, Tseung Kwan O, Tsz Wan Shan, Yau Tong, from August to December 2005. (Events 1 to 6)
- (ii) “A Mission for Equal Opportunities”: a TV docu-drama series jointly produced by the EOC and the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Six episodes on discrimination cases were broadcast on TVB Jade Channel every Wednesday from 20 April to 25 May 2005. A launching ceremony and a press conference was held on 19 April 2005. Following the programme, a student forum was produced for an educational module on the same series. (Events 7 to 12)
- (iii) A poster advertisement campaign was launched between April and May 2005 for over 50 stations on MTR, KCR and LRT to promote equal opportunities (EO) messages. (Event 13)
- (iv) Over 1000 secondary students participated in the Career Challenge mentorship programme, including 18 sharing sessions with mentors. (Events 14 to 31)
- (v) Opening ceremony of the EO Expo 2005 involving close to 20 non-governmental organisations (Event 32)

- (vi) University orientation games design contest for Hong Kong eight tertiary institutes (Event 33)

The total expenses for the above projects incurred are about \$1.5 M.

The following events are being organized/planned for 2006: -

- (i) A year-long radio programme on RTHK Radio 2 will be broadcasted from April 2006 to promote inclusion and diversity in everyday life. Racial harmony, gender equality, inclusion of persons with a disability and accommodation for persons with family status will be the key messages of the project, details include:
- over 30 radio interviews with celebrities including outstanding persons with a disability, representatives of ethnic minority communities and university lecturers to be produced and broadcast once a week
 - a story writing competition on diversity, racial harmony, sex, disability and family status discrimination
 - produce and broadcast of a series of radio promos on introduction of the existing EO ordinances, explanation of the provisions of the ordinances and EO issues
 - radio quiz game and phone-in programmes
- (ii) The EOC plans to organize the following public education initiatives:
- launching ceremony of the newly enhanced EOC website
 - seminars for human resources managers to promote EO in the workplace
 - Community Participation Funding Programme with a theme on gender equality
 - promotional programmes on family friendly policies
 - a series of experience-sharing sessions under the mentorship programme for Hong Kong secondary students
- (iii) The EOC also plans to propose a series of activities to prepare for the new Race Discrimination Ordinance, details include:
- photo competition to promote racial harmony
 - media related projects on the new ordinance

The above events will incur an estimate budget of \$1.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN FISHER

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Date 7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB088

Question Serial No.

2211

Head : 53 – GS : Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Bureau

Programme : (2) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What is the work plan and expenditure on carrying out the legislative programme for the Race Discrimination Bill in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

There are no specific funds reserved for this purpose. The ongoing costs are being absorbed from existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **STEPHEN FISHER** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)** _____

Date _____ **6 March 2006** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB089

Question Serial No.

0100

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2005, the average usage rates of multi-purpose halls in community centres and those in community halls under the Home Affairs Department were 77.9% and 71.8% respectively, which were similar to those in 2004. In this connection, has the Administration conducted reviews and introduced measures to enhance public usage of these venues. If so, please give details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The usage rates of our community centres and community halls were worked out on the basis of the total available time-slots which included non-peak hours such as mealtimes and early mornings. We review the use of multi-purpose halls in community centres and community halls from time to time and ensure that our facilities are well-equipped to meet district needs. In this connection, we have taken the following measures -

- (a) renovation/upgrading works have been carried out for 30 community centres and community halls;
- (b) facilities such as PA systems and visual-aid equipment have been replaced/installed in some community centres and community halls;
- (c) time-slots have been re-organized to allow greater flexibility for bookings by hirers; and
- (d) promotional materials have been distributed to local organizations and potential hirers for new community centres and community halls.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB090

Question Serial No.

0183

Head : 63 –Home Affairs
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Home Affairs Department has 4 Building Management Resource Centres (BMRCs) located in Kowloon, on Hong Kong Island, in New Territories West and in New Territories East. Would the Administration inform this Council: (a) of the manpower and expenditure involved; (b) whether their effectiveness has been evaluated; and (c) whether there are plans to further set up BMRCs in various districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The objectives of establishing Building Management Resource Centres (BMRCs) are to enhance the services of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) on building management. The four BMRCs were set up in Kowloon, HK, NTW and NTE in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2003 respectively. The BMRCs provide information, services and advice to property owners, occupiers, owners' corporations (OCs), Mutual Aid Committees and management bodies so as to assist them in improving the standards of management, safety and maintenance of their buildings. In addition to providing general information and advice on building management, the BMRCs also offer to property owners free professional consultation by volunteers from eight professional organisations.

In order to ensure the best use of resources, HAD reviews the manpower and services of the BMRCs from time to time. At present, the BMRCs, except the one in Kowloon, are each managed by two Liaison Officers. The BMRC in Kowloon is staffed by a total of five Liaison Officers as it has been operated as a research centre to coordinate all the work of the other three BMRCs. The BMRC in Kowloon also has longer opening hours (i.e. from 10 am to 10 pm from Mondays to Fridays, and from 10 am to 6:30 pm on Saturdays) to suit the needs of our clients. The general office expenditure (mainly electricity charges, telephone rentals, office equipment, cleansing services, etc.) of each BMRC is about \$1.3 million per year.

To ensure that our services meet the needs of our clients, we regularly conduct opinion surveys at the BMRCs and keep records on the utilisation rate of the BMRCs. According to the latest survey results covering the period from June to November 2005, over 90% of the respondents were satisfied with our services. As regards the utilisation rate, the number of visitors has increased from some 50 000 in 2004 to 76 000 in 2005, and the number of enquiries received has also increased from some 67 000 in 2004 to some 90 000 in 2005.

As we have already established District Building Management Liaison Teams in the 18 District Offices, HAD has no plans to establish more BMRCs in the near future. However, we will continue to keep in view the services provided by the BMRCs to meet the needs of the community.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title

Director of Home Affairs

Date

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB091

Question Serial No.

0178

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As some villagers, village representatives and rural committees have expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of rural public works projects, will the Administration allocate more resources to speed up the projects in 2006-07 so as to put into practice the Chief Executive's policy objective that government should be for the people? If so, please give details of the relevant arrangements and measures as well as the resources involved. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

It has been our objective to ensure early completion of the Rural Public Works (RPW) projects to meet local community needs. In this respect, the majority of the RPW projects are implemented in a timely manner. For instance, of all planned RPW projects in 2005, we completed about 88% of them. The delay of the remaining projects was due to local objections as well as various land ownership and technical problems. These often require time and villagers' co-operation to resolve. Nevertheless, we will continue to work closely with concerned parties to overcome these problems as far as possible. Also, we will keep our working procedures under review to enhance efficiency in the implementation of the works projects. To continue with our efforts in improving the living environment of the rural areas in the New Territories, we plan to implement 140 projects under the RPW programme in 2006 with an estimated provision of \$130 million. These represent an increase of 14.8% in the number of projects and 7.5% in financial provisions over 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB092

Question Serial No.

0179

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Chief Executive said in his Policy Address that District Councils would be allowed to assume responsibility for the management of some district facilities, such as libraries, sports venues and swimming pools. Would the Administration inform this Council of the following:

- (a) Will the above measure require additional allocation of resources? If so, what will be the increased expenditure and the scope involved? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Facilities like libraries, swimming pools, etc. are currently managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), how will the above new measure affect the department's related expenditure?
- (c) What is the specific implementation plan for the District Councils to assume responsibility for the management of the above facilities and how is the progress?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In his Policy Address of 2005-2006, the Chief Executive stated that District Councils (DC) would be allowed to participate in the management of some district facilities, such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools. The executive departments will follow the decisions of the DCs in managing such facilities, within the limits of their existing statutory powers and resources available.

The Administration is now making the final preparations for the DC Review. It is expected that public consultation will commence in the first half of 2006. The Administration will issue a public consultation paper, setting out the above policy initiative in greater detail. We will only be able to work out the final implementation plan and the resource implications after the public consultation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB093

Question Serial No.

0279

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Among the measures to promote awareness of racial harmony, are there any tailor made for Mainland new arrivals? If so, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

To facilitate the early integration of Mainland new arrivals into the community, Home Affairs Department has been co-ordinating and monitoring the services being provided to them by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government departments.

In 2006-07, Home Affairs Department will continue to publish a service handbook for Mainland new arrivals with a view to providing them with more service-related information, such as education, welfare, employment and health care services, to facilitate their early integration into the local community. The Department will also analyse the results of the thematic household survey conducted since late 2005 to assess the service needs of Mainland new arrivals during their early years of stay in Hong Kong. The estimates of expenditure on the above-mentioned services are as follows –

	Estimates for 2006-07
Service Handbook for New Arrivals	\$640,000
Thematic Household Survey on the Needs of Mainland New Arrivals	\$4,000 *
Total	\$644,000

* A total of \$997,280 was spent on this survey during 2005-06.

In addition, HAD will continue to encourage NGOs and district organisations to apply for District Council funds for organising various activities at district level to promote social harmony and mutual acceptance of Mainland new arrivals and local residents.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB094

Question Serial No.

0280

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to the indicators under Programme (3), the actual number of DC minor environmental improvement projects in 2005 was 319 and the actual expenditure incurred was \$26.55million, which were lower than the 2005 estimate of 345 projects and \$28million. Why are the actual number of DC minor environmental improvement projects and the actual expenditure incurred lower than the 2005 estimate?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

To improve the quality of life in the districts, District Councils (DCs) are provided with funds to carry out minor environmental improvement (MEI) projects such as grass cutting and construction of directional signs. When undertaking MEI projects, DCs are responsible for identifying possible projects, deciding their scale, priorities, implementation timetable and monitoring their progress. For planning purposes, each district would normally maintain a list of MEI projects suggested by DC members and local residents. Based on this information, the estimated number of MEI projects to be implemented and the likely expenditure are compiled as indicators under Programme (3) in the draft Estimates of Expenditure.

The actual number of projects completed and the corresponding expenditure reflect those actually implemented by DCs in the course of the year and taking into account the aforementioned DC planning and deliberation processes. Hence, it is not uncommon to find differences between the estimated figures and the actual outcome as determined by DCs in the course of the year. In 2005, the actual number of completed projects was 319 with an expenditure of \$26.55 million. These represent a slight difference of 7.5% in the number of projects and 5.2% of expenditure as compared with the original estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB095

Question Serial No.

1043

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Would the Administration please tabulate the amount of financial provision for community building received by each District Office in 2005-06? What is the estimated provision for each District Office in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Home Affairs Department allocates funds to 18 District Offices each year to enable them to implement, among other things, Community Involvement (CI) projects, with a view to encouraging public participation in community affairs. The allocation in 2005-06 is as follows -

District Office	Allocation for CI Projects (\$)	District Office	Allocation for CI Projects (\$)
Central & Western	7,050,000	Islands	4,450,000
Eastern	10,349,000	Kwai Tsing	12,562,720
Kowloon City	6,724,000	North	6,864,000
Kwun Tong	8,928,600	Sai Kung	7,120,000
Sham Shui Po	8,373,000	Sha Tin	11,280,000
Southern	5,450,000	Tai Po	7,640,000
Wan Chai	5,470,000	Tsuen Wan	7,837,840
Wong Tai Sin	8,910,000	Tuen Mun	9,050,000
Yau Tsim Mong	8,466,000	Yuen Long	8,820,692

The allocation of funds to individual districts for implementing CI projects in 2006-07 will be similar to that for 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HAB096

Question Serial No.

1044

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please tabulate the district activities organised by the various District Fight Crime Committees and the expenditure involved in 2005-06, as well as the planned activities and estimated expenditure in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2005, the total number of activities held by District Fight Crime Committees in the 18 districts was 440. Details are as follows:

Central & Western	40	Wan Chai	19	Sai Kung	6
Eastern	95	Wong Tai Sin	7	Sha Tin	44
Kowloon City	38	Yau Tsim Mong	17	Tai Po	9
Kwun Tong	19	Islands	6	Tsuen Wan	21
Sham Shui Po	21	Kwai Tsing	11	Tuen Mun	9
Southern	49	North	6	Yuen Long	23

The expenditure incurred by District Fight Crime Committees for organizing activities in 2005-06 amounts to \$6.321 million. The figure includes sponsorship from various organizations.

We estimate that the amount of expenditure in 2006-07 will be similar to that in 2005-06 while the number of activities to be held will be around 350.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB097

Question Serial No.

1051

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under Programme (2), it is indicated that provision of 2006-07 is \$37.5 million (7.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06 and that this is mainly due to the additional provision for helping the disadvantaged groups to achieve self-reliance. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the amount of provision for such purpose and give details of the work plans in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. Chan Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Of the increased allocation under Programme (2), \$30 million has been earmarked for the establishment of a new fund for implementing the Commission on Poverty (CoP)'s initiative of reinforcing the district-based approach in poverty prevention and alleviation.

The fund seeks to promote sustainable poverty prevention and alleviation efforts at the district level that help enhance self-reliance of the unemployed and other disadvantaged groups.

We are working on the implementation details and aim to invite funding applications in the second quarter of this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB098

Question Serial No.

1052

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the indicators in respect of Urban Minor Works projects, please inform this Committee of the following –

- (a) Why does the estimated number of projects decrease from 76 in 2005 to 72 in 2006?
- (b) Why does the actual number of projects (57) fall short of the estimated number (76) in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The Urban Minor Works (UMW) programme aims to improve the living environment of the urban districts. When planning these projects, we have to take into account relevant factors such as the local demand, scope and costs of the projects, technical issues and the projects' priorities, etc. Hence, the number of projects planned for implementation varies from year to year depending on the aforementioned factors.

To enhance efficiency, HAD has adopted since 2005, the term contract arrangement for implementing those projects which are straight forward in nature e.g. installation of notice boards, benches. Under the term contract arrangement, straight forward projects of the same nature are grouped as a single item for implementation. This explains why the actual number of projects (57) in 2005 was lower than the estimated number of projects (76) which were initially listed as individual items.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB099

Question Serial No.

1053

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to the indicators under Programme (3), the 2006 estimate of local public works (maintenance) projects is 593, which is 32 projects (5%) less than the 2005 estimate of 625 projects. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The Local Public Works (Maintenance) vote provides resources for the maintenance of local public works in rural areas of the New Territories; and for emergency repairs resulting from natural disasters. When planning these maintenance projects, we have to consider relevant factors such as the need for repair and maintenance, technical issues and the projects' priorities, etc. The number of projects may, therefore, vary from year to year depending on the aforementioned factors. Although the estimated number of projects in 2006 is 5% less than that of 2005, it is quite common that during the year we may undertake additional repairs and maintenance works if the situation warrants. For instance, in 2005, we actually completed 679 projects under the Local Public Works (Maintenance) vote, which was 8.6% (54 projects) more than the original estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB100

Question Serial No.

1498

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As shown in the indicators under Programme (3), the estimated number of DC minor environmental improvement projects in 2006 is 268 and the estimated expenditure is \$25 million, representing a decrease of 22% in the number of projects and a decrease of 10.7% in the expenditure as compared with 2005. What are the reasons for such decreases?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

District Councils (DCs) are given the discretion to determine the proportion of DC funds for implementing minor environmental improvement (MEI) projects such as grass cutting and construction of directional signs. When planning MEI projects, DCs are responsible for identifying possible projects, deciding their scale, priorities and implementation timetable and monitoring their progress.

For planning purposes, each district would normally maintain a list of MEI projects suggested by DC members and local residents. Based on this information, the estimated number of MEI projects to be implemented and the likely expenditure are compiled as indicators under Programme (3) in the draft Estimates of Expenditure. The actual number of projects completed and the corresponding expenditure reflect those actually implemented by DCs in the course of the year and taking into account the aforementioned MEI planning processes. Hence, it is not uncommon to find differences between the estimated figures and those actually implemented. Although the estimated number of MEI projects and their financial provisions for 2006 are lower than those in 2005, DCs may consider implementing more MEI projects in the course of the year having regard to local needs and the spending position of DC funds.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB101

Question Serial No.

1551

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Would the Administration please tabulate, by district, the district campaign activities and the expenditure for 2005-06, as well as the proposed district campaigns activities and expenditure details for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2005, a total of 1 574 district campaign activities were organized in the 18 districts. Details are as follows:

Central & Western	115	Wan Chai	110	Sai Kung	43
Eastern	112	Wong Tai Sin	75	Sha Tin	45
Kowloon City	163	Yau Tsim Mong	60	Tai Po	110
Kwun Tong	111	Islands	23	Tsuen Wan	69
Sham Shui Po	98	Kwai Tsing	173	Tuen Mun	64
Southern	105	North	47	Yuen Long	51

The expenditure on district campaign activities in 2005-06 amounts to \$46.89 million. The figure includes sponsorship from various organizations.

We estimate that the amount of expenditure and number of activities for 2006-07 will be similar to those in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Annex 1 of Reply to Question Serial No. 1880

Usage Rates of Multi-purpose Halls in Community Halls in 2005

District		Name of Community Hall	Usage Rate in 2005
Kwai Tsing	1	Cheung Hang Community Hall	82.8%
	2	Kwai Fong Community Hall	89.5%
	3	Kwai Shing Community Hall	59.3%
	4	Tsing Yi Estate Community Hall	90.2%
	5	Lai King Community Hall	70.5%
	6	Shek Lei Community Hall	59.3%
Sai Kung	7	Tsui Lam Community Hall	69.5%
	8	Kin Choi Community Hall	79.7%
	9	Sheung Tak Community Hall	90.3%
Sha Tin	10	Chun Shek Community Hall	87.3%
	11	Kwong Yuen Community Hall	89.8%
	12	Lek Yuen Community Hall	81.5%
	13	Pok Hong Community Hall	81.8%
	14	Sha Kok Community Hall	72.8%
	15	Sun Tin Wai Community Hall	75.6%
	16	Wo Che Community Hall	81.4%
Tai Po	17	Lee On Community Hall	82.0%
	18	Fu Shin Community Hall	81.5%
	19	Kwong Fuk Community Hall	87.5%
Tsuen Wan	20	Tai Yuen Community Hall	70.3%
	21	Lei Muk Shue Community Hall	71.3%
Tuen Mun	22	Shek Wai Kok Community Hall	78.8%
	23	Kin Sang Community Hall	95.7%
	24	Shan King Community Hall	78.0%
	25	Tai Hing Community Hall	69.8%
Yuen Long	26	Tuen Mun Town Centre Community Hall	80.5%
North	27	Long Ping Community Hall	70.0%
	28	Cheung Wah Community Hall	76.7%
	29	Ta Kwu Ling Community Hall #	21.5%
	30	Sha Tau Kok Community Hall #	33.5%
Central & Western	31	Luen Wo Hui Community Hall	63.9%
	32	Sai Ying Pun Community Hall	65.6%
Wan Chai	33	Leighton Hill Community Hall	63.7%
Eastern	34	Hing Wah Community Hall	66.9%
	35	Yue Wan Community Hall	67.5%
	36	Quarry Bay Community Hall	56.8%
	37	Aldrich Bay Community Hall	41.4%

Southern	38	Ap Lei Chau Community Hall	55.3%
	39	Lei Tung Community Hall	50.3%
Kwun Tong	40	Lam Tin (East) Community Hall	69.4%
	41	Kai Yip Community Hall	77.1%
Sham Shui Po	42	Lai Kok Community Hall	70.7%
	43	Pak Tin Community Hall	81.8%
	44	Shek Kip Mei Community Hall	82.0%
	45	Lai Chi Kok Community Hall	59.4%
Yau Tsim Mong	46	Mong Kok Community Hall	64.2%
Overall Average			71.8%

Ta Kwu Ling Community Hall and Sha Tau Kok Community Hall are located in remote areas which are not densely populated. A Closed Area Permit is required for users to go to Sha Tau Kok.

Total Recurrent Operating Expenditure of Community Halls in 2005-06

District	Total Recurrent Operating Expenditure of Community Halls (\$)
Kwai Tsing	2,543,100.75
Sai Kung	1,704,777.09
Sha Tin	3,480,849.54
Tai Po	1,335,579.85
Tsuen Wan	1,090,312.10
Tuen Mun	1,552,439.06
Yuen Long	618,579.15
North	1,447,484.09
Central & Western	2,004,365.86
Wan Chai	796,943.47
Eastern	1,986,300.39
Southern	530,303.43
Kwun Tong	584,839.51
Sham Shui Po	1,970,700.17
Yau Tsim Mong	728,926.10
Wong Tai Sin *	524,377.52
Total	22,899,878.08

*A new community hall in Wong Tai Sin district came into operation in the first quarter of 2006. There were no community halls in the district in the past.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB103

Question Serial No.

0375

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (1) District Administration
 (2) Community Building
 (3) Local Environmental Improvements
 (4) Licensing
 (5) Territory Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the provision for salaries in 2006-07 is \$7.1 million higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. How much of this increase will be spent on filling existing vacancies and salary increments for staff respectively? What are the vacancies filled?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2006-07, we will spend an additional \$12 million for filling vacancies and \$10.8 million for salary increments of existing staff, offset by a reduction of \$15.7 million mainly due to net deletion of 21 posts.

The majority of vacancies to be filled are general grades posts, mainly Executive Officer, Official Languages Officer, Clerical Officer, Personal Secretary and Motor Driver posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB104

Question Serial No.

0376

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2005-06, how many mutual aid committees (MACs) and owners' corporations (OCs) were formed under the auspices of the assistance of the Home Affairs Department? What was the expenditure involved? In 2006-07, what is the estimated expenditure on the formation of MACs and OCs?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06 (for the first three quarters only), 47 Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) and 218 owners' corporations (OCs) were formed with the assistance of the Home Affairs Department (HAD). In the 2005 calendar year, 66 MACs and 287 OCs were formed.

A quarterly financial assistance was granted to MACs on a reimbursement basis. The expenditure involved for newly formed MACs in 2005-06 (for the first three quarters only) was some \$150,000.

To relieve the financial burden in forming OCs, property owners could apply to the Home Affairs Department for an exemption certificate which enable them to obtain a set of the owners' records from the Land Registry for free. The expenditure involved in 2005-06 (for the first three quarters only) was some \$250,000.

In 2006-07, the corresponding estimated expenditure on the formation of MACs and OCs is around \$211,000 and \$ 310,000 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB106

Question Serial No.

0563

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

While the Administration indicated that the functions of District Councils (DCs) would be enhanced, the estimated number of “DC minor environmental improvement projects” and the relevant expenditure in 2006 are lower than the actual number and expenditure of such projects in 2005. What are the reasons? Is this against the policy of enhancing DC functions?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Wong-fat

Reply :

District Councils (DCs) are provided with funds to carry out community involvement activities and minor environmental improvement (MEI) projects in their districts. The allocation of DC funds for MEI projects is determined by individual DCs taking into account the needs of the districts. For planning purposes, each district would normally maintain a list of MEI projects proposed by DC members and local residents. The feasibility of the proposed MEI projects is assessed in consultation with the relevant Government departments and other parties concerned before they are endorsed by DCs for implementation.

On the above basis and with reference to the returns from districts, it is estimated that 268 projects (with an expenditure of \$25 million) will be implemented in 2006. Nevertheless, it is not uncommon for DCs to revise the number of MEI projects in the course of the year taking into account the needs of the districts and the spending position of DC funds.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB107

Question Serial No.

0564

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the average provisions for Rural Public Works projects will be reduced from \$990,000 in 2005 to an estimated \$930,000 in 2006. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The objective of Rural Public Works (RPW) programme is to upgrade the infrastructure and improve the living environment of the rural areas in the New Territories. RPW projects include the construction of footpaths, drainage systems, rain shelters, sitting-out areas, installation of notice boards, etc. The cost of individual project may vary from time to time depending on the nature, scale and scope of the works involved, etc. Hence, the estimated average provision of RPW projects will vary from year to year having regard to the above factors. This also explains the difference in the average provision between 2005 and 2006 on a per project basis. In spite of the seemingly reduction in the average provision, we expect an increase of 7.5% in the overall estimated expenditure (from \$120.96 million in 2005 to \$130 million in 2006) and 14.8% increase in the number of projects (from 122 in 2005 to 140 in 2006).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB108

Question Serial No.

1240

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2006-07, what measures will the Home Affairs Department take to help promote the development of local community economy? Please give details of the specific measures and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The key objectives for promoting the development of local community economy (LCE) are to stimulate domestic consumption and promote district characteristics. They are achieved mainly through Government's facilitation measures such as enhancing co-ordination among departments and appropriate promotional and publicity activities.

In the coming financial year, we will continue with our efforts in the development of LCE by promoting district attractions to local residents and Mainland tourists. For instance, we will launch a new round of territory-wide marketing campaign through different media platforms such as concerts, radio programmes, visitors' guides, posters, giant banners etc. We will also enrich and update the contents of our LCE website (www.gohk.gov.hk) which contain information on district characteristics, interesting places to go and the list of LCE and local tourism events. In this regard, a new section on the most loveable sights in 18 districts will be launched in the aforementioned website this year. About \$2 million has been set aside in 2006-07 for the above marketing campaign.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB109

Question Serial No.

1254

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In monitoring the policy and resource allocation for community development, has the Administration formulated measures to avoid the recurrence of chaos and accidents as happened during the rice distribution activities last year? If so, please give details of the plan and the estimated expenditure and manpower involved. If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Government is very concerned about the incidents that occurred during the Yu Lan Festival rice distribution events in August and September last year. To improve the organization of rice distribution events in the future, the Government will impose new conditions on the Yu Lan organizations which wish to use the government venues or land for rice distribution during the Festival. These conditions are set out at Annex.

Under the new guidelines, the weight of each rice bag must not exceed 1 kg, and no cash should be distributed during the rice distribution events in future. This should reduce the risks that may be associated with congregation of large crowds. Furthermore, the Yu Lan organizations must also provide adequate insurance cover for third party liability throughout the event.

The new arrangements are not expected to incur additional costs for government departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

**New Conditions to be
imposed on the Yu Lan Organizations
for the Rice Distribution Events**

1. the weight of each rice packet to be distributed at the venue should not exceed 1 kg;
2. cash (e.g. in the form of “lai see”) or other gifts should not be distributed at the venue;
3. organizers should provide adequate insurance cover for third party liability (the amount of insurance cover to be between \$10 million and \$30 million depending on the scale of the event);
4. organizers to provide seats and full shelter at the venue;
5. organizers to consider employing security guards to assist in crowd control at the venue;
6. organizers to provide volunteer helpers (e.g. one for every 50 rice packets); and
7. organizers to provide first aid service and logistical support (such as marquees and mobile toilets).

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB110

Question Serial No.

1405

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As indicated in the Budget, the Government will speed up delivery of the outstanding projects of the two former Municipal Councils and other minor works projects. Why is it that the expenditure on local public works (maintenance) projects decreases from \$38 million in 2005 to \$33 million in 2006 and Urban Minor Works projects from \$40 million in 2005 to \$32 million in 2006?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Local Public Works (Maintenance) vote is used for carrying out maintenance of local public works in rural areas of the New Territories and for emergency repairs arising from natural disasters. When planning these projects, we have to take into account relevant factors such as the need for repairs and maintenance, technical issues and priorities of projects, etc. Hence, the number of projects implemented and the estimated expenditure may vary from year to year. Although the estimated expenditure in 2006 is less than 2005, we will consider additional emergency repairs or maintenance works if such a need arises in the course of the year. For instance, in 2005, the actual expenditure was \$38.71 million and the number of projects completed was 679 under the Local Public Works (maintenance) vote. These represented an increase of 13.9% in expenditure and 8.6% in the number of projects over the original estimates.

The difference in the provisions for Urban Minor Works projects between 2005 (\$40 million) and 2006 (\$32 million) is mainly due to the completion of some relatively large scale projects in 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB111

Question Serial No.

1406

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Why is there a reduction in building management and educational publicity programmes from 554 in 2005 to 500 in 2006-07? Will the Administration consider deploying more resources to enhance the quality and efficiency of the service to align with the principle of investing where required?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

To promote good building management, Home Affairs Department (HAD) organizes various building management educational and publicity activities including seminars, training courses, workshops and roving exhibitions, etc. for the public.

We originally estimated that the number of building management educational and publicity programmes to be organized in 2005 would be 500. In the event, 554 programmes were organized because more roving exhibitions were held to meet local needs.

The estimated number of building management educational and publicity programmes for 2006 will remain at 500. We will continue to keep in view the situation to ensure the best use of resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB112

Question Serial No.

1407

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The average usage rates of multi-purpose halls in community centres and those in community halls (CHs) are currently estimated to be 78% and 72% respectively. Although the vacancy rate of CHs exceeds 20%, there are still complaints from the public that CHs are unavailable for hire. In this connection, what measures will the Administration take to boost the usage rate in order to fully utilise these facilities?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The usage rates of our community centres and community halls are worked out on the basis of the total available time-slots which include non-peak hours such as mealtimes and early mornings. The booking requests for multi-purpose halls in community centres and community halls located in densely-populated areas during peak hours always exceed the available time-slots. We review the use of multi-purpose halls from time to time and ensure that our facilities are well-equipped to meet district needs. In this connection, we have taken the following measures -

- (a) renovation/upgrading works have been carried out for 30 community centres and community halls;
- (b) facilities such as PA systems and visual-aid equipment have been replaced/installed in some community centres and community halls;
- (c) time-slots have been re-organized to allow greater flexibility for bookings by hirers; and
- (d) promotional materials have been distributed to local organizations and potential hirers for new community centres and community halls.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB113

Question Serial No.

2099

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With the completion of the consultation on the political reform and the Fifth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force, there may be less need for the Administration to consult District Councils. Why is the number of DC consultations in 2006-07 greater than the actual number in 2005-06? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Government is firmly committed to improving the effectiveness of the District Administration Scheme, in particular, to maintaining close co-operation and communication with the District Councils (DCs). Proper consultation with the DCs is an important vehicle in ensuring a truly open, accountable and responsive government. It also helps bureaux and departments to develop and promote their policies and programmes at district level.

Apart from constitutional development proposals, DCs will continue to be consulted on a wide range of policy initiatives and other territory-wide and district issues that may affect the well-being of the community, e.g. DC review, domestic rent policy review, urban renewal projects, etc. While the number of DC consultations varies from year to year, we expect that with the growing importance of DCs, the number of DC consultations in 2006-07 will be greater than the actual number in 2005-06.

DC Secretariats will continue to provide support for all DC business. We do not keep separate accounts for DC consultations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB114

Question Serial No.

2151

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the 21 posts to be deleted by the Home Affairs Department in 2006-07, please state:

- (a) the post title, rank and the respective number of such posts;
- (b) the reasons for the deletion;
- (c) the work arrangements after the posts are deleted;
- (d) the estimated savings;
- (e) whether all such savings will be allocated for departmental operating expenses.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Posts to be deleted in 2006-07 will include 1 Chief Executive Officer, 2 Housing Officer, 1 Personal Secretary II, 6 Works Supervisor II, 8 Motor Driver and 3 Workman II posts.
- (b) Through re-organization of services, streamlining procedures as well as office automation, the posts will be deleted for efficiency savings.
- (c) The residual work will be absorbed by existing staff. For the deletion of Motor Driver posts, wider use of public transport and commercial vehicles will be made.
- (d) The estimated annual savings in salary is \$4.2 million.
- (e) All savings arising from the deletion of the 21 posts will be allocated for departmental operating expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB115

Question Serial No.

2153

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the Home Affairs Department will continue to co-ordinate building management matters, including organising building management seminars, training courses and talks. Please list:

- a. the number of such activities organised in 2005, the number of participants and the expenditure involved; and
- b. the number of such activities to be organised in 2006, the expected number of participants and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

To promote good building management, Home Affairs Department organizes various educational and publicity activities on building management including seminars, training courses, workshops and roving exhibitions. In 2005, a total of 554 educational and publicity programmes on building management were organized with a total number of about 261 100 participants. The estimated number of educational and publicity programmes on building management for 2006 is 500 and the expected number of participants will be around 250 000.

In 2005-06, a total of \$2 million was allocated for organizing building management-related promotion activities. For example, we have in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong produced a series of radio and TV programmes to promote proper building management. It was estimated that an audience of some 140 000 listened to the radio programme daily. The TV programme has reached out to some 350 000 viewers for each of the 10 episodes. In addition, a "Quality Building Competition" was organized in the 18 districts to enhance public awareness of the importance of building management. These activities would continue to be organized in 2006-07 at a cost of around \$2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB116

Question Serial No.

2169

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the number of visitors to the four Building Management Resource Centres respectively in 2005-06. How do these figures compare with those of the corresponding period in 2004-05? What is the total number of building management activities organized in 2005-06? What is their effectiveness? Are there any specific plans to promote effective building management in 2006-07? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has since 1998 set up four Building Management Resource Centres (BMRCs) in Kowloon, on Hong Kong Island, in New Territories West and in New Territories East respectively. The BMRCs provides information, services and advice to property owners, occupiers, owners' corporations, Mutual Aid Committees and management bodies so as to assist them in improving the standards of management, safety and maintenance of their buildings. In 2005, the BMRCs received a total of 75 645 visitors as compared with 52 093 visitors in 2004.

To promote good building management, HAD organizes various educational and publicity activities on building management including seminars, training courses, workshops and roving exhibitions. In 2005, a total of 554 educational and publicity programmes on building management were organized. It was estimated that information on effective building management was disseminated to over 261 100 participants through these activities.

In 2005-06, a total of \$2 million was allocated for organizing building management-related promotion activities. For example, we have in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong produced a series of radio and TV programmes to promote proper building management. It was estimated that an audience of some 140 000 listened to the radio programme daily. The TV programme has reached out to some 350 000 viewers for each of the 10 episodes. In addition, a "Quality Building Competition" was organized in the 18 districts to enhance public awareness of the importance of building management. These activities would continue to be organized in 2006-07 at a cost of around \$2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB117

Question Serial No.

2170

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (5) Territory Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07”, it is indicated that HAD will gauge the political and public relations implications of major infrastructure projects and development proposals on the community, as well as ensure that the planning of major infrastructure projects takes account of local views and sentiments. What are the specific work plans, expenditure involved and staff establishment?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

In respect of major infrastructure projects and development proposals, Home Affairs Department (HAD) provides assessments of their likely implications on the community for the reference of relevant bureaux and departments. Our assessments are based on District Officers' knowledge of the districts and views collected from local residents. Views of the districts are co-ordinated at HAD Headquarters and conveyed to the relevant bureaux and departments for consideration. HAD representatives also sit on relevant boards and committees relating to the planning of development proposals. The aforementioned arrangements ensure that local views and sentiments are taken into account by relevant bureaux and departments when planning infrastructure and development projects.

The expenditure, mainly staff and administrative costs, on this programme of work for 2006-07 is estimated to be \$17.2 million. HAD staff undertake this programme of work as part of their normal range of duties. As such, no dedicated staff establishment is set aside for this area of work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB118

Question Serial No.

2319

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What was the amount of financial provision allocated to each of the 18 District Councils in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Home Affairs Department allocates funds to 18 District Offices each year to enable them to implement district projects with a view to encouraging public participation in community affairs and improving local environment. A breakdown of the allocations for 2004-05 and 2005-06 by district is as follows -

District Office	Allocation for 2004-05 (\$)	Allocation for 2005-06 (\$)
Central & Western	8,140,000	7,550,000
Eastern	12,520,000	11,600,000
Kowloon City	8,780,000	8,150,000
Kwun Tong	12,800,000	11,800,000
Sham Shui Po	9,600,000	8,900,000
Southern	7,040,000	6,550,000
Wan Chai	6,310,000	5,850,000
Wong Tai Sin	10,700,000	9,900,000
Yau Tsim Mong	10,600,000	9,800,000
Islands	6,950,000	6,450,000
Kwai Tsing	14,800,000	13,650,000
North	8,590,000	7,950,000
Sai Kung	9,140,000	8,500,000
Sha Tin	14,800,000	13,650,000
Tai Po	8,870,000	8,250,000
Tsuen Wan	10,330,000	9,600,000
Tuen Mun	12,800,000	11,850,000
Yuen Long	12,620,000	11,700,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title _____

Director of Home Affairs

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB119

Question Serial No.

2320

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide the details and a breakdown of the annual subventions to New Territories organizations in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Please also list the recipient organisations and the amount of subventions received.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

In 2004-05 and 2005-06, the amount of annual subventions to New Territories organizations were \$6.331 million and \$6.827 million respectively. The recipient organizations and the amount of subventions were :

Name of Recipient Organization	Amount of Subvention in 2004-05 (Actual) (\$'000)	Amount of Subvention in 2005-06 (Revised Estimate) (\$'000)
Heung Yee Kuk	1,950	1,950
Rural Committees	3,595	3,903
Village Offices	747	935
Federation of Societies in Tsuen Wan District	39	39
Total	6,331	6,827

Subventions to the New Territories organizations are intended to facilitate operation of these organizations in providing services for the rural population. The subventions are provided to meet recurrent expenses including rates and government rent.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB120

Question Serial No.

2321

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please give a detailed breakdown of the subventions to district sports and arts associations in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Please also list the subvented associations and the amount of resources they received.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

A breakdown of the subventions to district sports and arts associations in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is summarised at the Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

A. Subventions to District Sports Associations in 2004-05 and 2005-06

Subvented bodies	Subvention earmarked for 2004-05 (\$)	Subvention earmarked for 2005-06 (\$)
Central & Western District Recreation & Sports Association	95,000	95,000
Eastern District Recreation & Sports Advancement Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Kowloon City District Recreation and Sports Council	95,000	95,000
Kwun Tong Sports Promotion Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Sham Shui Po Sports Association	95,000	95,000
Southern District Recreation and Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Wan Chai District Arts, Cultural, Recreational & Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Wong Tai Sin District Recreation & Sports Council	95,000	95,000
Mong Kok District Cultural Recreation & Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui Recreation & Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Islands District Sports Association	95,000	95,000
Kwai Tsing District Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
North District Sports Association	95,000	95,000
Sai Kung District Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Sha Tin Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Tai Po Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
The Federation of Tsuen Wan District Sports & Recreation Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Tuen Mun Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Yuen Long District Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Sub-total:	1,805,000	1,805,000

B. Subventions to District Arts Associations in 2004-05 and 2005-06

Subvented bodies	Subvention earmarked for 2004-05 (\$)	Subvention earmarked for 2005-06 (\$)
Central & Western District Association for Culture and Arts	95,000	95,000
Eastern District Arts Council	95,000	95,000
Kowloon City District Arts and Culture Council	95,000	95,000
Kwun Tong District Culture and Recreation Promotion Association	95,000	95,000
Sham Shui Po Arts Association	71,250	71,250
Sham Shui Po Council for the Promotion of Cultural & Recreational Services Limited	23,750	23,750
Southern District Arts and Culture Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Wan Chai District Arts, Cultural, Recreational & Sports Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Wong Tai Sin District Arts Council	95,000	95,000
Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui Culture and Arts Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Arts Subvention Committee of the Islands District Office	95,000	95,000
Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi District Cultural & Arts Co-ordinating Association Limited	95,000	95,000
North District Arts Advancement Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Sai Kung Cultural & Recreation Advancement Limited	32,340	32,340
Tseung Kwan O Cultural & Recreational Centre	31,330	31,330
Sai Kung Cultural Centre	31,330	31,330
Sha Tin Arts Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Tai Po Arts Advancement Association	95,000	95,000
Tsuen Wan Culture & Recreation Co-ordinating Association Limited	95,000	95,000
Tuen Mun Arts Promotion Association	95,000	95,000
Yuen Long District Arts Committee	95,000	95,000
Sub-total:	1,710,000	1,710,000

	2004-05	2005-06
Total Amount (A+B):	3,515,000	3,515,000

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB121

Question Serial No.

2333

Head : 63 – Home Affairs
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational
Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is noted that the provision of \$215,000,000 under Departmental Expenses is for honoraria for members of committees. Please provide a breakdown of the honoraria by committees.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The provision of \$215 million in the 2006-07 Estimates for committee members caters entirely for the honorarium and Operating Expenses Allowance (OEA) for the 529 members of the 18 District Councils (DC). The level of honorarium for DC members is set out below –

(a)	<u>Single membership</u> ^{Note 1}	<u>Monthly honorarium rate</u> (\$)
	(i) DC Chairman	34,080
	(ii) DC Vice Chairman	25,560
	(iii) DC member	17,040
(b)	<u>Multiple membership</u> ^{Note 2}	<u>Monthly honorarium rate</u> (\$)
	(i) DC Chairman	28,400
	(ii) DC Vice Chairman	19,880
	(iii) DC member	11,360

A DC member is also eligible to claim an OEA of up to \$196,176 a year on an accountable and reimbursement basis.

DC members who are also members of the Executive Council and/or Legislative Council will be eligible to claim up to the full amount of OEA if they employ more than one assistant or operate a separate ward office in the district solely for DC duties. If they employ an assistant or operate one office in the district for duties relating to their multiple membership, they will only be eligible for up to two-thirds of the full amount of OEA (i.e. \$130,784 per year), provided that the expenses claimed have not already been met from allowances claimed in their other capacities.

Note 1: Single membership refers to a member holding office as a DC Chairman, Vice-chairman or member only.

Note 2: Multiple membership refers to a DC Chairman, Vice-chairman or member who also holds office in the Executive Council and/or Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB122

Question Serial No.

2334

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In the 2006-07 Estimates, what is the staff establishment and related expenditure for reviewing the District Administration Scheme (including the role and responsibilities of District Councils (DCs) and their functions in district administration)? Has provision been earmarked for enhancing the role of DCs in promoting leisure, culture and community building activities, as well as improving the local environment (including district hygiene)? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) is working closely with the Constitutional Affairs Bureau and other relevant bureaux and departments to make final preparations for consulting the public on the role, functions and composition of the District Councils (DCs). It is expected that the public consultation exercise will start within the first half of 2006. HAD is undertaking the work relating to the review with existing resources.

In his Policy Address of 2005-2006, the Chief Executive stated that DCs would be allowed to participate in the management of some district facilities, such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools. The Administration is now making the final preparations for the DC Review. It is expected that public consultation will commence in the first half of 2006. We will only be able to work out the final implementation plan and the resources implications after the public consultation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB123

Question Serial No.

2335

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) District Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the provision of services to the 18 District Councils and their committees, please give details of the staff establishment and financial provision for the past three financial years (i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06) and the financial year 2006-07. Please also state the provision earmarked for the remuneration of District Council members in the 2006-07 Estimates.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

A breakdown of the staff provision for District Council Secretariats, financial provision for community involvement and minor environmental improvement projects and remuneration for DC members from 2003-04 to 2006-07 are provided below –

	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Revised Estimate)	2006-07 (Estimate)
Staff Provision	273	266	266	266
Expenditure on community involvement and minor environmental improvement projects	\$173,082,000	\$166,483,000	\$167,500,000	\$173,500,000
Expenditure on remuneration for DC members	\$200,092,000	\$201,053,000	\$215,000,000	\$215,000,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB124

Question Serial No.

2336

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the provision to the 18 District Councils in respect of facilities and services of multi-purpose halls in community centres and community halls, please state the expenditure and staff establishment for the past three financial years (i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06) and the financial year 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

Provision for facilities and services of multi-purpose halls in community centres and community halls is included under various relevant expenditure items in Head 63 – Home Affairs Department.

The total recurrent operating expenditures of community centres and community halls including staff cost, security guard services charges, cleaning cost, electricity charges, repair and maintenance charges, etc. for various facilities were \$51 million, \$54.9 million and \$52.5 million for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The total estimated recurrent operating expenditure of community centres and community halls in 2006-07 is \$59.2 million including the expenditure of one new community hall that will come into operation in 2006-07.

The total expenditure spent on the facilities in community centres and community halls, such as upgrading of air-conditioning systems and fire services systems, was \$8.8 million, \$10.8 million and \$9.2 million for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The provision in this respect in the 2006-07 Estimates is \$10.18 million.

On staff establishment, each community centre / community hall is normally manned by one staff member.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB125

Question Serial No.

2337

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the community involvement projects organised by District Councils, what is the expenditure/estimated expenditure of the 18 District Councils in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

In 2005-06, the 18 District Councils are provided with a total of \$145.3 million for community involvement projects. The level of provision in 2006-07 will be similar.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB126

Question Serial No.

2338

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the district activities organized by District Fight Crime Committees, what is the expenditure/estimated expenditure of each district in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The funding for District Fight Crime Committees activities comprises contribution from government departments, allocation from District Councils, sponsorship from various organizations and participation fees. In 2005-06, the expenditure incurred by District Fight Crime Committees for organizing activities amounts to \$ 6.321 million.

We estimate that the amount of expenditure in 2006-07 will be similar to that in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB127

Question Serial No.

2339

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding DC minor environmental improvement projects, what is the amount of financial provision for the 18 District Councils in 2006-07? In 2005-06, what was the amount of financial provision for each District Council and how many projects were conducted by each of them?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

To improve the living environment, District Councils (DCs) have the discretion to allocate DC funds for implementing Minor Environmental Improvement (MEI) projects in the districts. For planning purposes, the estimated expenditure for each district in 2006 is as follows –

	Islands	Kwai Tsing	North	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Tai Po	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long
Expenditure (\$M)	2.50	1.00	1.25	1.20	2.20	0.70	2.00	2.90	2.85

	Central & Western	Eastern	Kowloon City	Kwun Tong	Sham Shui Po	Southern	Wan Chai	Wong Tai Sin	Yau Tsim Mong
Expenditure (\$M)	0.43	1.30	1.17	1.40	0.40	1.30	0.20	0.65	1.55

Total Expenditure: \$25.00 million

The actual expenditure incurred and the number of MEI projects completed by each district in 2005 are as follows –

	Islands	Kwai Tsing	North	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Tai Po	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long
Expenditure (\$M)	2.12	1.01	1.65	1.40	1.82	1.02	2.27	2.90	2.71
No. of projects	37	16	12	23	28	19	28	17	26

	Central & Western	Eastern	Kowloon City	Kwun Tong	Sham Shui Po	Southern	Wan Chai	Wong Tai Sin	Yau Tsim Mong
Expenditure (\$M)	0.47	1.36	1.14	2.39	0.24	1.63	0.29	0.91	1.22
No. of projects	6	24	10	17	1	9	4	15	27

Total Expenditure: \$26.55 million; Total no. of projects: 319

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB128

Question Serial No.

2340

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the Rural Public Works Programme, please state the financial provision earmarked for each district in 2006-07. Please also state, by district, the funding provided and the number of projects undertaken in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The estimated expenditure under the Rural Public Works (RPW) vote by individual districts in 2006 is as follows:

	Island	Kwai Tsing	North	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Tai Po	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	Total
Expenditure (\$M)	17.49	12.09	19.23	16.25	3.56	22.90	6.41	13.02	19.05	130.00

The actual expenditure incurred and the number of RPW projects completed by individual districts in 2005 are as follows:

	Island	Kwai Tsing	North	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Tai Po	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	Total
Expenditure (\$M)	11.03	7.57	20.28	11.19	1.50	30.36	6.28	12.05	20.70	120.96
No. of Projects	19	9	15	10	7	19	7	15	21	122

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB129

Question Serial No.

2341

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding Urban Minor Works projects, please state the financial provision earmarked for each district in 2006-07. Please also state, by district, the funding provided and the number of projects undertaken in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The estimated expenditure under the Urban Minor Works (UMW) vote by individual districts in 2006 is as follows:

	Central & Western	Eastern	Kowloon City	Kwun Tong	Sham Shui Po	Southern	Wan Chai	Wong Tai Sin	Yau Tsim Mong	Total
Expenditure (\$M)	5.19	6.09	2.49	4.52	1.76	2.10	2.86	1.76	5.23	32.00

The actual expenditure incurred and the number of UMW projects completed by individual districts in 2005 are as follows:

	Central & Western	Eastern	Kowloon City	Kwun Tong	Sham Shui Po	Southern	Wan Chai	Wong Tai Sin	Yau Tsim Mong	Total
Expenditure (\$M)	5.29	4.12	1.98	3.87	3.37	13.21	2.12	2.89	3.62	40.47
No. of Projects	10	11	7	8	2	2	5	4	8	57

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB130

Question Serial No.

2342

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding local public works (maintenance) projects, please state the financial provision earmarked for each district in 2006-07. Please also state, by district, the funding provided and the number of projects undertaken in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

Local public works (maintenance) projects are works projects for the maintenance of local public works in the rural areas of the New Territories and for emergency repairs resulting from natural disasters. In 2006, the estimated expenditure by individual districts is as follows –

	Island	Kwai Tsing	North	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Tai Po	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	Total
Expenditure (\$M)	4.30	1.10	8.00	3.60	1.12	2.30	1.40	2.68	8.50	33.00

The actual expenditure incurred and the number of projects completed by individual districts in 2005 are as follows –

	Island	Kwai Tsing	North	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Tai Po	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	Total
Expenditure (\$M)	3.39	1.25	8.20	4.72	1.67	5.24	1.52	4.91	7.81	38.71
No. Of Projects	67	38	125	83	31	95	33	54	153	679

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB132

Question Serial No.

0419

Head : 74 – Information Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Public Opinion

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Provision for 2006-07 is \$0.6 million (3.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly due to the full-year effect of filling existing vacancies in 2005-06. With respect to this, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the criteria adopted for deciding whether the existing vacancies should be filled;
- (b) the number of existing vacancies that need to be filled;
- (c) the dates of filling the vacancies concerned;
- (d) the post title and rank of the vacancies concerned;
- (e) the amount of expenditure involved in filling the vacancies; and
- (f) for how long have the vacancies been vacant?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) To maintain existing services and to cope with increasing service demands, the Department will have to fill the vacancies arising from natural wastage.
- (b) There are two vacant posts that need to be filled.
- (c) The vacancies will be filled through internal promotion or in-service recruitment at the entry rank. The Department conducted an in-service recruitment exercise in the latter half of 2005. We expect the new appointees to report for duty in the first half of 2006.
- (d) The two posts include one Assistant Information Officer (AIO) and one Information Officer (IO) in the Media Research Sub-division.

- (e) The annual expenditure for filling the two posts concerned is estimated to be \$0.77 million.
- (f) The AIO and IO posts have been vacant since August 2004 and July 2005 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title Director of Information Services

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB133

Question Serial No.

0420

Head : 74 – Information Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (5) Publishing

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Provision for 2006-07 is \$2.5 million (4.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly due to an increase in operating expenses and the full-year effect of filling an existing vacancy in 2005-06. With respect to this, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the criteria adopted for deciding whether the existing vacancies should be filled;
- (b) the number of existing vacancies that need to be filled;
- (c) the dates of filling the vacancies concerned;
- (d) the post title and rank of the vacancies concerned;
- (e) the amount of expenditure involved in filling the vacancies; and
- (f) for how long have the vacancies been vacant?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) To maintain existing services and to cope with increasing service demands, the Department will have to fill the vacancies arising from natural wastage.
- (b) There is one vacant post that needs to be filled.
- (c) The vacancy will be filled through internal promotion or in-service recruitment at the entry rank. The Department conducted an in-service recruitment exercise in the latter half of 2005. We expect the new appointees to report for duty in the first half of 2006.

- (d) The post to be filled is an Information Officer (IO) in the Publishing and Internet Resource Section.
- (e) The annual expenditure for filling the IO post concerned is estimated to be \$0.48 million.
- (f) The post has been vacant since May 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title Director of Information Services

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB134

Question Serial No.

0750

Head : 74 – Information Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Local Public Relations and Public Information

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Provision for 2006-07 is \$11.8 million (8.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly due to the full-year effect of filling existing vacancies in 2005-06 and salary increments for existing staff. With respect to this, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the criteria adopted for deciding whether the existing vacancies should be filled;
- (b) the number of existing vacancies that need to be filled;
- (c) the dates of filling the vacancies concerned;
- (d) the post title, rank and number of the vacancies concerned;
- (e) the amount of expenditure involved in filling the vacancies;
- (f) for how long have the vacancies been vacant;
- (g) the number of staff entitled to salary increments;
- (h) the post title, rank and number of staff entitled to salary increments;
- (i) the reasons for granting salary increments to the staff concerned and the amount and percentage of increase of salaries; and the criteria adopted for granting salary increments?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) To maintain existing services and to cope with increasing service demands, the Department will have to fill the vacancies arising from natural wastage.

- (b) There are a total of 17 vacant posts that need to be filled.
- (c) The vacancies will be filled through internal promotion or in-service recruitment at the entry rank. The Department conducted an in-service recruitment exercise in the latter half of 2005. We expect the new appointees to report for duty in the first half of 2006.
- (d) The 17 vacant posts include one Chief Information Officer, one Principal Information Officer, seven Senior Information Officers, five Information Officers and three Assistant Information Officers. These posts are distributed in Information Services Department Headquarters and various Information Offices in bureaux and departments.
- (e) The annual expenditure for filling the posts concerned is estimated to be \$9.3 million.
- (f) At the time of preparation of the Draft Estimates, salary provision has been made for filling one vacant Chief Information Officer post in a department. The post concerned had been vacant since July 2005 but was subsequently filled in October 2005. A Principal Information Officer vacancy arose in a bureau in May 2005 when the incumbent was transferred to another office. As for the remaining 15 vacancies, they have from time to time been filled by acting appointments or deployment according to service needs and operational requirements. It is therefore difficult to give the exact periods of time for which individual posts have been vacant.
- (g)&(h) It is estimated that a total of 54 staff who have not yet reached the maximum pay point of their respective pay scales will be granted an increment in 2006-07. They include one Deputy Director of Information Services, one Senior Administrative Officer, three Chief Information Officers, six Principal Information Officers, 10 Senior Information Officers, 14 Information Officers, 15 Assistant Information Officers, one Personal Secretary I, one Personal Secretary II and two Clerical Assistants. They are posted in Information Services Department Headquarters and various Information Offices in bureaux and departments.
- (i) According to Civil Service Regulations, an officer may be granted an increment if his/her performance at work, including conduct, diligence and efficiency, has been satisfactory. The amount of increment granted in respect of individual officer will follow their respective pay scales.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title Director of Information Services

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB135

Question Serial No.

0751

Head : 74 – Information Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Local Public Relations and Public Information

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Will the Government inform this Council of the rank of the two posts that will be deleted?
What are the reasons for the deletion and what is the annual saving of emoluments?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In view of the diminishing service needs, the Department plans to delete one Telephone Operator post and one Property Attendant post through natural wastage upon the normal retirement of the incumbents. The annual total saving on emoluments involved is \$0.258 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title Director of Information Services

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB136

Question Serial No.

1192

Head : 74 – Information Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Public Opinion

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

To achieve the working targets in respect of monitoring of public opinion, 25 newspapers and 35 periodicals are monitored each day. The programmes of 6 television channels and 7 radio channels are also monitored. Please provide a list of the newspapers and periodicals as well as television and radio stations mentioned above.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

Following is the list of newspapers, magazines, periodicals, television and radio channels monitored:

Newspapers (28) (25 newspapers monitored as shown in the Estimates and three free dailies newly added to the list*)

(A) **Local (18)**

Apple Daily
China Daily (HK Edition)
HK Commercial Daily
HK Daily News
HK Economic Journal
HK Economic Times
Ming Pao
Oriental Daily News
Sing Pao
Sing Tao Daily
South China Morning Post
Ta Kung Pao
The Standard
The Sun
Wen Wei Po
Metro*
am730*
Headline Daily*

(B) Mainland (7)

Economic Daily
Guangming Daily
Jiefangjun Bao
People's Daily (Overseas Edition)
Renmin Ribao
Shenzhen Special Zone Daily
Wen Hui Bao

(C) Overseas (3)

Financial Times
International Herald Tribune
Wall Street Journal Asia

Magazines and periodicals (35)

Bauhinia
Cable Guide
Capital
Cheng Ming
Cup
Eastweek
Economic Digest
Express Weekly
HK Economic Journal Monthly
Ming Pao Monthly
Ming Pao Weekly
Next Magazine
Open Magazine
Outlook
Qiushi
The Front Line Magazine
The Mirror
The Trend Magazine
TVB Weekly
Wide Angle
Yazhou Zhoukan
Business Week
Economist
Euromoney
Far Eastern Economic Review
Forbes
Fortune
Newsweek
Time
A45
Asian Intelligence
HK Business Environment Report
HK Risk Rating Update
SRG (Readership) Report
ABC (Circulation) Report

TV channels (6)

ATV-Home

ATV-World

Cable Channel 8

Cable Channel 9

TVB-Jade

TVB-Pearl

Radio channels (7)

Commercial Radio-1

Commercial Radio-2

Metro FM104 Radio

Radio Television Hong Kong -1

Radio Television Hong Kong -2

Radio Television Hong Kong -3

Radio Television Hong Kong -5

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title Director of Information Services

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB137

Question Serial No.

1193

Head : 74 – Information Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (3) Public Opinion

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The estimate for 2006-07 is \$18.4 million. Please provide a breakdown of the provision by item of expenditure other than salaries.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

Out of the total provision of \$18.4 million, \$14.8 million is for salaries. Other than salary expenditure, about \$0.4 million is for stores and equipment, and \$0.3 million for subscription of newspapers and magazines and photocopying licences. The remaining \$2.9 million is to provide for miscellaneous administrative costs such as electricity, telephone rentals, rental of communication lines, postage, maintenance charges, training expenses, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Yvonne CHOI

Post Title Director of Information Services

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB138

Question Serial No.

0107

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

(5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It has been increasingly common for the public to use the “Octopus” electronic payment system (“Octopus System”). What is the progress in implementing the “Octopus System” at venues under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department? How many facilities and venues are presently provided with the “Octopus System” for payments? What is the expenditure involved for the implementation of the payment system?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

At present, a total of 37 public swimming pools and 25 sports venues (covering 5 squash courts, 18 tennis venues, 1 artificial turf mini soccer pitch and 1 bowling green) are equipped with the “Octopus System” for payment of venue charges. Plans are in hand to extend the service to another 44 sports venues by 2007. For libraries, the “Octopus” collection system for photocopying services was launched in 22 libraries on 1 February 2006 and will be extended to another 12 libraries in late 2006. The feasibility of using “Octopus” for collecting other fees and charges is being explored. The estimated expenditure for the provision of such service in 2006-07 is about \$1,040,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB139

Question Serial No.

0108

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the implementation of the Community Garden Programme in all 18 districts throughout the territory, how much resources were/will be involved in implementing the Programme in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07? What are the specific details of the Programme and its effectiveness?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The Community Garden Programme (the Programme) aims to encourage the public to participate in greening activities at neighbourhood level and to adopt such practices as part of daily life. The Programme is organised in the form of gardening courses. Each participating unit (comprising five persons) will be allotted a planting plot of 2.25 square metres to practise gardening under the guidance of part-time horticultural instructors. The duration of each gardening course is four months. The course fee per participating unit is \$400.

The Programme was first launched in February 2004 and was well received by the public. It has been extended to all 18 Districts by the end of 2005. The estimated expenditure for each gardening course is \$50,000. This is mainly used to employ part-time horticultural instructors and staff to man the community garden. In 2005-06, a total of 29 gardening courses were organised in the community gardens with around 1 000 participating units (5 000 persons). The estimated expenditure was about \$1.45 million and the revenue was about \$0.4 million. In 2006-07, we plan to organise 40 garden courses with around 1 400 participating units (7 000 persons). The estimated expenditure is \$2 million and the estimated revenue is around \$0.56 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB140

Question Serial No.

0114

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

There is a deviation of the policy of public libraries in their selection of books from the aspirations of the public. For example, too much emphasis has been placed on books for leisure reading; the computer books in stock are generally outdated and not in line with the market trend; reference books for specialised and professional subjects are lacking, etc. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the selection criteria adopted by the relevant authorities for purchasing books of various subjects? Have such criteria been reviewed? If yes, what are the findings? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) of the future expenditure in this aspect?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) has a well established, comprehensive acquisition policy and collection development strategy for building a stock to meet the community's needs for knowledge, information, lifelong learning, research and profitable use of leisure. Presently, it maintains a stock of 11.61 million items of library materials, including books, multimedia materials, electronic resources and online databases. Over 75% of this stock is non-fiction, covering comprehensively a wide range of library materials on various disciplines and subjects, including 2 million items on science and technology, 0.72 million items on business and economics and 1.38 million items on language and literature.

HKPL places strong emphasis on keeping its collection on information technology up-to-date. In 2005, more than 50 000 new books on information technology were acquired to enhance this collection. Whilst there is a need to frequently update the collection on information technology with material of the latest editions, some limited copies of books of the older editions would also need to be maintained in the libraries for reference of users who are still using the old versions of hardware and software.

HKPL also maintains more than 1.9 million items of reference materials for public use. The Hong Kong Central Reference Library in the Hong Kong Central Library provides a comprehensive range of reference service through its 6 subject departments, 9 depository collections of international organisations, Arts Resource Centre, Hong Kong Literature Room and the Map Library. Moreover, the Business and Industry Library, the Creativity and Innovation Resource Centre, and the Basic Law Library in the City Hall Public Library, as well as the Education Resource Centre in the Kowloon Public Library also provide specialised reference service on selected disciplines to the public. In addition, comprehensive web resources and reference information are also available in the HKPL Homepage.

- (a) HKPL has made reference to the principles stipulated in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto for guiding its selection and acquisition of library materials. Specifically, the Manifesto states that all kinds of knowledge and information should be made readily available to its users on basis of equal access. Moreover, all age groups must find material relevant to their needs. HKPL's Stock Editing Board, comprising library professionals from various libraries, meets regularly to formulate, review and update the acquisition policy and collection development strategy to best meet the community's needs. The Board also makes reference to the comments received from the public in its book acquisition decisions. To further enrich the library stock, HKPL has invited local professional associations and organizations to give advice and recommendations on the acquisition of library materials relating to their respective subject fields. In 2005, more than 20 000 suggestions for purchase from readers, professional bodies and organizations were processed.
- (b) Proposed budget for the acquisition of library materials for the year 2006-07 is \$86,419,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB141

Question Serial No.

0181

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 600 Works

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

For Item 020 Restoration of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin, the revised estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$500,000. Please inform this Committee which parts of the works have mainly incurred expenditure. What is the current progress of the works? When is it expected to be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The estimate of \$500,000 was provided for undertaking a conservation study and cartographic recording of Tsang Tai Uk. The study and recording have been completed and findings from the study would provide a basis for planning future conservation works. Completion of renovation works could only be scheduled pending on finalisation of the details of restoration works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Alan SIU

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB142

Question Serial No.

0182

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead: 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the deletion of 314 posts in 2006-07, please provide the following information:

- (a) a breakdown of the figure by respective Programmes and ranks of the posts as well as the resources to be saved as a result;
- (b) the reasons for the substantial deletion of such posts; and
- (c) whether the deletion of such posts will affect the service targets of the LCSD.

Asked by : Hon. Li Kwok-ying

Reply :

- (a) The net deletion of 314 posts include the creation of 64 posts and deletion of 378 posts. Out of these posts, 39 posts and 229 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports" in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. Besides, 25 posts and 128 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities" in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. The deletion of the other 6 posts comes under Programme (4) "Performing Arts" in the ranks of Artisan and Workman II. The remaining 15 posts to be deleted come under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The net deletion of 314 posts will lead to a net saving of \$26 million in terms of annual salary.
- (b) The deletion of posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation.
- (c) As a result of (b) above, the deletion of posts will not affect the service quality of the LCSD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB143

Question Serial No.

0240

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to the information provided, the number of visitors to museums/archive/exhibitions reached 4.95 million in 2005 mainly because of a number of large-scale exhibitions, including “Impressionism: Treasures from the National Collection of France” and “From Eastern Han to High Tang: A Journey of Transculturation” held last year, indicating that there is a certain level of public demand for cultural exhibitions in Hong Kong. Does the Administration have any plan to organise more similar large-scale exhibitions in 2006-07? Why is it that the number of visitors to museums/archive/exhibitions for 2006 is estimated to be reduced to 4.8 million, the target being lower than the actual figure for last year?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2005, the Department organised two large-scale international exhibitions, “From Eastern Han to High Tang” and “Impressionism”. The former was a rich assemblage of cultural relics from the Mainland while the latter was a highlight of the culture exchange programme of the Year of France in China. These two outstanding exhibitions had attracted about 600 000 visitors, contributing to the high attendance of 4.95 million for 2005. In 2006, the Department will continue to organise blockbuster exhibitions including the current “Silk Road” exhibition at the Heritage Museum, “The Art of Mark Rothko: Selections from the National Gallery of Art, Washington”, “The World of Etruscans” and “Qi Baishi – A Selection from the Liaoning Provincial Museum” exhibitions at the Museum of Art, “Genomic Revolution” at the Science Museum and the “History of Football” at the Museum of History. The 4.8 million visitors for 2006 is an estimate based on the average attendance of the last three years. The Department will endeavour to promote these exhibitions to attract more visitors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB144

Question Serial No.

0421

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Administration will plant flowering trees and shrubs in parks and decorate footbridges with portable planters under the beautification programmes in 2006-07. Would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) details of the programmes;
- (b) the estimated number of flowering trees and shrubs to be planted in parks;
- (c) the estimated number of portable planters to be placed on footbridges; and
- (d) the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) & (b) In 2006-07, this Department will plant 9 000 flowering trees and 2 650 000 shrubs in its parks, gardens and roadside amenity areas. It has planned to beautify 14 slopes within leisure venues, 28 roadside amenity areas, four pedestrian footbridges and 11 vacant government lands.
- (c) For the four pedestrian footbridges, 120 portable planters will be used.
- (d) The expenditure for beautifying the parks, gardens, roadside amenity areas and pedestrian footbridges is estimated at \$23.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB145

Question Serial No.

1292

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the deletion of 103 posts in 2006-07, would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) the respective Programmes or Policy Areas that the posts to be deleted come under;
- (b) the ranks, duties and terms of appointment of these posts;
- (c) the reasons for deletion given that there are increases in the estimates; and
- (d) how will the work of these deleted posts be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

(a) and (b)

Under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities", the net deletion of 103 permanent posts includes creation of 25 posts and deletion of 128 posts in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. They provide information technology, management, clerical and support services in the Department and various leisure venues.

(c) and (d)

The increases in the estimates are mainly due to the full-year effect of the landscaping maintenance at Penny's Bay. The deletion of these posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB147

Question Serial No.

1299

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the deletion of 15 posts in 2006-07, would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) the respective Programmes or Policy Areas that the posts to be deleted come under;
- (b) the ranks, duties and terms of appointment of these posts;
- (c) the reasons for deletion given that there are increases in both the estimates and the number of libraries; and
- (d) how will the work of these deleted posts be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

(a) and (b)

The net deletion of 15 posts are permanent posts coming under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. They provide support services to the public libraries.

(c) and (d)

All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. Despite increases in both the estimates and the number of public libraries, the deletion of these posts is made possible through redeployment of resources and streamlining of work procedures in public libraries. Where necessary and appropriate, the Department would supplement the service by the engagement of multi-skilled contract staff. In the process, we will ensure that the service standards are upheld.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB148

Question Serial No.

2130

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The usage rates of sports centres, tennis courts, non-government organisation camps and water sports centres are currently below 80%. What promotional programmes and activities will be organised by the Administration in 2006-07 to enhance utilisation of these four types of facilities?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The overall usage of sports centres during the peak hours is 87% while the usage during non-peak hours is 61%. To promote the utilisation of sports centres during non-peak period, the Department will continue to encourage schools, subvented non-government organisations (NGOs), National Sports Associations and districts sports associations to use specific sports facilities free of charge during the non-peak hours (i.e. from opening time to 5 p.m.) under our Free Use Scheme. We will continue to outreach various organisations to maximise the use of these sports facilities.

As for tennis courts, the comparatively lower usage was mainly due to the declining trend of playing tennis in recent years. The Department has been closely monitoring the situation and has not planned any new tennis court since early 2002. To enhance the usage of existing tennis courts, the Department will continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote the sport as well as the use of the facilities. In addition, we will explore conversion of less popular tennis courts into other uses to meet local community demand. In 2005-06, we have converted 4 less popular tennis courts into a basketball court and an 5-a-side mini-soccer pitch. These courts are the Shek Lei Street Tennis Court and the Tin Shui Wai Park tennis court. In 2006-07, there is plan to convert 3 tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park into basketball courts and archery practice court.

The usage rate of 65% for non-government organisation camps/water sports centres in 2005 was an average annual figure of the 25 subvented facilities. Many of these subvented camps/centres were well utilised with usage rate over 70%. However, those of small scale and with location in remote areas have a lower level of utilisation. For those camps/centres which are in need of substantial renovation, we will facilitate their applications for public trust funds to upgrade their facilities and to enhance their attractiveness to the public where appropriate. We will also assist the NGOs to strengthen the promotion and publicity plan of the camps/centres, and give them suggestions to improve booking and operational procedures so as to boost their usage of the facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Alan SIU

Post Title

Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB150

Question Serial No.

2132

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2006-07, 6 children's playgrounds, 3 hard surfaced pitches, 2 sports centres and 1 swimming pool complex will be added to the existing facilities. Please list the locations of these facilities.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The 6 children playgrounds to be provided in 2006-07 are at Fuk Hang Tsuen Road Garden in Tuen Mun district, Ha Wan Tsuen Garden in Yuen Long district, Sheung Kok Street Garden and Shek Pai Street Park in Kwai Tsing district, Kat Cheung Crescent Garden in North district and Tong Shui Road Garden in Eastern district. The 3 hard surface pitches are at Shek Pai Street Park in Kwai Tsing district, Tin Shui Wai Park and Area 107, Tin Shui Wai in Yuen Long district. As for the 2 new sports centres, they are Tai Kok Tsui Sports Centre in Yau Tsim Mong district, and Stanley Sports Centre in Southern district. One additional heated swimming pool is at Tai Kok Tsui Sports Centre in Yau Tsim Mong district.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB151

Question Serial No.

2133

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will delete 6 squash courts in 2006-07. Please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the locations of these 6 squash courts;
- (b) of the reason for the deletion; and
- (c) whether the Administration will build other sports facilities in-situ after the deletion of the squash courts. If yes, what kinds of sports facilities will they be? When will such works be completed? If no, please give the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In 2006-07, this Department will convert two squash courts into an activity room at Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre in Wong Tai Sin district and four squash courts at Victoria Park in Eastern district into a hard surfaced basketball court so as to provide facilities which better serve the needs of the local community. The above conversion works are scheduled to be completed by June 2006 and June 2007 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB152

Question Serial No.

2155

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Administration will encourage national sports associations to form community sports clubs. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the details of the work concerned;
- (b) of the number of sports associations/clubs that have indicated interest in joining the programme;
- (c) of the sports activities involved;
- (d) of the districts where the community sports club(s) will first be formed and the programme be promoted; and
- (e) of the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) This Department encourages National Sports Associations (NSAs) to set up community sports clubs (CSCs) through the provision of technical and financial support. These CSCs comprise local people with common interest in specific sports items who gather together and organise sports programmes for the community to foster regular social contact and encourage life-long participation in sports. This Department organises regular workshops and seminars for the office-bearers of the CSCs to familiarise themselves with the management of sports clubs and the technical aspects in the organisation of community sports activities. Close liaison is maintained with NSAs to assist them in the formation of new CSCs.
- (b) Up to 2005-06, a total of 27 NSAs have participated in the CSC Project and 252 CSCs have been formed.
- (c) Sports activities provided through the CSC Project include progressive sports training courses, skill refinement training courses, intra and inter-club competitions and sports fun days targeted for all ages.
- (d) The CSC Project has been launched in all 18 districts since 2001.

- (e) In 2005-06, an amount of \$4 million has been granted through respective NSAs to CSCs to organise 1 130 sports programmes for 29 000 participants. In 2006-07, we have increased the budget to \$7 million to further encourage NSAs to form more CSCs and to organise more activities to promote sports at community level.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB153

Question Serial No.

2237

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the estimated amount of general departmental expenses for 2006-07 is \$2,378,485,000, representing an increase of \$74,662,000 over the revised estimate for 2005-06. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the details of the general departmental expenses and whether they include the costs of various outsourced service contracts; and
- (b) of the reasons for the increase in the estimate.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The general departmental expenses represent the costs that are directly related to the day-to-day operation of the department. The expenses cover light and power, stores and equipment, administration, maintenance materials, workshop services, contract maintenance, and hire of services and professional fees inclusive of the expenditure on outsourced service contracts.
- (b) The increase in the estimate of general departmental expenses in 2006-07 is mainly due to additional resources for extension of temporary jobs including trainees and those relating to cleansing work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB154

Question Serial No.

0560

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead: 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2006-07, the Department will have to manage 2 new libraries and 1 new museum, to provide support to the East Asian Games Planning Committee, as well as to handle routine business. However, there will be a deletion of 314 permanent posts in 2006-07. In this connection:

- (a) please list out the ranks, number of staff, means of deletion and respective Programmes of the posts to be deleted;
- (b) will the service quality of these affected Programmes be compromised? Will there be any mechanism to monitor the service quality?
- (c) has the Administration consulted the staff and staff associations in the deletion of the above posts?
- (d) have sufficient channels been provided by the Department for frontline staff to reflect their discontentment under the existing structure? If yes, please specify.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The net deletion of 314 posts include the creation of 64 posts and deletion of 378 posts. Out of these posts, 39 posts and 229 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports" in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. Besides, 25 posts and 128 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities" in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. The deletion of the other 6 posts comes under Programme (4) "Performing Arts" in the ranks of Artisan and Workman II. The remaining 15 posts to be deleted come under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The deletion of posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation.

(b) In view of the various enhanced efficiency measures indicated in (a) above, the deletion of posts will not affect the service quality of the LCSD. The service quality will be monitored under existing established control mechanism through close supervision and inspection.

(c) and (d)

Briefing on containing the size of civil service and the departmental manpower plan had been conducted at meetings with the Departmental Consultative Committee and unions. Staff may reflect their views and opinions through their representatives at the Departmental Consultative Committee or through unions with which the Department holds regular and ad hoc meetings and discussions. The Department always welcomes meetings with staff and representatives of staff associations/unions to collect and exchange views with them.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB155

Question Serial No.

0566

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead 600 Works

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

There is no expenditure involved for the following items for 2005-06:

- ✧ Item 810 : “Major repairs to Kun Ting Study Hall and Ching Shu Hin on Ping Shan Heritage Trail”
- ✧ Item 812 : “Restoration of To Ancestral Hall, Tuen Mun”
- ✧ Item 813 : “Restoration of the former residence of Ip Ting-sz, Sha Tau Kok”

Will the Administration inform this Committee about the present progress of the projects concerned?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

There was no expenditure involved for Items 810, 812 and 813 in 2005-06 because these are new projects which will start in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB156

Question Serial No.

0567

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

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

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

There is no expenditure involved for the following items for 2005-06:

- ✧ Item 642 : “Publishing reports on excavations at Tung Lung Fort and Kowloon Walled City and other archaeological investigations”
- ✧ Item 643 : “Processing excavated materials and publishing excavation reports”
- ✧ Item 647 : “Archaeological survey of the Hong Kong territory”

Will the Administration inform this Committee about the present progress of the projects concerned?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yes-men, Audrey

Reply :

The progress of the three projects is as follows :-

Item 642

Field data verification and editing are being done on the draft reports of Tung Lung Fort and Kowloon Walled City excavations. Further cartographic recording for the South Gate of Kowloon Walled City was completed in February 2006 and the final report will be ready for publication in August 2006.

Item 643

A 3-year collaboration project with the Chinese University of Hong Kong was launched in 2005, aiming to complete the reports by 2007.

Item 647

The territory-wide Archaeological Survey has been completed and the project account with a balance of HK\$0.1 million will be closed soon.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB157

Question Serial No.

0728

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 603 Plant, vehicles and
equipment

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

There is no expenditure involved for the following items for 2005-06:

- (a) Item 425: “Provision of temperature and humidity control system at Tung Tsz Nursery”
- (b) Item 458: “Replacement of seven dinghies and 13 power boats for water sports centres (2005)”
- (c) Item 809: “Replacement of 37 dinghies and three power boats for water sports centres (2006)”
- (d) Item 811: “Replacement of scoreboard in Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground”

Please inform this Committee about the present progress of the projects concerned.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (a) Item 425
For the provision of temperature and humidity control system for the green house at Tung Tsz Nursery, the Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) has started the detailed design of the project. However, Arch SD found it necessary to further study the power upgrading works with China Light and Power Ltd and the modification works on the structure of the green house in order to accommodate the new installations. The works will therefore need to be postponed to the financial year 2006-07.
- (b) Item 458
As the manufacturer no longer produces the dinghies Laser 3000 and Laser 13 which are the two existing models used by us, we have to conduct market research in order to identify suitable crafts for replacement. We have just completed the tendering process and the dinghies will be delivered in June 2006. Hence, no payment could be made in 2005-06 and the full payment would be settled in 2006-07.
- (c) Item 809
The dinghies and power boats are to be replaced in 2006-07. Hence, no payment would be made in 2005-06.

(d) Item 811

The scoreboard is to be replaced in 2006-07. Hence, no payment would be made in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB158

Question Serial No.

0573

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What measures will be taken by the Administration to encourage national sports associations to form community sports clubs for the organisation of sports development programmes at community level? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. Cheng Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

This Department encourages National Sports Associations (NSAs) to set up community sports clubs (CSCs) through the provision of technical and financial support. These CSCs comprise local people with common interest in specific sports items who gather together and organise sports programmes for the community to foster regular social contact and encourage life-long participation in sports. This Department organises regular workshops and seminars for the office-bearers of the CSCs to familiarise themselves with the management of sports clubs and the technical aspects in the organization of community sports activities. Close liaison is maintained with NSAs to assist them in the formation of new CSCs. Funding support is provided to NSAs and CSCs to meet with essential expenditure items in the organisation of programmes including venue hire charges, instructors fees and publicity expenses etc. Since implementation of the CSC Project in 2001, the number of CSCs has increased from 84 in 2001-02 to 252 in 2005-06.

In 2005-06, an amount of \$4 million has been granted through respective NSAs to CSCs to organise 1 130 sports programmes for 29 000 participants. In 2006-07, we have increased the budget to \$7 million to further encourage NSAs to form more CSCs to promote sports at the community level. Currently, the CSC Team consists of four officers. Apart from supervising the implementation of the CSC Project, they are also responsible for organising educational and training programmes to promote sports volunteerism in the community; publishing materials to disseminate information on local sports development among schools and sports organisations, and conducting experience sharing workshops with NSAs and their affiliated clubs to enhance their capability in sports management.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Alan SIU

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB160

Question Serial No.

0575

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What was the ratio of library materials borrowed via self-check terminals, manual processing, the Internet and telephone in the past three years? What is the unit cost of each of the above four lending modes? Will the Administration encourage readers to borrow library materials via modes of lower cost in order to save costs?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In the past three years, a total of 182 million items of library materials were lent out. Among which, 120 million (65.93%) items were manually checked out from library counters, 47 million (25.83%) through telephone and Internet and 15 million (8.24%) through self-check terminals. Front-line staff working in libraries are multi-tasked and are required to perform tasks such as processing, weeding and shelving of library materials, in addition to check-out duties at the counter. It is not possible to quantify these tasks and to assess the unit cost incurred for each check-out item. The Telephone and Internet mode is for the renewal of borrowed library materials only. Its operating cost is integrated in the running cost of the overall library automation system and breakdown of unit cost for each “check-out” is unavailable. As regards the self-check machines, the unit setup cost and annual maintenance cost for each terminal are approximately \$255,000 and \$22,000 respectively. Presently, 53 static libraries are provided with a total of 134 self-check terminals, of which 67 were installed in 2005-06.

The public library service has been well received by the public and the item of library materials checked out per year has significantly increased from 42 million in 2001 to 61 million in 2005. The wider use of information technology in checking out loan items has helped absorb a portion of the increased workload and the Department will continue to promote and encourage users to check out books through these terminals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Alan SIU

Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB161

Question Serial No.

1356

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead: 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the 314 posts to be deleted in 2006-07, please provide a list of the ranks of these posts with their respective numbers and the amount of savings to be achieved.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The net deletion of 314 posts include the creation of 64 posts and deletion of 378 posts. Out of these posts, 39 posts and 229 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports" in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. Besides, 25 posts and 128 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities" in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. The deletion of the other 6 posts comes under Programme (4) "Performing Arts" in the ranks of Artisan and Workman II. The remaining 15 posts to be deleted come under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The net deletion of 314 posts will lead to a net saving of \$26 million in terms of annual salary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MS ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____
Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB162

Question Serial No.

0662

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2004-05, the Government has required that the wages of low-skilled workers offered by government service contractors should not be lower than the average market rates and the number of working hours should not exceed the average market level. Has the Administration assessed the impact of implementing the above measure on the operational expenses of the Department? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

To fulfil the requirement that non-skilled workers to be offered with wage rates not lower than the average market rates, the estimated additional expenditure for the service contracts that rely heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers (i.e. cleansing, security guard, horticultural maintenance and sports centre management) is about \$12 million in 2006-07. Upon the full implementation of the requirement for these service contracts, the estimated increase in annual expenditure is about \$24 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Alan SIU

Post Title _____
Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB163

Question Serial No.

0749

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is stated that the channel for booking of sports facilities and enrollment to sports programmes will be strengthened through the provision of automated self service kiosks. Please advise the number and the location of automated self service kiosks to be installed and the amount of resources to be involved?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

We plan to install self-service kiosks at 44 locations including 17 sports centres, 22 tennis courts, 3 squash courts, 1 artificial turf mini soccer pitch and 1 bowling green as the first phase of the project. The estimated capital expenditure is about \$10 million and the annual recurrent expenditure is about \$ 2 million. Please see locations at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Proposed Locations for Installation of Self-service kiosks

	<u>Venues</u>	<u>District</u>
	<u>(a) Sports Centres</u>	
1	Yue Kwong Rd Sports Centre	Southern
2	Shek Tong Tsui Sports Centre	Central & Western
3	Western Park Sports Centre	Central & Western
4	Wong Nai Chung Sports Centre	Wanchai
5	Queen Elizabeth Stadium	Wanchai
6	Java Road Sports Centre	Eastern
7	Po On Road Sports Centre	Sham Shui Po
8	Morse Park Sports Centre	Wong Tai Sin
9	Kai Tak East Sports Centre	Wong Tai Sin
10	Kowloon Bay Sports Centre	Kwun Tong
11	Lei Yue Mun Sports Centre	Kwun Tong
12	Fung Shue Wo Sports Centre	Kwai Tsing
13	Lai King Sports Centre	Kwai Tsing
14	Mui Wo Sports Centre	Islands
15	Cheung Chau Sports Centre	Islands

16	Tin Ping Sports Centre	North
17	Po Lam Sports Centre	Sai Kung
	<u>(b) Tennis Courts</u>	
1	Bowen Rd Tennis Courts	Wanchai
2	Quarry Bay Park Tennis Court	Eastern
3	King's Park Tennis Court	Yau Tsim Mong
4	Ko Shan Rd Park Tennis Court	Kowloon City
5	Tin Kwong Rd Tennis Court	Kowloon City
6	Ma Chai Hang R/G Tennis Court	Wong Tai Sin
7	Shek Ku Lung Rd Playground Tennis Court	Wong Tai Sin
8	Sai Ching Street Tennis Court	Yuen Long
9	Tin Shui Wai Park Tennis Courts	Yuen Long
10	Tsing Sin Playground Tennis Court	Tuen Mun
11	Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground Tennis Court	Tuen Mun
12	Shing Mun Valley Park Tennis Court	Tsuen Wan
13	Tsuen Wan Riviera Park Tennis Court	Tsuen Wan
14	Sha Tsui Road Playground Tennis Court	Tsuen Wan
15	Kwai Shing Playground Tennis Court	Kwai Tsing

16	North District Sports Ground Tennis Court	North
17	Wan Tau Kok Playground Tennis Court	Tai Po
18	Yuen Wo Playground Tennis Court	Shatin
19	Ma On Shan Recreation Ground Tennis Court	Shatin
20	Po Tsui Park Tennis Court	Sai Kung
21	Aberdeen Tennis & Squash Centre	Southern
22	Sin Fat Road Tennis Court	Kwun Tong
	<u>(c) Squash Courts</u>	
1	Tung Chau Street Park Squash Court	Sham Shui Po
2	Yuen Long Sir Denys Roberts Squash Court	Yuen Long
3	Sha Tin Jockey Club Public Squash Courts	Shatin
	<u>(d) Artificial Turf mini-soccer pitch</u>	
1	Man Tung Rd Park Artificial Turf	Islands
	<u>(e) Bowling Green</u>	
1	Tai Po Waterfront Park Bowling Green	Tai Po

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB165

Question Serial No.

0922

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will enhance utilisation of existing sports facilities in 2006-07. Please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the average usage rate of these facilities in 2005-06. Please list the sports facilities with the highest and lowest usage rates and the districts with the highest and lowest usage rates of sports facilities; and
- (b) the measures to be taken by the Administration and the amount of resources to be allocated for enhancing utilisation of sports facilities.

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

- (a) In 2005-06, the sports facilities with the highest and lowest usage rate are natural turf pitches (100%) and squash courts (39%) respectively. For natural turf pitches, nearly all districts have achieved the highest usage rate of 100%. The squash court with the highest usage rate is Wai Tsuen Sports Centre (81%) in Tsuen Wan district. The lowest is the Kowloon Tsai Park Squash Court (3%) in Kowloon City district, which is a very old facility without air-conditioning. We are considering initiatives to convert the squash facility in Kowloon Tsai Park into other uses to better serve the needs of sports development and to enhance utilisation. The usage rates of different sports facilities are set out in the Annex.
- (b) To promote the utilisation of sports facilities especially during non-peak period, the Department will continue to encourage schools, subvented non-government organisations, national sports associations and district sports associations to use specific sports facilities free of charge during non-peak hours (i.e. from 7 a.m to 5 p.m.) under the Free Use Scheme. We will continue to encourage different organisations e.g. local community groups to use our sports facilities. We will also continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote sports as well as the use of the facilities. All these are our on-going work and are met by existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

MS ANISSA WONG

Director of Leisure and

Post Title

Cultural Services

Date

8 March 2006

Usage of recreation and sports facilities

	<u>2005</u>
Usage rate of sports centres (%)	73
Usage rate of tennis courts (%)	44
Usage rate of sports grounds (%)	96
Usage rate of natural turf pitches (%)	100
Usage rate of artificial turf pitches (%)	80

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB166

Question Serial No.

0923

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will enhance the participation of schools in the School Sports Programme and expand the Programme in 2006-07. How many schools will participate in the Programme and what is the estimated expenditure? What kinds of sports will be covered by the Programme?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has, since 2001, been actively promoting sports in primary and secondary schools through the Schools Sports Programme (SSP). Over the years, the number of SSP activities has increased from 1 188 in 2001 to 6 424 in 2005, representing an increase of about 440%. The number of schools taking part in the SSP has increased from 574 in 2001 to 875 in 2005. Our goal is to extend the SSP in 2006-07 to cover 930 schools and provide 7 000 activities for the participation of students. The estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2006-07 is about \$14.2 million.

The SSP consists of six subsidiary programmes, namely, Sport Education Programme, Easy Sport Programme, Sport Captain Programme, Outreach Coaching Programme, Joint School Sports Training Programme and Badges Award Scheme.

In 2006-07, the SSP will be expanded from the current 29 to 31 sport items as follows-

Athletics	Badminton	Baseball	Basketball	Boxing (new)
Canoe	Cricket	Cycling	Dance Sport	Dragon Dance
Fencing	Football	Gateball	Gymnastics	Handball
Hockey (new)	Judo	Karatedo	Netball	Orienteering
Rowing	Rugby	Shuttlecock	Sports Climbing	Squash
Table Tennis	Tennis	Volleyball	Windsurfing	Wushu
Triathlon				

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB167

Question Serial No.

0932

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

How many projects on open space will be carried out in districts by the Administration in 2006-07? What are the respective estimated expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

This Department plans to have 12 open space projects to start works in 2006-07. The project titles and costs estimates are :

District	Project Title	Estimated Project Cost (\$M)
Islands	District Open Space in Area 2, Tung Chung	48.10
North	District Open Space in Area 39, Fanling/Sheung Shui	42.70
Tsuen Wan	District Open Space in Area 35, Tsuen Wan – phase 2	54.70
Sai Kung	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	352.30
Yuen Long	Basketball Courts in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai	14.56
Islands	Development of Open Space at Tai Tsoi Yuen, Cheung Chau	8.38
Kwai Tsing	Open Space at Tsing Yi North Low Level Fresh Water and Salt Water Services Reservoirs, Tsing Yi	7.94
Sha Tin	Local Open Space in Area 11, Sha Tin	14.47
Yau Tsim Mong	Development of Open Space at Tai Kok Tsui Temporary Market	14.85
Sham Shui Po	Sham Shui Po Park (Stage II)	48.20
Sai Kung	District Open Space in Area 40A, Tseung Kwan O	51.03
Tuen Mun	Local Open Space in Area 16 (Yau Oi South) Tuen Mun	64.09

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB168

Question Serial No.

0933

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration has been outsourcing various services in recent years. Please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the estimated expenditure involved in the administrative work relating to handling the outsourcing of services in 2006-07; and
- (b) the estimated decrease in expenditure after outsourcing the services in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) The administrative work relating to handling of outsourced services involves contract management, alignment and standardisation of contract terms and conditions, review systems for contract management and overall supervision of contractors. The estimated expenditure of the work is about \$7.5 million in 2006-07. In addition, venue/district management are responsible for monitoring daily performance of contractors.
- (b) The bulk of the Department's outsourced services is in the areas of cleansing, security, horticultural maintenance and information technology services. The amount of savings from services outsourcing in 2006-07 as compared with the cost to perform these services in-house is not available. This is due to rationalisation of services, multi-tasking of staff required in the outsourced contracts and the reason that many streams of outsourced services are no longer provided in-house, for example, cleansing and property attendance. Nevertheless, based on the estimated cost of some samples of outsourced service contracts, it is estimated that about 25% savings can be achieved in these contracts when compared with the in-house costs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Alan SIU

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB169

Question Serial No.

0934

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Last year, the Audit Commission pointed out that some recreation and sports venues such as roller-skating rinks, squash courts and cycling areas managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department had relatively low usage rates but the soccer pitches and swimming pools fell short of demand. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) whether the Administration will review the above situation in 2006-07? If yes, please provide the details; if no, the reasons for that; and
- (b) of the respective estimated expenditures in 2006-07 for the construction of soccer pitches, swimming pools and other recreation facilities in higher public demand?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) In the Audit Report No. 43 covering mainly the provision and management of indoor recreational and sports facilities (roller skating rinks and cycling tracks were not covered in the report), the Director of Audit stated that the utilisation of squash courts was relatively low. This Department is aware of the problem of low usage of squash courts and various measures have been adopted to promote the usage including multi-use of squash courts and allowing free use of the facilities by schools and sports organisations under the Free Use Scheme. The usage rate of squash courts has been increasing steadily from 32% in 2004-05 to 39% in 2005-06. We have also identified some less popular squash courts for conversion into other uses such as basketball courts and activity rooms. Details of the proposed conversion works are at Annex.
- (b) In 2006-07, there are plans on the construction of soccer pitches as follows-
 - (i) Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (with a 11-a-side and a 7-a-side football pitches) at total project cost of \$352.3 million;
 - (ii) District Open Space in Area 39, Fanling/Sheung Shui (with a 7-a-side soccer pitch) at total project cost of \$42.7 million;
 - (iii) Local Open Space Area 16 (Yau Oi South) Tuen Mun (with a 7-a-side soccer pitch) at total project cost of \$64.1 million; and
 - (iv) 7-a-side soccer pitch under construction in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai at the project cost of \$14.5 million.

To meet the increasing public demand for the use of grass pitches, we will also convert five natural turf pitches this year into artificial turf pitches at an estimated cost of \$26 million. For each pitch, the number of sessions available for booking will be increased by four times after the conversion.

As for new swimming pool projects in 2006-07, the estimated expenditure on the construction of a swimming pool complex at the Hin Tin Swimming Pool Phase 2 in Shatin, which is under construction and scheduled for completion in mid-2007, is \$174 million.

One other major LCSD project which will start work in 2006-07 is the Indoor Recreation Centre cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung, Lantau at an estimated project cost of \$372 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Annex

Plans to Convert Under-utilised Squash Courts into Other Uses

<u>District</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Squash Courts to be converted</u>	<u>Plans</u>
Eastern	Java Road Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts : 7)	2	To convert two squash courts into an activity room by taking down the partition wall.
	* Victoria Park Squash Courts Building	4	To demolish the squash courts building and convert the site into an outdoor basketball court.
Wong Tai Sin	Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts : 6)	2	To convert two squash courts into an activity room by taking down the partition wall.
	* Morse Park Squash Courts Building	3	To demolish the squash courts building and convert the site into landscaped open space.
North	* Fanling New Town Squash Courts Building	2	To demolish the squash courts building and convert the site into landscaped open space.

* Free standing squash courts building

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB170

Question Serial No.

0944

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to Programme (5), please provide:

- (a) the total amount of fines paid by the public for late return of books in 2005-06; and
- (b) the total amount of compensation paid by the public for failure to return books and loss of books in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. Ho Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

(a) Total overdue fines collected in 2005-06 is estimated at \$17 million.

(b) Total amount collected for lost library materials in 2005-06 is estimated at \$1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB172

Question Serial No.

0946

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead: 603 Plant, vehicles and
equipment

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment, please explain why the estimate for 2006-07 has to be maintained at \$33,025,000 whereas the revised estimate for 2005-06 was \$17,884,000?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Out of the estimate of \$33,025,000 for 2006-07, \$5,610,000 is estimated to be required for two newly approved projects, namely “Replacement of 37 dinghies and three power boats for water sports centres (2006)” and “Replacement of scoreboard in Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground”. The remaining balance of \$27,415,000 is for the cash flow requirement of existing projects in 2006-07, including, among others, \$14,200,000 for “Replacement of the Planetarium Star Projector and Seating at the Space Theatre of the Hong Kong Space Musuem” and \$7,882,000 for “Replacement of scoreboard at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground”.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB173

Question Serial No.

1045

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As stated in the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07” under this Programme, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will open a small library in Tin Shui Wai North. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure on the above item in 2006-07, as well as the estimated book stock and annual patronage of this library?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The expenditure in 2006-07 for the new Tin Shui Wai North Public Library is estimated at \$9.58 million. The library will have an initial stock of 40 000 items, inclusive of books and audio-visual materials, which will increase over time depending on usage. The expected patronage is about 400 000 visitors per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB174

Question Serial No.

1046

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 of this Programme that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will enhance utilisation of existing sports facilities. Will the Government inform this Committee what measures will be taken in 2006-07 to enhance the utilisation rate of sports facilities in New Territories West and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

To promote the utilisation of sports facilities especially during non-peak period, this Department will continue to encourage schools, subvented non-government organisations, National Sports Associations and district sports associations to use specified sports facilities free of charge during non-peak hours (i.e. from opening time to 5:00 p.m.) under the Free Use Scheme. We will continue to encourage various organisations, e.g. local community bodies, to use our facilities for their activities. We will also continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote sports as well as the use of the facilities. The above measures do not involve additional expenditure as they are part of our ongoing work. These measures apply on a territory-wide basis including New Territories West.

This Department has converted some of the low usage venues in New Territories West into other uses in 2005-06 to enhance utilisation of the facilities with details as follows-

Venue	Conversion works	Cost involved
Shek Lei Street Tennis Courts in Kwai Tsing District	Conversion of one tennis court into a basketball practice court.	\$0.400M
North Kwai Chung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Centre in Kwai Tsing District	Addition of basketball court line-marking in the indoor tennis court to enable multi-use of the court.	\$0.004M
On Tung Street Temporary Playground in Tung Chung	Addition of flood-lighting system for the 7-a-side hard-surfaced soccer pitch to enable players to use it in the evening time as well.	\$1.150M
Tin Shui Wai Park Tennis Courts	Conversion of 3 tennis courts into one 5-a-side soccer pitch.	\$1.000M
Total		\$2.554M

We are further considering the conversion of three tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park and the squash courts at Kwai Shing into other sports uses. The estimated costs for the conversion are not yet available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB175

Question Serial No.

1047

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 under this Programme, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will support the East Asian Games Planning Committee in 2006-07 to plan and prepare for the organisation of the 2009 East Asian Games. Will the Government inform this Committee of the details of the related work and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will continue to support the East Asian Games (EAG) Planning Committee in the planning and preparation for the 2009 EAG. The department will assist in the launching of the EAG mascot and anthem design competitions, liaise with the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and National Sports Associations on the selection of sports items for the event and setting up of the EAG Association secretariat and other preparatory work. The department will also continue with the promotion of EAG to students through the Department's School Sports Programme; work together with the District Councils to enhance community participation; coordinate with the Architectural Services Department on the improvement works of the EAG competition venues, and seek funds from the Public Works Sub-committee/Finance Committee (FC) accordingly. The existing staff of the Department responsible for sports will continue to provide support for the planning and preparation of the 2009 EAG as part of their overall work on sports promotion and development.

FC, at its meeting on 13 January 2006, approved a non-recurrent commitment of \$123 million to provide financial support for the organisation and implementation of the 2009 EAG. Out of the total operating budget for the event of \$240 million, the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$12.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB176

Question Serial No.

1048

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 000 Operational
expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the amount of Mandatory Provident Fund contribution for 2006-07 is \$2,056,000, representing an increase of 187% over the revised estimate for 2005-06. Will the Government explain the reasons for the substantial increase in the Mandatory Provident Fund contribution?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

It is the Department's intention in the 2006-07 manpower plan to fill some existing vacancies so as to strengthen our departmental operation in the leisure and cultural services streams. The provision of \$2,056,000 for Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contribution in 2006-07 is for the Department's contribution to the MPF scheme for officers offered on civil service probationary or agreement terms. The Department will work in accordance with established procedures to seek approval to fill the posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB177

Question Serial No.

1049

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under this Programme, the Administration stated that there will be a net deletion of 103 posts in 2006-07. Will the Government inform this Committee of the titles and functions of the posts to be deleted, the reasons for their deletions and the expenditure to be saved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities", the net deletion of 103 permanent posts includes creation of 25 posts and deletion of 128 posts in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. They provide information technology, management, clerical and support services in the Department and various leisure venues.

The deletion of these posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The net deletion of 103 posts will lead to a net saving of \$8.5 million in terms of annual salary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB178

Question Serial No.

1050

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under this Programme, the Administration stated that there will be a net deletion of 190 posts in 2006-07. Will the Government inform this Committee of the titles and functions of the posts to be deleted, the reasons for their deletions and the amount of expenditure to be saved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports", the net deletion of 190 permanent posts includes creation of 39 posts and deletion of 229 posts in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. They provide accountancy, statistics, management and support services in the Department and various leisure venues.

The deletion of these posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The net deletion of 190 posts will lead to a net saving of \$14.7 million in terms of annual salary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB180

Question Serial No.

1243

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Given that the estimated financial provision for this programme has an 5.8% increase and that new museums will be opened, why has the Administration estimated that 2006 figures for such indicators as “seminars/conferences/workshops/exhibitions/heritage tours”, “museums/archive guided tours” and “lectures/demonstrations/seminars/workshops/film and audio-visual shows” will be lower than 2005 actual figures?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The increase in the overall financial provision for 2006 is mainly due to the commissioning of new museum facilities, including the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum and the Heritage Discovery Centre.

The minor drop in the estimated figures for 2006 for the indicators on ‘seminars/conferences/workshops/exhibitions/heritage tours’, “museums/archive guided tours” and “lectures/demonstrations/seminars/workshops/film and audio-visual shows” are due to the following reasons :

- (a) In 2005, there were two highly popular exhibitions, namely, “Impressionism” and “From Eastern Han to High Tang”, which attracted a great number of people to participate in guided tours, education and extension activities organised to coincide with these events.
- (b) There were special activities organised in 2005 to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of Admiral Zheng He’s Voyages, the 8-Year War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the partial opening of the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre.
- (c) Moreover, in 2005 the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) had organised special training to teachers on conduction of heritage tours for their students on their own. Although the number of heritage guided tours and activities to be organised by AMO for 2006 is estimated to be less than the actual figure for 2005, they are 40.19% higher than that for 2004.

While the total estimated figures for 2006 for the three indicators concerned represents a total drop of 3.6%, as compared with the actual figures in 2005, the estimated figures for the indicators “seminars/conferences/workshops/exhibitions/heritage tours” and “lectures/demonstrations/films and audio-visual shows” in 2006 show a 2.74% increase when compared with the actual figures in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Alan SIU

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB181

Question Serial No.

1244

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre will be opened in 2007. How much resources will the Administration provide for these two venues in the coming year? Regarding staffing, will the Administration increase the provision due to the opening of the two new venues? If yes, please provide details of the increased number of staff, their respective posts, ranks and terms of appointment.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Resources provided for the following two new projects in 2006/07 are :-

Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum

A provision of \$90.5 million has been made for the building conversion, building services, drainage, external works, exhibition works, furniture and equipment for the project. The annual operating cost of the Museum is estimated to be \$6.7 million.

For the planning of the new Museum, 3 contract staff, including two Assistant Curators II and 1 Technical Officer were employed. It is expected that one Assistant Curator I and 1 Municipal Services Assistant would be employed to cater for the operation of the Museum. However, actual staff requirement of the Museum would be reviewed in light of operational experience after opening of the Museum in early 2007.

Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre

The estimated expenditure for the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre for 2006-07 is around \$20 million which will mainly be used for fabrication of exhibits for the standing exhibition, venue operation and management, as well as maintenance and procurement of equipment.

For the management of the Centre, 1 civil service post at the rank of Manager (Cultural Services) was created and 2 contract staff were employed to perform roles as Assistant Managers. The Department will keep in review the actual staff requirement when the Centre is put to full operation in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB182

Question Serial No.

1349

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please explain why the usage rates of some recreation facilities have remained at a relatively low level. For example, the usage rate of tennis courts is only 44% and that of non-government organisation camps and water sports centres is only 65%. What measures will be taken by the Government to enhance utilisation of these facilities so as to reduce waste of government resources?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The comparatively lower usage of tennis courts was mainly due to the declining trend of playing tennis in recent years. This Department has been closely monitoring the situation and has been very careful in the planning of new facilities. No new tennis court has been planned since early 2002. To enhance the usage of existing tennis courts, this Department will continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote the sport as well as the facilities. In addition, we will explore conversion of less popular tennis courts into other uses to meet local community demand. In 2005-06, we have converted four less popular tennis courts into a basketball court and a 5-a-side mini-soccer pitch. These courts are the Shek Lei Street Tennis Court and the Tin Shui Wai Park Tennis Court. In 2006-07, we plan to convert three tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park into basketball courts and an archery practice court in addition to exploring alternative use of under-utilised tennis courts. Venue managers of sports facilities will continue to make effort to publicise the use of the facilities and work with the sports organisations to provide programmes to further enhance the utilisation rates.

As for the usage of subvented non-government organisation (NGO) camps/water sports centres, we have been examining and making recommendations on their booking procedures, promotion and publicity plans and operational procedures with a view to offering suggestions on areas for improvement. The overall usage rate of these camps/centres has risen from 63% in 2004 to 65% in 2005.

The usage rate of 65% in 2005 was an average annual figure of 25 subvented NGO camps/water sports centres. Many of these subvented camps/centres were well utilised with usage rate over 70%. However, those small scale and with location in remote areas have a lower level of utilisation. For those camps/centres which are in need of substantial renovation, we will facilitate their applications for public trust funds to upgrade their facilities and to enhance their attractiveness to the public where appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB183

Question Serial No.

1657

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead: 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the deletion of 314 permanent posts in the coming year, would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) the respective Programmes or Policy Areas that the posts to be deleted come under;
- (b) the ranks and duties of these posts;
- (c) the reasons for deletion given that there is an increase of 1.3% in the overall estimates; and
- (d) how will the work of these deleted posts be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

(a) and (b)

The net deletion of 314 posts include the creation of 64 posts and deletion of 378 posts. Out of these posts, 39 posts and 229 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports" in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. Besides, 25 posts and 128 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities" in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. The deletion of the other 6 posts comes under Programme (4) "Performing Arts" in the ranks of Artisan and Workman II. The remaining 15 posts to be deleted come under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. They provide information technology, accountancy, statistics, management, clerical and support services in the Department and various leisure and cultural venues.

(c) and (d)

The increases in the estimates are mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for capital account items, the full-year effect of the landscaping maintenance at Penny's Bay, the increased operating expenses upon the launching of an enhanced ticketing system for URBTIX in 2006 and the increased provision for new cultural venues. The deletion of these posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB184

Question Serial No.

1658

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Presently, how many permanent posts in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department are filled by staff not appointed on civil service terms? What is the percentage of these posts against the establishment? Please list detailed figures and the terms of appointment.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

As at 1 March 2006, the civil service establishment of the Department is 7 494. Under the prevailing policies, contract staff cannot be recruited to fill civil service permanent posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB185

Question Serial No.

1685

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

For the organisation of a trial contest in 2007 for the Olympic Equestrian Events, the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events and the 2009 East Asian Games, the Administration should increase manpower to actively promote sports in 2006-07 with a view to intensifying the atmosphere for staging major international sporting events in the city. However, there will be a deletion of 190 posts under this Programme. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) how the quality of services as pledged can be ensured after the deletion of a large number of posts?
- (b) with regard to the above competitions, what are the manpower and resources that the Administration has planned to deploy for handling the related work? Please list by the types of duties the number of staff in different ranks involved and their respective salaries. What is the estimated departmental expenditure involved in the related items of work?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) All the posts to be deleted under this programme are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The deletion of posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation and hence, will not affect the service quality of LCSD. The service quality will be monitored under established control mechanism through close supervision, inspection and customer feedback. The posts to be deleted are not related to the promotion of sport.
- (b) For the organisation and implementation of the 2009 East Asian Games (EAG), an executive agent in the form of a registered company has been established for the purpose. The EAG Company will operate with around 20 staff initially in 2006 rising to around 100 in 2009. With the Finance Committee's approval on 13 January 2006 to provide financial support of \$123 million for the organisation of the 2009 EAG, the EAG Company will recruit its staff shortly to undertake the organisation and implementation work for the event. Out of the total operating budget for the event of \$240 million, the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$12.6 million, with \$6.7 million as staff cost. The details of the staffing structure and salary arrangement will be worked out by the Company shortly.

The existing staff of the department responsible for sports will continue to provide support for the planning and preparation of the 2009 EAG as part of their overall work on sports promotion and development.

As regards the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events, the organisation and implementation work will be carried out by the Equestrian Events (Hong Kong) of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad Company Limited. The Company will be funded by the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB186

Question Serial No.

1686

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

According to the heritage indicator of buildings/structures preserved, from 2004 to 2005 the actual figure of buildings/structures preserved was only 1 each year and the estimated figure for 2006 is also 1 only. Please inform this Committee:

- (a) what actually is the total number of buildings/structures under consideration for preservation?
- (b) whether a list of the total human resources and actual expenditure required for the preservation of buildings/structures can be provided?
- (c) if the answer to (a) is more than 1 building, whether consideration will be given to speeding up the assessment procedures in 2006-07 so as to increase the number of preserved heritage buildings /structures?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The indicator on the number of buildings/structure preserved actually means the number of monuments declared in the year. So far, there are 80 declared monuments in Hong Kong.

- (a) The Antiquities Advisory Board from time to time makes recommendations to the Antiquities Authority on declaration of buildings/structures of historical significance to be monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. A total of 52 buildings are currently under consideration by the Authority for declaration which were recommended by the Antiquities Advisory Board over the years.
- (b) The Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has two staff members who are responsible for negotiating with owners on arrangements of declaration of their buildings, in addition to other duties relating to restoration and maintenance of declared monuments. The administrative cost involved in the declaration work is not substantial.

- (c) The Government has been actively negotiating with owners of historic buildings in seeking their consent for the declaration. Procedural complications relating to declaration are manifold, including unclear ownership and land status of the buildings, owners' disagreement, conflicting planning and development issues which require time to resolve. Depending on the progress of these procedures, it is intended to declare more buildings as monuments in 2006-2007. Nevertheless, there is a mechanism in place among relevant government departments to monitor the development of buildings which are not declared monuments but have historical merit.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB187

Question Serial No.

1873

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2006-07, it is expected that there will be a net deletion of 314 permanent posts, and yet the estimated provision for personal emoluments has increased rather than decreased as compared with the revised estimates for 2005-06. What are the reasons? Please list by category the number of posts to be deleted and their respective pay levels.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The net increase in the allocation of the Department's resources on personal emoluments is \$20.6 million when compared with the revised estimates in 2005-06. The increase is mainly due to salary increments of existing civil service staff, the filling of posts at promotional ranks as well as the Department's intention to fill some existing vacancies for strengthening the departmental operation in the leisure and cultural services, offset by the savings upon posts deletion during the year. The Department will work in accordance with established procedures to seek approval to fill the vacant posts.

The net deletion of 314 posts include the creation of 64 posts and deletion of 378 posts. Out of these posts, 39 posts and 229 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports" in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. Besides, 25 posts and 128 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities" in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. The deletion of the other 6 posts comes under Programme (4) "Performing Arts" in the ranks of Artisan and Workman II. The remaining 15 posts to be deleted come under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. The net deletion of 314 posts will lead to a net saving of \$26 million in terms of annual salary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Alan SIU

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB188

Question Serial No.

1771

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead : 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the deletion of 314 permanent posts in 2006-07, what are the details and the amount of expenditure that can be saved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The net deletion of 314 posts includes creation of 64 posts and deletion of 378 posts. Out of these posts, 39 posts and 229 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports" in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. Besides, 25 posts and 128 posts will be created and deleted respectively under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities" in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. The deletion of the other 6 posts comes under Programme (4) "Performing Arts" in the ranks of Artisan and Workman II. The remaining 15 posts to be deleted come under Programme (5) "Public Libraries" in the ranks of Senior Cultural Services Assistant, Cultural Services Assistant I and Cultural Services Assistant II. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07. The net deletion of 314 posts will lead to a net saving of \$26 million in terms of annual salary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Alan SIU

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB189

Question Serial No.

2088

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The attendance at swimming pools in 2005 was lower than that in 2004 and the usage rate of tennis courts was only 44%. What measures will be taken by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to improve the usage rate of tennis courts and to encourage more people to use swimming pools for achieving optimum use of these facilities?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The attendance at public swimming pools in 2004 is 9 810 000 and in 2005 is 8 640 000, a decrease of 12%. The decrease is mainly due to the closure of public swimming pools during weekly cleansing programme which has been implemented since September 2004. Currently, all public swimming pools are closed for a half day on a weekly basis for thorough cleansing as one of the measures to enhance swimming pool hygiene and cleanliness. The arrangement will continue in the coming swimming season. This Department will work with related sports organisations to organise swimming and lifesaving programmes, etc. to enhance utilisation, and to divert demand from heavily demanded pools to less popular pools, and spread out demand for peak hour swimming facilities.

To enhance the usage of existing tennis courts, this Department will continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote the sport as well as the use of the facilities. In addition, we will explore conversion of less popular tennis courts into other uses to meet local community demand. In 2005-06, we have converted four less popular tennis courts into a basketball court and a 5-a-side mini-soccer pitch. These courts are the Shek Lei Street Tennis Court and the Tin Shui Wai Park Tennis Court. In 2006-07, we plan to convert three tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park into basketball courts and an archery practice court in addition to exploring alternative use of under-utilised tennis courts. Venue managers of sports facilities will continue to make effort to publicise the use of the facilities and work with the sports organisations to provide programmes to further enhance the utilisation rates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB190

Question Serial No.

2171

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

There will be a deletion of 190 posts in 2006-07. Why is it necessary to delete so many posts? What are the duties of these posts? Will this affect the work of the Department? Why the provision for 2006-07 is still \$7.3 million higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06 despite the deletion of so many posts? What are the specific reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

Under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports", the net deletion of 190 permanent posts include creation of 39 posts and deletion of 229 posts in the ranks of Chief Leisure Services Manager, Senior Leisure Services Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I, Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Treasury Accountant, Statistical Officer II/Student Statistical Officer, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. They provide accountancy, statistics, management and support services in the Department and various leisure venues.

The increases in the estimates are mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for capital account items. The deletion of these posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation. As such, the deletion of posts will not affect the service quality of the Department. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB191

Question Serial No.

2172

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The provision for 2006-07 is \$20.8 million (4.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly for the expenditure relating to the landscaping maintenance at Penny's Bay. Please provide details of the maintenance work concerned. Why is there a need for such a huge expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

In association with the development of the Penny's Bay infrastructure and the associated area in Sunny Bay, extensive landscape works have been carried out. The maintenance work covers over 30.54 hectares of soft landscape areas, the irrigation pumping station at Sunny Bay, the irrigation system at Penny's Bay and also other related amenity facilities including one cascade fountain and amenity lightings. As the majority of these maintenance works will commence in April 2006, there is thus an increase in the maintenance cost in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB192

Question Serial No.

2173

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What are the reasons for the deletion of 103 posts in 2006-07? What are the duties of these posts? Will it affect the work of the Department?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

Under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities", the net deletion of 103 permanent posts includes creation of 25 posts and deletion of 128 posts in the ranks of Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Senior Systems Manager, Senior Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. They provide information technology, management, clerical and support services in the Department and various leisure venues.

The deletion of these posts is made possible through alternative mode of service delivery, redeployment of resources, streamlining of work procedures, computerisation and office automation. As such, the deletion of posts will not affect the service quality of the Department. All the posts to be deleted are existing vacancies or vacancies which will arise due to natural wastage in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB193

Question Serial No.

0366

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Under Programme (6) - Community Development, the financial provision of \$12.1m in the 2005-06 revised estimate represents an increase of 227% over that of the 2005-06 original estimate. Please explain the reasons for the substantial increase in the provision.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Compared with the 2005-06 original estimate, the increase of \$8.4m (227%) in 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to the increase in provision for the extension of temporary jobs which was approved by the Finance Committee outside the 2005-06 original estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PAUL TANG

Post Title Director of Social Welfare

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB194

Question Serial No.

0367

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration started the review of the Care and Support Networking Team (CSNT) at the end of 2005. Could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of the review?
- (b) Would the Administration extend the contract of the project?
- (c) Would the Administration continue to run the project? If not, what are the reasons?.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The review on CSNT is to ascertain its service performance as well as the suitability for the existing non-governmental organisation (NGO) taker to continue operating the project. We are satisfied that CSNT is being effectively managed by the NGO and is performing satisfactorily having regard to the pre-set service output/outcome indicators. We are prepared to let the existing NGO continue operating the project for another three years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **PAUL TANG**

Post Title _____ Director of Social Welfare

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB195

Question Serial No.

0374

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide details of implementation of the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved as well as the estimated expenditure in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

At present, there are 21 NLCDPs operated by 9 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing welfare and support services to residents of targeted serving areas including temporary housing areas, squatter and cottage areas, Mark III to VI Public Housing Estates affected by 5-Year Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme of the Housing Authority. Under existing policy and agreement reached with the operating organisations, a NLCDP has to be terminated upon clearance of its serving area when there is no more service need. The resources of the terminated NLCDPs will be re-deployed to other more needy areas for time-limited Community Development projects upon agreement of the Home Affairs Bureau.

According to the advice of the Housing Department and the Lands Department, there are three NLCDPs with their serving areas to be cleared in 2006-07. However, as the scheduled clearance dates of the NLCDPs concerned are still tentative and will be subject to change, it is not appropriate to deduct the resources of these NLCDPs in the draft estimate. Hence, the revised estimate in 2005-06 and draft estimate in 2006-07 for NLCDPs remain at \$27.6m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PAUL TANG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Social Welfare _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB196

Question Serial No.

1218

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide details of implementation of the Care and Support Networking Team (CSNT) in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved as well as the estimated expenditure on the implementation work in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The CSNT is a three-year pilot project running from July 2003 to June 2006. The project mainly aims to help the ex-offenders, ex-mentally ill persons and street sleepers in West Kowloon to re-integrate into the community through outreaching, networking, support, case and group work services.

The Social Welfare Department has conducted a review of the CSNT with a view to ascertaining its service performance as well as the suitability for the existing non-governmental organisation (NGO) taker to continue operating the project. We are satisfied that CSNT is being effectively managed by the NGO taker and is performing satisfactorily having regard to the pre-set service output/outcome indicators. We are prepared to let the existing NGO taker continue operating the project for another three years.

The provision for CSNT is \$1.3m in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PAUL TANG

Post Title _____

Director of Social Welfare

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB197

Question Serial No.

1403

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The number of teams from the subvented sector for the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project (NLCDPs) will be reduced from 21 in 2005-06 to 18 in 2006-07. What are the reasons? How much resource can be saved by the Administration? Would this affect the general public and the activities and services currently provided by the community centres?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

At present, there are 21 NLCDPs operated by 9 non-governmental organisations. Under existing policy and agreement reached with operating organisations, a NLCDP has to be terminated upon clearance of its serving area as there is no more service demand. Moreover, NLCDPs and Community Centres operated by NGOs are of different service modes, objectives and beneficiaries. Hence, the termination of the former will not affect the public and the service provision of the latter. The resources of the terminated NLCDPs will be re-deployed to other more needy areas for time-limited community development projects upon agreement of the Home Affairs Bureau.

According to the advice of the Housing Department and the Lands Department, there are three NLCDPs with their serving areas to be cleared in 2006-07. However, as the scheduled clearance dates of the NLCDPs concerned are still tentative and will be subject to change, it is not appropriate to deduct the resources of these NLCDPs in the draft estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PAUL TANG

Post Title _____

Director of Social Welfare

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB198

Question Serial No.

1404

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the Care and Support Networking Team, could the Administration inform this Committee that what are the resources incurred by the programme in 2004-05 and 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The provision for Care and Support Networking Team is \$1.3m in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PAUL TANG

Post Title Director of Social Welfare

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB199

Question Serial No.

1507

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is projected that the number of teams under the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project will be cut to 18 from 21 in 2004-05. In this connection, would the Administration state the reasons for the cut in the number of teams and whether an evaluation of its impact has been made? If yes, what are the findings? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

At present, there are 21 Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) operated by 9 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Under existing policy and agreement reached with operating organisations, a NLCDP has to be terminated upon clearance of its serving area as there is no more service demand. In the circumstances, a review on the NLCDP to be terminated is considered to be not necessary. The resources of the terminated NLCDPs will be re-deployed to other more needy areas for time-limited Community Development projects upon agreement of the Home Affairs Bureau.

According to the advice of the Housing Department and the Lands Department, there are three NLCDPs with their serving areas to be cleared in 2006-07. However, as the scheduled clearance dates of the NLCDPs concerned are still tentative and will be subject to change, the Social Welfare Department has not deducted the resources of these NLCDPs in the draft estimate in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PAUL TANG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Social Welfare _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB200

Question Serial No.

2189

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration started the review of the Care and Support Networking Team (CSNT) at the end of 2005. In this respect, please set out the results of the review and the expenditure and manpower involved. Will the Administration consider providing additional resources for expanding the service areas, target groups and service scope of the CSNT? If yes, what are the details? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The review on CSNT is to ascertain its service performance as well as the suitability for the existing non-governmental organisation (NGO) taker to continue operating the project. We are satisfied that CSNT is being effectively managed by the NGO taker and is performing satisfactorily having regard to the pre-set service output/outcome indicators. We are prepared to let the existing NGO taker continue operating the project for another three years with serving districts, target beneficiaries, service scope and level of subventions remain unchanged having regard to the overall service provisions and resources available. The 2006-07 draft estimate for CSNT is \$1.3m. As the taker NGO is subvented under the Lump Sum Grant mode, they have the full flexibility in using the resources for manpower and planning of programmes in meeting the needs of the target beneficiaries in the serving districts. There is no plan to increase the provision for CSNT.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PAUL TANG

Post Title _____

Director of Social Welfare

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB201

Question Serial No.

1630

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding Programme (6), please set out in detail the title, purpose, nature and time frame of, as well as resources involved in any new services in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

There is no new service under Programme (6).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PAUL TANG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Social Welfare _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB202

Question Serial No.

2348

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please explain in detail why the expenditure of the Government sector in 2005-06 rose substantially from the original estimate of 3.7m to the revised estimate of 12.1m (with a rate of increase of 227%), and why the estimate for 2006-07 increases to 11.2m, which is 202.7% higher than the estimate for 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

Compared with the 2005-06 original estimate, the increase of \$8.4m (227%) in the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to the increase in provision for the extension of temporary jobs which was approved by the Finance Committee outside the 2005-06 original estimate.

Likewise, compared with the 2005-06 original estimate, the increase of \$7.5m (202.7%) in the 2006-07 estimate is also mainly due to the increase in provision for the extension of temporary jobs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PAUL TANG

Post Title Director of Social Welfare

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB203

Question Serial No.

2349

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Community Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The number of teams under the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project will be reduced from 21 in 2005-06 to 18 in 2006-07. What is the reason? How much savings in resources has been achieved? To which services will the saved resources be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

At present, there are 21 Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) operated by 9 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Under existing policy and agreement reached with operating organisations, a NLCDP has to be terminated upon clearance of its serving area as there is no more service demand. The resources of the terminated NLCDPs will be re-deployed to other more needy areas for time-limited Community Development projects upon agreement of the Home Affairs Bureau.

According to the advice of the Housing Department and the Lands Department, there are three NLCDPs with their serving areas to be cleared in 2006-07. However, as the scheduled clearance dates of the NLCDPs concerned are still tentative and will be subject to change, the Social Welfare Department has not deducted the resources of these NLCDPs in the draft estimate in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PAUL TANG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Social Welfare _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB204

Question Serial No.

2154

Head : 180 – Television and
Entertainment
Licensing
Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Entertainment Licensing

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

TELA has conducted over 2 800 inspections of amusement game centres every year over the past 2 years and the frequency is on the increase. However, the estimated number of inspections of amusement game centres in 2006-07 remains 2 800. Is this an underestimate? Why?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The number of amusement game centres has dropped from 412 in late 2003 to 398 in late 2004 and 386 in late 2005. In this connection, TELA considers that it is not necessary to increase the estimated number of inspections (2 800) of amusement game centres in 2006-07

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television and
Entertainment Licensing

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB205

Question Serial No.

0940

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3033RO

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the item “Consulting landscape architects’ design and expenses for open spaces in Sha Tin” under the Subhead 3033RO, please inform this Committee : (a) if the item has completed; (b) of the areas covered by the landscape design concerned; (c) of the outcomes of the work done by the consultant; and (d) if the resultant design has been incorporated into the landscape design of the district.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

- (a) The design work for the various facilities under item 3033RO has been completed.
- (b) The project covers the landscape design for a number of open spaces in various locations in Sha Tin New Town, including the local open spaces in Areas 16, 43 (Fo Tan), and 46 (Kau To Shan), district open spaces in Areas 2J and 2K (Hin Keng) and local open space in Area 14B (City One) .
- (c) The consultant has satisfactorily completed the landscape design works.
- (d) The resultant design has been incorporated into the landscape design of the district.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB206

Question Serial No.

1002

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3242RS

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The approved project estimate of 3242RS – Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, an approved project of the Capital Works Reserve Fund, is approximately \$290m. However, the revised estimate for 2005-06 is only \$36,000 while the estimate for 2006-07 is only \$50m, which means \$240m has yet to be used. As Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground will be the main venue for holding the 2009 East Asian Games, its construction has to be completed as soon as possible. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of :

- (a) the reasons for failing to expedite the project while resources are available; and
- (b) the detailed implementation programme of the project and the financial arrangements for the \$290m provision.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) Based on the original programme, the works for the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground project was scheduled to commence in December 2005 for completion by December 2008. However, the tender price of the recommended tender has exceeded the project estimate of \$293.1 million by \$59.2m in money-of-the-day (MOD) price. We need to seek Public Works Subcommittee's endorsement and Finance Committee (FC)'s approval for an increase in approved project estimate.
- (b) Implemented under a design and build contract, the estimated project cashflow of \$50m in 2006-07 is mainly for planning and design, site preparation and foundation works. The spending will pick up significantly in 2007-08 and 2008-09 as construction works will be in full swing. Subject to approval of the FC on 24 March 2006, we will arrange the contract to commence in April 2006 for project completion by April 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB207

Question Serial No.

1003

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3363RO

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The approved project estimate for Capital Works Reserve Fund approved project 3363RO – “Promenade and adjoining district open space in Siu Sai Wan” is around \$78 million. The actual expenditure as at 31 March 2005 was around \$58 million with about \$20 million unspent. But the revised estimate for 2005-06 is only \$0.15 million and the estimate for 2006-07 is only \$0.1 million. In this respect, please inform this Committee :

- (a) Why there is a drastic cut in estimated expenditure? It is because the project was completed ? Or, for other reasons, the project was delayed ?
- (b) If the project was completed, how will the unspent \$20 million estimate be used ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) The project has been completed since early 2002 and hence only a small amount of expenditure is required for 2005-06, mainly for settling the accounts under the contracts.
- (b) Upon completion of works and settlement of the contract accounts, any amount left will be returned to the Capital Works Reserve Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB208

Question Serial No.

1126

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Financial Secretary has stated in the Budget, “We will speed up delivery of the outstanding projects of the former Municipal Councils and other minor works projects.” Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the number of outstanding projects of the two former Municipal Councils as at present, and when will all the projects be completed?
- (b) of the resources earmarked for these projects in the financial year of 2006-07? Whether there is an increase or a decrease in the amount as compared with that in 2005-06? What is the specific amount involved? and
- (c) of the percentage of completed projects against the outstanding ones as this has been similarly stated in the Budget in the past three years?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

- (a) Of the 139 leisure and cultural services (LCS) projects taken over from the two former Municipal Councils (MCs), 19 have been completed; 15 are under construction or will commence construction soon; 12 have been deleted; two are being explored under the ‘Private Sector Finance’ approach; 25 (including 4 non-ex-MC projects) were recommended in the 2005 Policy Address for priority treatment; the remaining 70, together with four previously shelved but reinstated at the request of the District Councils (DCs), making a total of 74, have been put under review. Regarding the 74 outstanding LCS projects which amount to about \$10 billion in cost, this Department has been consulting the DCs on their priorities. This Department will report in March/April on the outcome of the DC consultation to the Subcommittee set up under the LegCo Home Affairs Panel to follow-up the outstanding ex-MC projects.
- (b) In 2006-07, a total of 11 LCS projects will start works (total project estimates: \$1,114 million), all of which are among the 139 ex-MC projects. In 2005-06, a total of three LCS projects started works (total project estimates being \$172 million), two of which are among the 139 ex-MC projects (total project estimates: \$81.5 million).

- (c) In the past three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), we have completed a total of 30 LCS projects (total project estimates: \$3,368 million), of which 19 are among the 139 ex-MC projects (total project estimates: \$600 million) and 11 are outside the 139 ex-MC projects (total project estimates: \$2,768 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan SIU

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services (Atg.)

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB209

Question Serial No.

1132

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In 2005-06, how many outstanding projects of the two ex-Municipal Councils have their planning/designing/surveying of the pre-construction work repeated, but the works of which have not yet commenced? What are the reasons? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

As a matter of principle, the Administration will not repeat the planning process. The majority of the projects left over from the two ex-Municipal Councils (ex-MC) were at their very preliminary stage of planning. Where there were clear Project Definition Statement or Technical Feasibility Statement supporting the projects, the Department would carry on from there with the planning process. However, given the lapse of time, if the scope of project has to be changed or if the community aspirations are different, the Department will have to adjust the planning process to accommodate such changes.

Of the 25 priority projects announced in Chief Executive's Policy Address in January 2005 (including 21 ex-MC projects), 16 have had funding earmarked with project estimates totaling \$2,625 million. Subject to the completion of all the necessary pre-construction procedures, they are expected to start works in 2007 or 2008. The other nine projects are planned to commence construction between 2009 and 2010.

We are currently reviewing about 74 ex-MC projects in the light of the changes in community demands and other circumstances.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MS ANISSA WONG

Post Title Director of Leisure and
Cultural Services

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB210

Question Serial No.

1537

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3187SC
3189SC

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What is the progress of the following projects? How will the provision for 2006-07 be spent? What are the anticipated completion dates of the projects? Are they different from the anticipated completion dates when the projects were approved?

- (a) 3187SC : Joint-user complex at Tseng Choi Street, Tuen Mun; and
- (b) 3189SC : Community hall at the housing site in Area 103, Tin Shui Wai

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

- (a) Works under item 3187SC commenced in December 2004 and is about 30% completed. The provision for 2006-07 is for payment of the superstructure works and consultancy fees. We expect to complete the project by December 2007 as planned at the time of Finance Committee (FC) approval.
- (b) Works under item 3189SC commenced in October 2005 and is about 15% completed. The provision for 2006-07 is for payment of the foundation and superstructure works. We expect to complete the project by June 2007 as planned at the time of FC approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB211

Question Serial No.

1539

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3198RS

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the air-conditioning system installation and improvement works for indoor recreation centres (IRCs) in the New Territories, will the Administration inform us of the names and locations of the IRCs where the works have completed or will complete?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

We have completed the works for the provision of air-conditioning in all 18 IRCs under item 3198RS. The names and locations of these IRCs are as follows :

	Name	Location
1	Cheung Chau Sports Centre	Nam She Tong, Cheung Chau
2	Praya Street Sports Centre	Tai Sun Praya Street, Cheung Chau
3	Wo Hing Sports Centre	Lui Ming Road, Fanling
4	Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre	Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung
5	North Kwai Chung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Centre	Wo Yi Hop Road, Kwai Chung
6	Mui Wo Sports Centre	Mui Wo Regional Council Complex, Lantau Island
7	Peng Chau Sports Centre	Po Peng Street, Peng Chau
8	Tsui Lam Sports Centre	Tsui Lam Estate, Sai Kung
9	Mei Lam Sports Centre	Mei Lam Estate, Shatin
10	Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre	Yuen Wo Road, Shatin
11	Lung Sum Avenue Sports Centre	Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui
12	Tai Po Sports Centre	Ting Tai Road, Tai Po
13	Yeung Uk Road Sports Centre	Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan
14	Yau Oi Sports Centre	Hing On Lane, Tuen Mun
15	Tai Hing Sports Centre	Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun
16	RHKJC Tuen Mun Butterfly Beach Sports Centre	Wu Shan Road, Tuen Mun
17	Fung Kam Street Sports Centre	Fung Kam Street, Yuen Long
18	Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre	Tin Pak Road, Yuen Long

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE _____

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB212

Question Serial No.

1540

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3373RO, 3377RO,
3396RO, 3399RO,
3243RS

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

What is the progress of the following projects? Which areas will the provisions for 2006-07 be used in? What are the anticipated completion dates for the projects? Are the anticipated completion dates different from those expected when the projects were approved?

- (a) 3373RO : District open space in Area 7, Tung Chung;
- (b) 3377RO : Local open space in Area 15, Tin Shui Wai;
- (c) 3396RO : District open space in Area 2, Tung Chung;
- (d) 3399RO : District open space in Area 35, Tsuen Wan – phase 2; and
- (e) 3243RS : Indoor recreation center in Area 17, Tin Shui Wai.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Project	Use of provisions in 2006-07	Planned completion date at the time of FC approval	Revised / Actual completion date
3373RO	Settlement of the building contract account	April 2005	April 2005
3377RO	Settlement of the building contract account	November 2004	September 2004
3396RO	Payment for planning and design works, construction of hoarding, foundation and external site works	April 2007	January 2008
3399RO	Payment for planning and design works, construction of hoarding, foundation and external site works	November 2007	April 2008
3243RS	Payment for the construction of the building, building services installation and consultancy fees	May 2006	February 2007

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB213

Question Serial No.

2013

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3189SC

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the community hall at the housing site in Area 103 at Tin Shui Wai, the total provision is \$32m while the revised estimate in 2005-06 is \$2m only. Please state :

- (a) the latest progress of works of the community hall at the housing site in Area 103 at Tin Shui Wai;
- (b) why there was no actual expenditure as at 31 March 2005; and
- (c) when the community hall will be completed for use.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The project commenced on site in October 2005 as scheduled, and is about 15% completed. The foundation works is in progress.
- (b) As the project only commenced in October 2005, no expenditure was recorded before end-March 2005.
- (c) The anticipated completion date for the project is June 2007 as planned at the time of Finance Committee approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB214

Question Serial No.

2014

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3390RO

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the local open space in Areas 25, 25A, 25B at Tin Shui Wai, the total approved project estimate is \$67.6m while the revised estimate in 2005-06 is \$3m only. Please state :

- (a) the latest progress of the works of the local open space in Areas 25, 25A, 25B at Ting Shui Wai;
- (b) why there was no actual expenditure as of 31 March 2005; and
- (c) when the works will be completed and the local open space ready for use.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) We commenced works in November 2005. Underground services works and foundation of pavilions and walls are in progress.
- (b) The contract commenced only in November 2005. Hence, no expenditure was recorded before end-March 2005.
- (c) The works is scheduled for completion in mid 2007 and the local open space would be ready for use by then.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB215

Question Serial No.

2020

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3180SC Community hall
at Tsz On Estate housing
development phase 3

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the works for the community hall, please advise the Committee of :

- (a) the progress of the works in 2005-06 and the percentage of works completed;
- (b) the progress of the works in 2006-07; and
- (c) the expected completion date of the works.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The project was completed in January 2005. The provision of \$2 million in 2006-07 is for settlement of final accounts for the building contract and fitting-out works contract.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB216

Question Serial No.

2323

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3183SC Community hall
at Yau Tong Estate
redevelopment phase 3

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In respect of the works of the community hall concerned, will the Administration advise on :

- (a) the progress of the works and the percentage of completion in 2005-06;
- (b) the reason why the estimate for the works in 2005-06 is a mere \$25,000;
- (c) the progress of the works in 2006-07; and
- (d) the anticipated completion date for the works.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The superstructure and fitting-out works are entrusted to the Housing Department (HD) as part of Housing Authority (HA)'s Yau Tong Estate redevelopment programme. The piling works was completed in April 2004, whilst the superstructure works has not yet commenced due to HA's decision in early 2004 to suspend the development scheme for a review of the changing community demands for related developments like retail facilities. .
- (b) The provision in 2005-06 is for settling the payment of the piling works only.
- (c) & (d)
According to HA's latest programme, the superstructure works of the community hall will commence in early 2007 for completion in late 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB217

Question Serial No.

2324

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3370RO Hammer Hill
Road Park, Diamond Hill

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In respect of the works under this subhead, will the Administration inform this Committee of :

- (a) the progress of the works and the percentage of completion in 2005-06;
- (b) the details of the progress of the works and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07; and
- (c) the anticipated completion date for the works.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) We have completed the building and landscaping works in 2005-06 for the Hammer Hill Road Park, representing over 95% of the project.
- (b) The remaining works to be carried out in 2006-07 includes mainly the construction of car park and park entrance, interior decoration and fitting-out works. Testing and commissioning of various systems will also be carried out. Together with settlement of the building contract and procurement of furniture and equipment, the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is about \$8 million.
- (c) Works is scheduled for completion in mid-2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB218

Question Serial No.

2325

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3353RO Shun Lee Tsuen
Recreation Ground

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In respect of the works under this subhead, will the Administration inform this Committee of :

- (a) the progress of the works and the percentage of completion in 2005-06;
- (b) the reason why no estimate is made for 2005-06;
- (c) the details of the progress of the works and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07; and
- (d) the anticipated completion date for the works.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The project was completed in late 1999. The contractor became liquidated after completion of the improvement works. The provision of \$100,000 in 2006-07 will be used to settle possible payment required for settling project accounts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB219

Question Serial No.

2405

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3042RE Improvement to
Ko Shan Theatre

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In respect of the improvement works, will the Administration inform this Committee of :

- (a) the progress of the works and the percentage of completion in 2005-06;
- (b) the reason why no estimate is made for the works in 2005-06;
- (c) the details of the progress of the works and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07; and
- (d) the anticipated completion date for the works.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The project was substantially completed in January 1996 and the contractor went bankrupt after completion of the improvement works. The provision of \$100,000 in 2006-07 will be used to settle possible payment required by the liquidator.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB220

Question Serial No.

1541

Head : 707 – New Towns
and Urban
Area
Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7014CX – Rural
Public Works
Programme

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide a detailed list of the titles, locations and amount of allocations for the projects under Subhead 7014CX “Rural Public Works Programme”.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

A list of the minor works projects under Subhead 7014CX “Rural Public Works Programme” in 2006-07 showing their titles, locations and cost estimate is attached for reference.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Enclosure

Head 707 Subhead 7014CX Rural Public Works Programme in 2006-07

Project Title and Location	Estimate 2006-07
	(\$ million)
Islands District	
Improvement to Chi Ma Wan Road, Lantau Islands	1.391
Construction of vehicular access at Luk Tei Tong, Mui Wo	4.300
Construction of footbridge at Tei Tong Tsai, Tung Chung	0.500
Improvement to footpath from Lo So Shing to Hung Shing Ye, South Lamma	0.400
Improvement to open space along the sea front of new pier at Sok Kwu Wan, South Lamma	0.600
Provision of floral board rack at the junction of Tung Wan Road and Praya Street, Cheung Chau	0.250
Improvement to open space near Scenic Garden, Cheung Chau	0.200
Construction of a footbridge and a footpath at Tung Wan Tau, Mui Wo	0.100
Improvement to footpath near Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre, Cheung Chau	0.200
Construction of country trail at Fu Shan, Tai O	1.000
Construction of helipad at Peng Chau	2.000
Construction of helipad at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island	2.000
Provision of railings along the footpath from Yung Shue Long New Village to Tai Peng, North Lamma	0.300
Construction of footpath leading to the old Camphor tree at Sha Lo Wan, Tai O	0.200
Provision of benches in Cheung Chau	0.150
Improvement to footpath at Tai Shek Che, Sha Lo Wan, Tai O	0.250
Improvement to drainage system at San Wai Village, South Lantau	0.400
Improvement to paving at Sheung Ling Pei, Tung Chung	0.200
Construction of staircase near Yat Tung Estate, Tung Chung	0.150
Improvement to water supply system in Po Toi	0.200
Improvement to footpath and footbridge at Lo Wai, South Lantau	0.150
Improvement to footpath at Tai Yuen Village, North Lamma	0.200
Improvement to van track from Shek Mun Kap to Lo Hon Monastery, Tung Chung	0.250
Improvement to drainage at San Shek Wan, South Lantau	0.600
Improvement to the turning area near Lai Chi Yuen Tsuen, Mui Wo	0.300
Improvement to steps, footpath and channel in Yung Shue Long New Village, North Lamma	0.150
Construction of footpath at Pak Wan, Peng Chau	0.300
Improvement to open space at Cheung Pak Road near WSD's Service Reservoir, Cheung Chau	0.400
Improvement to footpath from Sha Po New Village to Kam Shan Terrace, North Lamma	0.150
Improvement to footpath near quarry site at Luk Chau, South Lamma	0.100
Construction of a look-out area at Hau Hok Wan, Tai O	0.200
Environmental impact assessment for RPW projects - IS/HP(EIA)	0.289
Kwai Tsing District	
Erection of welcome signs and landmarks in Kwai Tsing District	0.250
Construction of footpath at Upper Shing Mun Village, Kwai Chung	0.150
Beautification works in Kwai Tsing District	2.800
Improvement to environmental hygiene conditions in Kwai Tsing District	0.900
Improvement to footpath behind Shek Yam East Estate, Kwai Chung	0.500
Construction of footpath at Tai Hang Mei Village, Kwai Chung	0.200
Construction of footpath and pavilion at Shek Lei Hang, Kwai Chung	0.500
Improvement to paving and footpath behind Mayfair Gardens, Tsing Yi	0.150

Project Title and Location	Estimate 2006-07
	(\$ million)
Improvement to Sai Shan Country Trail and Tsing Yi Nature Trails, Tsing Yi	0.450
Construction of rainshelter at San Kwai Street, Ha Kwai Chung, Kwai Chung	0.100
Construction of drainage channel at Tai Hang Mei Village, Kwai Chung	0.300
Improvement works to country trail between Golden Hill and Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung	0.400
Reconstruction of footpath between St. Paul's Village and Broadview Garden, Tsing Yi	0.200
Construction of sitting-out area at Tsing Yi Fishermen's Village, Tsing Yi	0.100
Improvement to steps opposite to Sheung Kwai Chung Government Secondary School, Shek Pai Street, Kwai Chung	0.100
Kwai Tsing District Revitalization Project	4.900
North District	
Widening of village access road to Cheung Lek, Sheung Shui	1.678
Improvement of access road at Kwan Tei North, Fanling	3.000
Construction of drainage channel near Wing Ning Wai, Fanling	0.500
Construction of footpath and improvement to banks along the pond at Kam Tsin, Sheung Shui	0.367
Improvement to footpath from Po Kat Tsai to Tung Kok Wai, Fanling	0.420
Improvement to stream course between Tai Lung Experimental Farm and On Po, Sheung Shui	0.500
Improvement to footpath and stream embankment at Hok Tau Pai, Fanling	1.200
Village improvement works at Tsung Pak Long, Sheung Shui	1.000
Improvement to van track leading to Ha Shan Kai Wat Village, Ta Kwu Ling	1.000
Improvement to footpath and drainage channel at Chak Yuen South, Ta Kwu Ling	0.400
Reconstruction of pavilion at Ha Tam Shui Hang, Sha Tau Kok	0.200
Improvement to drainage and paving at Wing Ning Village, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling	1.300
Term contract for minor works items in Sheung Shui North, Sheung Shui South and Ta Kwu Ling areas of North District (2006-2007)	2.000
Term contract for minor works items in Fanling and Sha Tau Kok areas of North District (2006-2007)	2.000
Improvement to footpath and drainage at Lin Tong Mei, Sheung Shui	0.200
Improvement to footpath and drainage in Kwu Tung, Ki Lun Shan Area, Sheung Shui	0.200
Improvement to van track at Ma Tseuk Leng Ha, Sha Tau Kok	0.200
Sai Kung District	
Construction of footbridge at Ham Tin, Sai Kung	0.100
Improvement to footpath from Tai Mong Tsai to She Tau Village, Sai Kung	0.100
Construction of footpath from Sai Wan to Tai Long, Sai Kung	0.243
Construction of paving and benches at Pak Kong, Sai Kung	0.700
Extension of access road at Sha Kok Mei, Sai Kung	0.882
Construction of access road and car park at Sha Kok Mei Village, Sai Kung	3.544
Improvement to drainage channel at the north of Sha Kok Mei Village, Sai Kung	0.200
Reconstruction of footpath from Pak A to Tai She Wan, Sai Kung	0.500
Construction of village square at Pak Wai, Sai Kung	0.300
Construction of storm water channel at Sheung Yeung, Hang Hau	0.600
Construction of village square at Hing Keng Shek, Sai Kung	0.400
Construction of pavilion at Kau Sai Fisherman Village, Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung	0.400
District Revitalization Scheme in Sai Kung	1.500
Construction of drainage channel at Mang Kung Wo, Sai Kung	0.200
Reconstruction of van track at Ta Ho Tun, Sai Kung	0.500
Improvement to access road at Tai Mong Tsai New Village, Sai Kung	0.500
Construction of storm water channel at Pak Shek Wo San Tsuen, Hang Hau	0.800
Improvement to drainage system near entrance of Ma Yau Tong Road, Hang Hau	0.400

Project Title and Location	Estimate 2006-07
	(\$ million)
Construction of rainshelter at Tung Lung Island, Hang Hau	0.500
Improvement to stream embankment from Wai Sum Tsuen to Yu Uk Tsuen, Mang Kung Uk, Hang Hau	0.200
Construction of footpath and a rainshelter at Chuk Kok, Sai Kung	0.500
Improvement to van track and footpath at Nam Shan, Sai Kung	0.200
Construction of rainshelter and footpath at Nam Wai, Sai Kung	0.500
Construction of pavilion at Tai Lam Wu, Sai Kung	0.100
Construction of rainshelter at Tso Wo Road, Sai Kung	0.300
Construction of pavilion at Fui Yiu Ha, Sai Kung	0.300
Construction of rainshelter at Tseng Lan Shue, Hang Hau	0.200
Construction of a new pier in Sai Kung	3.500
Sha Tin District	
Construction of sitting-out area at Siu Lek Yuen Village, Sha Tin	0.400
Improvement to country trail at Amah Rock, Sha Tin	0.200
Construction of rainshelter and improvement to footpath near Sha Tin South Fresh Water Service Reservoir	0.350
Improvement to Kwun Ping Road, Kwun Yam Shan, Sha Tin	0.500
Improvement to Mui Tze Lam Road, Sha Tin	0.500
Improvement to Sha Tin Country Trail leading from Tao Fung Shan Road, Sha Tin	0.700
Tuen Mun District	
Improvement of So Kwun Wat Tsuen Road, Tuen Mun	3.300
Reconstruction of paving and access road at Tin Fu Tsai, Tuen Mun	0.265
Construction of basketball court at Fung Tei, Tuen Mun	1.000
Widening of drainage channel at Tan Kwai Tsuen, Tuen Mun	0.224
Improvement to footpath and flap valve at Luen On San Tsuen, Tuen Mun	0.300
Improvement to environmental hygiene conditions in Tuen Mun District	1.764
Construction of pavilion and paving at Luen On San Tsuen, Tai Lam Chung, Tuen Mun	0.300
Construction of van track and footpath at Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun	1.000
Construction of pavilion near Tin Hau Road, Tuen Mun	0.300
Improvement to stream embankment and box culvert at Tin Fu Tsai, Tuen Mun	0.100
Improvement to footpath at Tuen Tsz Wai, Tuen Mun	0.100
Improvement to Tsing Shan Trail, Tuen Mun	0.200
Construction of drainage channel at Wong Uk Tsuen, Tai Lam Chung, Tuen Mun	0.100
Construction of paving near Caltex Petrol Station at Tsing Chuen Wai, Tuen Mun	0.600
Construction of pavilion at Yick Yuen Tsuen, Tuen Mun	0.800
Improvement to footpath at Wo Ping San Tsuen, Tuen Mun	1.000
Improvement to footpath and drainage channel at Siu Sau Tsuen, Tuen Mun	0.350
Improvement to handrail at Tseng Tau Chung Tsuen, Tuen Mun	0.600
Improvement to van track near Chung Shan at Tuen Tsz Wai, Tuen Mun	0.500
Improvement to stream course near Cenfa Villa at Lung Mun Trail, Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun	0.600
Improvement to footpath and paving near Sha Po Kong and Lung Tsai at Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun	0.400
Tai Po District	
Construction of access road and car park at Shui Wo and Tai Yeung Che, Tai Po	1.092
Improvement to footpath and stream embankment at Shek Kwu Lung	0.400
Improvement of village access at Cheung Shue Tan, Tai Po	1.009
Improvement to Lam Tsuen River, Tai Po	0.159
Improvement to Shek Lin Road (near Lin Au), Tai Po	0.800

Project Title and Location	Estimate 2006-07
	(\$ million)
Construction of a covered walkway between KCRC Tai Po Market Station and Tai Po Market	5.720
Improvement to footpath at Tai Po Kau near Tsung Yuen, Tai Po	0.500
Construction of access road to Ping Long and Tai Om, Lam Tsuen	0.577
Improvement to footpath and drainage channel at Tsz Tong Tsuen, Tai Hang, Tai Po	0.400
Construction of drainage channel at Au Tsai Tsuen, Fui Sha Wai, Tai Hang, Tai Po	0.139
Construction of van track leading from Tai Wo to Tai Wo Public School, Tai Po	0.500
Improvement to footpath at Wai Tau, Tai Po	0.300
Improvement to footbridge and footpath at She Shan, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	0.200
Improvement to footpath and drainage at Tai Po Tau, Tai Po	0.300
Improvement to paving, steps, footpath, drainage channel and railings at Kam Shan, Tai Po	0.300
Improvement to footpath near the entrance of Ting Kok Village, Tai Po	0.200
Construction of footpath leading from Sam Mun Tsai New Village to Tong Kai Tseng, Tai Po	0.700
Construction of van track and drainage channel at Cheung Muk Tau, Sai Kung North, Tai Po	0.200
Reconstruction of rainshelter at Nai Chung, Sai Kung North, Tai Po	0.200
Construction of van track from Tsz Tong Tsuen to Tin Hau Temple at Tai Hang, Tai Po	1.300
Construction of water supply system to Sheung Wai, Chung Wai and Ha Wai at Tap Mun, Sai Kung North, Tai Po	0.600
Construction of van track from San Wai Tsai to Ying Pun Ha, Tai Po	0.450
Reconstruction of van track and construction of drainage channel at Tseng Tau, Sai Kung North, Tai Po	0.200
Construction of drainage channel and footpath at Sheung Wun Yiu, Tai Po	0.120
Construction of paving at She Shan, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	0.200
Construction of drainage channel at Au Tsai, Tai Hang, Tai Po	0.400
Improvement to drainage channel at Yue Kok, Tai Po	0.250
Improvement to open space at Chai Kek Tsuen, Tai Po	0.200
Improvement to footpath and open space at Tai Om, Tai Po	0.200
Tree planting works near Shan Liu Road, Ting Kok, Tai Po	0.300
Construction of van track near Wong Yi Au, Tai Po	0.300
Term contract for minor improvement works in Tai Po District (2006-2007)	2.500
Construction of children's playground at Tung Tsz Shan Road, Tai Po	0.200
Improvement to footpath at Ko Lau Wan near Ma Ying Shek, Sai Kung North	0.200
Installation of notice boards in Tai Po District	0.200
Upgrading of access road at Wun Yiu, Tai Po	0.500
Tsuen Wan District	
Construction of vehicular bridge at Chuen Lung, Tsuen Wan	0.500
Construction of walkway and rainshelter between Lido Garden and Ma Wan Pier, Tsuen Wan	0.129
Reconstruction of village access at Chuen Lung Village, Tsuen Wan	0.150
Construction of footbridge at Chiu Tam Path, Tsuen Wan	0.650
Construction of a cross road drain near lamp post VC0252 at Lung Yue Road, Tsing Lung Tau, Tsuen Wan	0.182
Reconstruction of footpath at Wo Yi Hop Lane, Tsuen Wan	0.218
Reconstruction of access road and paving at Chuen Lung, Tsuen Wan	0.150
Improvement to access road at Tsing Fai Tong Old Village, Tsuen Wan	0.250
Construction of open channel at Tai Pak Tin Village, Tsuen Wan	0.500
Construction of footpath and pavilion between Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau, Tsuen Wan	0.200
Construction of 'Pai Lau' at Lo Wai Village, Tsuen Wan	0.500
Improvement to environmental hygiene conditions in Tsuen Wan District	0.650
Provision of lighting at Tsing Lung Tau Pier, Tsuen Wan	0.300
Reconstruction of pedestrian access at Heung Shek, Chuen Lung, Tsuen Wan	0.300

Project Title and Location	Estimate 2006-07
	(\$ million)
Improvement to open nullah near Castle Peak Road at Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan	0.300
Reconstruction of van track and footpath at Chuen Lung Village (near Ngai Yung Kee Masonry Factory), Tsuen Wan	0.300
Construction of pavilion and footpath at Lung Mun Path, Chuen Lung, Tsuen Wan	0.500
Provision of directional signs at Ma Wan, Tsuen Wan	0.120
Reconstruction of footbridge at Sheung Kok Shan near Lung Mo Temple, Tsuen Wan	0.350
Construction of open channel near house No. 18A at Pai Min Kok, Tsuen Wan	0.500
Improvement to access road at Pun Shan Tsuen, Tsuen Wan	0.200
Improvement to access road at Yuen Tun Village, Tsuen Wan	0.200
Construction of rainshelters at Da Chuen Ping Tsuen, Tsuen Wan	0.120
Construction of footpath and pavilion between Tai Chuen and Tso Wan, North Lantau	0.700
Yuen Long District	
Reconstruction of playground at Ha Wan, San Tin	0.321
Ground investigation and consultant fee for improvement to Tai Kong Po Access Road, Pat Heung	0.500
Reconstruction of footpath at Kong Tau Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung	0.300
Construction of drainage channel at Sheung Che Tsuen, Pat Heung	1.280
Improvement to footpath and drainage system at Ma Tin Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung	0.400
Reconstruction of drainage system and footpath at Sai Pin Wai, Shap Pat Heung	0.200
Improvement to concrete lane and drainage channel at Shan Pui Chung Hau Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung	0.600
Improvement to drainage channel, footpath and paving at San Sang Tsuen, Ha Tsuen	0.256
Improvement to van track, footpath and drainage at Chuk Hang Tsuen, Pat Heung	0.200
Improvement to drainage channel at Chuk Yuen Tsuen, San Tin	0.600
General village improvement at Wai Tsai Tsuen, San Tin	0.600
Improvement to paving at Wing Ning Tsuen, Ping Shan	0.250
Construction of drainage channel at Tai Tseng, Ng Uk Tsuen, Ping Shan	0.100
Improvement to van track near Po Kong Temple, Fung Kat Heung, Kam Tin	1.072
Construction of paving at San Lee Uk Tsuen, Ha Tsuen	0.150
Construction of paving under the West Rail viaduct at Shek Po Lo Mei, Ha Tsuen	0.150
Improvement to drainage channel and footpath at Shui Mei Tsuen, Kam Tin	0.500
Construction of drainage channel connecting HyD's discharge point at Tai Hong Wai (near Shrine), Kam Tin	0.200
Improvement to footpath at Sze Pai Shek, Kat Hing Wai, Kam Tin	0.300
Improvement to paving (in front of village office) at Tai Tseng Wai, Ping Shan	0.200
Construction of drainage channel and footpath at Hang Tau Tsuen, Ping Shan	2.500
Improvement to drainage channels at Tsing Lung Tsuen, On Lung Tsuen, Fan Tin Tsuen and San Lung Tsuen, San Tin	0.500
Construction of footpath at Yau Tam Mei West, San Tin	0.500
Reconstruction of van track and drainage channel near Strong Sing Garden, Shek Wu Tong, Pat Heung	0.242
Improvement to van track at Wing Ning Lane, Wang Toi Shan, Pat Heung	0.500
Improvement to drainage channel and access road at Shung Ching San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung	0.300
Improvement to stream courses and channels in Yuen Long District (2006-2007)	2.419
Reconstruction of drainage channel at Fan Tin Tsuen, San Tin	0.500
Improvement to van track at Yau Tam Mei (Chuk Tau Kok), San Tin, Yuen Long	0.500
Improvement to drainage channel at Tai Tong Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung	0.700
Reconstruction of drainage channel at Hung Tso Tin Tsuen (leading to Shui Chiu San Tsuen), Shap Pat Heung	0.300
Improvement to footpath and channel near Tai Ling, Sheung Tsuen, Pat Heung	0.500
Reconstruction of van track at Sheung Cheung Wai, Ping Shan	0.400

Project Title and Location	Estimate 2006-07
	(\$ million)
Reconstruction of access road at San Wai (near Sze Wang Study), Ha Tsuen	0.300
Reconstruction of van track and paving at Sheung Pak Nai, Ha Tsuen	0.100
Improvement to drainage channel near Po Tei Road, Wing Lung Wai, Kam Tin	0.500
Improvement to drainage channel and footpath at Tai Hong Wai, Kam Tin	0.100
HQ Works Section	
Archaeological investigation and site investigation for RPW projects	0.100
Term contract for minor works items in Islands, Kwai Tsing, Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Tai Po and Tsuen Wan Districts (2005-2006)	0.408

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB221

Question Serial No.

1542

Head : 707 – New Towns
and Urban
Area
Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7015CX – Urban
Minor Works
Programme

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the block allocation items under Subhead 7015CX “Urban Minor Works Programme”, please provide a list of the projects in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Subhead 7015CX “Urban Minor Works Programme” caters for districts in the urban areas. Subhead 7014CX “Rural Public Works Programme” caters for districts in the New Territories including Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun. A list of the minor works projects under Subhead 7014CX for implementation in the three districts concerned in 2006-07 is attached.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title Director of Home Affairs

Date 8 March 2006

Head 707 Subhead 7014CX Rural Public Works Programme in 2006-07**Projects in Tsuen Wan District**

Construction of vehicular bridge at Chuen Lung
Construction of walkway and rainshelter between Lido Garden and Ma Wan Pier
Reconstruction of village access at Chuen Lung Village
Construction of footbridge at Chiu Tam Path, Tsuen Wan
Construction of a cross road drain near lamp post VC0252 at Lung Yue Road, Tsing Lung Tau
Reconstruction of footpath at Wo Yi Hop Lane
Reconstruction of access road and paving at Chuen Lung
Improvement to access road at Tsing Fai Tong Old Village
Construction of open channel at Tai Pak Tin Village
Construction of footpath and pavilion between Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau
Construction of 'Pai Lau' at Lo Wai Village
Improvement to environmental hygiene conditions in Tsuen Wan District
Provision of lighting at Tsing Lung Tau Pier
Reconstruction of pedestrain access at Heung Shek, Chuen Lung
Improvement to open nullah near Castle Peak Road at Sham Tseng
Reconstruction of van track and footpath at Chuen Lung Village (near Ngai Yung Kee Masonry Factory)
Construction of pavilion and footpath at Lung Mun Path, Chuen Lung
Provision of directional signs at Ma Wan
Reconstruction of footbridge at Sheung Kok Shan near Lung Mo Temple
Construction of open channel near house No. 18A at Pai Min Kok
Improvement to access road at Pun Shan Tsuen
Improvement to access road at Yuen Tun Village
Construction of rainshelters at Da Chuen Ping Tsuen
Construction of footpath and pavilion between Tai Chuen and Tso Wan, North Lantau

Projects in Kwai Tsing District

Erection of welcome signs and landmarks in Kwai Tsing District
Construction of footpath at Upper Shing Mun Village, Kwai Chung
Beautification works in Kwai Tsing District
Improvement to environmental hygiene conditions in Kwai Tsing District
Improvement to footpath behind Shek Yam East Estate, Kwai Chung
Construction of footpath at Tai Hang Mei Village, Kwai Chung
Construction of footpath and pavilion at Shek Lei Hang, Kwai Chung
Improvement to paving and footpath behind Mayfair Gardens, Tsing Yi
Improvement to Sai Shan Country Trail and Tsing Yi Nature Trails, Tsing Yi
Construction of rainshelter at San Kwai Street, Ha Kwai Chung, Kwai Chung
Construction of drainage channel at Tai Hang Mei Village, Kwai Chung
Improvement works to country trail between Golden Hill and Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung
Reconstruction of footpath between St. Paul's Village and Broadview Garden, Tsing Yi
Construction of sitting-out area at Tsing Yi Fishermen's Village, Tsing Yi
Improvement to steps opposite to Sheung Kwai Chung Government Secondary School, Shek Pai Street, Kwai Chung
Kwai Tsing District Revitalization Project

Projects in Tuen Mun District

Improvement of So Kwun Wat Tsuen Road
Reconstruction of paving and access road at Tin Fu Tsai
Construction of basketball court at Fung Tei
Widening of drainage channel at Tan Kwai Tsuen
Improvement to footpath and flap valve at Luen On San Tsuen
Improvement to environmental hygiene conditions in Tuen Mun District
Construction of pavilion and paving at Luen On San Tsuen, Tai Lam Chung
Construction of van track and footpath at Lung Kwu Tan
Construction of pavilion near Tin Hau Road
Improvement to stream embankment and box culvert at Tin Fu Tsai
Improvement to footpath at Tuen Tsz Wai
Improvement to Tsing Shan Trail
Construction of drainage channel at Wong Uk Tsuen, Tai Lam Chung
Construction of paving near Caltex Petrol Station at Tsing Chuen Wai
Construction of pavilion at Yick Yuen Tsuen
Improvement to footpath at Wo Ping San Tsuen
Improvement to footpath and drainage channel at Siu Sau Tsuen
Improvement to handrail at Tseng Tau Chung Tsuen
Improvement to van track near Chung Shan at Tuen Tsz Wai
Improvement to stream course near Cenfa Villa at Lung Mun Trail, Lung Kwu Tan
Improvement to footpath and paving near Sha Po Kong and Lung Tsai at Lung Kwu Tan

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB222

Question Serial No.

0941

Head : 708 – Capital Subventions and
Major Systems and Equipment

Subhead : 8005QJ

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Concerning Code 8005QJ “Renovation of the Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village of YMCA, Ma On Shan”, please inform us if it includes the expenditure on temporary reprovisioning of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in the Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village due to hosting of the Olympic equestrian events. If so, what are the details ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Approved by the Finance Committee in May 2003, the scope of works under item 8005QJ comprises the replacement of asbestos-contained roof sheetings with alternative suitable material for the 42 residential cottages of the said village. Renovation work started in September 2003 and was completed in March 2004. This project is not related to the temporary reprovisioning of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in association with the 2008 Equestrian Event.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB223

Question Serial No.

1133

Head : Head 63 – Home Affairs
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The five-day week policy, if implemented, will allow many civil servants to have more spare time. Has the Administration formulated any measures or plans to attract these people to spend money in Hong Kong on Saturdays and Sundays?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

As the Financial Secretary said in his Budget Speech, the Government will continue to invest in our tourism infrastructure and promote our hospitality culture. These, we believe, will appeal to both Mainland and overseas visitors as well as local residents, including civil servants and their families. While visitors will be attracted to stay longer and spend more in Hong Kong, local people may also choose to enjoy the diversified tourist facilities and shopping experience in Hong Kong. Specifically, the Home Affairs Department will promote district attractions through various publicity channels. In this respect, we will launch a new round of promotional activities through different media platforms such as concerts, radio programmes, visitors' guides, posters, giant banners etc. We will also update the contents of the relevant website (www.gohk.gov.hk) which contains information on district characteristics, interesting places to visit in the districts and special events.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs PAMELA TAN

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 9 March 2006