

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

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Session No.: 15**

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HWFB345	0700	WONG Yung-kan	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB346	0701	WONG Yung-kan	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB347	0702	WONG Yung-kan	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB348	0703	WONG Yung-kan	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB349	0704	WONG Yung-kan	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB350	0904	CHOY So-yuk	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB351	0905	CHOY So-yuk	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB352	0874	LEUNG Kwok-hung	170	Social Security
HWFB353	0906	CHEUNG Hok-ming	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB354	0854	LEUNG Yiu-chung	48	
HWFB355	0857	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	Statutory Testing
HWFB356	0858	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	Statutory Testing
HWFB357	1106	LAU Chin-shek	703	
HWFB358	1107	LAU Chin-shek	703	
HWFB359	1538	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	703	
HWFB360	1058	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB361	1059	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB362	1060	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB363	1061	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB364	1062	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Health
HWFB365	1075	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Social Welfare
HWFB366	1076	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Social Welfare
HWFB367	1077	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB368	1063	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB369	1067	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Health Promotion
HWFB370	1068	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB371	1069	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB372	1070	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB373	1071	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB374	0997	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	170	Social Security
HWFB375	0998	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	170	Social Security
HWFB376	1056	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare

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HWFB377	1057	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
HWFB378	1073	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB379	1078	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
HWFB380	1533	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
HWFB381	1534	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB382	1535	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB383	1597	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB384	1598	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB385	1599	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB386	1510	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB387	1514	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB388	1516	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB389	1600	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	37	Health Promotion
HWFB390	1638	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB391	1639	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB392	1640	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB393	1641	KWOK Ka-ki	37	
HWFB394	1642	KWOK Ka-ki	37	
HWFB395	1643	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Health Promotion
HWFB396	1644	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Health Promotion
HWFB397	1645	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Health Promotion
HWFB398	1646	KWOK Ka-ki	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB399	1659	KWONG Chi-kin	37	Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in Hospital Authority
HWFB400	1661	KWONG Chi-kin	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB401	1504	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB402	1518	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	149	Social Welfare
HWFB403	1550	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	149	Health
HWFB404	1573	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Women's Interests
HWFB405	1574	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB406	1575	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Women's Interests
HWFB407	1576	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Women's Interests
HWFB408	1577	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Women's Interests
HWFB409	1578	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Women's Interests
HWFB410	1609	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB411	1610	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB412	1611	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB413	1612	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Subvention: Hospital

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				Authority
HWFB414	1613	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB415	1614	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB416	1633	KWOK Ka-ki	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB417	1634	KWOK Ka-ki	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB418	1635	KWOK Ka-ki	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB419	1636	KWOK Ka-ki	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB420	1637	KWOK Ka-ki	149	Health
HWFB421	1668	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	149	Social Welfare
HWFB422	1669	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB423	1670	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	149	Health
HWFB424	1671	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	149	Health
HWFB425	1476	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	22	
HWFB426	1631	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Young People
HWFB427	1647	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Social Security
HWFB428	1601	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB429	1602	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB430	1603	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB431	1605	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB432	1511	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Services for Elders
HWFB433	1512	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Services for Elders
HWFB434	1546	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB435	1560	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB436	1561	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB437	1563	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB438	1564	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB439	1565	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Young People
HWFB440	1567	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB441	1568	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB442	1569	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB443	1570	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child

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HWFB444	1571	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB445	1572	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Social Welfare
HWFB446	1579	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Social Welfare
HWFB447	1580	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB448	1581	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB449	1582	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB450	1583	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB451	1584	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB452	1585	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB453	1586	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB454	1617	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB455	1618	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB456	1619	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
HWFB457	2150	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Social Welfare
HWFB458	1621	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
HWFB459	2085	YEUNG Sum	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB460	1623	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Services for Elders
HWFB461	1624	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Services for Elders
HWFB462	1625	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB463	1626	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
HWFB464	1627	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB465	1628	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB466	1629	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Services for Offenders
HWFB467	1720	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB468	1721	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB469	1722	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
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HWFB474	1733	LEUNG Yiu-chung	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB475	1734	LEUNG Yiu-chung	22	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
HWFB476	1745	LEUNG Yiu-chung	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB477	1746	LEUNG Yiu-chung	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB478	1747	LEUNG Yiu-chung	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB479	1808	LI Kwok-ying	48	Statutory Testing
HWFB480	1699	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB481	1700	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB482	1702	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Health Promotion
HWFB483	1704	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Rehabilitation
HWFB484	1715	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB485	1716	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB486	1717	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB487	1718	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Health Promotion
HWFB488	1772	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	
HWFB489	1773	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB490	1774	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB491	1775	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB492	1776	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB493	1777	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB494	1778	LEUNG Yiu-chung	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB495	1803	LI Fung-ying	37	Curative Care
HWFB496	1811	LI Kwok-ying	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB497	1823	SIN Chung-kai	37	Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in Hospital Authority
HWFB498	1824	SIN Chung-kai	37	Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in Hospital Authority
HWFB499	1825	SIN Chung-kai	37	Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in Hospital Authority
HWFB500	1877	KWONG Chi-kin	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB501	1879	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB502	1689	LEE Cheuk-yan	170	Social Security

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HWFB504	1691	LEE Cheuk-yan	170	Social Security
HWFB505	1692	LEE Cheuk-yan	170	Social Security
HWFB506	1697	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB507	1698	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB508	1712	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB509	1713	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Social Security
HWFB510	1714	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB511	1727	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB512	1728	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Services for Offenders
HWFB513	1939	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Transport Services for People with Disabilities
HWFB514	1736	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Services for Offenders
HWFB515	1737	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB516	1738	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB517	1739	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB518	1740	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB519	1741	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB520	1812	LI Fung-ying	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB521	1813	LI Fung-ying	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB522	1814	LI Fung-ying	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB523	1693	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB524	1694	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
HWFB525	1695	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB526	1696	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	
HWFB527	1742	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
HWFB528	1743	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
HWFB529	1744	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
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HWFB533	1751	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB534	1752	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB535	1753	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB536	1754	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB537	1755	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB538	1756	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB539	1757	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB540	1758	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB541	1759	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB542	1760	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB543	1806	LI Fung-ying	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB544	1687	LEE Cheuk-yan	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB545	1688	LEE Cheuk-yan	149	
HWFB546	1701	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Health
HWFB547	1703	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Health
HWFB548	1705	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB549	1706	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB550	1707	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB551	1708	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB552	1709	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB553	1710	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Health
HWFB554	1711	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Health
HWFB555	1719	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	149	Social Welfare
HWFB556	1763	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB557	1764	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB558	1765	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB559	1766	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB560	1767	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Health

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HWFB562	1769	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
HWFB563	1770	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
HWFB564	1809	LI Kwok-ying	149	Health
HWFB565	1810	LI Kwok-ying	149	Environmental Hygiene
HWFB566	1860	TAM Heung-man	149	Women's Interests
HWFB567	1861	TAM Heung-man	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB568	1878	KWOK Ka-ki	149	Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
HWFB569	2117	WONG Kwok-hing	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB570	2118	WONG Kwok-hing	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB571	2119	WONG Kwok-hing	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB572	2120	WONG Kwok-hing	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB573	2122	WONG Kwok-hing	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
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HWFB575	1155	FANG Kang, Vincent	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB576	1156	FANG Kang, Vincent	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB577	1157	FANG Kang, Vincent	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB578	2036	TAM Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB579	2037	TAM Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB580	2038	TAM Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB581	2039	TAM Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB582	2040	TAM Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB583	2041	TAM Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB584	2046	FANG Kang, Vincent	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB585	2047	FANG Kang, Vincent	49	Food Safety and Public Health

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HWFB587	2096	TAM Heung-man	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB588	2097	TAM Heung-man	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB589	2138	WONG Kwok-hing	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB590	2139	WONG Kwok-hing	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB591	2140	WONG Kwok-hing	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB592	2141	WONG Kwok-hing	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
HWFB593	1123	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	170	Social Security
HWFB594	1972	TIEN Pei-chun, James	170	Social Security
HWFB595	1973	TIEN Pei-chun, James	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB596	1974	TIEN Pei-chun, James	170	All
HWFB597	1996	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB598	2035	TAM Heung-man	170	Social Security
HWFB599	2049	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB600	2050	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB601	2051	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB602	2052	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB603	2053	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB604	2054	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB605	2055	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB606	2056	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB607	2084	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB608	2114	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Social Security
HWFB609	2115	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Services for Elders
HWFB610	2116	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Social Security
HWFB611	2142	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Young People
HWFB612	1120	LEE Cheuk-yan	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB613	1121	LEE Cheuk-yan	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB614	1122	LEE Cheuk-yan	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB615	1124	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	149	Social Welfare
HWFB616	1977	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Social Welfare
HWFB617	1978	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Social Welfare
HWFB618	1979	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Social Welfare
HWFB619	1980	LAU Chin-shek	149	Social Welfare
HWFB620	1981	LAU Chin-shek	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB621	1982	LAU Chin-shek	149	Social Welfare

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HWFB622	1983	LAU Chin-shek	149	Health
HWFB623	1984	LAU Chin-shek	149	Health
HWFB624	1985	LAU Chin-shek	149	Environmental Hygiene
HWFB625	1997	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Social Welfare
HWFB626	2136	WONG Kwok-hing	149	Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
HWFB627	2137	WONG Kwok-hing	149	Subvention: Prince Philip Dental Hospital
HWFB628	1125	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB629	1197	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	149	Subvention: Hospital Authority
HWFB630	2021	CHAN Yuen-han	703	
HWFB631	2074	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	48	Advisory and Investigative Services
HWFB632	1622	HO Chun-yan, Albert	149	Social Welfare
HWFB633	1620	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
HWFB634	2415	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Family and Child Welfare, Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services, Services for Offenders
HWFB635	0493	LEE Cheuk-yan	37	Health Promotion
HWFB636	0523	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB637	0542	LEUNG Kwok-hung	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB638	0588	KWONG Chi-kin	37	Health Promotion
HWFB639	0611	TAM Heung-man	37	Disease Prevention, Curative Care
HWFB640	1302	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB641	1303	TAM Heung-man	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB642	1304	TAM Heung-man	149	
HWFB643	1305	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Health Promotion
HWFB644	1306	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in Hospital Authority
HWFB645	1309	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB646	1330	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB647	1340	WONG Kwok-hing	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB648	1341	WONG Kwok-hing	37	Disease Prevention

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB001

Question Serial No.

0001

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The item of Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 11 at page 427 of the English version of the Estimates Volume 1A) mentions about to “oversee the progress of various capital projects of the Hospital Authority”. Please inform this Council of the total number of capital projects involved (please list out all the capital projects), and the estimated expenditures of various capital projects (please list out the estimated expenditures of various capital projects).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

In 2006-07, the Government will oversee the progress of 37 capital works projects of the Hospital Authority. A list of the 37 projects, together with the corresponding estimated expenditures, is set out below.

Item Number	Project Description	Estimate 2006–07 (\$'000)
1.	Pamela Youde Hospital – superstructure of hospital complex	2,508
2.	Queen Mary Hospital – extension and improvement, stage 3 (main hospital block, clinical pathology block, staff quarters and traffic works)	12,000
3.	Tai Po Convalescent/Infirmiry Hospital	800
4.	Queen Elizabeth Hospital – refurbishment and improvement to Blocks A, C, E, G and H	1,000
5.	Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre	3,000
6.	Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre, phase 2 *	35,372
7.	Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre, phase 2 – preparatory works *	25,224
8.	Kwong Wah Hospital – Low Block extension	500
9.	Redevelopment and expansion of Pok Oi Hospital *	278,241
10.	Yan Chai Hospital extension – phase 4	100

Item Number	Project Description	Estimate 2006–07 (\$'000)
11.	Yan Chai Hospital Multi-services Complex	10,000
12.	Relocation of the Accident and Emergency Department of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital to Ruttonjee Hospital	5,000
13.	Provision of additional lifts and associated works at Block S of United Christian Hospital *	32,280
14.	Redevelopment of specialist out-patient clinic in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital	3,000
15.	Reprovisioning of Sai Ying Pun Specialist Out-patient Clinic	10,000
16.	Reprovisioning of South Kwai Chung Specialist Out-patient Clinic	1,000
17.	Redevelopment of the operating theatre block and the rehabilitation block in Queen Elizabeth Hospital	500
18.	Redevelopment of Specialist Out-patient Department, Nursing School and Pupil Nurse Hostel in Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	100
19.	Lai King Hospital	3,500
20.	Queen Mary Hospital – Radiotherapy and Oncology Department extension	3,000
21.	Kowloon Medical Rehabilitation Centre	3,500
22.	Kowloon Hospital – phase 1 redevelopment	5,000
23.	Tuen Mun Hospital – relocation of Tuen Mun Polyclinic	11,000
24.	Hospital improvement programme, phase 3 – improvement to eight public hospitals	6,700
25.	Redevelopment of Castle Peak Hospital, phase 2	12,000
26.	Hospital improvement programme, phase 4 – improvement to 13 public hospitals	100
27.	Establishment of a Radiotherapy Centre and redevelopment of the Accident and Emergency Department at Princess Margaret Hospital	70,000
28.	Remodelling of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital into an ambulatory care centre	9,000
29.	Redevelopment of staff quarters for the establishment of a rehabilitation block at Tuen Mun Hospital *	370,000
30.	Remodelling of Tuen Mun Polyclinic Building for the establishment of an ophthalmic centre	2,000
31.	Enhancement of infection control facilities in the public hospital system (Batch A)	25,000
32.	Enhancement of infection control facilities in the public hospital system (Batch B)	20,223
33.	Construction of a new infectious disease centre attached to Princess Margaret Hospital *	250,000
34.	Improvement of facilities in the Specialist Outpatient Block of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	20,000
35.	Improvement of infection control provision for autopsy facilities in public hospitals *	41,000
36.	Development of Chinese medicine clinics in the public sector (first batch) *	24,800

Item Number	Project Description	Estimate 2006–07 (\$'000)
37.	Relocation of the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	100

* These are the active projects. The remaining ones are either completed projects with their project accounts being finalized or projects near completion.

Apart from the capital works projects, there are also a number of capital non-works projects undertaken by the Hospital Authority under the block vote Head 149 Subhead 979 Hospital Authority – equipment and information systems. Provision of \$290 million has been included in this block vote for 2006-07 to cover expenditure on all equipment items and computerization projects costing over \$150,000 each. As the details of the projects are being finalized by the Hospital Authority, no detailed list can be provided at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 002

Question Serial No.

0016

Head : 149 - Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As stated in matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 under this Programme, the Bureau will "oversee the implementation of the pilot Comprehensive Child Development Service". Will the Administration inform us of the work progress with details, the servicing boundary as well as the expenditure and manpower involved? Also, what are the evaluation results of the effectiveness on poverty alleviation?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply: The pilot Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS), which aims to identify the varied needs of children of 0 to 5 years and their families at an early stage, has been launched in Sham Shui Po since July 2005 and extended to Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in January 2006. Starting from 2005-06, a recurrent sum of \$10 million per annum has been allocated to launch the pilot CCDS in the five Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) in the above four communities. Additional manpower has been recruited for the pilot service, including medical doctors, nurses and research assistants in the Department of Health and Hospital Authority. From 2006-07, an additional sum of \$20 million per annum is allocated to improve the pilot service, and subject to a review of the pilot service in the third quarter of 2006, extend the service in the other communities in phases.

CCDS is not purely a poverty alleviation initiative. It helps identify needy children and families, including poor families, and provide them with assistance at an early stage. Those who are identified to be in need of further support services are offered appropriate services, including MCHCs and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSC) services, such as supportive counseling and/or groups/programmes, to help solve their psychosocial problems. Appropriate services, including child-care, financial, employment or accommodation assistance, etc are provided if required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB003

Question Serial No.

0032

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please set out in detail the uses of the financial provision of 19.8 million in 2006-07 and provide a breakdown of the provision for different uses.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

In 2006-07, a provision of \$19.8 million will be made available under this programme area to promote the interests and well-being of women in Hong Kong and to support the work of the Women's Commission. Expenditure will be made in the following major areas –

- (a) commissioning researches, studies and surveys on women-related issues;
- (b) implementing publicity and public education programmes;
- (c) organising such events as conference/seminar/forum on women-related issues;
- (d) liaising with local and international organisations and attending international meetings;
- (e) conducting gender-related training for civil servants; and
- (f) staff and administrative expenditure in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

For example, we will provide support to the Women's Commission, among other on-going initiatives, for organizing a conference or seminar on a variety of topics of interests to women and for preparing a database and organizing a seminar to promote women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies. Detailed work plans will be worked out in consultation with the Commission in the course of the year. It is therefore not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of the provision on individual items at the moment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title _____ Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 004

Question Serial No.

0039

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the total financial provision :

1. The total provision for 2005-06 has been revised from the original estimate of \$132.1 million to \$115.2 million, representing a decrease of 12.8%. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The decrease of \$16.9 million (12.8%) in 2005-06 revised estimate for Programme (3) : Health, as compared with the 2005-06 original estimate, is mainly due to fewer approved projects and lower cashflow requirements for a non-recurrent expenditure item, i.e. the Funding Research on Control of Infectious Diseases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB005

Question

Serial No.

0040

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 18 on page 429 of Volume IA, there was an item for measures or programmes to be launched to “promote sustainable development of local agriculture and fisheries industry”. Please advise:

- (a) details of the measures or programmes;
- (b) their projected expenditures; and
- (c) whether a fund would be set up to assist the trade to develop or participate in these programmes.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The Government promotes the sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries through the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen. In 2006-07, we will assist farmers and fish farmers to capture high-value market niches by promoting organic farming and intensive greenhouse production and implementation of the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme, as well as development of brand names and marketing network for local agricultural and fisheries products emphasizing good quality. Efforts will also be made to help fishermen to develop sustainable fishing operations. Moreover, we will continue to pursue the formulation of a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters with a view to conserving local fisheries resources
- (b) A total of \$21.2 million (\$13.2 million for agriculture and \$8 million for fisheries) has been earmarked for these tasks in 2006-07.
- (c) Low interest loans under various loan funds administered by the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department are made available to local farmers and fishermen for the development of sustainable operations. Fishermen may also apply to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund for sponsorships to attend relevant training courses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB006

Question

Serial No.

0041

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 18 on page 429 of Volume IA), one of the items mentioned was to “enhance the regulatory framework for fisheries product safety”. Please advise:

- (a) its projected expenditure; and
- (b) details of the regulatory framework.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) We are conducting studies and research on the possible regulatory framework and approach. All necessary resources will be absorbed by existing resources.
- (b) The Government is reviewing overseas regulatory regimes and practices for aquatic and marine products in order to formulate our local regulatory framework. Areas of study of the proposed regulatory framework include the registration of all fish traders, the designation of a landing point for all catches, documentation requirements for both imported and cultured fishery products, and empowering the authority to demand mandatory recall of fishery goods on public health grounds.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB007

Question

Serial No.

0042

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 18 on page 403 of Volume IA), there was an item for introducing legislation on implementing a nutrition labeling scheme for prepackaged food. Please advise:

- (a) its timetable for introducing the legislation; and
- (b) its projected expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

(a) We have recently completed the trade consultation and are drafting the legislation on implementing the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information. We intend to introduce the Amendment Regulation in 2006/07.

(b) In Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, activities relating to the implementation of Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information falls within Programme 5. As the expenditure for this Programme area caters for a number of activities, the expenditure in respect of the Scheme cannot be separately identifiable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB008

Question

Serial No.

0043

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 18 on page 429 of Volume IA), there was an item for establishing a new Centre for Food Safety. Please advise:

- (a) the projected expenditure;
- (b) when the Centre will be established and the related details; and
- (c) the projected staffing and whether there will be any addition or deletion of posts. Please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Our plan is to start establishing a new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) around mid-2006. We intend to create three additional directorate posts (i.e. one Controller, CFS (D4) post upgraded from one existing Deputy Director of Health (D3) post and two Principal Medical Officer (D1) posts) under the new CFS in FEHD. No provision has been made in the 2006-07 Estimates to meet the costs of the three additional directorate posts. Subject to Finance Committee's approval of the Directorate posts for the CFS in April, FEHD will endeavor to absorb the additional expenditure for these posts within the appropriations for Head 49 FEHD for 2006-07 and will seek supplementary provision when required.
- (c) In addition, 71 non-directorate posts will be created under the new CFS and we have included \$31.9 million under Head 49 FEHD in 2006-07 to meet the costs. We shall continue to examine the need or otherwise for additional posts in the light of operational needs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB009

Question

Serial No.

0044

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title):
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention" (paragraph 21 on page 430 of Volume IA), there was an item for implement[ing] measures to meet with the increasing demand for columbaria and crematoria facilities". Please advise:

- (a) the projected expenditure required;
- (b) the details of the measures; and
- (c) the measures could meet how many years of projected demand.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) We have planned to develop additional crematorium and columbarium facilities from now to 2014 to meet the increasing demand. As some of these projects are still at their early planning stage, we do not have the cost of all these projects at this stage. For those projects where works had already been started or are scheduled to commence in 2006-07 financial year, the total estimated cost is around \$400M.
- (b) The Government has drawn up plans to increase the supply of columbarium niches. During 2006 to 2011, we plan to build about 150 000 additional niches in the existing columbaria managed by the Government. Amongst these, 11 000 new niches will be built in 2006 in the Government columbaria at Cape Collinson, Kwai Chung, Wo Hop Shek and Cheung Chau.

The Government has also been upgrading/re-provisioning cremators and making use of the latest technology to enhance the handling capacity of the existing crematoria. All the cremators at Kwai Chung and Fu Shan Crematoria had already been replaced by more efficient ones in the past three years. The cremators in the Diamond Hill Crematorium are now being re-provisioned and are scheduled for commissioning this year. The cremators at Wo Hop Shek and Cape Collinson Crematoria will also be replaced by more efficient ones by phases from 2010 to 2014.

Apart from the above planned projects, we shall also consider other measures to help us deal with the strong demand for crematorium and columbarium facilities, including:

- Improving the design of the columbaria, such as adding more storeys, increasing the number of tiers of niche in each storey and increasing the ratio of standard niches (for two

cinerary urns) to family niches (for four cinerary urns) and more landscaping so as to harmonize these facilities with their environment;

- Improving the design of Garden of Remembrance to promote its usage in order to reduce the demand on niches;
- Encouraging more involvement from the non-government and private sector to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities on a non-profit or full commercialization basis in Wo Hop Shek and Tuen Mun Area 46.

(c) It is estimated that even with the existing planned columbarium projects, there will be a shortage of niches in 2009 and from 2014 unless more columbaria could be built in Wo Hop Shek and Tuen Mun Area 46. Regarding the crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has since 2000 committed in its performance pledge to arrange cremation session within 15 days of application. When all the planned cremator replacement/re-provisioning works are completed in 2014, the waiting time could probably be shortened from the current 15 days to 13 days but will become longer again as cremation demand continues to rise unless more new cremators are made available. Therefore, we have to consider initiating other measures as outlined above in order to meet the demand of crematorium and columbarium facilities in the long term.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 6.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB010

Question

Serial No.

0045

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention" (paragraph 21 on page 403 of Volume IA), there was an item for "review[ing] the market policy and consider[ing] measures to enhance the operation and management of public markets". Please advise:

- (a) the projected expenditure required;
- (b) the schedule for publishing the results of the review; and
- (c) whether consultants would be engaged to conduct the study. If yes, please advise the projected expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) We have been conducting the review internally by deploying existing resources.
- (b) We will publish the results as and when we identify measures to enhance the operation and management of public markets. We will consult the Legislative Council and relevant stakeholders on any major findings and recommendations prior to implementation.
- (c) At this stage, we do not have plan to engage consultants to conduct the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB011

Question

Serial No.

0046

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention" (paragraph 21 on page 403 of Volume IA), there was an item for "pursu[ing] further the development of a medium-sized poultry slaughtering plant".

Please advise:

- (a) the projected expenditure for the project;
- (b) the schedule for completing the study and publishing the results; and
- (c) the schedule for implementing the measure.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) Except that \$1.3 million has been tentatively earmarked for engaging a consultant to prepare tender documentation for the slaughtering plant project, we will absorb the additional work involved at the preparatory stage by existing staff and resources.
- (b) We aim to have a suitable site for the plant identified and draw up the broad development programme including the mode of operation of the plant by mid-2006. We will announce the results once ready.
- (c) Given the preparatory work involved for the project, including an environmental impact assessment which is a statutory requirement and normally takes close to a year to complete, possible amendment to the relevant Outline Zoning Plan for change of land use of the site ultimately selected for the development of the plant, public consultation, legislative amendment, invitation for expressions of interest by the private sector, tendering, evaluation of bids, contract negotiation, design and construction, we expect that the plant could only come into operation in 2009 the earliest.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB012

Question Serial No.

0047

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

With reference to the brief description of "ensuring adherence to the relevant international conventions and agreements in Hong Kong" under this Programme, would the Administration advise on the details of the current work, the working timetable, the expenditure incurred and manpower involved, as well as the reasons for not being able to fully implement the requirements of the conventions, and the measures to expedite the implementation.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Administration is committed to the advancement of the interests and well-being of women in Hong Kong, and to discharging the treaty obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) together with other relevant bureaux and departments have put in place various policies and measures to fulfill the objectives of CEDAW. Details of our work progress are set out in the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) issued in 2004.

We have also been observing the principle of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), and seek to achieve the objectives through various initiatives, and the Second Report of the HKSARG on the Implementation of BPFA was published in 2005.

The above-mentioned reports were distributed to the Legislative Council and women's organizations, and soft copies have been uploaded onto our website for public information.

In addition, we also promote public awareness of these international instruments through such channels as roving exhibitions and leaflets.

In 2006-07, the Administration will continue our efforts to implement CEDAW and BPFA, and further promote public awareness through a video and other publicity programmes.

Resources incurred in implementing these international instructions are absorbed by HWFB and the bureaux and departments concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB013

Question Serial No.

0048

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

In respect of the initiative of the Bureau to "continue to introduce a 'Gender Mainstreaming Checklist' to more policy areas" as part of the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 under this programme, would the Administration advise on the current progress of work, the details, expenses and manpower involved, as well as the timeframe for the checklist to be taken forward to all policy areas?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. With the help of the Women's Commission, an analytical tool in the form of a "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" has been developed, and we are gradually introducing the use of the Checklist in different policy or programme areas. So far, the Checklist has been applied to 19 policy or programme areas, including five in 2005-06.

All bureaux and departments have already designated a senior officer (a directorate officer in most cases) as the "Gender Focal Point" within their respective organizations. The Gender Focal Points help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, promote gender mainstreaming and the use of the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, and liaise and coordinate within their organizations, with the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) and the Women's Commission. In addition, gender-related training is provided to civil servants to equip them with the knowledge and skills to apply gender mainstreaming to their work.

In addition, in 2005-06, a core group of selected Gender Focal Points has been set up to devise plans or strategies to facilitate the bureaux/departments for proactive application of the Checklist. We have also implemented an evaluation mechanism, which includes focus group discussions with the Gender Focal Points to gather feedback and suggestions. Besides, we have organised a briefing for Principal Officials and Heads of Departments as well as a seminar for Members of the Legislative Council to promote gender mainstreaming. In collaboration with the Women's Commission, an experience-sharing booklet on completed gender mainstreaming cases has also been compiled.

In 2006-07, we will continue to roll out the Checklist to more policy or programme areas on an incremental basis. We will also follow up on the suggestions made by the core group and complete the evaluation exercise, the results of which would help us to consider whether and, if so, how the Checklist should be extended to all policy areas having regard to overseas experience.

The workload associated with the above measures is absorbed by existing resources of HWFB and the participating bureaux and departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB014

Question Serial No.

0049

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

With regard to conducting "regular meetings and exchanges with local women's groups and service agencies and participate in key international fora" in the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 under this Programme, would the Administration advise on the current progress, projected expenditure and manpower and details of the meetings relating to poverty alleviation?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

To enhance mutual understandings and build up a closer partnership with the non-governmental sector, the Government and the Women's Commission conduct regular district visits, to meet with local women's groups and service agencies and discuss issues of mutual concerns. We also participate in key international fora such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to keep abreast of international development on women's issues and to report on Hong Kong's work in this area.

In 2006-07, we plan to organize, amongst others, a conference or seminar to exchange views with women's groups on a variety of topics of interests to women. We would work with the Women's Commission on the details of the event, including the issues to be covered. An amount of \$800,000 has been earmarked for the above-mentioned activities in the 2006-07 Draft Estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB015

Question Serial No.

0050

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

In respect of the initiative of the Bureau to "continue to monitor and steer progress of the three-year Capacity Building Mileage Programme" as part of the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 under this programme, would the Administration advise on:

- (1) the current progress of work, the expenses and manpower involved, and the results so far;
- (2) the distribution of age, sex, educational attainment level, district of residence, occupation and family income of the participants and the respective percentages; and
- (3) the support to be provided to participants with financial difficulties, and the financial provisions and number of beneficiaries to this day?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (1) The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) is initiated by the Women's Commission as an empowerment programme for women, and is implemented by the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) and Commercial Radio in collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Programme was launched on 8 March 2004 and a Steering Committee has been set up under the Women's Commission to steer the overall programme direction.

Funding support of up to \$12.43 million is provided by the Lotteries Fund to OUHK for implementing the Programme on a three-year pilot basis. According to the approved budget, the estimated annual expenditure for 2004, 2005, 2006 is \$4.95 million, \$4.05 million, and \$3.43 million respectively. Major expenditure includes:-

- (a) course development;
- (b) radio programmes;
- (c) course delivery (payment to instructors, course guides, payment to collaborating organisations, etc) and course evaluation;
- (d) promotion, administration and others; and
- (e) course evaluation.

Most of the courses are broadcast by Commercial Radio and supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses are coordinated by OUHK with partnering NGOs. The response to the programme has been very positive. In 2005-06, over 4,340 participants had registered in these activities and courses. In addition, there are many audiences beneficiary through listening to the radio programmes. According to an audience rating survey conducted between April and July 2005, about 5% of the respondents had listened to the CBMP radio programme in the preceding year, among whom about 54% were regular listeners to the programme.

- (2) The overall summary of demography of students enrolled in the first 5 intakes between March 2004 and July 2005 are as follows:
- 97.6% were female
 - 47% were aged between 40 and 49 and 35% were aged between 50 and 59
 - 39% were housewives and 27% were employed, either with a full-time or part-time job
 - 50% of students had secondary education, 10.5% had primary education, and 6.5% had post-secondary education

There was no available information on the distribution by district of residence, occupation and family income.

- (3) A bursary scheme financed by private donations, has been introduced to support students in need. Eligible students will be financed in full for a maximum of two courses. Since the inception of the scheme, financial support has been provided to a total of 326 students in terms of enrolment count.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB016

Question Serial No.

0051

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The provision for 2006-07 is estimated to be increased to meet the public's rising demand for hospital services. Please advise this Council whether the additional provision will be used to employ more staff. If so, how much expenditure will be incurred and what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) is planning to recruit around 300 medical trainees for specialist training, 500 registered nurses and 100 allied health staff in 2006-07. These new staff will mainly be deployed to replace staff departures over the year. As a result, the manpower level of doctors and allied health staff in 2006-07 is expected to remain largely the same as that in 2005-06, except for the number of nurses which is expected to increase by 70 in 2006-07.

It is expected that the HA should be able to achieve some net cost savings in 2006-07 due to the effect of staff turnover as a result of the replacement of permanent staff by contract staff over time. As such, no additional provision is required for the employment of new staff.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB017

Question Serial No.

0052

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (No. & title):

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Regarding “implement measures for improving the quality of clinical care” mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention (Paragraph 37 on page 435 of Volume 1A of Estimates), please inform us :

- (a) of the estimated expenditure involved;
- (b) of the details of the measures; and
- (c) whether targets and indicators have been set to examine if the quality of clinical care is improved. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) will implement the following new programme initiatives to improve the quality of clinical care in 2006-07. Description of these initiatives, the estimated expenditure involved and their key targets/indicators are set out in the table below –

Description of Programme	Key targets/indicators in 2006-07	Estimated Expenditure (\$million)
To improve the quality of life and maintain independent living of the mentally ill patients through the use of new psychiatric drugs. With less side-effects than conventional drugs, the new drugs would enable the patients to have better control of their medical condition and improve their compliance of treatment.	To provide an additional 6 000 mentally ill patients with new psychiatric drugs	45
To augment haemodialysis (HD) provision for renal replacement therapy to benefit patients with End Stage Renal Disease.	To increase the capacity of HD service from 575 to 595 patients	5
To enhance timely intervention for profoundly deaf patients and neonatal hearing screening. This initiative entails the implementation of universal hearing screening for all babies delivered in public hospitals and the provision of cochlear implants for those found to be profoundly deaf.	To perform 40 cochlear implants to be followed by intensive speech therapy	10
Total		60

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB018

Question Serial No.

0053

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding "improve cancer care through an enhancement to the cancer registry" mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention (Paragraph 37 on page 435 of Volume 1A of Estimates), please inform us of the estimated expenditure involved and the details concerned.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The expenditure involved in the enhancement of the cancer registry is about \$1.87 million per year. The funding will be used to strengthen manpower resources to (i) capture additional important information (e.g. survival data and staging information) in respect of the major cancer conditions in Hong Kong, and (ii) ensure timely compilation of the annual report of the cancer registry.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 6.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB019

Question Serial No.

0054

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The 2006-07 estimate for the indicator "no. of home visits by community nurses" is 835 000, which represents an increase of 30 000 visits over the revised estimate of 805 000 visits in 2005-06. What are the reasons? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) is increasing the number of home visits to be made by community nurses in 2006-07 so as to strengthen the care available in the community setting for elderly patients after their discharge from hospitals. The HA would seek to achieve the projected increase in the number of visits largely through enhanced efficiency in the delivery of this service with a marginal increase in cost of about \$2 million. The estimated total cost of the Community Nursing Service in 2006-07 is about \$242 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB021

Question Serial No.

0056

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please explain to this Council why the number of trainees/non-specialists will be reduced from 2 112 as stated in the revised estimate of 2005-06 to 1 892 as stated in the estimate of 2006-07. Does this involve manpower cuts? If yes, please explain if the reduction in manpower will have any impact on the services provided by the Authority.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

According to the projection of the Hospital Authority, the total number of medical doctors for 2006-07 is expected to be maintained at the same level as that for 2005-06. The expected decrease in the number of medical trainees/non-specialists of 220 from 2 112 in 2005-06 to 1 892 in 2006-07 will be entirely offset by an increase of 220 in the number of medical specialists from 2 438 in 2005-06 to 2 658 in 2006-07.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB022

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health,
Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

0002

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It has been mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in paragraph 11 on page 401 of Volume 1A of the Estimates that the Bureau will “explore the feasibility of introducing an electronic medical record system in Hong Kong”. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council of the time when the relevant work will start and a conclusion will be reached, and of the details and the estimated cost of this item?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The long term objective of developing an electronic medical record system is to enable the sharing of patient's personal health information, upon patients' consent, between the public and private sectors to enhance the continuity of care and provision of holistic care to patients. The success of the initiative hinges upon various factors such as the availability of the technology in building the information system, the readiness and acceptance of stakeholders including the patients and health care professionals, the resolving of privacy issues relating to the security and disclosure of personal data, and most important of all the full participation of the public and private sectors. As a first step, the Hospital Authority (HA) is developing a pilot project to explore the technical feasibility and to test the stakeholders acceptance of the concept. The project is confined to the sharing of HA's patients records by the private sector, subject to the patients' consent, and would involve about 200 medical professionals and about 10,000 patients from a few selected private hospitals, old age homes, private clinics. It is planned to launch the pilot in the second quarter of 2006 and to conduct an evaluation by end 2006-07. In view of the large scale of the initiative, we envisaged that further studies would have to be conducted before we can draw up detailed implementation plans and work out the funding requirement for developing an electronic medical record system for all patients in Hong Kong.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title : Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food
Date : 9 March 2006

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

HWFB023

0003

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the estimated number of places in aged blind homes is 174 less than the actual number of places in 2004-05 whereas the estimated number of places in care-and-attention (C&A) homes for the aged blind increases only by 86 over the actual number of places in 2004-05. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the reasons for the decrease in the overall number of places and assessment of its impact? Also, when will the Administration increase such places to meet the needs of society?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : In line with the policy objectives of "Ageing in Place" and "Continuum of Care", and in view of the limited demand from the more able elderly for aged blind homes, places of aged blind homes were converted into C&A home places to serve the more frail aged blind. At the same time, community support services have been strengthened to enable the more able blind elderly stay in the community. As at January 2006, there were 104 aged blind persons applying for C&A home for the aged blind. On average, the applicants would receive such service in seven months' time. The existing provision is considered adequate and the Administration will keep in view and will consider increasing provision of C&A places for the more frail aged blind if necessary.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

HWFB024

0004

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of outreaching social work cases served is expected to increase by 139 when compared with the actual number of cases served in 2004-05, while the number of clients identified is also expected to increase significantly by 463. Despite the fact that the number of outreaching social work teams will remain unchanged, the cost per case per month will reduce by nearly 4%. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the reasons for the cost reduction and evaluate its impacts? Besides, would the Administration consider increasing manpower and funding to meet the needs of society?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The estimated increase of 139 cases served and 463 clients identified in 2006-07 will be handled by the existing 16 District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams (DYOSWTs), each with ten social workers. The projected increase in workload represents only 8.7 additional cases served and 29 additional clients identified for each DYOSWT, or 0.87 additional cases served or 2.9 additional clients identified for a social worker throughout a year. The increase in workload is insignificant and manageable by the DYOSWTs. Since the increase in caseload and client is absorbed by existing manpower and funding, the unit cost per case is reduced.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB025

Question Serial No.

0031

Head: 170 – Social Welfare Department Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the creation of 14 permanent posts in 2006-07, please provide information on the ranks of the posts to be created and to which branches will the posts be allocated.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In the 2006-07 Estimates, 43 non-directorate permanent posts are planned to be created in the Integrated Family Service Centres, the Family and Child Protective Services Units and the Medical Social Services Units for implementation of the Family Support Programme. The creation will be partly offset by the deletion of 29 non-directorate posts arising from the implementation of various efficiency measures including hiving-off of services, and completion of time-limited projects. The net increase of the number of post is 14. The breakdown of the ranks of the posts to be created and deleted is as follows:

(a) Creation of Posts

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>	
Assistant Social Work Officer	+43	
Sub-total :	<u> +43 </u>	(a)

(b) Deletion of Posts

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>
Assistant Social Work Officer	-1
Senior Social Security Officer	-1
Social Security Officer I	-1
Statistician	-1
Statistical Officer I	-4

Statistical Officer II	-2	
Enrolled Nurse	-1	
Ward Attendant	-6	
Workman II	-12	
Sub-total :	<u>-29</u>	(b)
Total :	<u>+14</u>	(a)+(b)

Signature	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Name in block letters	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Post Title	<u>9 March 2006</u>
Date	

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the brief description that new contracts for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services teams were awarded for the period from 1 August 2005 to 30 September 2008. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

Were all the new contracts awarded to the existing operators? If not, by what methods did the Administration award the new contracts?

What are the district distribution and the capacity of service of the enhanced home and community care services teams?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The 18 new service contracts for the provision of Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) were awarded to non-governmental organisations through invitation of tender. The assessment of the tenders was in strict accordance with Government's Stores and Procurement Regulations. 12 of the contracts were awarded to previous operators and 6 to new operators.

There is one EHCCS team in each of the 18 District Council districts with a total capacity to serve 2 433 frail cases. The distribution is set out below:

District	Service Capacity
Central & Western	115
Islands	124
Wan Chai	144
Eastern	149
Southern	113
Yau Tsim Mong	116
Sham Shui Po	105
Kowloon City	146
Wong Tai Sin	196
Sai Kung	128
Kwun Tong	196
Sha Tin	147

Tai Po	99
North	101
Yuen Long	133
Tsuen Wan	121
Kwai Tsing	170
Tuen Mun	130
Total	2 433

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB027

Question Serial No.

0034

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07" that the Administration will continue to provide day care places incorporated into residential care homes. In this connection, would the Administration:

Set out in detail the number of day care places provided in the last five years and the expenditure involved; and

Provide the number of additional day care places that the Administration plans to offer in 2006-07 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of day care places in the last five years and the expenditure involved are as follows:

Year	2001-02 (Actual)	2002-03 (Actual)	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Revised Estimate)
No. of day care places as at end of financial year	1 500	1 657	1 955	1 955	1 955
Expenditure (\$m)	126.3	131.5	152.2	144.3	140.3

In 2006-07, we will provide an addition of 20 day care places at an estimated expenditure of \$0.9m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB028

Question Serial No.

0035

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07" that the Administration will strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of RCHEs to enhance the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs. Would the Administration provide details of the posts that it plans to create and a breakdown on the number of the proposed posts, and set out the salary and benefit expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : With a view to stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution against residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in breach of licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors (i.e. five social workers and five Registered Nurses (RNs)) will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen both the Social Work Inspectorate Team and the Health Inspectorate Team of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE). Also, a Social Work Officer will be redeployed to LORCHE to enhance coaching and supervisory support.

The RNs will be recruited as contract staff. Their salaries range from \$17,145 to \$24,135 per month depending on working experience. Fringe benefits include paid annual leave and other statutory provisions under the Employment Ordinance. The social workers will be posted to LORCHE through re-deployment. The salary of the social workers will be pitched at Assistant Social Work Officer level, which ranges from \$17,145 to \$43,940.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07" that the Administration will strengthen the manpower of the Contract Management Section in order to enhance the monitoring of contract homes and enhanced home and community care services. Would the Administration provide details of the posts that it plans to create and a breakdown on the number of the proposed posts, and set out the salary and benefit expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Contract Management Section of the Social Welfare Department will employ one additional Registered Nurse (RN), one Project Officer (PO), one Technical Support Assistant (TSA) and one Clerk in 2006-07 to strengthen the monitoring of contract homes and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services. All of them will be employed as contract staff. Salary range of the RN is from \$17,145 to \$24,135 per month depending on working experience. The monthly salary of the PO, TSA, and Clerk will be \$20,000, \$11,500 and \$8,190 respectively. Fringe benefits include paid annual leave and other statutory provisions under the Employment Ordinance. Also, a social worker will be posted through re-deployment to further enhance the contract management mechanism. The salary of the social worker will be pitched at Assistant Social Work Officer level, which ranges from \$17,145 to \$43,940.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB030

Question Serial No.

0038

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee whether it was necessary for applicants for small group homes to wait for admission in 2005-06. If yes, what is the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2005-06, the enrolment rate of small group home service is 95%, showing that placements are available from time to time for children waiting for small group home placements. Applications for small group home placement without specific requirements can normally be matched with small group home placements within one month. However, applications involving location/home preference or requiring siblings to be placed in the same home may take longer time to be matched.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB031

Question Serial No.

0005

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) Does the Government have any plan to inspect medical clinics in 2006-07 for checking the use of medicines in these clinics?
- (b) Please set out the respective numbers of samples taken for analysis by the Department of Health on western medicines, proprietary Chinese medicines and health foods in the past three years. How many cases of non-compliance were identified? What were the expenditure and staff establishment involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

- (a) The Department of Health has been monitoring clinics registered under the Medical Clinics Ordinance for their compliance with the statutory requirements, including record-keeping and storage of medicines, and upon receipt of referrals and complaints, inspects practices of medical doctors on their use of medicines, dangerous drugs in particular.

In 2006-07, the Department of Health will further strengthen the regulation of the use of medicines in private medical practice by carrying out random checks.

- (b) The respective numbers of samples of western medicines, proprietary Chinese medicines and health foods taken by the Department of Health for analysis in the past three years are as follows -

Year	Western Medicines		Proprietary Chinese Medicines / Health Foods	
	Number of samples tested	Number found below quality standards	Number of samples tested	Number found below quality standards
2003	2 125	69	2 528	59
2004	2 076	93	2 834	47
2005	2 104	53	2 221	54

During the three years in question, four Senior Pharmacists and 24 Pharmacists were responsible for the inspection and licensing of manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of western medicines; investigations of drug-related complaints; prosecution of offenders; and the sampling of western medicines, proprietary Chinese medicines and health foods for analysis. The staff cost involved for these activities in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was \$18.2M, \$18.1M and \$17.4M respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB032

Question Serial No.

0006

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Government will allocate additional provision to strengthen port health measures in preparation for the coming into force of the revised International Health Regulations. In this regard, what is the amount of such provision? What specific port health measures will be strengthened by using such provision?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

In 2006-07, an additional funding of \$13.2M will be provided to strengthen port health measures in preparation for the coming into force of the revised International Health Regulations, including recruitment of 47 additional staff.

The port health measures to be strengthened include the following-

- (a) establishing health posts at immigration control points (ICPs) for carrying out health screening measures and public education programmes;
- (b) installing infra-red thermo-imaging machines to facilitate the implementation of body temperature screening measures and stockpiling of personal protective equipment at future ICPs;
- (c) constructing isolation facilities at existing and future ICPs as temporary accommodation for sick travellers who need to be transferred to hospitals;
- (d) establishing a sanitation monitoring and inspection system for ICPs and conveyances to minimise the risk of spread of infectious disease; and
- (e) developing guidelines for prevention and control of public health emergencies for, and providing relevant training to ICP and conveyance operators.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB033

Question Serial No.

0007

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list the respective expenditures on elderly health centres and visiting health teams in 2004-05 and 2005-06, and inform this Council of the number of elderly persons waiting for enrolment in elderly health centres. Does the Government have further plans to expand the elderly health centres and visiting health teams?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The expenditures of Elderly Health Services (EHS) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows -

	<u>2004-05</u> (Actual) \$M	<u>2005-06</u> (Revised Estimate) \$M
Clinic Service provided by Elderly Health Centres (EHCs)	87.0	84.1
Public Health Administration and Outreaching Health Service provided by Visiting Health Teams (VHTs)	52.8	60.2
Total	<u>139.8</u>	<u>144.3</u>

In 2005, EHCs had 37 400 members and provided 195 000 health assessment and medical consultations for members. As at end of 2005, there were some 28 000 applications for enrolment. Although currently there is no plan to expand the EHCs and VHTs, EHS will strengthen collaboration with stakeholders including private practitioners and non-government organisations to enhance primary health services for the elderly in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB034

Question Serial No.

0008

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Government will create four posts for carrying out enforcement duties upon enactment of the bill on the provision of enforcement power to Tobacco Control Office staff. In this regard, what are the establishment and expenditure of these four posts? What are the specific duties of these newly created posts?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Since 2005, the Department has had the assistance of a Superintendent of Police for planning the formation of the enforcement team comprising a total of 34 tobacco control inspectors to carry out enforcement duties upon the enactment of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005. In 2006-07, a further provision of \$1.1M has been made for four posts of police officers to train and assist tobacco control inspectors to carry out their enforcement function.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB035

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0012

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 18 on page 155 of Estimates - Volume IA) that the Department of Health will “strengthen the publicity and education programme on smoking prevention”. Could the Department set out the specific details of the work concerned as well as the expenditure and staffing arrangement involved? Since the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005 is expected to be enacted in this legislative year, will the Administration consider allocating additional resources to strengthen the work in this area?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) adopts an integrated approach to promoting a smoke-free culture in Hong Kong including anti-smoking activities to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, and a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service. In 2006-07, DH will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

In 2006-07, the Government will have a provision of \$29.1M for Tobacco Control Office (TCO) and the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health to carry out publicity and education programmes, representing an increase of \$2.5M over 2005-06. The TCO will increase its staffing complement to 66, from the current strength of 36.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB036

Question Serial No.

0013

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Given the increasing threat of avian influenza, could the Administration inform this Council of the specific contingency work undertaken by the Department of Health? What are the expenditure and staffing arrangement involved? Furthermore, what is the amount of additional resources allocated in 2005-06 to the Department for such work?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Preparedness for outbreaks of human avian influenza is part and parcel of the Department of Health's work on prevention and control of infectious diseases, which is mainly undertaken by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and the Port Health Office. In 2006-07, total allocation to the CHP and port health services for their overall functions, which include prevention and control of infectious diseases, is \$956M. Their staff complement is about 1 900.

To enhance Hong Kong's preparedness against influenza pandemic caused by avian influenza, etc., the CHP has drawn up and will regularly update preparedness plans for major infectious disease outbreaks with public health significance, including influenza pandemic, etc. Under these plans, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilising volunteers during public health emergencies; organising infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks. On the port health front, temperature screening measures for inbound passengers at immigration control points have been enhanced.

In 2005-06, major new expenditure items for combating avian influenza include an extra amount of about \$90M to increase the stockpile of antivirals for influenza pandemic, and to step up temperature screening measures for inbound travellers and other port health measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB037

Question Serial No.

0026

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the "pilot Comprehensive Child Development Service" mentioned in the Analysis of Financial and Staff Provision under this Head, could the Administration provide information on -

- (a) the progress and details of the work concerned, the areas served as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (b) the service targets and the specific indicators?
- (c) the assistance rendered to the poor families and its effectiveness?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The pilot Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS), which aims to identify the varied needs of children of 0 to 5 years and their families at an early stage, has been launched in Sham Shui Po since July 2005 and extended to Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in January 2006. Starting from 2005-06, a recurrent sum of \$10M per annum has been allocated to launch the pilot CCDS in the five Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) in the above four communities. Additional manpower has been recruited for the pilot service, including doctors, nurses and research assistants in the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority. From 2006-07, an additional sum of \$20M per annum is allocated to improve the pilot service, and subject to a review of the pilot service in the third quarter of 2006, extend the service in the other communities in phases.
- (b) The CCDS aims to achieve -
 - early identification and holistic management of at risk pregnant women;
 - early identification and management of mothers with postnatal depression;
 - early identification of children and families for social service intervention; and
 - early identification and referral of pre-school children with physical, developmental and behavioural problems.

Performance indicators for the pilot CCDS include the development of assessment tools and protocols, establishment of referral and feedback system, outcome of staff training courses, nature and number of referred cases, and staff and clients perception and satisfaction.

- (c) CCDS is not purely a poverty alleviation initiative. It helps identify needy children and families, including poor families, and provide them with assistance at an early stage. Those who are identified to be in need of further support services are offered appropriate services,

including MCHCs and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSC) services, such as supportive counseling and/or groups/programmes, to help solve their psychosocial problems. Appropriate services, including child-care, financial, employment or accommodation assistance, etc are provided if required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB038

Question Serial No.

0037

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration mentioned in the Indicators that the figure of attendances for health assessment and medical consultation at elderly health centres in 2006 Estimate is 195 000 while the figure of attendances at health education activities organised by elderly health centres and visiting health teams is estimated to be 450 000. In this regard, could the Administration -

- set out the respective costs per attendance for the above two services; and
- set out the operating costs of each elderly health centre ?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The cost per attendance for health assessment and medical consultation at Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) in 2005-06 are \$410 and \$360 respectively. The cost per attendance for health education activities organised by EHCs and visiting health teams is not readily available.

The average operating cost for each EHC in 2005-06 is \$4.7M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB039

Question Serial No.

0014

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 is the establishment of a committee to review food standards. Please advise on the scope of review and timetable of the committee; whether representatives of relevant trades will be invited to join in the light of the scope of review; and the estimated manpower and expenditure involved in the operation of the committee.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

A Food Safety Committee will be established under the new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. The Committee will be responsible for advising on the formulation of food safety measures and reviewing of food safety standards in light of international practices, trends and developments. The Committee will consist of academics, professionals, food experts and trade representatives. We aim to set up the Committee within 2006. The CFS will provide support to the operation of the Committee.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB040

Question Serial No.

0015

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under matters requiring special attention in 2006–07, the Department will “take steps to introduce legislative amendments to prohibit the abstraction of seawater from specified areas adjacent to the coast for keeping live seafood.” In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the timetable for the introduction and implementation of the legislative amendments; and
- (b) whether financial provision has been made for the implementation of the legislative amendments? If so, what are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

We plan to submit the legislative amendments to the Legislative Council in financial year 2006-07. No specific provision has been reserved for the implementation of this initiative. Any resources requirements for 2006-07 arising from the implementation of this initiative will be absorbed within the existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB041

Question Serial No.

0017

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The brief description of this programme states that food surveillance will be conducted at various points of the food chain and enforcement actions will be taken. In this regard, please list the manpower and expenditure involved at various points of the food chain. Furthermore, in view of the many food incidents happened in Hong Kong last year pertaining to food sources including the detection of the carcinogenic chemical malachite green in imported freshwater fish, will control measures be strengthened at source in 2006-07? If so, what are the details and the additional manpower and expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department safeguards food safety through a combination of import control at entry points and regular food surveillance at the wholesale and retail levels. The work is mainly undertaken by the Food Surveillance and Certification Section with a current strength of 184 staff and a financial provision of \$85.6 million in 2006-07. There will be increased liaison with the Mainland and overseas authorities exporting food to Hong Kong and more inspections to Mainland facilities in order to strengthen the control at sources. There is no separate breakdown of resources reserved for this aspect of work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB042

Question Serial No.

0018

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

28 non-directorate posts will be deleted in 2006-07 under this programme. Please list the posts to be deleted, highlighting the ranks, post titles, relevant duties and annual staff remuneration involved. What are the reasons for the deletion? How will the provision of environmental hygiene and related services be affected as a result of such deletion?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The ranks, post titles and relevant duties of and the salaries involved for the 28 non-directorate posts to be deleted in 2006-07 are listed below –

<u>Ranks/Post title</u>	<u>Duties</u>	<u>Annual salary</u>
Artisan Ganger Workman I	To provide environmental hygiene services.	These are existing vacancies. Their deletion does not involve any reduction in salary expenditure.

There are no operational needs to keep these vacancies. Environmental hygiene and related services will not be affected as a result of deletion of these posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB043

Question Serial No.

0019

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Hong Kong is increasingly dependent on imported food and the public have high expectations on food safety. However, only 35 farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong are planned to be inspected in 2006 as compared with 36 farms actually inspected in 2005. Please explain why there is a decrease in the number instead of a sharp increase. Please also advise on the types of live animal farms to be inspected and whether among them, chilled pork processing plants and their associated farms will be included.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The target set for Mainland farm inspection in 2005 and before had been 20 farms. In response to the occurrence of food related incidents last year, additional farm inspections were carried out. To reflect the enhancement of the farm inspection service, the target has been revised from 20 to 35 with effect from 2006, an increase by 75%.

The livestock and poultry farms inspected in the Mainland will cover all food animal species including cattle, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese and pigeons.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB044

Question Serial No.

0020

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration informed the Legislative Council that the measures regarding the supply of chilled pork from the Mainland were in place. In this connection, please advise on:

- whether provision has been earmarked for their implementation in 2006-07 and if so, the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- the estimated number of applications for import of chilled pork in 2006-07 and whether these applications have been included in the estimated number of “applications for import of game, meat and poultry” for 2006.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Any additional work arising from the supply of chilled pork from the Mainland will be absorbed within existing resources.

The number of “applications for import of game, meat and poultry” estimated for 2006 has not taken into account any applications for the supply of chilled pork from the Mainland.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB045

Question Serial No.

0021

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the “ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers surrendering their licences with endorsement to sell live poultry or public market tenancies”, please advise on:

- (a) the difference between the estimated and actual numbers of licences surrendered by live poultry retailers in 2005-06 and whether the number of licences surrendered was as expected;
- (b) the estimated number of licences surrendered by retailers in 2006-07 and the size of retail stalls involved;
- (c) the measures to encourage live poultry retailers to surrender their licences (including consideration to adjust the calculation for ex-gratia payment) should the number of licences surrendered fall short of the estimation. Besides, since the ex-gratia payment is funded by an one-off grant and there is a balance of \$136,109,000, please advise on whether the voluntary surrender scheme will be extended in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The department did not have any estimate on the number of licensees/market stall tenants who would join the voluntary surrender scheme in 2005-06. Up to end of February 2006, 56 live poultry retailers joined the scheme during 2005-06.
- (b) The department does not have any estimate on the number of retailers who will surrender their licences/tenancies for selling live poultry in 2006-07.
- (c) The voluntary surrender scheme was drawn up in 2004 after taking into careful consideration all relevant factors, including the need to ensure proper use of public funds, the views of the then LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the concerns of the live poultry retailers. The scheme was approved in 2005 for extension till August 2006. The Administration currently has no plans to revise the ex-gratia payment package nor to extend the scheme further.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB046

Question Serial No.

0027

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the following:

Regarding the performance targets of licensing of food premises, including the number of cases where Application Vetting Panel meeting for restaurant licences will be held within 20 working days upon passing of initial screening, the number of cases where food business licences will be issued within seven working days upon confirmation of compliance, etc, have such targets been set with reference to the five-day week initiative to be implemented from July 2006?

If so, are Saturdays counted as working days? Will the manpower and expenditure involved need to be adjusted?

If not, how will such performance targets be met?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The performance targets for licensing of food premises have not taken into account Saturday as a working day. The five-day week initiative will have no impact on these performance targets and there will be no resource implications.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB047

Question Serial No.

0028

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, the Department will “continue to provide Hygiene Supervisor training courses for food handlers”. In this connection, please list the number of food handlers who attended the training courses each month in 2005-06. Is there any difference between the actual number of trainees and the Department’s original estimation?

What is the estimated number of food handlers to be provided with the training for Hygiene Supervisors in 2006? What is the estimated ratio of trainees from newly opened restaurants to those from existing ones?

How effective is the Hygiene Manager/Supervisor Scheme since its implementation on 30 May 2005? What criteria are used to evaluate its effectiveness?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The total number of trainees attending Hygiene Supervisor courses from April 2005 to February 2006 is 13 728 which is higher than the Department’s original estimation. Breakdown by month is as follows :

April 2005	: 1 886
May 2005	: 5 519
June 2005	: 1 679
July 2005	: 920
Aug 2005	: 808
Sep 2005	: 675
Oct 2005	: 459
Nov 2005	: 560
Dec 2005	: 469
Jan 2006	: 377
Feb 2006	: 376

The estimated number of food handlers attending Hygiene Supervisor training in 2006 is 6 000. About 10% of the trainees attending courses from April 2005 to February 2006 were from newly licensed food premises. For 2006 – 07, it is estimated that the proportion of trainees from newly licensed food premises will increase as existing food premises already have trained Hygiene Supervisors.

The effectiveness of the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Scheme cannot be assessed by a single quantitative indicator. It is part of our long term effort to facilitate food business operators to enhance food safety and environmental hygiene in their licensed premises.

We will keep the scheme under review with a view to raising the qualifications for Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor as necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB048

Question Serial No.

0029

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, the Department will “examine the feasibility of extending to a few selected districts in addition to Kowloon City District the trial scheme on contracting out market management”. Please advise on the details of the scheme, the estimated savings in manpower and expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Department has since 1 March 2004 contracted out, as a pilot scheme, the management of four public markets in Kowloon City District. As the result of the pilot scheme is satisfactory, the Department is exploring the possibility of extending the scheme to two other selected districts, namely, Mongkok District and Wong Tai Sin District.

We expect manpower savings of around 55 civil service posts after the scheme has been extended but the actual amount of savings in expenditure will only be known upon completion of the open tendering exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB049

Question Serial No.

0196

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The estimated number of "blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies" for 2006 is 114 000, representing a slight increase of about 0.5% as compared to the 113 413 blood samples in 2005. Please advise on whether such slight increase is sufficient in our defences against the avian influenza that is becoming more and more serious outside Hong Kong? Will the additional number of samples be taken mainly from places like markets or fresh provision shops where the public have more contact with poultry? Has financial provision been made for strengthening the testing/monitoring measures where necessary?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The number of blood samples estimated to be taken in 2006 is based on the current number of live poultry supplied from the Mainland per annum. Samples will be taken from every consignment of live poultry at the control point at Man Kam To. In addition to monitoring the antibody level among imported poultry, environmental swabs will continue to be taken from the retail outlets for testing of H5 virus. The number of swabs taken can be adjusted in accordance with changed circumstances. Any consequential additional financial requirements will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

HWFB 050

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

0176

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under the expenditure item for salaries, it is expected that 60 posts will be deleted in 2006-07, but the estimate for salaries in 2006-07 is still about \$10 million higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. Would the department provide the reasons for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase is mainly due to the following items:-

	<u>Amount (\$M)</u>
Addition	
(i) Salary increment for civil service staff in 2006-07	3.22
(ii) Salary provision for filling 49 vacant posts in 2006-07	16.03
Reduction	
(i) 60 posts scheduled for deletion in 2006-07	(9.16)
Net increase of salary provision in 2006-07	10.09

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB051

Question Serial No.

0248

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It has been mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention (Paragraph 11 on Page 428 of Volume 1A of the Estimates) that the Bureau will “review the public medical fee structure”. Will the Administration advise this Committee on the following : When will the relevant work commence ? Is it expected that the review will involve an increase in medical fees ? What are the details of this item ? When will the review be completed ? And what is the estimated expenditure required for this item ?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Government, together with the Hospital Authority (HA), commenced in 2005-06 a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident and emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. The review examines also the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. The review is planned for completion by around mid 2006. As the review is yet to be completed, the possibility of increase in medical fees cannot be ruled out. However, the purpose of fee increase, if to be implemented, would be to instil on the HA users a sense of value of the services that they are receiving in order to influence patients' behaviour and to reduce abuse of services and wastage of medical resources. Affordability of members of the public will be taken into account in any fee increase proposals.

The Government has provided \$3 million to the HA for the commissioning of the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

6 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB052

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Subhead (No. & title)

0249

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It has been mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Bureau will “continue to set up more Chinese medicine clinics in the public sector”. Will the Administration inform us of the following:

- (a) What are the details of this item? How many additional Chinese medicine clinics will be set up? Which public health care institutions will be selected for implementation? What is the schedule?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure required for this item?
- (c) How many training opportunities can be provided to the graduates of the degree course of Chinese medicine?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) Government has committed to establishing a total of 18 public Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs) to develop “evidence-based” Chinese medicine and to provide better training opportunities for local Chinese medicine degree programme graduates. There are now three CMCs in operation. The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for establishing six additional CMCs. We expect to open three of the clinics (at Tang Shiu Kin Hospital Community Ambulatory Care Centre, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, Yuen Long Madam Yung Fung Shee Health Centre) by April 2006 and the remaining three (at Ha Kwai Chung Polyclinic and Special Education Services Centre, Yan Oi Polyclinic, Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Clinic) by late 2006. We are actively searching for suitable sites for setting up the remaining nine CMCs and will submit funding request to the Finance Committee when we have concrete plans.
- (b) The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic and is required to provide herbal Chinese medicine service at a fee of \$120 per attendance (includes consultation and two doses of medicine) with fee waiver for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. It may also provide other Chinese medicine services at the clinic at market fee. The fees collected from herbal and non-herbal medicine services are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Any surpluses must be ploughed back to the clinic for service development particularly in promoting Chinese medicine/western medicine interface activities. In addition, the NGO may deploy its own resources to maintain the operation of the clinic. The average estimated capital cost of setting up one CMC which mainly includes renovation of existing premises and necessary furniture and equipment items is \$5.85 million. The recurrent provision for Chinese medicine service mainly covers the

maintenance of the Toxicology Reference Laboratory, quality assurance and central procurement of Chinese medicine herbs, the development of and provision of training in “evidence-based” Chinese medicine, maintenance of the Chinese Medicine Information System, and part of the expenses for the operation of the clinic. The recurrent provision earmarked in 2006-07 is about \$55 million.

- (c) Each new clinic will be required to employ and provide training for at least five graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes. Experience with NGOs running CMC has been encouraging in that they need to employ more graduates to support their additional services and/or research. A tailor-made training program has been developed for the new graduates working in the CMC. The Government has also been encouraging Chinese medicine practitioners in private practice to offer training opportunities to new graduates.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	:	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	:	<u>9 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB053

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

0250

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Comparing with the revised provision of \$115.2 m for 2005-06, the total amount of provision for 2006-07 has surged to \$174.7m, representing an increase of 51.6%. This is mainly due to the implementation of influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious disease control/health services initiatives. In this connection, please give details of such measures and initiatives and a detailed breakdown of estimated expenditure incurred, and state whether such additional provision is specifically for this year only or will be an annual provision in the future for combating epidemic/infectious diseases?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

We have set aside about \$54 million in the Bureau in 2006-07 to meet various contingencies for combating a possible influenza pandemic, for example, an urgent need to step up port health or other public health measures. We expect that measures and initiatives that may probably require additional funding support will include temperature screening for outgoing travelers, health declaration measures carried out at immigration control points, special public education and publicity programmes and purchase of effective vaccines for the influenza pandemic in the event they become available, etc.

The actual expenditure will depend on a number of factors relating to the scale and nature of such an outbreak, which are unknown to us at the moment. We therefore cannot state at the present how this amount will be specifically deployed. Nevertheless, this \$54 million will provide the flexibility and a buffer to ensure that any response measures that have not been budgeted for can be activated in a timely manner. If it turns out that additional funding is needed, we will seek the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for additional allocation.

We will monitor the developments closely and reassess the need for allocating additional recurrent funding for specific preventive and control measures in subsequent years.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB054

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretarial: Health,
Welfare and Food Subhead (No. & title) : -

0251

Programme : (7) Subvention: Skills centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the following items under the key performance indicators, their actual figures in 2004-05 are higher than their revised estimates in 2005-06. Will the Administration inform us why there is still no increase in training places and indicators in their 2006-07 estimates?

- a. number of vocational assessments made under the comprehensive assessment programme
- b. number of part-time trainees enrolled
- c. number of trainees who have completed full-time training
- d. number of trainees who have completed part-time training

Furthermore, as reflected by the indicators, the demand for part-time vocational training has far exceeded the estimates. How is the Administration going to resolve this discrepancy?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The indicators are drawn up in the light of the continuous decline since 2003-04 in the demand for training places, both full-time and part-time, at skills centres. We estimate that such a trend will stabilize in future years. Financial provision for the skills centres has been reduced to reflect the decrease. The decreasing trend is evidenced by the performance indicators over the years, as follows-

Key Performance Indicators	Academic Year			
	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Revised Estimate)	2006-07 (Estimate)
No. of vocational assessment made comprehensive assessment programme.... specific assessment programme	216 859	188 805	150 800	150 800
No. of trainees enrolled full-time..... Part-time.....	705 600	655 619*	595 360	660 360
No. of trainees completed training full-time..... Part-time.....	346 528	338 560#	250 300	250 300

* Including 211 trainees in Vocational Exposure Programme. Net enrolment for part-time course was 408.

Including 211 trainees in Vocational Exposure Programme completing the 3-day attachment.

The increase in the number of enrolled trainees for part-time courses and the number of trainee completed the courses in 2004-05 was brought about by some 210 students attending Extension of Years of Education Programme at special schools for the mentally handicapped seeking exposure to vocational training. The skills centres offered them a three-day Vocational Exposure Programme (VEP) to expose them to the training environment at the centres. Their enrolment contributed to the higher numbers of part-time trainees enrolled and completed training at skills centres. As VEP is not a training course per se, and for the fact that only minimal resource is expended on it, we did not include it under the performance indicators for 2005-06 Revised Estimate and 2006-07 Estimate. The centres have sufficient resources to cater for ad hoc requests for services such as VEP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB055

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretarial: Health, Welfare and Food Subhead (No. & title) : -

0252

Programme : (7) Subvention: Skills centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the following information concerning the above programme:

- a. the waiting time for admission to full-time and part-time vocational training courses in each of the three skills centres; and
- b. the number of job referrals for people with disabilities by the skills centres and the successful job placement rate of the graduates in the past two years.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

(a) As the demand for vocational training places at skills centres is declining, there are no people with disabilities waiting for courses offered at the centres.

(b) Skills centres conduct annual survey on employment status of their graduates half year after their leaving the centres. According to the findings of a survey (taken in January 2005) on graduates of school year 2003-04, skills centres provided job referral service to 165 graduates, with an employment rate of 79%. Raw data of the survey (taken in January 2006) for trainees graduated in 2004-05 are being analyzed, but preliminary findings indicate that 195 graduates secured employment through referral by skills centres, with an employment rate of about 85%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB056

Question Serial No.

0253

Head : 149 Government Secretarial: Health, Welfare and Food Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (7) Subvention: Skills centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As compared with the revised provision for 2005-06, provision for skills centres in 2006-07 will be cut by \$9.1 million. Please explain why the Government is not going to use the resources saved on increasing the number of training places, enhancing the quality of programmes and services and improving school facilities etc.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The reduction in provision to skills centres is made because of the continuous decline in demand for training places at the centres. We estimate that such a trend will stabilise, if not continue, in future years.

The reduced provision already includes costs for the re-training and development of staff, and maintenance and updating of existing facilities at skills centres for ensuring the quality of vocational training programmes on offer.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB057

Question Serial No.

0263

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As provision of \$46,587,000 under the subhead represents an increase of 533.4% over the revised estimate for 2005-06 and the increase is mainly due to increased requirement for replacement of specialized vehicles and other minor plant and equipment, please provide details on and justifications for the vehicles and equipment to be purchased or replaced.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

The provision of \$46,587,000 under Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) for 2006-07 is for the procurement of:

- (d) 27 replacement refuse collection vehicles (\$30,500,000) to replace those that will reach the end of their normal life span in 2006-07;
- (e) 2 additional street washing vehicles (\$1,700,000) to meet shortfall;
- (f) replacement of equipment (\$13,223,000) reaching the end of their serviceable life. These equipment include carbon filter systems at refuse collection points, air-conditioning systems/units at markets, offices and a crematorium, equipment for sump pump systems, and a brake tester system at a vehicle depot; and
- (g) installation of a horn cutter (\$1,164,000) in slaughterhouse to improve hygiene and enhance work safety.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB058

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretarial: Health, Welfare and Food Subhead (No. & title) : -

0286

Programme : (7) Subvention: Skills centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The subvention for skills centres will be reduced by \$9.1 million in 2006-07. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) How many staff are currently working in these skills centres and what are the staff costs?
- (b) Will there be a staff reduction in these skills centres after an organization restructuring? If yes, please list the reduced posts and numbers.
- (c) What impacts will the reduction in subvention for skills centres caused on their performance and the people with disabilities receiving training in the centres?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) For academic year 2005-06, there are 146 staff in the employ of the skills centres at an estimated staff cost of \$66M.
- (b) A re-engineering plan of the skills centres implemented since 2002-03 by phases will be completed by 2006-07. There is no further plan at this stage that would affect staffing requirements of the skills centres.
- (c) The reduction in provision to the skills centres is made in response to a reduced demand for vocational training places. It does not, in any way, affect the vocational training services provided to people with disabilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB059

Question Serial No.

0287

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under the indicator "raids against illegal slaughtering", the actual number of raids fell from 402 in 2004 to 307 in 2005. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Because of the effective enforcement actions carried out over the past few years, there has been a substantial decrease in illegal slaughtering in the territory. As a result, the number of raids against illegal slaughtering fell from 402 in 2004 to 307 in 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB060

Question Serial No.

0305

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning the plan to strengthen employment assistance at the district level by providing a one-off incentive of \$1,500 on a trial basis with a view to encouraging long-term Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to go to work, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- the details of the plan;
- the expenditure involved; and
- the number of recipients who will benefit from the plan.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : We will commission non-governmental organisations to run three District Employment Assistance Trial Projects for two years from October 2006 to September 2008 to provide a comprehensive package of employment assistance to help long-term unemployed CSSA recipients move into work. One project each will be launched in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai districts. To encourage participants to seek and remain in employment, a one-off incentive of \$1,500 will be granted to those who have secured a full-time job with a monthly wage of not less than \$1,435. The participant will be required to refund the incentive if he leaves the job without good reasons within the first four months.

The estimated total cost of the three trial projects is \$4.5m, including \$0.45m for the one-off incentive.

The three trial projects will serve a total of 300 unemployed CSSA recipients.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB061

Question Serial No.

0344

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the medical fee waiver mechanism, please advise:

- (a) According to the information provided by the Government, in the first 11 months of the 2003-04 financial year, the Hospital Authority only approved 8 368 non-CSSA applications for waiver of Accident and Emergency (A&E) fee, which accounts for only 0.5% of the total number of 1 574 695 A&E users during the same period. Some patients groups point out that the low approval rate shows that the existing waiver mechanism has failed to fully achieve its effect of helping the needy patients. They also point out that the chronically ill, low-income families and those patients who have to pay huge medical fees are under heavy financial burdens but ineligible for medical fee waiver. Will the Administration review the approval procedures for waiver applications in 2006-07? What is the estimated expenditure?
- (b) Will the public be consulted if the Administration conducts a review on the approval procedures for medical fee waiver mechanism? What will be the specific contents of the exercise and the estimated expenditure?
- (c) Some patients groups also point out that the public is not clear about the medical fee waiver as the publicity in this respect is seriously inadequate. When they fall ill, they choose not to seek medical treatment because of the medical fee or have to bear the medical fee, hence a heavier financial burden, on their own. Will the Administration enhance the publicity in 2006-07? What will be the specific contents of the exercise and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

- (a) The Government, together with the Hospital Authority (HA), will review the medical fee waiver system in the context of the new round of review on public medical fees to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. The review is planned for completion by around mid 2006. The Government has provided \$3 million to the HA for the commissioning of the review on public medical fees.

According to the record and projection of the HA, the amounts of fees waived by the HA for non-CSSA recipients between 2004-05 and 2006-07 are expected to remain around 6.2% of the total amount of fees charged by the HA per year. In actual dollar terms, the amount of fees waived for non-CSSA recipients in 2004-05 amounted to \$122 million.

- (b) We are still in the process of reviewing the medical fee waiver system. If proposed changes to the assessment criteria were to emerge, the views of patient groups would be consulted. At this point in time, we do not have an estimate on the amount of expenditure that may be involved.
- (c) Information on the medical fee waiver system is available through the HA website, registration counters of Accident and Emergency Departments and Medical and Social Services offices in public hospitals, and various service centres of the Social Welfare Department. In addition, a reminder note is printed at the back of all hospital bills and payment advices that patients with financial difficulties in paying the fees may contact the Medical Social Workers for assistance. We will continue with the present publicity arrangements in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB062

Question

Serial No.

0350

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

In 2006-07, the provision for social welfare will increase by \$25.1 million. In the analysis of financial and staffing provision, the Administration states that such an amount will be mainly used as an one-off provision to strengthen and extend family education; to strengthen support to welfare-related policies and services; and to meet the increase in operating expenses.

In this regard, would the Administration please inform this Committee of the allocation of provisions to the above three areas in 2006-07? Will any of the provisions be used to launch specific initiatives? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure for such initiatives?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

In 2006-07, the provision earmarked by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for social welfare will be increased by \$25.1 million when compared with the revised estimate of 2005-06. As the provision under this programme is used for a wide range of initiatives and activities, it is not possible for us list out all the detailed use of the increase in provision. However, we may highlight a few major items. For example, the Chief Executive has indicated in his Policy Address that new resources will be allocated to strengthen and extend family education and we have therefore reserved \$10 million under this programme. Moreover, funds have also been earmarked for other initiatives such as the organization of the International Festival of Inclusive Arts, public education to promote mental health and purchase of more Rehabuses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB063

Question Serial No.

0355

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

On Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, please provide information on the work of the "Gender Focal Points Network" established within the Administration, the government departments and policy areas involved, and the related estimated expenditure. For the gender-related training given to civil servants, please give information, by department and rank, on the number of training courses provided, their contents and the expenditure incurred in 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. With the help of the Women's Commission, an analytical tool in the form of a "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" has been developed, and we are gradually introducing the use of the Checklist in different policy or programme areas. So far, the Checklist has been applied to 19 policy or programme areas, including five in 2005-06.
All bureaux and departments have already designated a senior officer (a directorate officer in most cases) as the "Gender Focal Point" within their respective organizations. The Gender Focal Points help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, promote gender mainstreaming and the use of the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, and liaise and coordinate within their organizations, with the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) and the Women's Commission. They are connected through HWFB to form a network. In 2005-06, a core group of selected Gender Focal Points has been set up to devise plans or strategies to facilitate the bureaux/departments for proactive application of the Checklist. In 2006-07, we will continue to roll out the Checklist to more policy or programme areas on an incremental basis. We will also follow up on the suggestions made by the core group. The workload associated with the Gender Focal Point Network is absorbed by existing resources of HWFB and the participating bureaux and departments.

- (2) As regards the gender-related training for civil servants, three seminars and five workshops are organized in 2005-06 at a cost of HK\$196,580 for some 456 staff of various bureaux and departments.

The seminars are organized for some 356 frontline staff and supervisors to promote understanding and sensitivity of gender issues. Contents included gender-related concepts, international conventions and government policies. A breakdown of the statistics is at Annex I.

The workshops are organized for some 100 officers involved in policy formulation or

programme implementation. Contents are more focused on government policy on gender mainstreaming and its application. A breakdown of the statistics is at Annex II.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Training Statistics of the Seminars held in 2005-06

(a) No. of officers by department and bureau Bureau/Department	No. of Officers
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	9
Architectural Services Department	1
Auxiliary Medical Service	5
Buildings Department	4
Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	2
Civil Aid Service	4
Census and Statistics Department	11
Civil Engineering and Development Department	6
Civil Service Bureau	2
Correctional Services Department	12
Customs and Excise Department	3
Chief Secretary's Office including Administration Wing	4
Drainage Services Department	5
Department of Health	20
Department of Justice	2
Education and Manpower Bureau	8
Environmental Protection Department	10
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	1
Fire Services Department	2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	17
Government Property Agency	1
Highways Department	13
Home Affairs Bureau	3
Home Affairs Department	6
Hong Kong Observatory	1
Hong Kong Post	7
Hong Kong Police Force	40
Housing Authority	4
Housing Department	29
Immigration Department	22
Independent Commission Against Corruption	1
Invest Hong Kong	1
Information Services Department	1
Inland Revenue Department	3
Intellectual Property Department	4
Judiciary	8
Land Registry	9
Lands Department	7
Labour Department	9
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	15
Marine Department	4
Planning Department	2
Radio Television Hong Kong	1
Rating and Valuation Department	11
Social Welfare Department	11
Student Financial Assistance Agency	1
Trade and Industry Department	7
Transport Department	3
Treasury	2
Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	1

Water Supplies Department

1

Total :

356

Training statistics of workshops held in 2005-06

Bureau/Department	No. of Officers*
Gender Focal Points from various bureaux and departments	15
Social Welfare Department - Social Work Officers, Social Security Officers	50
Home Affairs Department - Liaison Officers	20
Newly Recruited Administrative Officers	15
Total :	100

[Note: *The number would be updated by 31 March 2006.]

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB064

Question Serial No.

0356

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The Government will increase provision for this programme by \$2.9m in 2006-07. Specifically, on what businesses or initiatives will be increased provision be used?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The increase in recurrent provision for this programme area in 2006-07 is mainly due to the anticipated increase in the expenses for organizing programmes, liaison with local women's groups, participation in major international forums as well as conducting surveys and studies. For example, we will provide support to the Women's Commission, among other on-going initiatives, for organizing a conference or seminar on a variety of topics of interests to women, and for preparing a database and organizing a seminar to promote women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies. We would work out the details with the Commission.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

HWFB 065

Question Serial No.

0357

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As the Bureau will “continue to provide support to the Women’s Commission in promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to tackle domestic violence and nurturing caring families”, will there be an increase in provision for 2006-07? What are the initiatives and activities planned and the estimated expenditure involved in this respect for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Women’s Commission published its report entitled “Women’s Safety in Hong Kong: Eliminating Domestic Violence” in January 2006. It has chosen the World Health Organization (WHO) approach, using a co-ordinated community intervention model, to address the problem. The report have put forward 21 recommendations, covering law reform; services; publicity; professional knowledge-sharing, documentation and research; hospitals, health and medical sectors; gender mainstreaming and gender-related training; early identification and intervention; and community networking. The Commission has urged all stakeholders, including the relevant Government bureaux and departments as well as the non-governmental sector, to take a more proactive approach to domestic violence. The Commission will work together with stakeholders and the wider community to monitor the progress of the recommendations. In this connection, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, as the Commission’s secretariat, would provide secretarial support to members, and the associated workload would be absorbed by the existing resources of the Bureau.

Apart from the above, the Commission has been taking forward two researches related to nurturing of caring families in the community. It has engaged the University of Hong Kong, at a cost of \$200,000 (including \$60,000 in 2005-06 and \$140,000 in 2006-07), to undertake a research on core values to be promoted through parenting education. The objective is to identify a set of core values for instilling in children for their personal nourishment, with due consideration of the views of relevant stakeholders such as education practitioners and parents etc. Besides, the Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have jointly engaged the Ningnan University, to conduct a fact-finding research in respect of family friendly employment policies and practices (FEPPs) in Hong Kong. The objectives are to examine the needs, awareness, and prevalence of FEPPs in Hong Kong, as well as the expectations and the cost and benefits of FEPPs in our society. The total cost of the FEPP research is around \$480,000 shared between the two Commissions, and

we have already transferred around \$240,000 to EOC in 2005-06 to coordinate subsequent payments to the consultant. Both studies are expected to be completed in mid 2006. In addition, the Women's Commission is also developing a pilot project on quality parenting education, and liaising with potential partners. Resource requirement of this initiative will be worked out with the Commission during the course of the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB066

Question Serial No.

0361

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Could the Administration provide information on the following under this Programme:

- (a) The number of intensive counselling, brief counselling and supportive casework cases served by the integrated family service centres (IFSCs) in the previous year by district.
- (b) The existing staff number and establishment of IFSCs.
- (c) In 2006-07, 21 posts will be created under this Programme. How many of these posts will be created for IFSCs? If there are posts created for IFSCs, will these posts be held by frontline staff?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) The transformation of 61 IFSCs was completed in March 2005. The total number of intensive counselling, brief counselling and supportive casework cases served by IFSCs from April to December 2005 by district is as follows:

District	Total no. of intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases served
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	7 264
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	6 949
Yuen Long	5 544
Tuen Mun	4 217
Kwun Tong	6 692
Tai Po and North	5 544
Eastern and Wan Chai	7 168
Sha Tin	4 367
Sham Shui Po	4 905
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	6 231
Central, Western and Islands	2 240
Southern	2 492
Total	63 613

(b) 40 out of 61 IFSCs are operated by the Social Welfare

Department (SWD), whereas the remaining 21 IFSCs by nine non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Each IFSC has a minimum of 12 social workers apart from a supervisor and individual IFSCs may have more social workers depending on the population served and the complexity of social problems in the district. As NGOs are allowed to deploy their resources in a flexible manner under the Lump Sum Grant arrangement to provide services meeting district needs and the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement, we do not have the breakdown on the existing staff number of NGO-run IFSCs. As for SWD's IFSCs, the existing staff establishment by district is as follows:

District	No. of SWD-run IFSCs	Establishment of Social Worker [exclude supervisor]
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	5	84
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	5	82
Yuen Long	3	50
Tuen Mun	3	55
Kwun Tong	4	56
Tai Po and North	4	65
Eastern and Wan Chai	4	62
Sha Tin	4	66
Sham Shui Po	2	29
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	3	47
Central, Western and Islands	2	24
Southern	1	18
Total	40	638

- (c) The net increase of the number of posts under Programme (1) in 2006-07 is 21. All the new posts are frontline social work staff posts and will be created in the IFSCs and the Family and Child Protective Services Units for implementation of the Family Support Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB067

Question Serial No.

0352

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Curative Care

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The target related to the appointment time for new dermatology cases cannot be achieved because a number of experienced doctors have left the service in the year. In this regard, please advise if the Administration has already recruited sufficient number of doctors to meet the target for 2006-07. What is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Three specialists in dermatology left the Social Hygiene Service (SHS) in 2005, amounting to a wastage rate of 9.6%.

The Department of Health (DH) has arranged internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits to replace doctors who left the SHS. Besides, DH plans to employ four contract doctors on a part-time basis in 2006-07 to shorten the appointment time. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB068

Question Serial No.

0353

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With respect to the relevant financial provision, the amount allocated to the subvented sector is increased by 4.8%, from \$31.4M in 2005-06 to \$32.9M in 2006-07. In this regard, could the Administration advise if the increased provision will result in an increase in the number of subvented organisations? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

There is only one subvented organisation under this Programme, namely the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong. The increase in provision of 4.8% is mainly due to capital subvention of \$943,000 in 2006-07 for the repair works of its Yuen Long Clinic Building.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB069

Question Serial No.

0354

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With respect to the relevant financial provision, the amount allocated to the subvented sector is reduced by 6.4%, from \$25M in 2005-06 Revised Estimate to \$23.4M in 2006-07 Estimate. In this regard, could the Administration advise the reason(s) for the decrease? Will the number of subvented organisations be affected as a result of reduction in provision? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The number of subvented organisations under this programme in 2006-07 will remain at three, viz the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH), Hong Kong St John Ambulance and Hong Kong Red Cross.

The decrease in provision in 2006-07 is mainly due to the completion of general non-recurrent projects in 2005-06 by COSH.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB070

Question Serial No.

0351

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under matters requiring special attention in 2006–07, the Department will “follow up the regularisation of private kitchens.” In this connection, please advise on:

- the estimated expenditure involved; and
- the progress made so far, and the timetable for legislative amendments.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The expenditure involved is not estimated to be significant and will be absorbed within the existing allocation. The Administration is finalizing the detailed licensing requirements and conditions and preparing the draft amendment legislation. We plan to introduce the amendment legislation in 2006.

Signature	
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB071

Question Serial No.

0358

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under the indicator "courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors", the actual figure in 2005 was 215 but the estimated figure for 2006 is 100. Please advise why the figure is revised downward and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

It is anticipated that the demand for Hygiene Supervisor (HS) training will decrease in 2006 with the launch of the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Scheme since May 2005. As at 28.2.2006, about 49,000 participants have successfully completed HS courses organised or recognised by the Department against the current demand of around 20,000 HSs for some 20 000 licensed food premises. The estimated expenditure for the 100 HS courses is \$0.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB072

Question Serial No.

0359

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the 71 posts to be created under Programme (1) in 2006-07, please advise on:

- a. the estimated expenditure involved;
- b. whether these 71 posts are permanent posts, their respective ranks and relevant duties.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) A financial provision of \$16.5 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for the creation of the 71 posts.
- (b) The 71 posts are permanent posts. A breakdown of these posts is as follows:

Grade	No. of Posts
Medical and Health Officer	4
Health Inspector	46
Chemist	2
Science Laboratory Technician	7
Scientific Officer	6
Administrative Support Staff	6
Total	71

The 71 posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB073

Question Serial No.

0360

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 is “to take enforcement actions against littering” (paragraph 11 on page 243, Volume A of the Estimates). Please advise on:

- a. the estimated expenditure involved; and
- b. whether performance indicators have been set for the enforcement actions. If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Taking enforcement action against cleanliness offences is an integral part of the duties of Health Inspectors, Hawker Control Officers and Foreman Grade staff. There is no separate breakdown of expenditure incurred for such duties.
- (b) The Department has not set any performance indicators as enforcement action against littering is evidence-based.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title _____

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

HWFB 074

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

1229

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with assisting farmers to capture high-value-market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, will the Administration inform this Committee whether it will provide:

- (a) subsidies or loans to farmers for assisting their development in this area apart from the provision of technical advice? If yes, what is the estimated amount of expenditure involved? What are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) assistance to farmers in other areas such as marketing and wholesaling apart from technical support? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

(a) Farmers intending to invest in intensive greenhouse production or organic farming may apply for low interest rate loan from the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund or the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund. Since we started promoting organic farming and greenhouse production in 2003, 15 loan applications for such purposes amounting to \$550,000 have been approved. The loan expenditure for 2006-07 will depend on the number of loans and the amount of principal approved.

(b) We assist farmers marketing their produce to high end markets like hotels, health institutions, supermarket chains and specialty health food stores through the sale network of the Vegetable Marketing Organization. We also promote direct sale by farmers through agro-tourism and weekend farmer markets. In addition, we organize regular promotional activities and exhibitions to promote local produce to consumers.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

11 March 2006

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

HWFB 075

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

1269

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The estimated provision in 2006-07 is 84.7% higher than the revised provision in 2005-06. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the new work items in 2006-07 apart from the existing items in 2005-06? Please state each work item, the expenditure involved and the implementation schedule.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The financial provision for Programme (1) in 2006-07 is \$376.1 million, which is \$172.5 million (or 84.7%) higher than the 2005-06 Revised Estimate of \$203.6 million. The increase is mainly due to the increase in non-recurrent provision amounting to \$179.8 million for ex-gratia payment to live poultry farmers, wholesalers and related transporters and one-off grants to the affected live poultry farm, wholesale and transport workers under the Voluntary Surrender Scheme (VSS).

The VSS is a one-year voluntary surrender scheme which started on 5 August 2005 for live poultry farmers, wholesalers and transporters who choose to receive an ex-gratia payment in exchange for surrendering their licences/tenancies and ceasing operation on a permanent basis. The purpose is to minimize the risk of avian influenza outbreak.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB076

Question Serial No.

1262

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide reasons for an increase of 21.7% in the 2005-06 revised estimate as compared with the 2005-06 original estimate for Programme (5).

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The increase of 21.7% in the 2005-06 revised estimate is due to replacement of four rehabuses and procurement of five additional rehabuses to improve the service as against the original plan of replacing only one rehabus.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB077

Question Serial No.

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

1263

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Did the Administration receive any complaints on the rebus service affirmative, what are the figures and details? Are there any complaints relating to the equipment of rebus? Will the Administration improve the service quality of rebus in response to these complaints?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In 2005, 18 complaints were received on rebus service. They were related to the rebus drivers' performance or operational arrangements. None of these complaints was related to the equipment of rebus. The Transport Department and the rebus operator have examined all the complaints and taken measures to improve the quality of the rebus service including training for drivers and procurement of buses with up-to-date on board accessories and design.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB078

Question Serial No.

1217

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

(1) What are the details of the 43 permanent posts to be created in 2006-07 and the expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2006-07, there will be a net increase of 43 permanent posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. This involves the creation of 71 posts and the deletion of 28 posts. A financial provision of \$16.5 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for this purpose.

A breakdown of these new posts is as follows :

Grade	No. of Posts
Medical and Health Officer	4
Health Inspector	46
Chemist	2
Science Laboratory Technician	7
Scientific Officer	6
Administrative Support Staff	6
Total	71

The 71 new posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB079

Question Serial No.

1220

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the establishment ceiling, non-directorate posts will be increased from 10 995 in 2006 to 11 038 in 2007, with an addition of 43 posts.

1. What are the respective ranks and relevant duties of these new posts?
2. What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In 2006-07, there will be a net increase of 43 permanent posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. This involves the creation of 71 posts and the deletion of 28 posts. A financial provision of \$16.5 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for this purpose.

A breakdown of these new posts is as follows :

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The 71 new posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB080

Question Serial No.

1221

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the establishment of a committee to review food standards, please advise on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure involved;
- (b) when the committee will be set up, how it will operate and the relevant details; and
- (c) whether performance indicators have been set for the committee. If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

A Food Safety Committee will be established under the new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. The CFS will provide support to the Committee. There is no separate breakdown on financial provisions specially reserved for its operation.

We aim to set up the Food Safety Committee within 2006. The Committee will consist of academics, professionals, food experts and trade representatives. It will be responsible for advising on the formulation of food safety measures and reviewing of food safety standards in the light of international practices, trends and developments. No performance indicators have been set for the work of the Committee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB081

Question Serial No.

1222

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As the Department will examine the feasibility of extending to a few selected districts in addition to Kowloon City District the trial scheme on contracting out market management, please advise on:

- a) the estimated expenditure involved;
- b) the dates the feasibility study commences and when the results are available;
- c) the details of the extended trial scheme;
- d) the details of deletion of posts, if any;
- e) the districts to be selected and the selection criteria.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Contracts for market management services are awarded through open tender. Expenditure will only be known after the completion of the tendering exercise.
- (b) The Department is exploring the possibility of extending the scheme, within 2006-07, to two other selected districts, namely, Mongkok District and Wong Tai Sin District.
- (c) The extended scheme will include the contract out of overall management, cleansing services, minor repairs and maintenance of five markets/cooked food centres and four markets/cooked food centres respectively in Mongkok District and Wong Tai Sin District.
- (d) We expect manpower savings of around 55 civil service posts when the scheme has been extended. The incumbent staff will be gainfully redeployed.
- (e) The Department has selected Mongkok District and Wong Tai Sin District because the current market/cooked food centre cleansing contracts in the two districts will expire in 2006-07, thereby offering a good opportunity to outsource all relevant services in each market/cooked food centre to one contractor.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB082

Question Serial No.

1202

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration stated in the Targets that residential care places in self-care (S/C) hostels and homes for the aged (H/A) are being converted by phases into care-and-attention (C&A) places to provide a continuum of care as from 2005-06. However, the 5 468 S/C and H/A places in the 2005-06 revised estimate will be drastically reduced by 2 627, down to 2 841 in the 2006-07 estimate. In addition, C&A places in the 2006-07 estimate will be reduced by 738 when compared with the 2005-06 revised estimate, while there will only be an additional 1 758 places provided by homes participating in the conversion of S/C and H/A places. In other words, C&A places will only be increased by 1 020 in total, thus failing to meet the demand resulted from the reduction of S/C and H/A places. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Subsidised S/C hostel and H/A places were introduced in 1960s targeting at elders capable of self-care but had housing needs.

International trend indicates that continuum of care is more suitable for older people with long-term care needs. In line with this principle, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the conversion programme to convert S/C and H/A places which have no long-term care element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places with continuum of care. The conversion proposal was supported by the welfare sector. The Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in March 2005.

Altogether, there are about 10 700 places in 75 homes which will be converted under the conversion programme. About 7 400 are S/C and H/A places. About 3 300 are C&A places not providing continuum of care.

The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a S/C place, a H/A place, or a C&A place not providing continuum of care. As the conversion exercise is conducted on a subvention-neutral basis, the number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places being replaced under the conversion programme. On the basis that all the 10 700 places will be converted, we project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will ultimately be generated under the conversion programme.

Although 2 627 S/C and H/A places and 738 existing C&A places without continuum of care are to be reduced as a result of the conversion in 2006-07, these places will be transformed into C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for long-term care services.

In parallel, we will continue to increase the number of subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care in purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>11 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB083

Question Serial No.

1210

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Enrolment rate of day care centre for the elderly in the subvented/private sectors was 115%. Does it mean there is over-enrolment? Can the day care centre fulfill the needs of the elderly? Is the situation found in particular districts or all districts in Hong Kong? Are there plans to ease the situation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply : For various reasons, e.g. sick leave, attending medical appointments, there will be a number of elder members absent from the day care centres every day. Setting the enrolment rate at 115% helps to maximise the utilisation of the day care places.

Overall, there is a 2.4% vacancy rate for the 1 955 day care places as at February 2006, although there are waiting lists in some districts. Situation on the ground may change from time to time. The waiting time varies from a couple of days to a few months. To cope with this, a new 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a contract home in Kwai Tsing in 2006-07. Two more planned units, each with 20 day care places, will also be set up in two contract homes in Kwun Tong and Yuen Long respectively in 2007-08. We will keep in view the district demand and will continue to identify possible venues for provision of additional day care services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB084

Question Serial No.

1213

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that a Family Support Programme (FSP) will be launched in 2006-07 to increase connection with vulnerable families. Could the Administration provide the details of the Programme, the manpower to be deployed for implementing the Programme, and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will launch a FSP in Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. It aims to serve vulnerable families who are identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units. The target groups mainly include families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation. Under FSP, through telephone contacts, home visitations and other outreaching service, we aim to introduce needy families to various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crisis before will be recruited to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. Programme Assistants will also be employed to assist in the non-professional logistics so as to enable social workers to focus mainly on professional intervention. About \$30m additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement FSP. SWD will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including the funding and manpower arrangement.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB085

Question Serial No.

1214

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Could the Administration provide the number of outreaching cases for domestic violence in last year for each integrated family service centre?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : There is an extensive network of 61 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) over the territory providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services to the needy, including those affected by domestic violence. Depending on individual case circumstances, social workers of IFSCs will proactively reach out the needy facing various personal or family problems with a view to achieving early identification and timely intervention. However, we do not capture separate statistics on the number of cases involving domestic violence which require outreaching service by IFSCs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB086

Question Serial No.

1215

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In view of the severity of domestic violence in Tin Shui Wai, what new measures and services will be implemented by the Administration in 2006-07 in Tin Shui Wai and Northwest New Territories to meet the needs? How many manpower and resources (such as funding) will be allocated to these districts in 2006-07 to tackle and resolve domestic violence?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims and batterers of family violence and families facing crises. These services include public education launched under the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence", a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through the Integrated Family Service Centres, residential care placements for children, specialised services of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSU) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs) of SWD, refuge centres for women (RCW), Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), etc. In view of the rising number of domestic violence cases in the New Territories West (NTW), an additional FCPSU was formed in Yuen Long in April 2005 and the FCPSU(NTW) will be split into two teams in order to better serve the cases in Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing in April 2006 with addition of a Senior Social Work Officer through re-deployment of resources. Other service units such as residential care placements for children, FCSC, RCW, CPUs, etc. are provided on a territory-wide basis. The provision to be allocated to Tin Shui Wai and Northwest New Territories to tackle domestic violence cannot be separately ascertained.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB087

Question Serial No.

1216

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Administration will strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and the Contract Management Section (CMS) to enhance the inspection of RCHEs and enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS). Could the Administration provide information on the following:

- (1) The number of posts planned to be created in the coming year for the above two units;
- (2) The duties and ranks of the additional staff;
- (3) The estimated increase in the number of inspections of RCHEs and EHCCS after the addition of new staff; and
- (4) The expenditure involved in the addition of new staff.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) The Licensing Office of RCHEs plans to create a total of 11 staff and the CMS plans to create a total of five staff.
- (2) With a view to stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors (i.e. five social workers and five Registered Nurses (RN)) will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen both the Social Work Inspectorate Team and the Health Inspectorate Team of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Home for the Elderly (LORHCE). Also, a Social Work Officer will be redeployed to LORCHE to enhance coaching and supervisory support.

The CMS of the Social Welfare Department will employ one additional RN, one Project Officer, one Technical Support Assistant and one Clerk in 2006-07 to strengthen the monitoring of contract homes and the EHCCS. Also, a social worker will be posted through re-deployment to further enhance the contract management mechanism.

- (3) With the strengthened manpower in the Licensing Office of RCHEs, the inspectors will step up actions in paying surprised inspections, conducting complaint investigations and undertaking prosecutions against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements. The frequency of surprised inspections to RCHEs will be increased by about 30% against the current level of about 4 400 inspections per year. With the strengthened manpower in CMS, intervals of regular spot checks and service reviews will be shortened. More coaching and supervision will be rendered to those service providers requiring close attention.
- (4) The planned provision for the additional staff is \$4.5m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>11 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB088

Question Serial No.

1204

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Government allocates additional provision for reviewing the childhood immunisation programme in the light of changes in disease epidemiology and immunisation practices. In this regard, what are the details of such review? How much additional resource is involved? When will the new childhood immunisation programme be implemented?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

In line with international development in childhood immunisation practice, the Department of Health is actively considering replacing oral poliovirus vaccine with inactivated poliovirus vaccine and whole-cell pertussis vaccine with acellular pertussis vaccine. It is estimated that this change will require an additional annual recurrent cost of \$29.4M. The new immunisation programme is expected to be implemented in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB089

Question Serial No.

1223

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the footnote under the Targets of this programme area, the residential care places in self-care (S/C) hostels and homes for the aged (H/A) are being converted by phases into care-and-attention (C&A) places as from 2005-06. However, the total number of these two kinds of places as stated in the Targets keeps on decreasing each year. For example, the total number of S/C, H/A and C&A places in 2004-05 was 18 572, but as stated in the Targets, the numbers for the 2005-06 revised estimate and the 2006-07 estimate drop to 16 310 and 12 945 respectively. Could the Administration tell us the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Subsidised S/C hostel and H/A places were introduced in 1960s targeting at elders capable of self-care but had housing needs.

International trend indicates that continuum of care is more suitable for older people with long term care needs. In line with this principle, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the conversion programme to convert S/C and H/A places which have no long term care element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places with continuum of care. The conversion proposal was supported by the welfare sector. The Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in March 2005.

Altogether, there are about 10 700 places in 75 homes which will be converted under the conversion programme. About 7 400 are S/C and H/A places. About 3 300 are C&A places not providing continuum of care.

The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a S/C place, a H/A place, or a C&A place not providing continuum of care. As the conversion exercise is conducted on a subvention-neutral basis, the number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places being replaced under the conversion programme. On the basis that all the 10 700 places will be converted, we project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will ultimately be generated under the conversion programme.

Although 2 627 S/C and H/A places and 738 existing C&A places without continuum of care are to be reduced as a result of the conversion in 2006-07, these places will be transformed into C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for long-term care services.

In parallel, we will continue to increase the number of subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care in purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>11 March 2006</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB090

Question Serial No.

1224

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Three pilot Enhanced Community Work (CW) projects tailor-made for the long-term unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients will be implemented by the Administration in 2006-07. Could the Administration provide the details of the three projects and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The CW Programme under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme aims to help unemployed recipients of the CSSA to develop a work habit, widen their social network, and enhance self-esteem so as to pave the way for eventual gainful employment and contribute to society. To explore the feasibility of re-shaping the CW Programme by injecting training and personal development elements to enhance the employability of CW participants, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured non-recurrent funding from the Lotteries Fund to commission non-governmental organisations to run three projects on a trial basis as follows:

- (1) CW Experience and Training (CWET) Programme: this is a 2-year project run by the Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited from April 2005 to March 2007 to provide 1 000 (500 per year) long-term unemployed CSSA recipients (i.e. unemployed recipients of CSSA participated in Active Employment Assistance for 12 months or more) in Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung Districts with CW and targeted job skills training;
- (2) Mosaic Public Arts (MPA) Project: This is a 5-month project operated by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Festivals from end of August 2005 to January 2006 to help some 40 long-term unemployed youths on CSSA in Sha Tin and Tai Po/North Districts increase their self-confidence, build up their sense of responsibility and commitment, enhance social skills through mosaic skill training/team work and assembling a mosaic mural to improve the public environment; and
- (3) CW-cum-Occupational Skills Training Project: This is a 17-month project run by the Society for Rehabilitation and

Crime Prevention, Hong Kong from January 2006 to May 2007, providing up to 216 long-term unemployed recipients of CSSA and youths in Kwun Tong/Kowloon City Districts with skill trainings and CW placements on three targeted job posts (dog trainer, programme assistant and general assistant).

The related expenditure including administrative support expenses for the above projects are \$7.1m for 2005-06 and \$5.5m for 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB091

Question Serial No.

1225

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : For those districts where the problems of unemployment and poverty are more acute, such as Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Kwun Tong and Sham Shui Po, will the Administration allocate more resources according to the needs of those districts when implementing the pilot Enhanced Community Work (CW) projects? If yes, please list out the estimated provision to be allocated to the above districts under the projects.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : In 2005-06, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had secured funding from the Lotteries Fund to commission non-governmental organisations to run three Enhanced CW Projects on a trial basis, aiming to help the long-term unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients enhance their employability and build up their self-confidence to rejoin the workforce through an alternative model. These three pilot projects are run in Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung; Sha Tin and Tai Po/North, Yuen Long; and Kwun Tong/Kowloon City where there is increasing trend of long-term and unemployed recipients.

SWD will evaluate the effectiveness of the three pilot projects after their completion and consider the future plan of the Enhanced CW Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB092

Question Serial No.

1226

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Brief Description under this programme that the Administration has enhanced the outreaching support services for young night drifters (YNDs) in integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs). Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The details of the enhancement of services, the additional manpower required and the estimated expenditure involved;
- (b) The reasons why despite the fact that the outreaching support services have been enhanced, there are no increases in the number of outreaching social work teams, the number of cases served and the number of clients identified in the 2006-07 estimate; and
- (c) Will the Administration specially enhance the outreaching social work services in those districts where there are more youth problems, such as Tin Shui Wai, the North District, Tung Chung, Tuen Mun, etc. in 2006-07? If yes, what are the details and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (a) & (b) Outreaching services are provided through ICYSCs or District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams (DYOSWTs). As regards services for YNDs, these are provided by 18 designated ICYSCs.

In the Brief Description under this programme, we mentioned that we have enhanced the outreaching support services for YNDs in ICYSCs. This involves an additional \$12.9m effective from 2005-06. Each designated ICYSC is given either two or three additional social workers according to specific district needs. A total of 44 social workers together with increased programme provisions are provided accordingly. In light of this significant service improvement to render early identification of potential youth at risk and timely service intervention, we believe the provision for other outreaching

social services is adequate.

- (c) SWD has taken into account youth needs in various districts, in particular those with more youth at risk in allocating outreaching social work services. The provision for such services in the districts concerned is as follows:

District	Number of designated ICYSCs rendering YND service	Number of DYOSWTs [@]	Total
Yuen Long District including Tin Shui Wai	2	1	3
Tai Po and North District	2	2	4
Central, Western and Islands District* including Tung Chung	1	1	2
Tuen Mun District	1	1	2
Total	6	5	11

[@] There are 16 DYOSWTs. Both DYOSWTs and ICYSCs render outreaching social work services to young persons. The former targets at hardcore youth on a district basis while the latter youth in general within their catchment areas.

* The Central and Western/Islands District has a lower youth crime rate and a smaller number of YNDs and young drug abusers when compared to other districts. The existing outreaching teams in the district can therefore support Tung Chung area as well.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB093

Question Serial No.

1227

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Indicators of this programme area, the enrolment rate of sheltered workshops (SWs) of both the government and subvented sectors has remained overloaded at 104% for three consecutive years. Could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Why couldn't the indicator be lowered for three consecutive years?
- (b) Why didn't the Administration increase the number of sheltered workshops to meet the employment needs of people with disabilities?
- (c) The waiting time for people with disabilities to work in a SW.
- (d) Has additional resource been allocated by the Administration in the 2006-07 estimate to meet the needs of people with disabilities for employment services or SWs? If it has, what is the amount? If it hasn't, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (a) The purpose of the above-100% enrolment rate is to improve the daily attendance rate of the SWs. The Department conducted an internal value-for-money study on SW service in February 2003. The study revealed that the average daily attendance from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 was only 88% despite full enrolment of the SWs. Factors contributing to the relatively low attendance rate include trainees' frequent hospitalisation, medical appointment, absence from SWs due to bad work habits and family commitments, etc. To make fuller use of the resources, the Department recommended an above-100% enrolment rate for SWs. Nevertheless, the number of people served at any one time would not exceed the designated capacity of the service unit. Accordingly, while the enrolment rate of the period from 2004-05 was 104%, the average daily attendance rate was 94%.

(b) To meet the vocational training needs of disabled people with different work abilities, the Department implemented the Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young

People with Disabilities (311 places) in 2005-06. In addition, the Extended Care Programmes in SW/integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs) implemented in 2005-06 also increased the provisions in these two types of services by 120 places. For 2006-07, there is also a planned addition of 45 SW places and 70 IVRSC places.

- (c) The average waiting time of SWs in 2004-05 was 12 months.
- (d) There will be additional provisions of 45 SW places and 70 IVRSC places in 2006-07. The estimated expenditure for the additional provision is \$3.2m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB094

Question Serial No.

1245

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Indicators of this programme area show that the number of cases served by the medical social services increased year by year, from 154 458 in 2004-05 to 160 800 in 2006-07, whereas the caseload per worker registered annual decreases. Could the Administration inform this Committee whether this is caused by the addition of manpower? If yes, please set out the number of additional staff deployed to these services in the past two years and the number of staff that will be added in 2006-07. If not, please explain why the caseload per worker decreased by each year despite the yearly increase in the number of cases served.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The figure on the number of cases served reflected the total number of cases, including those closed during the year, handled by medical social workers (MSWs) in the year. The average caseload, on the other hand, reflected the average number of active cases of each MSW at any point in time. Despite the estimated increase in the number of cases served, the average caseload per MSW is expected to have a slight decrease in 2005-06. This is due to the management's effort to implement effective caseload management whereby MSWs would actively review case progress, provide intensive services to patients/families and to close the case once the problem is settled or the case is taken by another unit. For 2006-07, there will be an addition of eight MSWs, which will also result in lowering the average caseload per MSW.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB095

Question Serial No.

1246

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : An additional provision of \$200.4m (7.9%) will be allocated by the Administration to this programme area. Would the Administration inform this Committee of which new plans and projects will the provision be spent on? Please provide details of these items and set out the estimated expenditure for each of the items.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The planned additional provisions and new items for 2006-07 and their estimated expenditures are given below:

Items	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 (\$m)
1. Addition of 50 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	4.6
2. Addition of 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	3.2
3. Addition of 50 day activity centre places	2.6
4. Addition of 45 sheltered workshop places	1.1
5. Addition of 120 supported hostel places	8.2
6. Addition of 120 early education and training centre places	5.2
7. Addition of 70 integrated vocational rehabilitation centres places	2.1
8. Setting up cluster-based community rehabilitation day centres	8.3
9. Launching a visiting medical practitioner scheme for the disabled in subvented rehabilitation homes	10.4

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB096

Question Serial No.

1247

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is elderly applicants' average waiting time for the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) for the past two years?
- (b) Regarding the above two services, will the Administration provide more services and increase the budget for them in 2006-07? If yes, please give the details and the expenditure involved. If not, why not?
- (c) Will the Administration consider increasing the number of EHCCS Teams in 2006-07 in the face of an ageing population and to tie in with the ageing in place policy?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

- Reply :
- (a) There are vacancies for frail cases in IHCS and EHCCS teams.
At present, there are about 2 000 ordinary cases waitlisted for IHCS. All of them are not urgent cases. The waiting time varies from districts to districts, ranging from a couple of days to a few months.
 - (b) To take forward our vision of "ageing in place", the Financial Secretary has allocated an additional \$20m recurrent money in 2006-07 for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen home care services for elders in need. We aim to deploy the additional resources to increase the capacity of home care services for elders provided by the IHCS teams.
 - (c) The service volume of seven EHCCS teams was increased in December 2005 to generate an additional 181 places to meet the service needs. Depending on the service demand, SWD will suitably increase the service capacity of the remaining 11 EHCCS teams when the agreed service capacity is reached.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB097

Question Serial No.

1248

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Administration will strengthen training and support services for family members and carers of people with disabilities (PWDs). Would the Administration inform this Committee of the details of the measures to be taken, the number of family members and carers of PWDs expected to benefit from such measures, and the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Planned new provisions by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen the training and support to carers of PWDs in 2006-07 are as follows:

New Provisions	Estimated Beneficiaries (per year)	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)
1. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDCs)</u> SWD would set up five cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training, for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities are essential services rendered by these centres.	5 000	8.3 for 2006-07 (full-year effect 16.6)

<p>2. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients</u> The centre provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living.</p>	<p>150</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charities Trust for four years including recurrent expenditure of 9.9 for 2006-07)</p>
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Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB098

Question Serial No.

1201

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 (paragraph 37 on page 408 in Volume IA of the Estimates) (Chinese Version), it is stated that the Hospital Authority will facilitate the development of family medicine. Please advise:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) How will the development of family medicine be facilitated? What are the details? and
- (c) Are any objectives set for the project? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

In 2006-07, the Hospital Authority (HA) will further promote the development of family medicine (FM) through the following measures –

Enhancing the gate-keeping function of the general outpatient clinics (GOPC)

- 18 family medicine specialist clinics will be operated to strengthen the GOPC service's gate-keeping function, chronic illness management and inter-specialty and inter-disciplinary collaboration.
- 13 nurse clinics will be maintained to enhance the role of nursing in the management of chronic illnesses at the primary care level.

Improving accessibility and service quality of GOPCs

- Continue to implement the following improvement measures at the GOPCs in 2006-07, which include providing scheduled appointments for chronically ill patients, extending prescription durations, and rolling out the pilot automated phone appointment system for patients with episodic illness.

Promoting public-private interface

- Patient-held record system will be rolled out to improve exchange of patient information between public and private medical practitioners.

Training in FM

- Recruit about 60 medical graduates for basic FM training.
- Provide around 23 full-time equivalent of FM trainers.
- Employ at least 50% of graduating basic FM residents for one more year to fill vacancies in GOPC related services.

As the above programmes and measures form an integral part of HA's services, the expenditure involved in most of the above programmes are not readily identifiable, with the exception of training in FM which is expected to require a total expenditure of \$93 million in 2006-07.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB099

Question

Serial No.

1203

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, there is an item about pursuing further the development of a medium-sized poultry slaughtering plant. Please advise:

- (a) the specific scope of the study and whether it includes the number of medium-sized poultry slaughtering plant, the scale as well as mode of operation;
- (b) whether provision has been made for implementing the above development in the coming year. If yes, please state the expenditure involved and how the amount is calculated.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

- (a) Our study will identify a suitable site and draw up the broad development programme including the mode of operation of the slaughtering plant.
- (b) We have tentatively earmarked \$1.3 million in the coming year for engaging a consultant to draw up tender documentation for the project. The amount of provision is estimated with reference to the fees of consultancies of similar nature.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB100

Question Serial No.

1228

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards financial provision, the provision for the Hospital Authority (HA) has been increased by \$219.7 million (0.8%) from \$27,541.4 million for 2005-06 to \$27,761.1 million for 2006-07. The HA's financial position should be improved with the increased provision. However, it still plans to raise medical charges. What is the reason for that?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

With the additional provision of subvention from the Government in 2006-07 together with other measures taken by the Hospital Authority (HA), it is hopeful for the HA to more or less balance its budget. Meanwhile, the Government, together with the HA, are conducting a new round of review on public medical fees. As the review is still in process, there is no conclusion yet on the possibility of increase in medical fees. The purpose of fee increase, if to be implemented, would be to instil upon the HA users a sense of value of the services they are receiving in order to influence patients' behaviour and to reduce abuse of services and wastage of medical resources. The review has no direct causal connection with the HA's financial situation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB101

Question Serial No.

1230

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

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

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the commitments under Item 484 Grant to the Samaritan Fund, where the revised estimated expenditure of \$150,000,000 for 2005-06 represents 75% of the approved commitment of \$200,000,000, would the Administration inform this Council whether the commitment will be increased to meet the rising expenditure; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons behind this?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

Item 484 under Subhead 700 for general non-recurrent funding refers to the creation of a commitment of \$200 million for a grant to the Samaritan Fund (the Fund) that was approved in 2005-06. The grant is to be injected into the Fund by two instalments, with the first of \$150 million already made in 2005-06 and the second of \$50 million to follow in 2006-07. Apart from the said grant, the Fund has other sources of income, which include donations from the community and various charitable organisations and Government reimbursements for assistance given under the Fund to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. The Government and the Hospital Authority will closely monitor the income and expenditure of the Fund. We will also review its long-term funding arrangement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 102

Question Serial No.

1231

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating Expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the General Departmental Expenses under Departmental Expenses, where the estimated amount of \$154,675,000 for 2006-07 represents a significant increase of \$92,215,000 over the revised estimate of \$62,460,000 for 2005-06, would the Administration inform this Council of the reasons behind this?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The increase of \$92.2 million (147.6%) in the general departmental expenses in 2006-07, as compared with the 2005-06 revised estimate, is mainly due to the additional provision for influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious disease control/health services initiatives; and the one-off provision to strengthen family education and support to welfare-related policies and services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 103

Question Serial No.

1232

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating Expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the Allowances under Personal Emoluments, where the estimated amount of \$4,409,000 for 2006-07 is \$611,000 above the revised estimate of \$3,798,000 for 2005-06, would the Administration inform this Council of the reasons behind this?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The increase of \$611,000 (16%) in allowance expenses in 2006-07, as compared with 2005-06 revised estimate, is mainly due to the provision for acting allowances payable to officers assuming posts on an acting basis either for the purpose of assessing their suitability for substantive appointment or for covering the temporary absence of substantive holders to meet management/operational needs. Such acting appointments may arise from time to time as a result of staff changes and movements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB104

Question Serial No.

1211

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

Programme : (4) Curative Care

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Only 61% of the cases met the targeted appointment time within 12 weeks for new dermatology cases on account that a number of experienced doctors had left the service in the year. How many dermatology specialists quit or resigned and please advise – (a) the turnover rate of dermatology specialist; (b) whether the situation would expect to continue or worsen in the coming year; and (c) possible solution to the problem?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

Three specialists in dermatology left the Social Hygiene Service (SHS) in 2005, amounting to a wastage rate of 9.6%.

The Department of Health (DH) has arranged internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits to replace doctors who left the SHS. Besides, DH plans to employ four contract doctors on a part-time basis in 2006-07 to shorten the appointment time. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB105

Question Serial No.

1212

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the childhood obesity programme, what is the estimated expenditure involved and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) promotes healthy eating among members of the community as part of its ongoing activities in fostering a healthy lifestyle. To enhance its efforts in tackling the problem of childhood obesity, DH will launch a school-based campaign in 2006, targeting at over 440 000 primary school students. The campaign enlists intersectoral and multidisciplinary support from schools, health and dietary professionals, caterers as well as relevant Government departments. Guidelines on healthy school lunchboxes will be reviewed, updated and issued to schools, and educational resources for teachers and parents will be developed, coupled with training and publicity. The additional allocation for the campaign in 2006-07 will be \$3M. With internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits, a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, dietitians, health promotion officers, research and marketing personnel will be formed to carry out the campaign.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB106

Question Serial No.

1237

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under the indicator on “no. of enrolment in elderly health centres”, the estimated number for 2006 is 38 000. Could the Administration inform this Council of the percentage represented by this number among the elderly population in Hong Kong? Will the Administration consider increasing the number under this indicator? If so, what are the details? If not, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

38 000 enrolments in Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) represents about 4.5 % of the total population aged 65 or above in Hong Kong as at end 2005.

EHCs are not the only means to address the health care needs of the elderly. All the stakeholders have to work together to take concerted efforts to meet the varying needs of the elderly through various measures and services. Apart from EHCs, the Visiting Health Teams of Elderly Health Services (EHS) reach out into the community to provide health promotion activities for elders and carers. Also, there are more than 70 general out-patient clinics run by the Hospital Authority which provide general medical services to members of the public, including elders. Private practitioners are also key providers of primary health care. Besides, some non-government organisations (NGOs) are operating health centres on a self-financing basis. EHS will strengthen collaboration with stakeholders including private practitioners and NGOs to enhance primary health services for the elderly in Hong Kong. At present, there is no plan to expand EHCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB107

Question Serial No.

1238

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Operational
expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With respect to the item on "Departmental Expenses / Temporary Staff", the provision for temporary staff is increased by \$19,584,000 from \$218,937,000 in 2005-06 (Revised Estimate) to \$238,521,000 in 2006-07 (Estimate). In this regard, please inform this Council of the following -

- (a) What is the basis used by the Administration for making such projection?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) What are the ranks and scope of responsibilities of these additional temporary staff? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

It is anticipated that 81 additional contract staff (doctor, nurse, research officer, tobacco control inspector, health promotion project manager, health surveillance staff, administrative and clerical support staff) are required for new initiatives in tobacco control, comprehensive child development service, health promotion programmes on childhood obesity and port health measures in preparation for the revised International Health Regulations which will soon come into effect. The additional cost is estimated at \$15M broken down as follows -

	Contract Staff No.	<u>Provision</u> (\$M)
Port health measures in relation to the revised International Health Regulations	47	8.1
Tobacco control enforcement	22	3.6
Health promotion programmes on childhood obesity	3	1.6
Comprehensive child development service	9	1.7
	<u>81</u>	<u>15.0</u>

Another \$4.6M is required mainly to cover the full-year effect of posts partially filled in 2005-06 and salary adjustments implemented for contract staff in December 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB108

Question Serial No.

1272

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

Programme : (5) Rehabilitation

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) What was the expenditure spent by the Department of Health in 2005-06 for providing therapy to children with developmental problems? What was the number of clients involved? In 2006-07, what is the estimated expenditure in this regard?
- (b) What was the expenditure spent by the Department of Health in 2005-06, for counselling parents of children with developmental problems? What was the number of parents counselled? In 2006-07, what is the estimated expenditure in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The Child Assessment Service (CAS) assesses children with developmental problems through a multidisciplinary approach. The total attendances for assessment and other services at the CAS in 2005 were 27 500, involving 15 600 children. In 2005-06, the expenditure for CAS is about \$71.2M. For 2006-07, the provision is \$71.9M.
- (b) Counselling to parents is an integral part of the services provided by the CAS and the expenditure on such counselling is not separately identifiable. There are no readily available statistics on the number of parents having been counselled.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB109

Question Serial No.

1276

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the past three years, what were the respective annual expenditures spent by the Department of Health in the publicity and education programme on smoking prevention? Out of these expenditures, what were the respective annual expenses for conducting publicity and education on smoking prevention among minors? In 2006-07, what are the details and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The expenditures on publicity and education programmes on tobacco control in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were \$18.5M, \$23.1M and \$26.6M respectively. In 2006-07, the provision will be \$29.1M, representing an increase of \$2.5M.

The Department of Health (DH) adopts an integrated approach to promoting a smoke-free culture in Hong Kong including anti-smoking activities to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, and a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service. In 2006-07, DH will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

While publicity and education programmes generally cover all ages, there were some specific programmes directed at youth and women. In 2006-07, such activities will include health talks and lectures to schools and social service organisations, interactive education theatre programmes, and training of students as tobacco control advocates. The anticipated spending in 2006-07 will be \$1.4M, which will be at the same level as those of the past three years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB110

Question Serial No.

1295

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Curative Care

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In regard to this Programme, please advise on the following -

- (a) What were the respective expenditures incurred by various specialised outpatient clinics under the Department of Health in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure for 2006-07?
- (b) Does the Department of Health have any plan to take measures in 2006-07 with a view to shortening the waiting time for specialised outpatient clinics? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure for the specialised outpatient clinics providing curative service in the Department of Health (DH) is as follows -

	<u>2005-06</u> (Revised Estimate) \$M	<u>2006-07</u> (Estimate) \$M
Tuberculosis and Chest Service	214.8	223.3
Social Hygiene (Dermatology and Special Skin Service)	96.1	97.4
HIV Management	80.2	81.8

- (b) There is essentially no waiting time for Tuberculosis and Chest Clinics and HIV clinics. In 2005, the performance of the Social Hygiene Service (SHS) was affected by the resignation and retirement of three specialists in dermatology from the SHS. The wastage rate of doctors was 9.6%. DH has arranged internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits to replace doctors who left the SHS. Besides, DH plans to employ four contract doctors on a part-time basis in 2006-07 to shorten the appointment time. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB111

Question

Serial No.

1273

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The expenditure under this programme has increased by 40%. The Administration indicates that this will be used for strengthening family education and supporting welfare-related policies and services. Will the Administration provide us with more detailed work plans and data? (p.437, Volume 1A)

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

In 2006-07, the provision earmarked by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for social welfare will be increased by \$25.1 million when compared with the revised estimate of 2005-06. As the provision under this programme is used for a wide range of initiatives and activities, it is not possible for us list out all the detailed use of the increase in provision. However, we may highlight a few major items. For example, the Chief Executive has indicated in his Policy Address that new resources will be allocated to strengthen and extend family education and we have therefore reserved \$10 million under this programme. Moreover, funds have also been earmarked for other initiatives such as the organization of the International Festival of Inclusive Arts, public education to promote mental health and purchase of more Rehabuses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB112

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

1274

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The expenditure under this programme increases by more than 50%. Could the Administration explain how this expenditure is used to prevent influenza pandemic? (Volume 1A English version P.437)

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

We have set aside about \$54 million in the Bureau in 2006-07 to meet various contingencies for combating a possible influenza pandemic, for example, an urgent need to step up port health or other public health measures. We expect that measures and initiatives that may probably require additional funding support will include temperature screening for outgoing travellers, health declaration measures carried out at immigration control points, special public education and publicity programmes and purchase of effective vaccines for the influenza pandemic in the event they become available, etc.

The actual expenditure will depend on a number of factors relating to the scale and nature of such an outbreak, which are unknown to us at the moment. We therefore cannot state at the present how this amount will be specifically deployed. Nevertheless, this \$54 million will provide the flexibility and a buffer to ensure that any response measures that have not been budgeted for can be activated in a timely manner. If it turns out that additional funding is needed, we will seek the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for additional allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB113

Question Serial No.

1277

Head: 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

At present, both the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Department of Health (DH) provide community care services for the elderly. It has been mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Bureau will “explore means to further develop community-based elderly care services, enhance long-term care (LTC) services”. Will the Administration advise on how community care services for the elderly will be coordinated between the SWD and the DH to optimize the use of resources? And what will be their respective estimated expenditures on and arrangements for such services in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The Elderly Health Services (EHS) of the Department of Health (DH) has been working closely with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to promote health education for elders in the community, and help operators of community care services, elderly centres and residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) enhance their health care know-how. Major areas of co-operation include:

- (a) DH's 18 Visiting Health Teams (VHTs) co-operate with elderly centres to conduct health education for elders in the community;
- (b) VHTs have joined hands with the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) of SWD to assess the infection control capability and training needs of RCHEs. LORCHE would refer RCHEs identified to have problems in care skills and know-how during inspections to VHTs for on-the-spot training. Also, VHTs provide on-site training to the Infection Control Officers in RCHEs; and
- (c) VHTs and the Elderly Health Centres of DH carry out annual influenza vaccination programme for elders.

In addition, there are regular meetings between DH, SWD and the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to discuss interface issues regarding the delivery of elderly services.

Government expenditure on community care and support services for elders in 2006-07 is estimated to be around \$1B. Government expenditure on EHS of DH in 2006-07 is estimated to be \$146.6M.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB114

Question Serial No.

1278

Head: 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is indicated in Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Bureau will work with the Elderly Commission to consider options for Long-Term Care financing. Would the Administration inform us of the estimated expenditure and detailed scopes of this study?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) is working with the Elderly Commission (EC) to review existing long-term care (LTC) services, with a view to coming up with recommendations on means to further enhance elderly care. In this regard, the EC has set up a Working Group on LTC Model (the Working Group) to suggest means for realizing "ageing in the community", promoting multi-disciplinary co-operation and exploring possible options for LTC financing, having regard to discussions by the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee. The Working Group is serviced by HWFB's existing manpower and resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB115

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

1279

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is indicated in Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Bureau will collaborate with the Central Policy Unit in conducting studies on financial security for the elderly. Would the Administration inform us of the estimated costs and detailed scopes of the studies?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Central Policy Unit is now conducting two research projects on the sustainability of the three pillars of retirement protection¹ and the financial disposition and retirement planning of current and future generations of older persons. The studies are staffed by existing CPU research personnel and will not require the creation of additional posts. The total estimated budget of the studies is about \$1.3 million. The studies are expected to be completed within 2006-07.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs. Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB116

Question

Serial No.

1285

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

On introducing legislation on implementing a nutrition labeling scheme for prepackaged food, please advise:

- (a) details of the plan and the expenditure and staffing establishment for 2006-07;
- (b) the progress for promoting the plan, ways to read the label and comprehend the information;
- (c) whether the provision would be increased to expand the scope of promotion to various sectors (e.g. the elderly and their carers, patients, foreign maids, etc.) If yes, please provide details of the plan;
- (d) whether a nutrition information analysis database applicable for food in Hong Kong would be established. If yes, please advise the details and scheduled time for completion.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) We plan to implement the nutrition labeling scheme in two phases. Upon the enactment of the legislation, there will be a two-year grace period before the implementation of Phase I, in which prepackaged food with nutrition claims will be required to label energy plus five core nutrients. There will be another two-year grace period between the implementation of Phase I and Phase II. In Phase II, all prepackaged food, unless exempted, will be required to label energy plus nine core nutrients. We intend to introduce the Amendment Regulation to Legislative Council in 2006-07. All works related to the implementation of the nutrition labeling scheme will be taken up by existing staff and the expenditure will be absorbed by existing resources.
- (b) Publicity and education programmes on nutrition labelling for the general public has been carrying out since 2002 through a multitude of channels including TV and radio Announcement of Public Interest, media interviews, departmental website, teaching kit, train-the-trainer workshops, talks, roving exhibitions as well as audio-visual and printed education materials. The education materials include ways to read the label and comprehend the nutritional information.
- (c) Upon enactment of the amendment regulation, the publicity and education programme will come into full swing with much wider scope. The Food and Environmental Hygiene

Department is planning to launch a range of educational activities on the new labelling scheme on nutrition information aiming to reach all sectors of the community through a wide array of programmes including train-the-trainer workshops for relevant professional groups including health care workers.

- (d) The Government has no plans to establish a nutrition information analysis database.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
 Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB117

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

1286

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been mentioned under this Programme that the provision for 2006-07 will be increased by \$59.5 million for the implementation of infectious disease control measures. Would the Administration provide details on the following:

- a. What are the newly introduced and enhanced measures, the manpower required as well as the funding arrangement? What are the expected outcome and the outcome indicators? How will the Administration ensure that the expected outcome can be achieved with the funding provided?
- b. Have any strategies, scientific researches and emergency plans been made for the control of cross-border and local transmission of infectious diseases? If yes, what is the expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

Under Programme Area 3, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) formulates and coordinates policy and programmes to protect and promote health, prevent and treat illness and disease and minimize the impact of disability. In relation to infectious diseases, HWFB works closely with the Department of Health (DH) and its Centre for Health Protection (CHP).

Increase in provision under Programme Area 3 is mainly due to the additional provision for influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious disease control, and other health services initiatives. As far as influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious diseases control are concerned, \$54 million has been set aside in the Bureau in 2006-07 to meet various contingencies, for example, an urgent need to step up port health or other public health measures that have not been budgeted for.

At the operational end, the CHP focuses on training, surveillance, risk communication, research, coordination and preparedness and contingency planning. The CHP has drawn up and will regularly update preparedness plans for major infectious disease outbreaks with public health significance, including influenza pandemic, etc. These plans provide a set of prescribed public health measures to cater for cross-boundary and local outbreaks. Under these plans, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilizing volunteers during public health emergencies; organizing infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on

preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks. On the port health front, temperature screening measures for inbound passengers at immigration control points have been enhanced. In 2006-07, \$956 million has been earmarked for DH to undertake the operations of the CHP and various port health measures. Their staff complement is about 1 900.

We will keep closely in view the outbreak situation and monitor the effectiveness of our various public health measures, taking into account international best practices and operating experience, and refine our disease prevention and control strategies and plans as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB118

Question

Serial No.

1288

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The Bureau proposed to promote organic farming to facilitate sustainable development of local agriculture, please set out and advise:

- (a) details of the plan, related implementing agencies, expenditure required, staffing establishment, expected achievements and the criteria for assessment;
- (b) the number of farms and acreage devoted to organic farming at present;
- (c) the current percentage of organic farms in local agriculture and projected percentage for the coming years;
- (d) whether the authorities concerned provide technical support to the industry. If yes, please provide details of the support and expenditure required;
- (e) whether the plan includes promoting a label certification mechanism for organic food amongst the industry. If yes, please provide details of the plan and expected achievement. If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) In 2006-07, we will focus on assisting organic farmers to improve their produce quality for higher return through knowledge transfer and better marketing outlets. We will work with tertiary institutions to improve soil quality and to increase production in summer. We will also make use of the established sale network of the Vegetable Marketing Organization to extend local organic produce to high end markets like hotels, health institutions, supermarket chains and specialty food stores. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has allocated sufficient funding to achieve these objectives.
- (b) At present, there are a total of 53 organic farms covering some 26 hectares of land.
- (c) In terms of farming area, the current percentage of organic farms in local agriculture is about 8%. The development of organic farming in Hong Kong is totally market driven. We do not set our targets on the number and area of local organic farms under this free market environment.
- (d) The Administration regularly organize technical seminars and demonstrations for farmers at local vegetable marketing cooperative societies and at our experimental farm in Sheung Shui, covering subjects like integrated pest management, horticultural practices, composting techniques, soil management, seed saving, selection of species and organic certification requirements. We also

conduct regular farm visits to provide on-farm technical advice on these issues. The staff and expenditure required is provided in AFCD's Head 22.

- (e) We actively support Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC), a non-profit making organization to develop and implement an organic certification system in Hong Kong. So far, HKORC has established a series of local organic standards and certified a total of 21 local organic farms and processing units. We expect that more than 300 tonnes of organic food available in retail outlets will be certified by HKORC in 2006/07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB119

Question

Serial No.

1289

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

On pursuing further the development of a medium-sized poultry slaughtering plant (on page 403 of Volume IA). Please advise:

- (a) the projected expenditure and staffing establishment for 2006-07;
- (b) the focus, actual scope of work and timetable for the study;
- (c) the scheduled time for completing the study;
- (d) the scheduled time for setting up a medium-sized poultry slaughtering plant.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) Except that \$1.3 million has been tentatively earmarked for engaging a consultant to prepare tender documentation for the slaughtering plant project, we will absorb the additional work involved at the preparatory stage by existing staff and resources.
- (b) We aim to have a suitable site for the plant identified and draw up the broad development programme including the mode of operation of the plant by mid-2006.
- (c) We aim to confirm the site for the development of the slaughtering plant and complete the study by mid-2006.
- (d) Given the preparatory work involved for the project, including an environmental impact assessment which is a statutory requirement and normally takes close to a year to complete, possible amendment to the relevant Outline Zoning Plan for change of land use of the site ultimately selected for the development of the plant, public consultation, legislative amendment, invitation for expressions of interest by the private sector, tendering, evaluation of bids, contract negotiation, design and construction, we expect that the plant could only come into operation in 2009 the earliest.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB120

Question Serial No.

1290

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the rehabilitation & palliative care services provided under the ambulatory & outreach services as indicated under the heading of Delivery of Services, the number of home visits by community nurses has increased from 778 970 in 2004-05 (Actual) to 835 000 in 2006-07 (Estimate). Has there been any annual increase in the number of community nurses? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

While the increase in the number of community nurses from 383 to 390 in 2005-06 enables more home visits, the expected increase in the number of home visits from 778 970 in 2004-05 to the estimated number of 835 000 in 2006-07 is largely achieved through a number of efficiency enhancing measures, such as decentralisation of service centres, use of hand-held electronic device for documentation and improved provision of transport services for community nurses. The estimated total cost for the Community Nursing Service in 2006-07 is about \$242 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB121

Question

Serial No.

1297

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: **(5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety**

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

According to the Estimates (page 437 of Volume IA), the Administration has earmarked a one-off provision under the programme for implementing food safety policies. Please advise how the resources would be used and whether the Administration would consider providing recurrent funding for the purpose.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

The additional \$3 million one-off provision for food safety regulation under Head 149 is earmarked for the study on the regulation of fisheries products safety, promotion on inspection and quarantine requirements on plants and animals and reserves for contingency measures arising from unforeseeable events such as avian influenza, etc. Expenditure for these activities falls within Programme 5, which caters for a number of activities, hence the provision in respect of each item may not be separately identifiable. The Administration may consider providing recurrent funding for the purpose if necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB122

Question
Serial No.

1298

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Will the Administration provide resources under the programme to meet the cost for policy research and consultation exercise to facilitate the implementation of central or regional slaughtering?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

We will undertake policy research and consultation exercise relating to the development of a poultry slaughtering plant by deploying existing staff and resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB123

Question Serial No.

1270

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Department plans to conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness and user satisfaction of the re-engineered centred-based community support services for elders. In this connection, could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the format and specific plan of the study?
- (b) What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (c) Will the study report be published? If so, when will it be? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

- Reply :
- (a) The Study will evaluate the effectiveness and user satisfaction of the District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Community Centres (NECs) against a set of indicators to assess whether these centres are conducive to facilitating community-based integrated services, healthy ageing and empowerment, family responsibility, client-focused care, efficiency and innovativeness. The consultant will conduct questionnaire surveys, focus group discussions, individual interviews, case studies and documentary reviews, involving users of the DECCs and NECs, carers and the elders being looked after by them. The Study commenced in December 2005.
 - (b) Through invitation of quotations, we have awarded the contract to the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong to conduct the Study at \$0.64m. The Consultancy Team is headed by an Associate Professor. He will be underpinned by three key researchers, two fieldwork managers, and a team of 10 full-time and 10 part-time interviewers.
 - (c) The final report of the Study is targeted to be completed by September 2006 and the findings will subsequently be published.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB124

Question Serial No.

1271

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the launch of a Family Support Programme (FSP) to increase connection with vulnerable families:

- (a) What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the Programme?
- (b) How vulnerable families are defined? Who is responsible for defining vulnerable families and implementing the Programme?
- (c) Will the effectiveness of the Programme be evaluated? If yes, when will the evaluation be carried out? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

- Reply :
- (a) About \$30m additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement a FSP. The FSP will be launched in Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. The target groups mainly include families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including funding and manpower arrangement.
 - (b) Based on their professional assessment, social workers will identify families who are in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crisis before will be recruited to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. Programme Assistants will also be employed to assist in the non-professional logistics so as to enable social workers to focus mainly on professional intervention. We will introduce these needy families to various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of their problems.

- (c) The FSP is a new programme. SWD will, through on-going exchanges with the service providers, critically examine whether and in what way the target groups mentioned in (b) above are better connected with the necessary services after the implementation of the FSP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB125

Question Serial No.

1275

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, a Family Support Programme will be launched to increase connection with vulnerable families. Why the number of vulnerable households contacted and referred by the Family Support Network Teams does not show an increase in the 2006-07 Estimate?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Family Support Programme is to be launched in Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units. The Family Support Networking Teams will not be involved and hence there will not be a change to their indicators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB126

Question Serial No.

1280

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Could the Administration inform this Committee of the additional number of day care places to be provided in residential care homes, and the specific arrangement involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : A new 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a contract home in Kwai Tsing in 2006-07. Two more day care units, each with 20 day care places, will be set up in two contract homes in Kwun Tong and Yuen Long respectively in 2007-08. We will keep in view the district demand and will continue to identify possible venues for provision of additional day care services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	_____
Date	Director of Social Welfare

	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB127

Question Serial No.

1281

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the strengthening of manpower of the Contract Management Section (CMS) in order to enhance the monitoring of contract homes and enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS), what are the details about it? How much manpower will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The CMS of the Social Welfare Department will employ one additional Registered Nurse, one Project Officer, one Technical Support Assistant and one Clerk in 2006-07 to strengthen the monitoring of contract homes and the EHCCS. Also, a social worker will be posted through re-deployment to further enhance the contract management mechanism.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB128

Question Serial No.

1282

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The enrolment rate for day care centres for the elderly, which was at 115% in 2005-06, is estimated to exceed 100% in 2006-07. What are the reasons for that? Would the Administration introduce any measures to address the problem of over-enrolment?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : For various reasons, e.g. sick leave, attending medical appointments, there will be a number of elder members absent from the day care centres every day. Setting the enrolment rate at 115% helps to maximise the utilisation of the day care places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB129

Question Serial No.

1283

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning the provision of training for non-professional and professional staff serving demented elders, what is the estimated expenditure involved in 2006-07 and what are the training arrangements in detail?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : In 2006-07, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to demented elders. There will be two classes involving three training days each for professional staff and two classes involving two training days each for non-professional staff. The total estimated expenditure is \$120,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB130

Question Serial No.

1284

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the specific plan and arrangements for converting the residential care places in self-care (S/C) hostels and homes for the aged (H/A) into care-and-attention (C&A) places?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The conversion programme is open to 75 existing subvented residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operating S/C and/or H/A places. It involves about 10 700 existing residential care places. 7 400 of them are S/C and H/A places and 3 300 are C&A places without continuum of care. We project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will be generated eventually, including about 2 900 new C&A places. To ensure that the programme is implemented in an orderly and effective manner, the programme is being carried out by phases based primarily on a vacancies-led approach.

In June 2005, the Social Welfare Department launched Stage One of the conversion programme. In 2005-06, RCHEs meeting the criteria for conversion and physically ready with upgraded facilities will provide about 1 114 C&A places with continuum of care.

Some RCHEs participating in the conversion programme will have to complete their upgrading renovation works in order to make the home setting ready before admission of elders at C&A care level. We are planning to launch Stage Two of the conversion programme in mid-2006 as some RCHEs will have reached the vacancies level for conversion by then. We expect that an additional 1 758 C&A places with continuum of care will be created in 2006-07 through the conversion programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB131

Question Serial No.

1287

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Administration will strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and provide training to enhance the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs. Please inform this Committee what is the estimated expenditure for strengthening the manpower and the number of additional staff to be recruited? How could the Administration enhance the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs after strengthening the manpower?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : With a view to stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors (i.e. five social workers and five Registered Nurses) will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen both the Social Work Inspectorate Team and the Health Inspectorate Team of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE). Also, a Social Work Officer will be redeployed to LORCHE to enhance coaching and supervisory support. The planned provisions for the addition staff is \$3.4m.

Apart from stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution with the additional staff, Social Welfare Department has set out enhanced requirements standards in various aspects relating to the operation of RCHEs in the new Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) October 2005 (Revised Edition) for RCHEs to follow. Full implementation took effect in January 2006. Moreover, referral arrangements with Hospital Authority, Department of Health and Labour Department in areas of health care services, training and occupational health and safety were established. All these initiatives will ensure that the quality of care and services of RCHEs is monitored in a concerted manner.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB132

Question Serial No.

1296

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs) under this programme area, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following information in 2005-06:

- (a) the number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) participated in the projects;
- (b) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and near-CSSA unemployed who have joined the projects;
- (c) the number of posts available for job matching for the participants in the projects as well as the nature and salaries of the posts;
- (d) the number of participants who have left CSSA net successfully; and
- (e) the government expenditure incurred in each batch of the projects.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (a) Since October 2003, the Social Welfare Department has launched 105 IEAPs. Currently, 39 NGOs have been commissioned to run the 105 projects.
 - (b) The number of IEAP participants is set out below:

Year	No. of CSSA Participants	No. of 'near-CSSA' Unemployed
Oct 2003-Sep 2004	4 778	1 467
Oct 2004-Sep 2005	8 705	2 874
Oct 2005-Jan 2006	6 865	1 487
Total	20 348	5 828

- (c) Of a total of 26 176 participants (i.e. 20 348 CSSA recipients and 5 828 near-CSSA unemployed), NGOs have assisted

10 376 participants in securing full-time employment. About 76% of the jobs taken up by the participants are service workers/shop sales workers and elementary occupations with monthly remuneration ranging from HK\$3,001 to \$5,000. We do not have information on the number of jobs that the NGOs have matched for IEAPs participants.

- (d) The number of participants who have left the CSSA net successfully as a result of taking up paid employment is as follows:

Year	No. of CSSA participants who have left CSSA net	No. of CSSA participants who have moved to the CSSA Low Earnings category
Oct 2003 - Sep 2004	625	1 136
Oct 2004 - Sep 2005	1 162	3 298
Oct 2005 - Jan 2006	200	764
Total	1 987	5 198

- (e) The government expenditure incurred for running the different batches of IEAPs in 2005-06 is:

1st Batch of 40 projects (\$m)	2nd Batch of 30 projects (\$m)	3rd Batch of 35 projects (\$m)
29.7	22.5	11.9

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB133

Question Serial No.

1308

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department projected that the financial provision for Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services in the 2005-06 revised estimate to be 3.6% less than that of the original estimate. With such a reduction, can the Administration achieve its expected targets for various projects carried out last year? The estimated financial provision for 2006-07 is 7.9% higher than that of the 2005-06 revised estimate. Please state separately the items to be increased and the details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : There had been a slight adjustment to the schedule of some of the projects leading to the decrease in the revised estimate for 2005-06. Nevertheless, the Department was able to implement all the 2005-06 planned targets for Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services within 2005-06.

The planned additional provisions and new items for 2006-07 and their estimated expenditure are given below:

Items	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 (\$m)
1. Addition of 50 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	4.6
2. Addition of 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	3.2
3. Addition of 50 day activity centre places	2.6
4. Addition of 45 sheltered workshop places	1.1
5. Addition of 120 supported hostel places	8.2
6. Addition of 120 early education and training centre places	5.2
7. Addition of 70 integrated vocational rehabilitation centres places	2.1

8. Setting up cluster-based community rehabilitation day centres	8.3
9. Launching a visiting medical practitioner scheme for the disabled in subvented rehabilitation homes	10.4

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB134

Question Serial No.

1313

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration plans to hive-off Wai On Home for Women (WOHW) to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for management and operation in 2006-07. Does it involve a deletion of posts in the Government? If yes, how much expenditure can be saved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Upon the hiving-off of WOHW to an NGO in 2006-07, five posts in the Social Welfare Department will be deleted. Part of the saving will be included in the subvention to the NGO concerned for operating the service resulting in a net saving of \$0.022m a year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB135

Question Serial No.

1314

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will rationalise the provision of day crèche places in 2006-07. What are the details and how much savings can be expected?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : All along, the Social Welfare Department has been working closely with day crèche operators on the adjustment to the provision of day crèche places based on service need and mutual agreement. In 2006-07, we plan to re-provision a day crèche of 40 places for children aged 0-2 from Tuen Mun to Tung Chung to form a kindergarten-cum-child care centre with a planned capacity of 100 places for children aged 2-6. The re-provisioning will result in an adjustment of standalone day crèche places from 680 to 640 and an increase in provision of 100 places for children aged 2-6. There is no saving generated from the re-provisioning exercise.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB136

Question Serial No.

1315

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of training courses for social workers and professionals on handling child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse and suicide cases, what were the details and expenditure involved in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (1) In 2005-06, with additional funding, over 3 000 training places were provided to strengthen training on family violence. These included advanced skills training on child abuse and spouse battering for 200 frontline social workers and clinical psychologists, training on prevention of elder financial abuse for 480 social workers, and care and management staff in residential care setting, as well as a series of district training programmes, in the form of seminars, on family violence (including child abuse, spouse battering and elder abuse) for 2 400 social workers, related professionals and district personnel. Besides, 320 training places on suicide were provided to social workers. The total expenditure amounted to \$0.95m.
- (2) In 2006-07, the focus of training will shift to advanced and intensive training. A total of 500 training places will be provided on child abuse and spouse battering, 200 training places on elder abuse and another 150 training places on suicide. The estimated expenditure for these training programmes is around \$0.19m. The Department will also from time to time review the training needs of staff in handling family violence cases.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB137

Question Serial No.

1316

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many posts related to "Social Security" were created by the Administration in the form of civil service permanent establishment, non-civil service contract and contract for services in 2005-06? What was the expenditure involved respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, there is a net deletion of 3 civil service posts in relation to social security services and the annual savings involved are about \$0.3m. During the same period, 56 non-civil service contract jobs are created in relation to social security services and the expenditure involved is about \$4.1m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB138

Question Serial No.

1317

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration implemented intensified measures under the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme in 2005-06. How many employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients have been assisted to become self-reliant successfully under the Scheme? What was the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure for implementing the Scheme in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has implemented the SFS Scheme since June 1999 and intensified its measures since June 2003 to assist the able-bodied unemployed on CSSA back to work. In 2005-06 (up to January 2006), 14 744 participants who enrolled in the SFS Scheme left CSSA altogether or reduced their reliance on CSSA as a result of paid employment. As at end of January 2006, there are 42 757 active participants in the programme. The related expenditure of the SFS Scheme for 2005-06 is \$66.3m. The estimated expenditure of the SFS Scheme for 2006-07 is \$77.3m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB139

Question Serial No.

1318

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration implemented the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs) in 2005-06. How many employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients have been assisted to secure employment? What was the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure for running IEAPs in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : From October 2003 to the end of January 2006, 26 176 participants (including 20 348 CSSA participants and 5 828 'near-CSSA' unemployed) have joined the IEAPs. Out of the 20 348 CSSA participants, 7 185 have left CSSA altogether or reduced their reliance on CSSA as a result of securing paid employment. The breakdown is as follows:

Year	No. of CSSA Participants (a)	No. of 'near-CSSA' Unemployed (b)	Out of (a), no. of CSSA Participants changed CSSA status due to securing full-time jobs (c)
Oct 2003-Sep 2004	4 778	1 467	1 761
Oct 2004-Sep 2005	8 705	2 874	4 460
Oct 2005-Jan 2006	6 865	1 487	964
Total	20 348	5 828	7 185

The IEAPs are co-funded by the Lotteries Fund (LF) and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT). The expenditure including administrative support expenses for running 105 IEAPs in 2005-06 is \$64.2m. The estimated expenditure including administrative support expenses for 2006-07 is \$77.3m and funding will come from LF, HKJCCT and the Government.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB140

Question Serial No.

1319

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the "New Dawn (ND) Project" to be implemented by the Administration in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In order to empower single parents/child carers with the youngest child aged between 12 to 14 under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme to achieve self-reliance and social integration through engagement in employment as early as possible, we will launch the 'New Dawn' Project (the Project) for 18 months commencing April 2006.

The total cost of running the Project for 18 months from 1 April 2006 to September 2007 would be \$30m. This would be shared between the Lotteries Fund (\$22.9m) and the Social Welfare Department (\$7.1m) including cost for employing 40 additional Employment Assistance Co-ordinators to implement the Employment Assistance Programme under the Project.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB141

Question Serial No.

1321

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise the number of posts created for providing elderly service under the civil service permanent establishment, non-civil service contract and outsourcing contract in 2005-06 and the expenditures incurred respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, six non-civil-service contract posts were created in phases for elderly services and the expenditure involved is about \$0.2m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB142

Question Serial No.

1322

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the plan to strengthen the manpower for the Licensing Office of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and the Contract Management Section (CMS) in 2006-07 and the estimated expenditure involved?

What are the details of the training provided for non-professional and professional staff serving demented elders in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure involved in this respect for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : With a view to stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors (i.e. five social workers and five Registered Nurses (RN)) will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen both the Social Work Inspectorate Team and the Health Inspectorate Team of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE). Also, a Social Work Officer will be redeployed to LORCHE to enhance coaching and supervisory support.

The CMS of the Social Welfare Department will employ one additional RN, one Project Officer, one Technical Support Assistant and one Clerk in 2006-07 to strengthen the monitoring of contract homes and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services. Also, a social worker will be posted through re-deployment to further enhance the contract management mechanism.

The planned provision for the additional staff is \$4.5m.

In 2006-07, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to demented elders. There will be two classes involving three training days each for professional staff and two classes involving two training days each for non-professional staff. The total estimated expenditure is \$120,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB143

Question Serial No.

1323

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the conversion programme of self-care (S/C) hostel and homes for the aged (H/A) places launched in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure involved in this respect for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The conversion programme is open to 75 existing subvented residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operating S/C and/or H/A places. It involves about 10 700 existing residential care places. 7 400 of them are S/C and H/A places and 3 300 are care-and-attention (C&A) places without continuum of care. We project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will be generated eventually, including about 2 900 new C&A places. To ensure that the programme is implemented in an orderly and effective manner, the programme is being carried out by phases based primarily on a vacancy-led approach.

In June 2005, the Social Welfare Department launched Stage One of the conversion programme. In 2005-06, RCHEs meeting the criteria for conversion and physically ready with upgraded facilities will provide about 1 114 C&A places with continuum of care. The estimated annual provision for these 1 114 places is \$116.1m.

Some RCHEs participating in the conversion programme will have to complete their upgrading renovation works in order to make the home setting ready before admission of elders at C&A care level. We are planning to launch Stage Two of the conversion programme in mid-2006 as some RCHEs will have reached the required vacancy level for conversion. We expect that an additional 1 758 C&A places with continuum of care will be created in 2006-07 through the conversion programme. The estimated annual provision for these 1 758 places is \$181.8m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB144

Question Serial No.

1324

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Which district elderly community centres and neighbourhood elderly centres were provided with additional premises in 2005-06 and what was the expenditure involved? What are the details of the arrangement and the estimated expenditure involved in this respect for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Through the re-engineering of community support services for elders, all 35 Multi-service Centres for the Elderly (M/Es) and more than half of the Social Centres for the Elderly (S/E), i.e. 110 S/Es were upgraded to District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) respectively. To facilitate these upgraded centres to perform the enhanced roles and functions, we will continue to identify suitable premises in the vicinity for their expansion or reprovisioning.

By the end of 2005-06, 8 DECCs and 19 NECs have succeeded in acquiring additional premises in their neighbourhood or were reprovisioned to larger sites. The additional costs including rent, rates, government rent, maintenance and management fees incurred are around \$3.1m.

In 2006-07, there will be 4 DECCs and 10 NECs with identified premises for expansion or reprovisioning. The total cost incurred will be about \$1.4m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB145

Question Serial No.

1325

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the reasons for phasing out the Understanding the Adolescent Project (UAP) in secondary schools in 2005-06 and the corresponding savings in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The provision for the UAP was \$11.2m in 2004-05. It was phased out upon the implementation of the "Positive Adolescent Training through Holistic Social Programmes (P.A.T.H.S.) to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme" in secondary schools starting from the 2005/06 school year. P.A.T.H.S. is an all round project to sustain the healthy development of young students from Secondary One to Three. Those identified with greater needs will be assisted with tailor-made programmes accordingly. The Social Welfare Department and the Education and Manpower Bureau have been invited by the Hong Kong Jockey Club as partner organisations in delivering the project.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB146

Question Serial No.

1326

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2005-06, the Administration enhanced the outreaching support services for young night drifters (YNDs) in Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs). What are the details and the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure for the above work in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured additional resources in 2005-06 for 18 designated ICYSCs for them to enhance services for YNDs. Each designated ICYSC is given either two or three additional social workers according to specific district needs. A total of 44 social workers and an increase in programme provision are provided accordingly. The overall additional provision for 2005-06 with effect from 1 August 2005 is \$8.6m and the full-year provision is \$12.9m.

In 2006-07, the estimated expenditure for YNDs under the 18 designated ICYSCs is \$32.8m i.e. \$19.9m (original provision) + \$12.9m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB147

Question Serial No.

1327

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details and the expenditure of the modernisation programme of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSC) in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure for the above programme in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : With service integration achieved through ICYSC, it is considered equally important and timely to upgrade and modernise the hardware of ICYSCs with a view to providing up-to-date facilities to attract and meet the changing needs of contemporary youth. In turn, the modernisation programme will enhance the cost effectiveness of the huge recurrent resources invested in youth.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club has agreed with the Social Welfare Department to finance a modernisation programme of ICYSCs by Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and Lotteries Fund on a dollar to dollar basis. The total resources involved are \$400m for 80 ICYSCs over the territory, each at \$4.84m. With a total of 68 ICYSCs being approved in the first and second phases in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively, the remaining 12 will be allocated in 2005-06. The whole modernisation programme will be completed by 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB148

Question Serial No.

1328

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details and the expenditure of the implementation of the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure for the Scheme in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development (Scheme) aims to address the developmental needs of children and youth aged 0 to 24 in disadvantaged circumstances. The Scheme commenced operation in September 2005. As at 14 February 2006, \$10.88m out of the total provision of \$15m was spent to subsidise 179 district projects and provide direct cash assistance to needy children and youth. The Scheme had benefited a total of 18 724 children and youth, comprising 14 796 under the former and 3 928 the latter.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB149

Question Serial No.

1329

Head: 170 – Social Welfare Department Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and the expenditure involved for the 14 permanent posts to be created in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In the 2006-07 Estimates, 43 Assistant Social Work Officer posts are planned to be created in the Integrated Family Service Centres, the Family and Child Protective Services Units and the Medical Social Services Units for implementation of the Family Support Programme. The creation will be partly offset by the deletion of 29 non-directorate posts arising from implementation of various efficiency measures including hiving-off of services, and completion of time-limited projects. The net increase of the number of posts is 14, and the net additional annual expenditure involved is about \$9.6m in terms of Notional Annual Mid-point Salary Value.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB150

Question Serial No.

1339

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the footnote under the Targets of this programme area, the residential care places in self-care (S/C) hostels and homes for the aged (H/A) are being converted by phases into care-and-attention (C&A) places as from 2005-06. However, the total number of these two kinds of places as stated in the Targets keeps on decreasing each year. For example, the total number of S/C, H/A and C&A places in 2004-05 was 18 572, but as stated in the Targets, the number in the estimate of the coming year plus the number of places provided by homes participating in the conversion amount to only 15 817. Could the Administration tell us the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Subsidised S/C hostel and H/A places were introduced in 1960s targeting at elders capable of self-care but had housing needs.

International trend indicates that continuum of care is more suitable for older people with long term care needs. In line with this principle, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the conversion programme to convert S/C and H/A places which have no long term care element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places with continuum of care. The conversion proposal was supported by the welfare sector. The Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in March 2005.

Altogether, there are about 10 700 places in 75 homes which will be converted under the conversion programme. About 7 400 are S/C and H/A places. About 3 300 are C&A places not providing continuum of care.

The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a S/C place, a H/A place, or a C&A place not providing continuum of care. As the conversion exercise is conducted on a subvention-neutral basis, the number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places being replaced under the conversion programme. On the basis that all the 10 700 places will be converted, we project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will ultimately be generated under the conversion programme.

Although 2 627 S/C and H/A places and 738 existing C&A places without continuum of care are to be reduced as a result of the conversion in 2006-07, these places will be transformed into C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for long-term care services.

In parallel, we will continue to increase the number of subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care in purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<hr/> Paul TANG <hr/>
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare <hr/>
Date	<hr/> 11 March 2006 <hr/>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB151

Question Serial No.

1348

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the actual expenditure on the outreaching support services for young night drifters in the Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) of Yuen Long and Islands Districts in 2005-06, and the number of cases served by the outreaching support services for young night drifters (YNDs) in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : In 2005-06, there are two designated ICYSCs with extended services for YNDs in Yuen Long District while there is one for Central, Western and Islands District. The requested figures are as follows:

District	The provision in 2005-06 (\$m)	Number of YNDs served from Apr to Dec 2005
Yuen Long	3.2	1 234
Central, Western and Islands	1.5	414

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB152

Question Serial No.

1300

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2006-07, the Hospital Authority plans to implement measures for improving the quality of clinical care including more extensive use of new psychiatric drugs, additional provision for haemodialysis, and more timely intervention for profoundly deaf patients through cochlear implant. What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) will implement the following new programme initiatives for improving the quality of clinical care in 2006-07. Description of these initiatives and the estimated expenditure involved are listed below :

Description of Programme	Estimated Expenditure (\$million)
To improve the quality of life and maintain independent living of the mentally ill through the use of new psychiatric drugs	45
To augment haemodialysis provision for renal replacement therapy to benefit patients with End Stage Renal Disease	5
To enhance timely intervention (cochlear implant) for profoundly deaf patients and neonatal hearing screening	10
Total	60

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

6 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB153

Question Serial No.

1301

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Hospital Authority will facilitate the development of family medicine. Please list out :

- (a) the details and timetable of this project;
- (b) the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

In 2006-07, the Hospital Authority (HA) will further promote the development of family medicine (FM) through the following measures –

Enhancing the gate-keeping function of the general outpatient clinics (GOPC)

- 18 family medicine specialist clinics will be operated to strengthen the GOPC service's gate-keeping function, chronic illness management and inter-specialty and inter-disciplinary collaboration.
- 13 nurse clinics will be maintained to enhance the role of nursing in the management of chronic illnesses at the primary care level.

Improving accessibility and service quality of GOPCs

- Continue to implement the following improvement measures at the GOPCs in 2006-07, which include providing scheduled appointments for chronically ill patients, extending prescription durations, and rolling out the pilot automated phone appointment system for patients with episodic illness.

Promoting public-private interface

- Patient-held record system will be rolled out to improve exchange of patient information between public and private medical practitioners.

Training in FM

- Recruit about 60 medical graduates for basic FM training.
- Provide around 23 full-time equivalent of FM trainers.
- Employ at least 50% of graduating basic FM residents for one more year to fill vacancies in GOPC related services.

As the above programmes and measures form an integral part of HA's services, the expenditure involved in most of the above programmes are not readily identifiable, with the exception of training in FM which is expected to require a total expenditure of \$93 million in 2006-07.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB154

Question Serial No.

1307

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Administration will enhance our infectious disease emergency response system by strengthening the work of the Centre for Health Protection and building up our surge capacity in dealing with infectious diseases. What are the details and the expenditure involved? How effective is the relevant work in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is a public health infrastructure set up for enhancing Hong Kong's capacity for disease prevention and control. It has a key role to play in enhancing our infectious disease emergency response system.

To enhance Hong Kong's preparedness against major infectious disease outbreaks, including influenza pandemic, etc., the CHP has carried out various programmes and measures in 2005-06. Specifically, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilizing volunteers during public health emergencies; organizing infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks.

These efforts, which are on-going, have so far been effective in enhancing Hong Kong's preparedness against infectious disease outbreak, as evidenced in the absence of avian influenza cases in poultry farms or the human population in 2005. The CHP will continue to enhance our emergency response mechanism for combating infectious diseases. For example, it will continue to stockpile antiviral for a possible influenza pandemic. More drills/exercises and training on infection control, as well as briefings/forums for different sectors of the community will be organized. Moreover, the CHP will further enhance collaboration with other government departments and agencies as well as regional and international health authorities in the preparedness for influenza pandemic. In 2006-07, the Government's recurrent provision (mainly under Head 37: Department of Health) earmarked for CHP's operations is \$930 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>9 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB155

Question Serial No.

1320

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the review of the public medical fee structure, when will the relevant work commence? When will the findings be available? What are the details of this item? What is the estimated expenditure required for this item?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The Government, together with the Hospital Authority (HA), commenced in 2005-06 a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident and emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. The review examines also the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including those not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments. The review is planned for completion by around mid-2006.

The Government has provided \$3 million to the HA for the commissioning of the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB156

Question

Serial No.

1346

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

On “develop[ing] proposals to address the avian influenza problem”, please advise the expenditure required and the relevant details.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

We have put in place a comprehensive policy and strategy on preventing avian influenza, with one of the key focuses on reducing the risk of outbreaks in poultry. Implementation of current measures in preventing avian influenza in terms of food safety are carried out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). In 2006/07, the FEHD has earmarked a total of \$17.49 million under Head 49 on avian influenza prevention work that include conducting blood tests on imported poultry at point of import, and surveillance at retail markets, and inspection of poultry farms in the Mainland. The AFCD has earmarked \$28.5 million under Head 22 to address the avian influenza problem on measures including inspection of local poultry farms and laboratory testing of poultry and birds for avian flu.

In addition, we have reserved \$1.3M under Head 149 to engage a consultant to draft the tendering document on poultry slaughtering plant in order to separate humans from poultry in the poultry trade operation in the long term.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB157

Question Serial No.

1359

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As per the indicators under Programme (5), the number of passenger trips of rebus service is on an increasing trend. Moreover, three additional buses will be procured in 2006-07. In view of the increasing number of passenger trips for rebus service, has the Transport Department assessed the number of additional buses required per year to cater for the demand in the coming five years?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : To meet the demand for rebus service, five additional rebus were procured in 2005-06 and three additional rebus will be procured in 2006-07. The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rebus and the routes covered having regard to the demand for the service. With the availability of more accessible facilities, people with disabilities now have more choices by making use of public transport services apart from using the rebus service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

HWFB 158

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1335

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with the establishment ceiling, the number of non-directorate posts will be reduced by 60 from 1,883 in 2006 to 1,823 in 2007.

- What are the reasons for the reduction?
- What are the ranks and work areas of these posts?
- What is the estimated amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The deletion of 60 posts in 2006-07 are achieved through reduction of existing vacancies and natural wastage. The savings derived will be allocated to meet new service needs relating to preventive measures against avian influenza and marine conservation. Details are as follows:-

Work Areas	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted	Notional Annual Mid-point salary \$
Organic farming support service	To streamline the experiments on crop husbandry and plant protection	Artisan	3	428,580
Accredited farm scheme	To streamline the work of monitoring local accredited farm	Artisan Motor Driver	1 1	142,860 142,860
Screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties	To streamline the work relating to screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties	Field Officer I	1	365,160
Supervision of agricultural co-operative societies	To streamline supervision of agricultural co-operative societies through reprioritization of duties	Field Officer II	1	164,730
Wholesale market surveys	To reprioritize work relating to wholesale market surveys	Field Officer II	2	329,460

Work Areas	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted	Notional Annual Mid-point salary \$
Boards and committees works	To re-engineer the duties of Boards and Committees Section	Executive Officer I	1	481,020
Inspection of import and export of live animals and products	To reduce manpower in inspection of import and export of live animals and products by re-arranging job priorities	Field Assistant	2	324,360
Poultry breeding services	To reduce manpower in breeding and raising of poultry due to diminishing need of poultry breeding services	Field Officer II	1	164,730
Animal management	To re-organize the establishment of 4 animal management centers	Field Officer II Workman I	2 5	329,460 576,900
Pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory work and inspection of import plant consignment	To streamline the work relating to pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory and inspection of import plant consignment through adjusting the number of inspection on a risk assessment basis and reprioritize the regulatory work on plant and pesticides	Field Officer I Field Officer II	3 3	1,095,480 494,190
Laboratory testing services	To streamline testing work	Veterinary Laboratory Technician II	1	164,730
		Laboratory Attendant	1	142,860
Fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials	To streamline the work relating to fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials	Fisheries Craft Technician I	1	438,900
		Field Assistant	1	162,180
		Workman I	2	230,760
Country Parks management	To rationalize park management and facilities maintenance works and re-organize the country park management centers	Field Officer II Field Assistant Artisan Workman I Workman II	3 5 9 2 2	494,190 810,900 1,285,740 230,760 213,024
Country Parks ranger services	To streamline the staff establishment of visitor centers in country parks	Field Assistant Forest Guard	1 1	162,180 142,860
Country Parks roads work	To streamline road maintenance works in country parks through	Workman I Workman II	1 1	115,380 106,512

Work Areas	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted	Notional Annual Mid-point salary \$
	reprioritization of duties			
Marine Parks management	To streamline management and patrolling duties in marine parks through reprioritization of duties	Fisheries Supervisor I	1	365,160
		Assistant Clerical Officer	1	162,180
		Artisan	1	142,860
Total :			60	10,410,966

Signature _____
Name in block letters MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date 11 March 2006

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

HWFB 159

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1347

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Programme (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services, the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation will implement measures in 2006 to prevent the incursions of avian influenza. Will the Government inform this Committee of the details of these measures and the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

For the prevention of avian influenza, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue the inspection of local poultry farms, monitoring the ban on backyard poultry in Controlled Areas, sampling and testing of local poultry and general surveillance of wild birds.

In 2006-07, \$28.5 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 160

Question Serial No.

0447

Head : 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, a new indicator is introduced by the Administration in 2006. This item of "food compliant samples", which was grouped under the category of "food samples for regulatory compliance purposes" in previous years, is taken out as a new category. The performance target for new category set by the Administration is 80% of cases completed within target reporting time averaging 25 working days. When compared with the performance standards and targets long used for the category of "food samples for regulatory compliance purposes", i.e. 95% of cases completed within target reporting time averaging 19 working days, the estimated reporting time set for the new category has been extended for 6 days and the performance target has been reduced by 15%. In this regard, would the Administration tell us:

- a. The reasons for making the item of "food complaint samples" a new separate category?
- b. Why the performance target of the new category is lower than that previously set?
- c. Why the target reporting time of the new category is longer than that previously set?
- d. What are the impacts of such changes on service performance, effectiveness and efficiency?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

a. The examination of food complaint samples aims to investigate the cause of complaints from the public, which is different in nature from those tests conducted under the category "Testing of food samples for regulatory compliance". With the increasing input of food complaint samples for analysis, it is more appropriate to list them under two separate categories so as to reflect the situation more accurately.

b. The previous target was an overall average target for all types of food tests. The newly established target is based on the past performance of the laboratory in the examination of food complaint samples. In general, complaint cases vary greatly in nature, are more complicated and required detailed research and investigation. The time taken for analysis is generally longer than normal food sample tests. The percentage of samples completed within the target is anticipated to be lower than routine surveillance analysis.

c. The examination of food complaint samples is investigatory in nature with no defined scope. The analytical work often requires input of a high degree of professional expertise and technical skills. Compared with routine surveillance analysis, food complaint analysis normally required a longer time.

d. The inclusion of "food complaint samples" as a separate category could more accurately reflect the service performance on food complaint cases as well as on food samples for regulatory compliance purposes. There will not be deterioration in performance, effectiveness and efficiency.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 161

Question Serial No.

Head : 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title) :

0448

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of tests performed on food samples for regulatory compliance purposes decreases from 136 053 in 2005 to the estimated 100 000 in 2006-07. Would the Administration advise on the following:

- (a) reasons for reducing the number of tests performed; and
- (b) in view of the reduced number of tests performed, how to ensure that the Government Laboratory will achieve the target of enhancing its analytical service?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

a) The estimated figure in 2006 compared with the actual performance in 2005 is shown in the following table:

	2005 (Target)	2005 (Actual)	2006 (Estimate)
<i>Tests performed</i>			
food samples for regulatory compliance purposes	120 000	136 053	100 000
food complaint samples	-	-	10 000

The increase in output in 2005 by 13% as compared with the target was mainly due to ad hoc food incidents during the year. In 2006, a new category "food complaint samples" (grouped under the category of food samples for regulatory compliance purposes in previous years) has been added.

In view of the fact that food complaint cases increased by about 50% each year since 2003, and analysis of food complaint cases is more resource demanding, it is planned that more resources would be redeployed for the handling of food complaint cases, hence there would be a slight decrease in the area "Testing of food samples for regulatory compliance".

b) The food surveillance programme will be strengthened through adopting a more risk-based approach. The Government Laboratory will ensure that adequate resources will be deployed to achieve the target of analytical service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 162

Question Serial No.

Head : 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title) :

0534

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the number of tests performed annually on food samples, the estimated numbers of tests performed (including those performed on food samples for regulatory compliance purposes and on food complaint samples) in 2006 are less than those in 2004 and 2005. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The estimated figure in 2006 compared with the actual performance in 2004 and 2005 is shown in the following table:

	2004 (Actual)	2005 (Target)	2005 (Actual)	2006 (Estimate)
<i>Tests performed</i>				
food samples for regulatory compliance purposes	115 473	120 000	136 053	100 000
food complaint samples	-	-	-	10 000

The increase in output in 2005 by 13% as compared with the target was mainly due to ad hoc food incidents during the year. In 2006, a new category "food complaint samples" (grouped under the category of food samples for regulatory compliance purposes in previous years) has been added.

In view of the fact that food complaint cases increased by about 50% each year since 2003, and analysis of food complaint cases is more resource demanding, it is planned that more resources would be redeployed for the handling of food complaint cases, hence there would be a slight decrease in the area "Testing of food samples for regulatory compliance" and result in a reduction of the total number of tests. The Government Laboratory will ensure that adequate resources will be deployed to achieve the target of analytical service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB163

Question Serial No.

0547

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the estimated number of passenger trips for rehabus scheduled route and rehabus Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service will increase by 2.2% and 6% respectively as compared with those in 2005 (actual). The Transport Department estimates that three additional buses will be procured in 2006-07 which is two less than the number of additional buses procured in 2005-06. Please advise:

- (a) What is the reason for a drop in the number of additional buses to be procured when there is an increasing demand for the rehabus scheduled routes and DAR service?
- (b) The number of passengers waiting for rehabus scheduled routes and DAR service in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. Cheung Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) To meet the demand for rehabus service, the Transport Department added five additional rehabetes in FY 2005-06 and will add three additional rehabetes in FY 2006-07. The projected increase in the number of passenger trips in 2006 is to reflect the deployment of the five additional rehabetes procured in FY 2005-06. The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rehabetes and the routes covered having regard to the demand for the service. With the availability of more accessible facilities, people with disabilities now have more choices by making use of public transport services apart from using the rehabus service.

(b) As at end January 2006, there were no people with disabilities (PWDs) who had no alternative means of transport waiting for rehabus service to travel to their work place. Some PWDs who can use public transport or have access to other means of transport do apply for rehabus service. The number of PWDs waiting for rehabus scheduled routes as at the end of the last three calendar years is as follows –

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Number of passengers waiting for rebus scheduled routes	74	45	45

There is no “waiting list” for the DAR service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB164

Question Serial No.

0431

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise the total number of residential care homes for the elderly under Social Welfare Department's monitoring over the territory and the expenditure committed to monitoring residential care homes for the elderly. Please also provide details of the monitoring work.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : As at 1 February 2006, there were 747 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the licensing control of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE). Planned provision for LORCHE in 2006-07 is \$25.2m.

The LORCHE is a multi-disciplinary office comprising professionals from the Social Welfare Department, the Buildings Department and the Fire Services Department to enforce licensing requirements as set out in the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, its Regulation and the Code of Practice related to design, structure, fire precautions, safety, health, sanitation and manpower etc. In addition to surprised inspections, LORCHE inspectors also conduct complaint investigations and take prosecution actions against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB165

Question Serial No.

0432

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise why the enrolment rates for various types of residential care homes for the elderly cannot reach 100% in 2005-06. On what grounds does the Administration estimate the enrolment rates for various types of residential care homes for the elderly in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : In the 2005-06 Revised Estimate, we estimate that the enrolment rates for aged homes, care-and-attention (C&A) homes, nursing homes, private homes (enhanced bought place) and contract homes will be 93%, 97%, 97%, 97% and 97% respectively. Enrolment rates for residential care services for elders seldom reach 100% due to turnover of residents and the time gap in filling the vacancies, in particular the time required for residential care homes to complete the admission procedures and for elder applicants to get fully prepared for admission. The enrolment rate for aged homes is not as high as that for other types of homes because the Social Welfare Department has since 1 January 2003 ceased accepting new applications for admission to these homes to pave way for the conversion of their places into C&A places providing continuum of care.

Enrolment rates for 2006-07 are projected with reference to the past performance of the respective types of residential care homes for the elderly. In projecting the enrolment rate for aged homes, we have also taken into account the likely progress of the programme of converting aged home places into C&A places providing continuum of care in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB166

Question Serial No.

0433

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision for 2006-07 under Programme (3) is \$142.7m higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. Please provide a detailed breakdown on the allocation and use of the additional provision.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The increase in provision for the Elderly Programme by \$142.7m in 2006-07 as compared to the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to :

- (a) additional provision of \$3.4m to strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly;
- (b) additional provision of \$1.1m to strengthen the manpower of the Contract Management Section for monitoring contract homes and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS);
- (c) planned expansion of the EHCCS amounting to \$62.9m;
- (d) full year effect of the project for the conversion of self-care and home for the aged places into care-and-attention places providing continuum of care amounting to \$52.8m; and
- (e) anticipated increase in funding allocation under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged amounting to \$21.9m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB167

Question Serial No.

0434

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of training for care staff serving people with disabilities in the integrated home care services teams, please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved in the 2006-07 estimate and the training arrangement in detail.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : In 2006-07, a total of 120 training places will be provided for the care staff serving people with disabilities in the integrated home care services teams. There will be two classes, each involving 2.5 training days, at an estimated total expenditure of \$18,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB168

Question Serial No.

0435

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise the estimated resources to be allocated for implementing the updated Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) in 2006-07. What is the detailed implementation plan?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) sets out the principles, procedures, guidelines and standards regarding the building requirements, safety and fire precautions, equipment, management, staffing, infection control, nutrition and diet, cleanliness and sanitation and social care of residential care home for the elderly (RCHEs). The Social Welfare Department issued the 5th edition embodying enhanced requirements/standards on many aspects in August 2005 after the latest review.

Copies of the revised Code of Practice were distributed to all RCHEs in August 2005. Two briefing sessions were organised for home operators and staff in September 2005 to highlight and explain the major changes and enhanced requirements. After a three-month grace period for the operators to make proper preparation, the revised Code of Practice has been in full implementation with effect from January 2006. In conjunction with the Department of Health and related Government Departments/organisations, on-going training and support to improve the quality of care and services of RCHEs will be rendered.

With a view to stepping up inspections and enforcement actions against RCHEs not in compliance with the licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors including five Assistant Social Work Officers and five contract Registered Nurses will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly. One additional Social Work Officer at supervisory rank will be redeployed to enhance coaching and supervisory support. Planned provision for the additional staff is \$3.4m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB169

Question Serial No.

0436

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise how the proposals on the provision of infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis are formulated. What is the specific implementation plan and the estimated expenditure for providing this service in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is planning to provide infirmary care in a non-hospital setting for infirm elders on a trial basis with a view to enhancing the quality of their life. Medically stable infirm elders on the Central Infirmary Waiting List administered by the Hospital Authority (HA) are target users of the proposed services.

We consulted the Elderly Commission and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services earlier on our proposal to launch the trial scheme. In the light of feedback from Panel members and the sector during the consultation process, we are considering the best way to bring forward the proposal. In particular, we are working with the HA on the appropriate level of medical support for the proposed infirmary care services under the trial scheme. We aim to come up with detailed proposals in the coming few months.

We have earmarked \$20m for this new initiative and plan to invite proposals in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB170

Question Serial No.

0437

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector, would the Administration review the existing manpower of nurses and increase resources for universities to train more nurses to ease the shortage of nurses in the Welfare Sector? If yes, what are the resources involved and the arrangements to be made? If no, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : As a stop-gap measure to address the nursing shortage in the welfare sector, the Social Welfare Department (SWD), in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, started a two-year full-time welfare-oriented programme (The Programme) on 6 March 2006 to provide training for 110 trainees to be Enrolled Nurses (General) or Enrolled Nurses (Psychiatric) for the welfare sector. Tuition fees are fully subsidised by SWD. Graduates will have to work in the welfare sector for at least two years after graduation.

We are considering running a second round of the Programme, as the sector is still facing shortage of nursing manpower. That said, the Programme is only a stop-gap measure to alleviate the acute nursing shortage in the welfare sector. We have no intention to run it on a permanent basis.

The long-term requirement for additional nurses, including the requirement of the public medical sector, the private medical sector and the welfare sector, would be about 600 per annum. Since the estimated overall supply of new nursing graduates is expected to increase from 516 in 2005-06 to 576 in 2006-07 and around 600 in subsequent years, there may still be an undersupply of nursing graduates for a couple more years but the situation should improve by 2007-08. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will closely monitor the situation and look into ways to improve the long-term supply of nurses, as and when necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB171

Question Serial No.

0438

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has planned to conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness and user satisfaction of the re-engineered centre-based community support services for elders. Please state the arrangements for and the contents of the study, the criteria of evaluation and the expenditure to be incurred.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Through invitation of quotations, the Social Welfare Department has commissioned the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness and user satisfaction of the re-engineered centre-based community support services for elders, which are provided through the District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs). The Study commenced in December 2005, and is scheduled for completion by September 2006. The contract fee for the Study is \$0.64m.

The Study will evaluate the effectiveness and user satisfaction of the DECCs and NECs against a set of indicators, to assess whether these centres are conducive to facilitating community-based integrated services, healthy ageing and empowerment, family responsibility, client-focused care, efficiency and innovativeness. The consultant will conduct questionnaire surveys, focus group discussions, individual interviews, case studies and documentary reviews, involving users of the DECCs and NECs, carers and the elders whom these carers are looking after.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB172

Question Serial No.

0439

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : While the Administration stated that it will enable elders to remain members of the community for as long as possible, and to the extent necessary, provide residential care, please advise why the numbers of subvented district elderly community centres, neighbourhood elderly centres and social centres for the elderly show no increase in 2006-07 and the number of day care centres for the elderly only rises slightly by 20 places from 1 955 in 2005-06 to 1 975 in 2006-07. What would the Administration do to tie in with “the development of community-based elderly care services” as mentioned in the Policy Address?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Since 2001, we have set up 5 new District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 4 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) in respective districts. Upon the re-engineering of community support services for elders in April 2003 and with the injection of additional resources, all the Multi-services Centres for the Elderly and more than half of the Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) have been upgraded to DECCs and NECs respectively to provide enhanced functions to meet the multifarious needs of elders.

Currently, there are 41 DECCs, 114 NECs and 60 S/Es which form a territory-wide service network for elders and carers. More than 170 000 elders are members of the elderly centres. We will keep in view the service need for new DECCs or NECs in individual districts.

At present, the community care services (including home-based care services and centre-based day care services) have a capacity of serving about 23 000 elders. To further facilitate elders to age at in the community, the following measures have been/will be taken:

- (a) we have in December 2005 increased the service volume of seven of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) teams which provide home care services for frail elders, to generate an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. As at December 2005, the 18 EHCCS teams have a service capacity of 2 433;
- (b) we will increase the service volume of the 11 remaining EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached;
- (c) we will make use of the additional \$20m recurrent money which the Financial Secretary has earmarked to Social Welfare Department in 2006-07 to increase the capacity of household cleaning, meal delivery and escort services currently provided by the Integrated Home Care Services teams (Ordinary Case); and
- (e) we will provide an additional 20 day-care places in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB173

Question Serial No.

0440

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise the reasons for the estimated increase of 11.6% in the provision for the government sector under this programme area in 2006-07 and state in detail how the increased provision will be allocated and spent.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Compared with the 2005-06 revised estimate, the provision for the government sector in the Elderly Programme in the 2006-07 estimate will increase by \$23.1m (11.6%) after offsetting a reduction of \$3.3m in operational expenses. The increase in provision is mainly due to:

- (a) additional provision of \$3.4m to strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly;
- (b) additional provision of \$1.1m to strengthen the manpower of the Contract Management Section for monitoring contract homes and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Service; and
- (c) anticipated increase in funding allocation under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged amounting to \$21.9m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB174

Question Serial No.

0441

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the open tender exercise in selecting operators to run contract homes for the elderly, please advise the details of the open tender, the amount of provision involved, and the types and number of places to be provided.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : To allocate public resources in a fair and transparent manner, and enhance the quality and cost effectiveness of subsidised residential care places for the elderly, we have started making available purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) for open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators in 2001 under a quality-based assessment mechanism. Seven contract homes have come into operation. One of them is run by a private operator. Two more contract homes will commence operation in mid-2006. Altogether, they will provide 745 subsidised RCHE places and 574 non-subsidised RCHE places.

In 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department plans to invite tender for three contract homes in Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong and Yuen Long. These three homes will each provide a capacity ranging from 106 to 220 residential places, of which about 40% to 70% are subsidised beds. There will also be the provision of 20 subsidised day care places and three day respite care places in the day care unit for elders in the latter two homes. The total contract sum for these three homes is \$16.7m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB175

Question Serial No.

0463

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the expenditure in 2005-06 and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 for providing support services to victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crises and preventing domestic violence? Please list out the relevant work plans.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims and batterers of family violence and families facing crises. These services include public education which aims at, among others, promoting awareness of the importance of early help seeking, a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSC)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs), residential care placements for children, specialised services of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs), refuge centres for women (RCW), Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), etc. The total estimated recurrent provision for FCPSUs, RCW and FCSC which are set up mainly for supporting victims and batterers or families facing crises is about \$139m in 2005-06 and \$146m in 2006-07. The provision for other service units such as IFSCs, CPUs, etc. specifically with regard to family violence and family crises cannot be separately ascertained as these units also serve users with needs not relating to family violence and family crises.

Measures taken in 2005-06 include:

- A total of \$3.5m were allocated to enhance the publicity programmes launched at the central and district levels.
- Additional resources were allocated to CPUs, FCPSUs, IFSCs/ISCs and Medical Social Services Units (MSSUs) to strengthen the manpower support to families and individuals affected by domestic violence and in crisis.
- An additional FCPSU was formed in Yuen Long to address the increasing number of cases in that district.
- An annual additional funding of \$0.3m has been allocated to each RCW since October 2005.
- An additional provision of \$1m was allocated to the FCSC.
- The residential child care places were increased by 113 places.
- Two pilot projects of batterers' intervention programme were launched by the SWD and Hong Kong Family Welfare Society from March 2006 to March 2008.

Measures to be taken in 2006-07 include:

- Publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence" will continue to be launched.
- Continuous training, including specialised and refresher training, will be provided to professionals like social workers, police officers, physicians, nurses, lawyers, teachers, clinical psychologists, etc. who may be involved in handling domestic violence cases.
- Additional recurrent resources of about \$22m (\$30m in a full year) will be deployed to implement a Family Support Programme (FSP) in IFSCs/ISCs, FCPSUs and Psychiatric MSSUs in 2006-07 to serve families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units.
- The FCPSU (New Territories West) and FCPSU (East Kowloon) will be split into four teams to better serve the cases in Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung, with addition of two Senior Social Work Officers through redeployment of resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB176

Question Serial No.

0464

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the launch of two pilot projects of batterers intervention programmes, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of the projects?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure involved in 2006-07?
- (c) Will the Administration monitor the effectiveness of the projects?
If yes, when will the review be carried out? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) From March 2006 to March 2008, two pilot projects of batterers' intervention programme (BIP) have been launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Hong Kong Family Welfare Society (HKFWS) respectively. The objective is to develop effective modalities of group counselling and treatment programmes for spouse batterers.

The BIP run by the SWD are targeted for batterers of battered spouse cases being handled by the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and batterers ordered by the court to receive counselling service under a probation order. The target participants of the BIP run by the HKFWS, fully funded by SWD, are batterers of battered spouse cases and marital conflict cases with spouse battering

elements being served by the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and clients with spouse battering problem recruited from the community but not known to any IFSCs.

The BIP consists of various components which aims at (i) helping and promoting participants' successful control of violence; (ii) providing treatment to participants' individual cum relationship problems underlying the spousal violence; and (iii) eliminating risk of reoccurrence of spousal violence and enhancing the safety of participants, their spouses and families as a whole. A total of not less than 30 groups each lasting for 12 sessions with 8–12 participants will be run during the pilot period.

- (b) To facilitate the launching of the programmes, an annual provision of \$1.0m is allocated to the HKFWS. In SWD, apart from the employment of one additional clinical psychologist for this programme, existing staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and FCPSUs are also involved in the development and implementation of the programme.
- (c) An advisory group chaired by the Chief Clinical Psychologist of SWD or his authorised representative with members consisting of local and overseas experts and academics with expertise/experience in batterer intervention will be formed to advise and evaluate the effectiveness of the two projects.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB177

Question Serial No.

0465

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the item on the Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many cases were handled by the Centre in 2005-06? Of these cases, how many needed follow-up and referral services?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure for the Centre in 2006-07? Will additional resources and manpower be allocated to the Centre? If yes, please provide specific details. If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

- Reply :
- (a) From 1 April 2005 to 31 December 2005 (the figures from January to March 2006 are not yet available), the Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre (SCIC) handled 758 cases at risk of suicide and provided crisis intervention/intensive counselling for a period of six to eight weeks to help clients tide over the suicidal crisis. Among the cases handled, 70 cases were referred to other social service units for follow up services.
 - (b) The SCIC has been provided with an annual subvention of \$3.9m under a Funding and Services Agreement for a period of three years from 1 May 2005. The agreement is subject to renewal in accordance with the service need and service performance of the SCIC. Normally, the subvention will not be adjusted within the

period of the agreement as the nature of work, manpower requirement and the anticipated workload of the SCIC within the period have already been taken into account when determining the amount of annual subvention.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB178

Question Serial No.

0466

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department projects that the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases served in the coming year will be 369 100, which represents an increase of 7 500 cases over the revised estimate of 361 600 for 2005-06. It is stated in the Indicators that the average time for processing a new case by field units is 26 working days. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) what are the estimated average number of cases processed by each staff member in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively; and
- (b) is there any plan to deploy additional manpower to process the new applications for CSSA?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) The figures of 361 600 and 369 100 refer to the estimated number of cases served under the CSSA Scheme for 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. In terms of paid cases, we estimate that the average number for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are 282 700 and 292 800 respectively. The corresponding estimated number of CSSA recipients for these two years are 542 700 and 566 700.

In 2005-06, there are 1 166 staff in 37 Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) who are responsible for the investigation and authorisation of social security cases. Of these, 971 staff (at Social Security Assistant and Senior Social Security Assistant

ranks) are responsible for investigation of cases such as conducting home visits and interviews with applicants and verifying information provided by applicants. These two ranks of staff are responsible for different numbers of CSSA cases. Also the complexity of cases varies which in turn affects workload. We do not think the average number of cases handled can provide a meaningful assessment of the real workload situation.

- (b) We have been closely monitoring the workload of staff in SSFUs having regard to workflow and output to ensure that there is adequate manpower at the frontline to cope with the CSSA caseload. If necessary, we will deploy existing manpower resources from other social security service units to strengthen our support at the frontline.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB179

Question Serial No.

0467

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration sought funding from the Lotteries Fund in 2005 to run three pilot Enhanced Community Work (CW) Projects tailored for long-term unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, and plans to review the progress and effectiveness of the projects in 2006-07. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) what are the manpower and expenditure involved in the projects;
- (b) what criteria will be adopted by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects; and
- (c) will the Administration publish the results of the review? If yes, when will it be? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) The CW Programme under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme aims to help unemployed recipients of the CSSA to develop a habit of work, widen their social network, and enhance self-esteem so as to pave the way for eventual gainful employment and contribute to society. To explore the feasibility of re-shaping the CW Programme by injecting training and personal development elements to enhance the employability of CW participants, the SWD has secured non-recurrent funding from the Lotteries Fund to commission non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run three projects on a trial basis as follows:

- (1) CW Experience and Training Programme (CWET): this is a 2-year project run by the Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited from April 2005 to March 2007 to provide 1 000 (500 per year) long-term unemployed CSSA recipients (i.e. unemployed recipients of CSSA participated in Active Employment Assistance (AEA) for 12 months or more) in Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung Districts with CW and targeted job skills training;
- (2) Mosaic Public Arts Project (MPA): This is a 5-month project operated by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Festivals from end of August 2005 to January 2006 to help some 40 long-term unemployed youths on CSSA in Sha Tin and Tai Po/North Districts increase their self-confidence, build up their sense of responsibility and commitment, enhance social skills through mosaic skill training/team work and assembling a mosaic mural to improve the public environment; and
- (3) CW-cum-Occupational Skills Training Project (CW-cum-OST): This is a 17-month project run by the Society for Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong from January 2006 to May 2007, providing up to 216 long-term unemployed recipients of CSSA and youths in Kwun Tong/Kowloon City Districts with skill trainings and CW placements on three targeted job posts (dog trainer, programme assistant and general assistant).

The above projects are run by NGOs. No additional staff is required by SWD. The related expenditure including administrative support expenses for the three projects are \$7.1m for 2005-06 and \$5.5m for 2006-07.

- (b) The target performance standards of the projects and assessment are as follows:

	Name of Project	Target Performance Standards and Assessment
(1)	CWET Programme	(i) To serve at least 1 000 participants in two years; and (ii) To assist at least 90 participants per year to take up and sustain in full-time paid

		employment for at least three months.
(2)	MPA Project	<p>(i) To encourage participants to have full attendance while undertaking this project; and</p> <p>(ii) To assess the following on completion of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how participants build up positive attitude towards self-reliance; and• their feedback on the services provided.

(3)	CW-cum-O ST Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To serve at least 180 participants per year; (ii) To encourage at least 126 participants per year to achieve 80 % attendance rate while receiving job skill training; (iii) To encourage at least 108 participants per year to achieve 80 % attendance rate while performing CW; (iv) To assist at least 72 participants to secure full-time jobs; and (v) To assist at least 36 participants to leave the CSSA safety net or change to CSSA low-earnings category for three consecutive months through successful paid employment.
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(c) SWD will evaluate the effectiveness after the completion of the individual projects on the basis of the above and report the findings in due course.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB180

Question Serial No.

0468

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee what are the respective expenditures for supporting the severely disabled persons to live in the community in 2005-06 and the 2006-07 estimates? Please provide the details of the community-based support projects?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The rehabilitation services providing support to the people with severe disability in their community living and the estimated expenditure are given as follows:

Services	Estimated Expenditure	
	2005-06 (\$m)	2006-07 (\$m)
Centre-based services (including day activity centres and day care services for severely disabled persons, and new community rehabilitation day centres and transitional care and support centre for tetraplegic patients to be implemented in 2006-07)	182.2	205.8
Home-based services (including specialised home-based training and support service and	5.902	6.603

integrated home care services (frail cases))		
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In addition, people with severe disability may also apply for social security benefits. Disability Allowance, which is non-means-tested, is a monthly flat-rate allowance to address the special needs of those who is medically certified by a public officer to be severely disabled within the meaning of the scheme. The Comprehensive Social Security Scheme, which is means-tested, provides a safety net of last resort for those in need, including the disabled persons.

In October 2005, the Social Welfare Department launched a new series of community-based support projects for people with disabilities (PWD). Details of which are given as follows:

- Holiday Care Service – a short-term day care service in existing rehabilitation services unit to provide centre-based care and leisure activities after school or during holidays.
- Family-based Respite Service – an occasional care service for PWD on an hourly basis at the home of the PWD.
- Day-care Service for Severely Disabled Persons – to provide day care places in seven care-and-attention homes for severely disabled persons.
- Home Care Service – to provide personal care service, household cleansing service, laundry service, etc. for PWD.
- Personal Development Programme – a series of systematic and structural arts courses for PWD to develop their arts potential and ability.
- Specialised Programmes for People with Autism and Challenging Behaviours – to provide direct professional support and assistance to persons with autism and mentally handicapped persons with challenging behaviours and their family members.
- Home-based Rehabilitation Training Service – to provide physiotherapy service, professional rehabilitation training and supportive service for PWD and their carers.

- Support Scheme for Newly Blind Persons – to provide training and counselling services for newly blind persons and their families.
- Junior Gateway Club – to provide innovative interest classes and developmental groups for children with special needs and children with parents who are disabled to enhance their personal development.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB181

Question Serial No.

0472

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Programme, the Government has set aside a total provision of \$3,315.9m to promote welfare services for elders. Please set out the total provisions earmarked for residential care service for elders and community support services for elders respectively and the provisions for these two types of services over the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The annual provisions for subsidised residential care services and community care and support services for the elderly over the years are as follows:

	2003-04 (Actual) \$m	2004-05 (Actual) \$m	2005-06 (Revised Estimate) \$m	2006-07 (Draft Estimate) \$m
Residential Care Services	2,044.5	1,984.3	1,971.8	2,024.6
Community Care & Support Services	1,067.0	974.1	996.7	1,068.7

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB182

Question Serial No.

0473

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the progress of the Government's "plan" to provide 1 292 long-term care service places in 2005-06? What is the number of places to be provided under the same service in 2006-07 and what is the amount of provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The programme of converting self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care-and-attention (C&A) places with continuum of care is open to 75 existing subvented residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operating S/C and/or H/A places. To ensure that the programme is implemented in an orderly and effective manner, the programme is being carried out in phases based primarily on a vacancy-led approach.

In June 2005, the Social Welfare Department launched Stage One of the conversion programme. We originally estimated that 1 292 C&A places providing continuum of care would be created in 2005-06. However, we have revised the target to 1 114, as it takes time for some RCHEs to complete their upgrading renovation works before they can start admission of elders at the C&A care level.

We are planning to launch Stage Two of the conversion exercise in mid-2006 as some other RCHEs will have reached the vacancy level required by then. We estimate that an additional 1 758 C&A places providing continuum of care will be created in 2006-07. The estimated

annual provision for these 1 758 places is \$181.8m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB183

Question Serial No.

0474

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the planned number of training places for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2006-07, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to the demented elders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB184

Question Serial No.

0475

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the planned number of training places for care staff serving people with disabilities in the integrated home care services teams in 2006-07? What is the amount of provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2006-07, a total of 120 training places will be provided for the care staff serving people with disabilities in the integrated home care services teams. There will be two classes, each involving 2.5 training days, at an estimated total expenditure of \$18,000.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB185

Question Serial No.

0476

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Apart from the additional district elderly community centre set up last year, no more District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) and Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) will be set up in 2006-07. What are the reasons for that? What can be done in order to line up with the aim of enabling the elders "to remain active members of the community"?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Since 2001, we have set up five new DECCs and four NECs in respective districts. Upon the re-engineering of community support services for elders in April 2003 and with the injection of additional resources, all the Multi-services Centres for the Elderly and more than half of the S/Es have been upgraded to DECCs and NECs respectively to provide enhanced functions to meet the multifarious needs of elders.

Currently, there are 41 DECCs, 114 NECs and 60 S/Es which form a territory-wide service network for elders and carers. More than 170 000 elders are members of the elderly centres. We will keep in view the service need for new DECCs or NECs in individual districts.

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is working closely with the Elderly Commission (EC) to further promote the work of "active ageing" and drive home a positive image of the elderly. The EC has set up a Working Group on Active Ageing to take this forward.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB186

Question Serial No.

0477

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the amount of financial resources involved in providing
1 975 day care places in day care centres for the elderly in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The expenditure for the provision of 1 975 places in Day Care
Centres/Units for the Elderly in 2006-07 is estimated to be \$142.3m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB187

Question Serial No.

0478

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It was originally planned to provide 20 additional day care places in day care centres for the elderly in 2005-06. What are the reasons for the reduction to 20 places in the revised estimate?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : There were 1 955 day care places in 2004-05. The 2005-06 Original Estimate projected an increase of day care places by 20, bringing the total number of day care places to 1 975. The original plan was that a 20-place day care unit within the premises of a contract home in Kwai Tsing would commence operation before 31 March 2006. However, due to programme slippage, the proposed day care unit has not started operation as scheduled. It is now scheduled for operation in August 2006. The 2005-06 Revised Estimate therefore has not shown an increase of 20 day care places. The increase is now shown in the 2006-07 Estimate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB188

Question Serial No.

0479

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The day care centres for the elderly have been over-enrolled by 15% for two consecutive years. Would the Administration consider further increasing the number of places, in addition to the estimated places?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : For various reasons, eg. sick leave, attending medical appointments, there will be a number of elder members absent from the day care centres every day. Setting the enrolment rate at 115% will maximise the utilisation of the day care places.

A new 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a contract home in Kwai Tsing in 2006-07. Two more day care units, each with 20 day care places, will be set up in two contract homes in Kwun Tong and Yuen Long respectively in 2007-08. We will keep in view the district demand and will continue to identify possible venues for the provision of additional day care services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB189

Question Serial No.

0480

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the expenditure planned by the Social Welfare Department for carrying out the activities under the Opportunities for the Elderly Project in 2006-07? How is it different from the 2005-06 estimate?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2006-07, the planned provision for allocation to applicant organisations to carry out activities under the Opportunities for the Elderly Project is \$3m. There is no change of provision as compared with 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB190

Question Serial No.

0481

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) in 2006-07? What is the reason for not providing additional places under the Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : There are about 6 200 subsidised places under the EBPS, which represent about 23% of the total number of subsidised residential care places for the elderly. In 2006-07, expenditure on EBPS is estimated to be about \$416m.

Making available purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) with subsidised and non-subsidised places for open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators is our principal mode of providing subsidised RCHE places. We will continue to provide additional subsidised RCHE places in future primarily through the open tender mode while keeping the EBPS under review.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB191

Question Serial No.

0482

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The “planned” total number of residential places bought from private residential care homes for the elderly under the “Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS)” in 2004-05 was 6 278. However, the actual number of bought places showed that the target was not met. The planned number of bought places in 2005-06 was 6 235 but the revised estimate showed that the target was again not met. What is the reason for that?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : There was a decrease in the actual number of places under the EBPS in 2004-05 when compared with the number planned in the 2004-05 original estimate. The reasons are :

- (i) termination of business of an EBPS participating home;
- (ii) sanctions taken to reduce the number of places purchased from a few EBPS participating homes due to their breach of the EBPS Agreement; and
- (iii) reduction in the number of places purchased from an EBPS participating home due to the reduction in the licensing area of that home.

The discrepancy between the figure in the 2005-06 estimate (i.e. 6 235) and the figure in the 2005-06 revised estimate (i.e. 6 225) is solely due to the reason as set out in (ii) above.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB192

Question Serial No.

0483

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : At present, the waiting time for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) is very long. However, there is no estimated increase in the number of cases served under these services in 2006-07. What is the reason for that?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) increased the service volume of seven EHCCS teams in December 2005 to generate an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. The remaining 11 EHCCS teams have yet to reach the agreed service capacity. SWD will increase the service volume of the remaining 11 EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached.

With the increase in service capacity in December 2005, there are currently vacancies in all the 18 EHCCS teams.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB193

Question Serial No.

0484

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding community support services, the revised estimate for the number of “integrated home care services” cases served was less than the planned number in 2005-06. However, there is no estimated increase in the number of cases served under these services in 2006-07. What is the reason for that?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The drop in the number of cases served in 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05 was due to differences in the composition of persons being served in these two years. Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) teams serve frail elders, non-frail elders, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and families in need of help. Frail elders and PWDs require more intensive care than the other service users. Therefore, the amount of resources required to serve a frail case is greater than that required to serve an ordinary case. With the increase in the number of frail cases served by IHCS in 2005-06, the total number of cases served by IHCS teams has decreased as compared with 2004-05.

To take forward our vision of “ageing in place”, the Financial Secretary has allocated an additional \$20m recurrent money in 2006-07 for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen home care services for elders in need. This amount is not yet reflected in the 2006-07 Estimate. We aim to deploy the additional resources to increase the capacity of the home care services for elders provided by the IHCS teams.

Also, SWD has in December 2005 increased the service volume of the 7 Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) teams which serve frail elders, by generating an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. The

remaining 11 EHCCS teams have yet to reach the agreed service capacity. SWD will increase the service volume of these 11 EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB194

Question Serial No.

0485

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Is there any specific plan for support services for carers of elders in 2006-07? What is the amount of provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : All District Community Elderly Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres are required to set up carer resource corners for storing video, reference materials and rehabilitative aids for demonstration or on-loan purposes, conducting self-help groups and organising activities and programmes to provide support and alleviate carers' stress, etc.. Besides, all contract homes are required to provide support services to carers. Apart from the provision of day respite service in all 50 day care centres/units for the elderly, all of the 136 subvented and contract homes may use their designated residential respite care places and causal vacancies to provide residential respite care as temporary relief for carers of elders residing in the community.

Since the above services are part and parcel of the services provided by community support and residential care services for elders, there is no breakdown on the expenditure solely involved in developing the extensive network of carer support services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB195

Question Serial No.

0486

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many additional posts will be provided for the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) in 2006-07? What are the duties of these additional posts and what is the amount of financial provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : With a view to stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors (i.e. five social workers and five Registered Nurses) will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen both the Social Work Inspectorate Team and the Health Inspectorate Team of the Licensing Office of RCHEs. One additional Social Work Officer at supervisory rank will be redeployed to enhance coaching and supervisory support. Planned provision for the additional staff is \$3.4m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB196

Question Serial No.

0487

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many training places will be provided under the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector in 2006-07? What is the amount of financial provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : As a stop-gap measure to address the nursing shortage in the Welfare Sector, the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, started a two-year full-time welfare-oriented Enrolled Nurse Training Programme on 6 March 2006 to train 110 Enrolled Nurses (General) or Enrolled Nurses (Psychiatric) for the Welfare Sector. The financial provision involved is \$5.2m. In view of the good response to the above training programme, we are planning for a second Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector in 2006-07.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB197

Question Serial No.

0488

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, please provide a breakdown of the caseload and the expenditure incurred under various categories (including old age, disability, ill health, single-parent family, low earnings, unemployment and others) in the past two years, and the estimated caseload and expenditure in 2006-07 as well.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The average number of CSSA paid cases and the estimated expenditure by nature of case for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

Nature of case	2004-05		Actual
	Average number of paid cases		Expenditure (\$m)
Old Age	144 577	(197 218)	8,021
Permanent Disability	15 867	(25 869)	914
Ill Health	21 618	(46 981)	1,552
Single Parent	37 335	(101 334)	3,176
Low Earnings	14 458	(58 067)	1,132
Unemployment	39 606	(100 415)	2,586
Others	4 325	(7 797)	252
Total	277 786	(537 681)	17,631*

* Figures do not add up to the total due to rounding.

2005-06 Revised estimate

Nature of case	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$m)
Old Age	147 200 (201 300)	8,111
Permanent Disability	16 800 (27 000)	960
Ill Health	22 500 (47 400)	1,582
Single Parent	38 300 (103 200)	3,253
Low Earnings	16 600 (65 400)	1,290
Unemployment	36 600 (90 000)	2,356
Others	4 700 (8 400)	281
Total	282 700 (542 700)	17,833

The estimated average number of CSSA paid cases and expenditure by nature of case for 2006-07 are as follows:

2006-07 Draft estimate

Nature of case	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$m)
Old Age	150 500 (205 900)	8,421
Permanent Disability	17 800 (28 500)	1,039
Ill Health	23 700 (50 000)	1,711
Single Parent	39 900 (107 400)	3,442
Low Earnings	19 400 (76 300)	1,536
Unemployment	36 200 (89 100)	2,372
Others	5 300 (9 500)	320
Total	292 800 (566 700)	18,841

Notes: () indicates number of recipients.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB198

Question Serial No.

0489

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What were the numbers of applications received and the financial commitment of the Government for Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) and Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) payments in the past two years? What are the estimated numbers of applications and expenditure under these two categories for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of HOAA and NOAA cases and the expenditure incurred in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

	2004-05 Actual	
	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$m)
HOAA	354 840	2,983
NOAA	89 557	676

	2005-06 Revised estimate	
	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$m)
HOAA	364 300	3,082
NOAA	84 600	635

The estimated average number of cases and expenditure for 2006-07 are provided below:

2006-07 Draft estimate

	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure(\$m)
HOAA	384 500	3,286
NOAA	83 000	629

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB199

Question Serial No.

0490

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As regards the elders participating in the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, is there any change in the estimated number of elders who will retire in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively in 2006-07 when compared with the previous year? What is the CSSA expenditure involved? What is the financial commitment involved in providing burial grants and better escort service to the participants?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated numbers of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong and Fujian as at the end of 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong	Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Fujian*
End of 2005-06	3 160	70
End of 2006-07	3 320	150

* The PCSSA Scheme was extended to Fujian from 1 August 2005.

The estimated total expenditure on PCSSA payments for 2006-07 is \$100m, including burial grants of \$0.9m. A non-governmental organisation has been commissioned as the Social Welfare Department's agent to provide a range of services for the PCSSA recipients (including

escort service for those retiring to Guangdong) and help with processing applications for burial grant. The contract fee for hiring this agent in 2006-07 is \$1.9m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB200

Question Serial No.

0548

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is estimated that the number of medical social services cases to be served will increase by 3 800 in 2006-07 while the caseload per worker for the year will reduce to 82 from 85. Given that the Government only plans to increase the number of medical social workers by eight, how could they handle approximately 4 000 additional cases?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Administration estimates there will be an increase in the number of cases served in 2006-07. The number of cases estimated to be served reflects the total number of cases, including those closed during the year, handled by medical social workers (MSWs) in the year. This is different from the average caseload which reflects the average number of active cases each medical social worker handles at any point in time. Effort is made to ensure effective caseload management whereby MSWs would actively review case progress, provide intensive services to patients/families and to close the case once the problem is settled or the case is being followed-up by another unit. For 2006-07, an addition of eight MSWs will further lower the average caseload per MSW.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB201

Question Serial No.

0549

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of training and support services for family members and carers of people with disabilities, could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What would be the expenditure involved in the project?
- (b) How many places will be provided?
- (c) What would be the approximate unit cost?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Planned new provisions by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen the training and support to carers of people with disabilities (PWDs) in 2006-07 are given below. As the centres will provide a variety of services for the PWD and their carers, calculation of unit cost for individual service as requested in (c) is not feasible.

New Provisions	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)	No. of places
1. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDC)</u> Five cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients	8.3 for 2006-07 (full-year effect 16.6)	Training places - 400

<p>with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training, for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities are essential services rendered by these centres.</p>		
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<p>2. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients</u> The centre provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living.</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charities Trust for four years including recurrent expenditure of 9.9 for 2006-07)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential training places - 14 • Day training places - 20 • Respite places - 4
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Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB202

Question Serial No.

0586

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that “the Department will continue to rationalise the provision of day crèche places in view of the declining child population”. Could the Administration provide information on the specific work plans and the expenditure and manpower involved? Will the Administration consider providing more fee-waiving places to encourage childbirth and to provide an additional option for parents in need so that they can go out to work?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has all along been working closely with the day crèche operators in adjusting the provision of day crèche places based on service need and mutual agreement. As at end of October 2005, the average enrolment rate of day crèche was 88% showing that there is still room for adjustment in service provision. Aided day crèche are now subsidised through the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Subsidy Scheme which is pegged with actual enrolment. Adjustment in provision will therefore only be made with reference to a crèche's vacant capacity, and the actual manpower and amount of subsidy for each crèche will not be affected.

On financial assistance to parents whose children attend full-day crèche service, the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme (KCFRS) is in place. There is no pre-set quota for KCFRS. Parents who

meet the social need criteria, such as both parents engage in full-time employment, and pass the means test will receive fee assistance in full, at 75% or 50%.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB203

Question Serial No.

0422

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The estimated number of nursing staff in 2006-07 is higher than the actual number in 2004-05 and the revised estimate in 2005-06. However, the number of trainees shows a year-on-year decrease. What are the reasons for this? Please give an account of the grades, ranks as well as the respective pay and benefits of the additional staffing.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The nurse trainees referred to in the estimates comprise of enrolled nurses (ENs) who are undergoing conversion programme clinical placement and temporary undergraduate nursing students who have been employed from time to time to relieve nursing workload on a part-time basis. The changes in the number of nurse trainees mainly reflect the number of ENs undertaking clinical placement of their conversion programme at the time. There will, however, be a projected slight increase in the total nursing manpower in 2006-07 due to the planned recruitment of 500 additional qualified nurses. These additional qualified nurses will mostly be employed at the beginning pay point of a registered nurse (RN), which is currently \$17,145 per month. On top of the basic salary, a monthly allowance of \$2,275 will be given to the newly recruited RNs and they can also enjoy the normal staff benefits such as annual leave, medical services, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB204

Question Serial No.

0423

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Has the manning ratio of medical and nursing staff to hospital beds been increased since the reduction of general hospital beds in 2004-05? Please list the manning ratios for general hospital beds by medical, nursing and other grade staff in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The manpower to bed ratios for general beds are expected to be on a slight upward trend from 2004-05 to 2006-07. The actual figures for 2004-05 and estimated figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are set out below.

	Doctors per general bed	Nurses per general bed
2004-05	0.188	0.756
2005-06	0.191	0.767
2006-07	0.192	0.773

A substantial number of staff in other grades (such as allied health professionals and health care assistants) provide services to both general and psychiatric beds and in both inpatient and outpatient settings. It is therefore not possible to provide separate manpower ratios for general beds of these staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB205

Question Serial No.

0424

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under the item of unit cost, the cost per outreach visit by community nurse under the ambulatory and outreach services has been reducing each year since 2004-05. Please advise on the calculation method adopted to project that the cost will be further reduced in the estimate for 2006-07? At the same time, how can the standard of service be guaranteed?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The method for calculating the cost per outreach visit (or home visit) by community nurse is to divide the total cost of the community nurse home visit service by the number of home visits made. The expected decrease in the cost per home visit from 2004-05 onwards is due to the increasing number of home visits made by community nurses from 778 970 for 2004-05 (actual) to 805 000 for 2005-06 (revised estimate) and 835 000 for 2006-07 (estimate). Apart from an increase in the number of community nurses from 383 to 390 in 2005-06, the Hospital Authority has also introduced a number of efficiency enhancing measures, such as decentralisation of service centres, use of hand-held electronic device for documentation and improved provision of transport services for community nurses. These measures help to increase the number of home visits while maintaining the service standard.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB206

Question

Serial No.

0426

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title):
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

On measures to strengthen control on abstraction of seawater to enhance fish tank water quality, please advise:

- (a) details of the measures and the expenditure required;
- (b) the rate of increment in 2006-07 when compared with the provision in 2005-06;
- (c) the criteria for assessing the efficacy of the plan and whether any targets have been set for improving seawater quality. If yes, please provide the details.
- (d) whether the risk management for transport of seawater would be strengthened in tandem with enhancing the management of fish tank water at source.
- (e) whether the provision and staff establishment would be increased to implement quality seawater accreditation scheme. If yes, please provide the details. If no, please state the reasons.
- (f) whether any incentives have been provided to encourage the trade to join the quality seawater accreditation scheme. If yes, please provide the details. If no, please state the reasons.
- (g) whether any targets have been set for the participation rate of the trade in the scheme. If yes, please provide the details. If no, please explain how the quality seawater accreditation scheme can ensure that the control for abstraction of seawater would be strengthened and meet the expectation of the authorities in enhancing fish tank water quality.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) We strive to strengthen control on abstraction of seawater to enhance fish tank water quality through a two-pronged approach, i.e. implementation of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme followed by legislative amendment to prohibit abstraction of seawater from specified areas along the coast for keeping live fish and shellfish intended for human consumption. Except that \$300,000 has been earmarked for the publicity of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme, we will absorb the additional work involved by existing staff and resources.
- (b) In 2005-06, we spent \$275,000 on the development of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme and absorbed the additional work involved by existing staff and resources. In 2006-07, we have earmarked \$300,000 for the publicity of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme and will likewise absorb the additional work involved by existing staff and resources. The financial provision in this respect in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is largely the same.
- (c) We will evaluate the effectiveness of our initiatives having regard to the quality of the fish tank water sampled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.
- (d) As contamination of fish tank water may occur at different stages from source, transportation, to storage, we have to carefully consider at which of these stages would control be most effective and represent the optimal use of resources for enhancing our current monitoring efforts. Given the short delivery time, it may not be cost-effective to target our control measures at the seawater transportation process.
- (e) There will not be any increase in recurrent expenditure and staff establishment arising from the implementation of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme. We have appointed the Hong Kong Productivity Council as an independent Accrediting Body to implement the Scheme on a self-financing basis. The cost for operating the Scheme will be recovered from the accreditation fees payable by the accredited operators.
- (f) Accredited operators will be allowed to post the Quality Seawater Logo in their premises to demonstrate to their clients that their source of fish tank seawater is clean. Their accreditation status will also be made known to the public at the website of the Accrediting Body. To promote the Scheme, we will distribute brochures to the public and put up posters in public venues. An Announcement in the Public Interest (API) about the Scheme will also be broadcast in electronic media such as TV and radio. Such positive publicity will help boost consumer confidence on the accredited operators and bring about competitive advantages for their business.

(g) We expect to receive about 100 applications from seawater suppliers, seafood stalls and restaurants in the next few months. We hope to receive more applications when the public and the trade are more familiar with the Scheme through our publicity effort.

We plan to introduce legislation to control the abstraction of seawater for use in keeping live seafood. The legislation together with the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme will bring about enhancement in the quality of fish tank seawater.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB207

Question

Serial No.

0427

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

On the additional \$3 million one-off provision for food safety regulation, please advise:

- (a) the expenditure and staffing establishment for the Food Safety Centre and the respective percentages of salaries and operation costs of total expenditure;

- (e) the mode of operation, performance indicators and projected performance in the coming year of the Food Safety Centre. Please explain how the provision arrangement can ensure that the performance of the Food Safety Centre meet the expectations.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The plan is to establish the new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As such, no financial provision has been earmarked for the new CFS under Head 149. The \$3 million one-off provision will be used on enhancing food safety, such as regulation of fisheries products safety by reviewing overseas regulatory regimes and practices for aquatic and marine products and implementation of Labelling Scheme for Nutrition Information. The increase in provision also covers reserves for contingency measures arising from unforeseeable events such as avian influenza, and promotion on inspection and quarantine items, etc. Expenditure for these activities falls within Programme (5) which caters for a number of activities, hence the provision in respect of each item may not be separately identifiable.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date

8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB208

Question

Serial No.

0428

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please explain the strategy and implementation plan for controlling food at source.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

Controlling food safety at source refers to the strategy of introducing safety control measures from the starting point of food production. For imported food, this mainly relies on the cooperation between relevant authorities between the exporting and importing countries. Under our present regulatory framework, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for ensuring the safety of imported high risk food that require a permit or licence importation such as meat, poultry and dairy products. Through bilateral discussions and visits, where necessary, FEHD assesses the monitoring system of the exporting authorities on the safety control of the food to be exported. FEHD also conducts audit inspections to the exporting country as and when appropriate. In addition, FEHD also collects food samples including processed food at import, wholesale and retail levels for laboratory testing under its routine food surveillance programme which acts as a check to detect products that are unsatisfactory so that exporting authorities can remedy the situation as necessary.

For locally produced food, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation is responsible for

ensuring good husbandry practices for livestock farming and fish farms etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB209

Question

Serial No.

0429

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please advise on the expenditure and staff establishment required for setting up a mechanism to oversee food imports from Mainland and overseas.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

While the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau formulates the policy on food safety, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) safeguards the safety of imported food from all sources through a combination of import control at entry points and regular food surveillance at the wholesale and retail levels. The work is mainly undertaken by the Food Surveillance and Control Section of Food and Public Health Branch of the FEHD, which has a current strength of 185 staff and a financial provision of \$85.6 Million in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB210

Question

Serial No.

0430

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau title):

Programme: **(5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety**

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under this programme, it is noted that the Bureau would continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety in accordance with international practice and local needs (page 429 of Volume IA). Please advise:

- (a) the details of the plan, the standards to be reviewed and updated, the types and places of origin of the food involved, the comparison between the international and local safety standards, the expenditures and staffing establishment required as well as the scheduled time of completion;
- (b) whether it is necessary to update the local food safety standards in order to unify the safety standards adopted by the places of origin and Hong Kong in respect of high-risk food containing carcinogenic substances to ensure that the food items that have failed the chemical tests in their places of origin would not be put on sale in our market. If yes, please explain how the data on the ingredients of food available in the market may be collected and advise the details of the plan, task, the expenditures and staffing establishment required. If not, please state the reasons;
- (c) whether it is necessary to include the regulation of genetically-modified food into the plan. If yes, please advise when the relevant labeling scheme would be implemented. If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a)&(b) To ensure that all food on sale in Hong Kong are safe for consumption, the Administration will review the existing legislation and food safety standards from time to time and formulate appropriate food safety legislation by making reference to international standards such as Codex standards and taking into consideration the risk assessment results of food safety locally and internationally, as well as demands of the public. The Bureau does not have estimates on the expenditures required.
- (c) According to the World Health Organization, genetically-modified (GM) foods on sale in the international market have passed risk assessment and, therefore, are unlikely to pose adverse effect on human health. For example, at present there is no evidence indicating that GM rice would pose food safety problems. Given that there is no consensus in the international community regarding mandatory labeling, the Government would keep a close watch on the discussion of the Codex regarding the issue for follow-up action.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB211

Question Serial No.

0442

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please advise:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, it is stated that the Bureau will oversee the implementation of health promotion and preventive programmes for children and parents, adolescents, men, women and elders. At present, what are the expenditure, the details and the effectiveness of the health promotion and preventive programmes? And, what are the details and the results of the overseeing of their implementation?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

Under Programme Area 3, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) formulates and coordinates policy and programmes to protect and promote health, prevent and treat illness and disease and minimise the impact of disability. In relation to health promotion and preventive programmes, HWFB works closely with the Department of Health (DH).

At the operational end, DH provides integrated primary health care services to the public through a number of preventive & promotive services / programmes, the expenditure in 2005-06 are shown in the table below -

	2005-06 Revised Estimate \$M
Family Health Service	367.2
Woman Health Service	22.5
School Dental Care Service	163.9
Student Health Service	126.9
Adolescent Health Programme	87.8
Elderly Health Services	144.3
Cervical Screening Programme	34.2
Men's Health Programme	1.1
Central Health Education Unit	31.0
Oral Health Education Unit	20.6

The Family Health Service (FHS) provides three main types of services : integrated child health and development programme for children from birth to five years, which includes parenting programme, immunisation, and health and development surveillance; maternal health service for antenatal and postnatal women; and family planning service for women.

Woman Health Service provides integrated health promotion and disease prevention programme including physical examination and appropriate screening tests for women at or below 64 years of age.

School Dental Care Service (SDCS) provides annual dental examination, preventive and basic dental care as well as oral health education for primary school children.

The Oral Health Education Unit organises oral health education and promotion activities for the general public, including outreaching programmes delivered through the Oral Health Promotion Bus and target-specific programmes. Since 2003, an annual Love Teeth Campaign has been launched with special emphasis on healthy gums and prevention of periodontal diseases.

Student Health Service provides annual health assessment for primary and secondary school students including physical examination, screening for health problems, individual counselling and health education.

Student Health Service has also launched an outreaching Adolescent Health Programme since 2001 to promote psychosocial health of adolescents through interactive activities delivered at school settings for secondary school students, teachers and parents. The programme focuses on basic life skill

training which enables adolescents to participate competently and confidently in society throughout their life course.

Elderly Health Services provide integrated primary health services for elders through elderly health centres (EHCs) and visiting health teams (VHTs). EHCs provide comprehensive preventive, promotive and curative services to elders aged 65 and over on a membership basis. VHTs outreach into the community to provide health promotion activities to elders and carers through collaboration with other elderly service providers, and provide influenza vaccination to elders in elderly homes.

Since 2004, DH has launched the Cervical Screening Programme in collaboration with public and private providers and laboratories with the aim to increase coverage of cervical screening through wide publicity and provision of service in the maternal and child health centres (MCHC) of FHS. Through the central registry CSIS (Cervical Screening Information System), the programme utilisation can be closely monitored.

The Men's Health Programme (MHP) aims to promote men's health through providing health information to achieve good physical, mental, and social health. It is delivered via the men's health website, media campaigns, roving exhibitions, printed materials and also networking with non-government organisations. It is tailored towards the health needs of Hong Kong men and provides a comprehensive catalogue of local men's health resources.

The Central Health Education Unit provides health education and health promotion for the general public. Its priority action areas include communicable diseases, nutrition, physical activity, tobacco control, injury prevention and mental health. In fostering a healthy lifestyle among members of the community, health promotion and disease prevention can be achieved. Where appropriate, these activities are needs-driven, evidence-based and evaluated by qualitative and quantitative research.

Service reviews are conducted by the Department from time to time to ensure that the above programmes are effective and are kept abreast of the changing needs of target groups. The high utilization rates of the services also demonstrates that users are satisfied with the services rendered, including their effectiveness.

HWFB will keep in view implementation of these programmes and monitor their effectiveness and will work closely with DH in refining the strategy and implementation as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB212

Question Serial No.

0443

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to geriatric day hospital services, please provide information on :

- (a) the utilization rate in 2005-06 and the estimated utilization rate in 2006-07;
- (b) the existing number of geriatric day hospitals and their locations; and
- (c) the number of patients on the waiting list and the average waiting time of each hospital.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) The estimated number of attendances and the utilization rate for Geriatric Day Hospital (GDH) in 2005-06 were 130 000 and 93% respectively. The corresponding figures are expected to remain the same in 2006-07.
- (b) The names and locations of the 16 GDHs are set out below.

Geriatric Day Hospital	Location/Cluster
1. Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	Hong Kong East
2. Ruttonjee and Tang Shiu Kin Hospital	Hong Kong East
3. Wong Chuk Hang Hospital	Hong Kong East
4. TWGHs Fung Yiu King Hospital	Hong Kong West
5. Tung Wah Hospital	Hong Kong West
6. Haven of Hope Hospital	Kowloon East

Geriatric Day Hospital	Location/Cluster
7. Yung Fung Shee Memorial Centre	Kowloon East
8. Yaumatei Specialist Clinic	Kowloon Central
9. Caritas Medical Centre	Kowloon West
10. Kwong Wah Hospital	Kowloon West
11. Princess Margaret Hospital	Kowloon West
12. TWGHs Wong Tai Sin Hospital	Kowloon West
13. Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	New Territories East
14. North District Hospital	New Territories East
15. Shatin Hospital	New Territories East
16. Tuen Mun Hospital	New Territories West

- (c) The Hospital Authority does not maintain a central waiting list for GDH services. Individual hospitals would make arrangements for those patients who are assessed by doctors to require GDH services. The relevant services are usually available within one to two weeks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB213

Question Serial No.

0444

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There is an increase of 16 343 outreach attendees receiving geriatric services in 2005-06 as compared with 2004-05, but the estimated number of attendees for 2006-07 is the same as that in 2005-06. Please inform this Committee of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The amount of resources devoted to geriatric outreach services by the Hospital Authority (HA) as well as the number of elderly homes covered by the outreach teams, namely the Community Geriatric Assessment Teams (CGATs), have remained at similar levels since 2004-05. The number of attendances made by CGATs during their visits to elderly homes is affected by a number of external factors, including the number of residents in the homes covered; the number of residents who required medical attention during the visits; and the number of follow-up cases on residents who had been discharged recently from hospitals. Based on the actual number of attendances made in the first few months in 2005-06, the HA estimated that the number of geriatric outreach attendances would increase from 473 657 in 2004-05 to 490 000 in the full year of 2005-06. As explained above, the projection of the number of such attendances would be affected by various external factors, as such the HA had used the revised estimate for 2005-06 as the basis for the estimate for 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB214

Question Serial No.

0445

Head : 149 - Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The item on promotion of healthy ageing still has a balance of \$326,000. How will the Administration use the balance to continue launching activities to promote healthy ageing in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Administration will work with the Elderly Commission (the Commission) to launch a series of programmes to promote active ageing in 2006-07. These include producing an Announcement in the Public Interest (API) for TV and radio broadcast to promote a positive image of elders, organising a "Silver Market" fair and a workshop on "Ageing in Place". A Working Group on Active Ageing has been set up under the Commission to take forward the organization of the events. We also plan to make use of the balance of \$326,000 from this item and \$5M donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for promotion of active ageing to fund the programmes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB215

Question Serial No.

446

Head: 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned in the Budget (Speech by the Financial Secretary, moving the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill 2006) that the Government will allocate \$20 million to strengthen home care services for the elderly. In this respect, please specify how the fund will be used and how to ensure its proper use.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

To take forward our vision of “ageing in place”, the Financial Secretary has allocated an additional \$20 million recurrent money in 2006-07 for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen home care services for elders in need.

We aim to deploy the additional resources to increase the capacity of the home care services for elders, which include household cleaning, meal delivery and escort currently provided by the Integrated Home Care Services Teams.

To ensure that the additional resources are used effectively, we will consider according priority to elders most in need, including singleton elderly, in allocating the additional service capacity.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB216

Question Serial No.

0457

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Would the Administration provide us with the figures on the amount of subvention granted to the Hospital Authority (HA), the total revenue generated from provision of its services as well as the breakdown of its main sources of revenue and expenditure in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Would the Administration also inform us of the major productivity enhancing and costs reduction measures taken by the HA since 2002 as part of its revenue-widening and cost-cutting initiatives, the increase/reduction and the extents accomplished each year as well as the projected changes and increase/reduction in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka Ki

Reply:

The financial provision for the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

	2004-05 (Actual) \$Billion	2005-06 (Revised Estimate) \$Billion
Operating Account (excl. Samaritan Fund) ^{<NI>}	27.91	27.11
<u>Add:</u> Samaritan Fund	-	0.15
Operating Account (incl. Samaritan Fund)	27.91	27.26

Capital Account	0.31	0.28
Financial Provision	28.22	27.54

<N1> HA is the administrator of Samaritan Fund only

The breakdown of HA's income and operating expenditure in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

	2004-05 (Actual) \$Billion	2005-06 (Projected) \$Billion
<u>Income</u>		
Medical	1.34	1.55
Non-medical <N2>	0.09	0.16
<u>Total</u>	1.43	1.71

Operating Expenditure

Personal Emoluments and Staff On-cost	23.88	23.30
Other Charges	5.75	6.19
Capital Account	0.31	0.28
Total <N3>	29.94	29.77
Total Operating Expenditure (Net of Income)	28.51	28.06

<N2> Including interest income, rental income from staff quarters, etc

<N3> Excluding Samaritan Fund

The efficiency savings HA has achieved from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> \$ (Million)	<u>Accumulated Total</u> \$ (Million)
2001-02	571	571
2002-03	600	1,171
2003-04	524	1,695
2004-05	917	2,612

2005-06

624

3,236

A multi-pronged approach has been adopted by HA to delivery efficiency savings, which includes the following measures:

- Reducing inpatient services by enhancing ambulatory services;
- Reducing reliance on hospital care by strengthening community prevention programmes;
- Merging of major specialties within a hospital cluster;
- Concentration of tertiary services in special centres, such as transplant centre, cardiothoracic surgery centre, etc;
- Closure of mobile clinics and floating clinics where the service demand is scanty;
- Implementation of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme in 2003-04;
- Exploring options and devising human resources strategies to control and manage staff replacement and staff cost; and
- Exploring various business models, including outsourcing and promoting public-private partnership.

HA is not required to deliver efficiency savings for 2006-07. Notwithstanding this, HA would continue to implement measures to achieve efficiency gain, and to control costs to fund new initiatives in priority area where feasible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB217

Question Serial No.

0458

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide information on the operating costs, deficit and reserves in respect of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. How and for what purposes will the one-off provision for 2005-06 be actually allocated? After the provision becomes recurrent in 2006-07 and incremental in the next three years, what will be the actual amount of subvention allocated to the HA annually? How and for what purposes will the estimated provision be allocated? Has the Government assessed whether the subvention to be allocated to the HA in the next three years will be sufficient to cover its operating expenditure and whether any deficit will be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The operating expenditure, overall deficit and reserve balance of the Hospital Authority (HA) from 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as follows:

	Operating Expenditure (\$ Billion)	Overall Deficit (\$ Billion)	Reserve Balance as at 31 March \$ Billion
2003-04 (Actual)	30.7	(0.4)	1.0
2004-05 (Actual)	29.6	(0.3)	0.7
2005-06 (Projected)	29.5	(0.7)	0

The breakdown of expenditures in 2005-06 in respect of the \$650 million one-off funding is as follows:

		2005-06 (\$Million)
(A)	<u>Infection Control</u>	
1.	Employing additional manpower to strengthen infection control in public hospital and clinic settings such as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uphold infection control setting by spacing out wards to avoid cross-infection, and operate additional isolation beds and wards etc. • adhere strictly to infection control requirements such as to carry out extra cleansing activities, etc. 	190
2.	Enhancing the infrastructure and equipment on infection control in public hospitals and clinics	30
3.	Stockpiling of personal protective equipment	54
4.	Stockpiling of drug and vaccines	10
5.	Purchase of additional consumables such as medical consumables and cleansing materials, etc. to strengthen infection control in public hospitals and clinics	29
	<i>Total for Infection Control</i>	313
(B)	<u>Other Activities</u>	
1.	Carrying out new initiatives and enhancing existing services in various hospitals to meet increasing service demand and rising cost of medical treatment, such as opening of an oncology block at Princess Margaret Hospital, relocation of rehabilitation services from Pok Oi Hospital to Tuen Mun Hospital, and opening additional private wards at Queen Mary Hospital, etc.	166
2.	Enhancing information technology systems, purchasing medical equipment, computer equipment, furniture and other equipment to meet technological advancement, and rising demand for services that require highly complex and specialized care.	71
3.	Completing the exercise to set up general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) in	100

		2005-06 (\$Million)
	HA.	
	<u>Total for Other Activities</u>	337
	Grand Total (A+B)	650

The \$650 million which has been made recurrent in 2006-07 would be allocated by HA as follows:

		2006-07 (\$Million)
(A)	<u>Infection Control</u>	
1.	Employing additional manpower to strengthen infection control in public hospital and clinic settings such as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uphold infection control setting by spacing out wards to avoid cross-infection, and operate additional isolation beds and wards etc. • adhere strictly to infection control requirements such as to carry out extra cleansing activities, etc. 	192
2.	Enhancing information technology systems, purchasing medical equipment, computer equipment, furniture and other equipment to meet technological advancement and escalating demand for services requiring highly complex and specialized care.	30
3.	Stockpiling of personal protective equipment	92
4.	Stockpiling of drug and vaccines	14
5.	Purchase of additional consumables such as medical consumables and cleansing materials, etc. to strengthen infection control in public hospitals and clinics	24
	Total for Infection Control	352

		2006-07 (\$Million)
(B)	<u>Other Activities</u>	
1.	Improving the quality of clinical care by carrying out new initiatives such as	100

	more extensive use of new psychiatric drugs, additional provision for haemodialysis, more timely intervention for profoundly deaf patients through cochlear implant, improving cancer care, strengthening services on the prevention and control of poisoning in Hong Kong, and enhancement of training for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.	
2.	Carrying out new initiatives and enhancing existing services in various hospitals to meet increasing service demand and rising cost of medical treatment, such as opening of a convalescent ward at Tseung Kwan O Hospital, etc.	106
3.	Purchasing medical equipment and improving medical facilities to meet technological advancement and rising demand for services that require highly complex and specialized care.	92
	Total for Other Activities	298
	Grand Total (A+B)	650

As mentioned in the 2006-07 Budget Speech, in addition to converting the HA's one-off grant of \$650 million last year to recurrent funding, Government will provide the HA with additional recurrent funds rising by around \$300 million per annum over the next three years to strengthen the HA's financial position and allow it to cope better with service requirements. This arrangement provides the HA with certainty in respect of funding growth and enables it to conduct longer term planning for its services and budget.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB218

Question Serial No.

0459

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the attendance rates of the various services offered by Hospital Authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06, including in-patient service, accident and emergency service, specialist out-patient service and general out-patient service; the number of cases regarding defaulting on payment for medical charges, the amount involved, the number of cases related to Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and non-Hong Kong permanent residents respectively and their percentages. What measures will be taken to follow up the non-payment cases?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The number of inpatient (IP) cases, accident & emergency (A&E) attendances, specialist outpatient (SOP) attendances and general outpatient (GOP) attendances as well as the number of write-off cases and the amount involved in 2004-05 and the first ten months of 2005-06 are summarised below. Statistics for February and March 2006 are not yet available.

2004-05	<u>IP</u>	<u>A&E</u>	<u>SOP</u>	<u>GOP*</u>
Total no. of cases (IP) / attendances (A&E, SOP and GOP)	1 143 875	2 101 432	8 119 564	6 123 993
Write-off:				
Total no. of cases (IP) / attendances (A&E, SOP and GOP)	18 337	25 560	325	24
Amount	\$42.9Mn	\$6.1Mn	\$0.07Mn	\$0.005Mn
(% of total charges)	2.2%	0.3%	0.003%	0.0003%
Including:				
<input type="checkbox"/> CSSA recipients	Fees for CSSA recipients are fully waived, thus there are no write-off cases.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Eligible Persons – no. of cases / attendances	3 746	7 774	90	17
(% of total no. of write-off cases)	(20.4%)	(30.4%)	(27.7%)	(70.8%)

2005-06 <i>(for the 10 months ending 31 January 2006)</i>	<u>IP</u>	<u>A&E</u>	<u>SOP</u>	<u>GOP*</u>
Total no. of cases (IP) / attendances (A&E, SOP and GOP)	936 660	1 694 467	6 770 508	5 044 459
Write-off:				
Total no. of cases (IP) / attendances (A&E, SOP and GOP)	10 759	14 747	118	162
Amount	\$24.1Mn	\$3.6Mn	\$0.03Mn	\$0.02Mn
(% of total charges)	1.4%	0.2%	0.002%	0.001%
Including:				
<input type="checkbox"/> CSSA recipients	Fees for CSSA recipients are fully waived, thus there are no write-off cases.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Eligible Persons – no. of cases / attendances	2 325	4 517	32	63
(% of total no. of write-off cases)	(21.6%)	(30.6%)	(27.1%)	(38.9%)

* Including injection and dressing

The Hospital Authority has put in place the following measures to minimize bad debts :

- (a) collecting deposits from non-eligible persons and persons who elect to be admitted as private patients upon admission, except for emergency cases. Non-eligible persons staying in public wards in general hospitals are required to pay a deposit of \$33,000. Deposit for private patients ranges from \$40,000 to \$100,000, depending on the ward class;
- (b) sending out interim bills to patients on a weekly basis during their hospitalization. Reminders will be sent to patients after dispatch of final bills;
- (c) asking patients or their next-of-kin for early settlement of outstanding bills before and after discharge of the patients;
- (d) taking legal actions where appropriate, taking into account relevant factors such as the amount in arrears and the chance of successful recovery.

The Government is also exploring the viability of amending the law to allow a public officer to seek the court's agreement to issue a direction to the Director of Immigration to prevent a visitor who has yet to settle his/her medical fees with the Hospital Authority from re-entering into Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB219

Question Serial No.

0460

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title)
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the number of Chinese medicine clinics operated by public hospitals in 2005-06, the amount of subvention involved, the number of health care staff and the attendance rate of these clinics? What is the number of graduates of local degree courses in Chinese medicine in 2005-06 and their training opportunity? Are there any plans to extend the service and enhance the professionalism in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

In 2005-06, there are three Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs) in operation. The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic and is required to provide herbal Chinese medicine service at a fee of \$120 per attendance (includes consultation and two doses of medicine) with fee waiver for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. It may also provide other Chinese medicine services at the clinic at market fee. The fees collected from herbal and non-herbal medicine services are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Any surpluses must be ploughed back to the clinic for service development particularly in promoting Chinese medicine/western medicine interface activities. In addition, the NGO may deploy its own resources to maintain the operation of the clinic.

The recurrent provision for Chinese medicine service mainly covers the maintenance of the Toxicology Reference Laboratory, quality assurance and central procurement of Chinese medicine herbs, the development of and provision of training in “evidence-based” Chinese medicine, maintenance of the Chinese Medicine Information System, and part of the expenses for the operation of the clinic. The recurrent provision earmarked in 2005-06 is about \$25 million.

The total number of consultations in the fourth quarter of 2005 for the existing clinics at Tung Wah Hospital, Yan Chai Hospital and Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (this clinic only came into full operation since December 2005) is about 9,400, 7,760 and 5,400 respectively. Each NGO is required to staff the clinic by at least four senior Chinese medicine practitioners and to engage and provide training for graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes. Currently a total of nine graduates have been employed by the three existing clinics. The NGOs which are required to operate the CMC on a self-financing basis have been given the operational flexibility to engage the required number of clinical and supporting staff (including registered/enrolled nurse, Chinese medicine pharmacist, Chinese medicine dispensers and general support staff) to meet operational needs.

The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for capital projects required for the establishment of six additional CMCs. We expect to open three CMCs by April 2006 and the remaining three by late 2006. Experience with NGOs running CMC has been encouraging in that they need to employ more graduates to support their additional services and/or research. A tailor-made training program has been developed for the new graduates working in the CMC. It is expected that there will be about 59 graduates of full time local Chinese medicine degree programmes in 2005/06. Each new clinic will be required to employ and provide training for at least five graduates. The Government has also been encouraging Chinese medicine practitioners in private practice to offer training opportunities to new graduates.

To enhance the development of Chinese medicine, HA will launch more centrally coordinated research projects such as drug-herb interaction, influenza prophylaxis and treatment. Furthermore, HA will continue to promote interface activities between western medicine and Chinese medicine under shared care model, and provide training in Chinese medicine theories and practices for western medicine health care professionals to equip them with the required expertise to promote interaction with Chinese medicine.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	:	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, _____ Welfare and Food _____
Date	:	_____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB220

Question Serial No.

0461

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list by hospital clusters, departments and specialties the staffing position, numbers of new recruits and leavers as well as the wastage rate of doctors of all ranks under the establishment of Hospital Authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The manpower strength and turnover figures of doctors of all ranks by major specialties for each of the seven hospital clusters under the Hospital Authority (HA) for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the tables at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

<u>Specialty</u>	Hong Kong East Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	48	4	2	51	1	2
Anaesthesia	30		3	27	2	
Clinical Oncology	13	1		13	1	2
Ear, Nose, Throat	9		1	9		
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	68	10	20	59	8	6
Intensive Care Unit	5	1		9		
Medicine	138	2	6	146	6	19
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	18	2	1	18	1	1
Ophthalmology	19	1	2	17	1	
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	27	1	1	29	1	2
Paediatrics	24		1	23	3	1
Pathology	16			16		1
Psychiatry	31	1		31	2	2
Radiology	25	2	4	27		3
Surgery	49	1	3	50	3	3
Total	519	26	44	525	29	42

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

<u>Specialty</u>	Hong Kong West Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	23			24		3
Anaesthesia	48	3	4	49	2	1
Clinical Oncology	13			12	1	1
Ear, Nose, Throat	7			7		1
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	37	9	5	33	8	3
Intensive Care Unit	8		1	11		3
Medicine	114	14	10	120	6	15
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	20			19	1	1
Ophthalmology	6	2	1	7	1	2
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	25	1	1	27	1	2
Paediatrics	37	3	3	38	3	1
Pathology	22	3	2	22		1
Psychiatry	18			18	2	
Radiology	31	3	2	34		3
Surgery	79	2	4	78	3	7
Total	489	40	33	500	28	44

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

<u>Specialty</u>	Kowloon Central Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	35	1	2	34	3	
Anaesthesia	41	3	3	45		4
Clinical Oncology	32	1		28	1	
Ear, Nose, Throat	11			11		
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	55	10	9	57	5	9
Intensive Care Unit	4			5		
Medicine	128	6	10	129	7	10
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	24	1		24	2	2
Ophthalmology	35		3	35		
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	32		1	32		
Paediatrics	36			35	3	2
Pathology	23		2	24		1
Psychiatry	22	1		21	3	1
Radiology	33	1	2	33	2	3
Surgery	73	2	2	71	4	5
Total	583	26	34	584	30	37

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

Specialty	Kowloon East Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	57	3	2	63	4	6
Anaesthesia	36	2	3	36	3	3
Clinical Oncology						
Ear, Nose, Throat	8	1		6	1	
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	94	11	16	92	13	17
Intensive Care Unit	8	1		9		
Medicine	120	5	9	123	4	3
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	24	1		27		2
Ophthalmology	11	1		12		1
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	38	2	1	39	4	5
Paediatrics	34	1		35		1
Pathology	19	1	1	19		1
Psychiatry	20	1	2	21	1	
Radiology	21			21	1	
Surgery	46	5	2	50		5
Total	536	35	36	553	31	44

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

Specialty	Kowloon West Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	85	8	5	92	3	6
Anaesthesia	62	10	4	65	2	3
Clinical Oncology	1			8		
Ear, Nose, Throat	11	1	1	13		1
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	148	34	22	155	14	41
Intensive Care Unit	31		5	31	1	
Medicine	269	10	14	272	14	24
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	43	4		46	3	4
Ophthalmology	24		2	22	2	
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	59	3		62	1	5
Paediatrics	73	3	1	71	6	2
Pathology	33			36	2	3
Psychiatry	64	2	3	64	2	3
Radiology	44		2	46	3	4
Surgery	114	3	2	117	6	10
Total	1 061	78	61	1 100	59	106

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

Specialty	New Territories East Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	68	5	2	66	6	6
Anaesthesia	62	3	4	51	3	4
Clinical Oncology	26		2	25	1	1
Ear, Nose, Throat	15		1	15		
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	106	11	23	89	14	6
Intensive Care Unit	11	2	1	23		2
Medicine	158	13	9	164	9	23
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	30	2	1	31		2
Ophthalmology	22	2	1	22	1	1
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	59	3	1	56	6	4
Paediatrics	49	6	2	46	6	2
Pathology	29	1	1	28	1	
Psychiatry	41	2	1	42		3
Radiology	29	3		28	6	2
Surgery	49	7	3	82	6	9
Total	754	60	52	767	59	65

The number, Wastage & Recruits of Doctors in Hospital Authority by Specialty and Rank

<u>Specialty</u>	New Territories West Cluster					
	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number as at 31 March 2005	Wastage	Recruits	Number as at 31 January 2006	Wastage	Recruits
Accident & Emergency	33	1	1	38	1	4
Anaesthesia	39		4	37	5	3
Clinical Oncology	15	1	1	14	1	1
Ear, Nose, Throat	9	1		10		
Family Medicine & general outpatient service	97	17	26	85	13	3
Intensive Care Unit	1		1	1		
Medicine	98	3	7	100	2	3
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	25	4	1	26	3	4
Ophthalmology	18			17	2	1
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	30	2		32	2	3
Paediatrics	32	2	1	33	1	2
Pathology	16			18	1	2
Psychiatry	64	2	4	65	2	2
Radiology	22			24		2
Surgery	48		2	52	1	4
Total	547	33	48	552	34	34

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB221

Question Serial No.

0462

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

To address the pay disparities among frontline doctors, the Hospital Authority (HA) plans to upgrade the remuneration packages for contract frontline doctors. The main points include :

- (a) doctors with good performances will be awarded an annual salary point increment from the beginning of their fourth year of service;
- (b) one salary point increment will be awarded to doctors who have successfully passed the intermediate examination for their specialist qualification and two salary points increment for the exit examination;
- (c) contract resident doctors with good performance will be retained for nine years so that they can pursue their specialist training and gain more experience in public hospitals after attaining their specialist qualification; and
- (d) longer-term employment will be offered to doctors who have successfully secured the resident specialist posts subject to service needs and financial constraints of the HA.

In this connection, will the Administration list out the estimates of the numbers of doctors and expenditures involved in items (a) to (d) separately?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The estimated number of doctors who may benefit from the enhanced pay package in 2006-07 is set out in the table below.

Measure	Estimated number of beneficiaries
(a) Annual Salary Increment from the beginning of fourth year of service	520
(b) Increment for passing intermediate examination Increment for passing exit examination	260 100
(c) Total contract employment of nine years for specialist training	190
(d) Longer-term employment for Resident Specialists	200

It should be noted that some doctors may benefit from more than one of the above measures, so there is possibly some overlap amongst the estimated numbers above. In addition, the actual number of doctors to benefit from the examination increments will depend on their examination results. It is, therefore, not possible to quantify with precision the staff expenditure that may be incurred in 2006-07 as a result of the enhanced package. As a rough estimate, the amount should be around \$10 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB222

Question Serial No.

0491

Head: 170 – Social Welfare Department Subhead : 700 – General
Non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged under Item 470 of Subhead 700 in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged would depend on the amount to be approved by its Advisory Committee and the other expenses allowed under the Fund such as promotional events and evaluation studies. The amount to be used for projects in 2006-07 would in turn depend on the number of applications submitted, the nature and quality of projects, the amount approved for each project and their cashflow requirements in 2006-07. It would be difficult to make an estimate at this stage but we have in principle earmarked the remaining balance of the Fund for 2006-07.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB223

Question Serial No.

0492

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding enhancing personal care services to frail elders as stated under Item 529, what is the action plan and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2006-07, \$21.3m will be spent on 232 Care Assistant (CA) posts to enhance personal care services for frail elders. Most of the CAs will work in subvented self-care hostels and homes for the aged to assist with the caring of elderly residents who are getting frail, by providing personal care services, distributing and serving meals, performing simple rehabilitation exercises, and maintaining the personal hygiene of the elders. Some CAs will work in Integrated Home Care Services Teams to help out in providing escort service, meal delivery and household cleaning etc. for the service users.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB224

Question Serial No.

0502

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How did the Administration arrive at a subsidy rate of over 95% by public funds for public medical services?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The subsidy rate is arrived at by comparing the income from provision of public medical services against the operating expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA). For 2004-05, the overall income from provision of public medical services and the operating expenditure of HA were \$1,166.7 million and \$29,628 million respectively. The subsidy level was therefore 96%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB225

Question Serial No.

0503

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title)
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the amount of provision earmarked for covering the expenditure on developing Chinese medicine clinics in 2005-06 and 2006-07? What is the estimate for developing Chinese medicine clinics in 2006-07 mainly used for? How many Chinese medicine clinics are expected to be in the public health sector in 2006-07? What is the amount of subsidy received, the attendance rate, fee charged on patients and the number of local Chinese medicine graduates employed by each clinic?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

In 2005-06, there are three Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs) in operation. The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic and is required to provide herbal Chinese medicine service at a fee of \$120 per attendance (includes consultation and two doses of medicine) with fee waiver for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. It may also provide other Chinese medicine services at the clinic at market fee. The fees collected from herbal and non-herbal medicine services are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Any surpluses must be ploughed back to the clinic for service development particularly in promoting Chinese medicine/western medicine interface activities. In addition, the NGO may deploy its own resources to maintain the operation of the clinic.

The recurrent provision for Chinese medicine service mainly covers the maintenance of the Toxicology Reference Laboratory, quality assurance and central procurement of Chinese medicine herbs, the development of and provision of training in “evidence-based” Chinese medicine, maintenance of the Chinese Medicine Information System, and part of the expenses for the operation of the clinic. The recurrent provision earmarked in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is about \$25 million and \$55 million respectively.

The total number of consultations in the fourth quarter of 2005 for the existing clinics at Tung Wah Hospital, Yan Chai Hospital and Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (this clinic only came into full operation since December 2005) is about 9,400, 7,760 and 5,400 respectively.

The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for capital projects required for the establishment of six additional CMCs. We expect to open three CMCs by April 2006 and the remaining three by late 2006. Experience with NGOs running CMC has been encouraging in that they need to employ more graduates to support their additional services and/or research. Currently a total of nine graduates have been employed by the three existing clinics. We shall require each new clinic to employ and provide training for at least five graduates and a tailor-made training program has been developed for them. The Government has also been encouraging Chinese medicine practitioners in private practice to offer training opportunities to new graduates.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	:	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	:	_____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB226

Question Serial No.

0504

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The population of Hong Kong is expected to increase in the next few years, but there will be fewer hospital beds for general patients, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped. How was the demand for hospital beds for 2006-07 calculated?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

Generally speaking, the demand for hospital beds is based on the assessment of individual clusters, having regard to a number of factors including the utilization trend of the inpatient services of the hospitals within their clusters and the development and expected results of their ambulatory and community care programmes.

As with the strategy in previous years, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to focus on the development and ambulatory and community care programmes to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The reduction in the number of general beds (73 beds or -0.36%) and mentally ill beds (44 beds or -0.93%) in 2006-07 is in line with this development. The reduction in the number of general beds is made possible by the development of the Visiting Medical Officers Scheme, the Community Nursing Service and the Community Geriatric Assessment Service, which serve to improve the health of the population and reduce hospital readmissions; strengthening of the gate-keeping role of General Outpatient Clinics and Accident and Emergency Departments; and enhanced utilization of hospital beds. As regards mentally ill beds, the continued development of community outreach services such as the Community Psychiatric Service, the Community Psychiatric Nursing Service and the Psychogeriatric Service, coupled with the transfer of stable psychiatric long-stay patients to Long Stay Care Homes managed by welfare agencies, is expected to ease the demand for this type of beds in 2006-07.

The reduction of 20 mentally handicapped beds (or -2.86%) in 2006-07 is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit specializes in caring for profoundly mentally handicapped children under the age of 16. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of profoundly mentally handicapped children as a result of

declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision of places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools, which offer an attractive option in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in CMC is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past few years.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB227

Question Serial No.

0505

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of hospital beds for general patients will be reduced by 73 in 2006-07. With the decrease in the number of hospital beds, why the general patients' bed occupancy rate, average length of stay and number of patient days remain the same as those in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The reduction in the number of 73 general beds in 2006-07 is in line with the continued strategy of the Hospital Authority (HA) to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The reduction in the number of general beds is made possible by the development of the Visiting Medical Officers Scheme, the Community Nursing Service and the Community Geriatric Assessment Service, which serve to improve the health of the population and reduce hospital readmissions; strengthening of the gate-keeping role of General Outpatient Clinics and Accident and Emergency Departments; and more efficient utilization of hospital beds. Since 73 beds only represent a reduction of 0.36%, their effect on the estimate of occupancy rate, average length of stay and number of patient-days for 2006-07 is deemed negligible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB228

Question Serial No.

0506

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list out the 5 types of surgeries which have the highest cost, the number and total cost of surgeries in 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Hospital Authority costs its services mainly based on bed days, attendances and episodes. The costs of surgeries are not separately calculated in the annual costing exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB229

Question Serial No.

0507

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list out the 5 types of illnesses which have the highest cost of treatment, the number of cases of each of these illnesses in 2005-06 and the cost of their treatment.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

The Hospital Authority costs its services mainly based on bed days, attendances and episodes. The costs of illnesses are not separately calculated in the annual costing exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB230

Question Serial

0508

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Why is the cost estimate of cost per inpatient discharged is higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06 while the cost per patient day and average length of stay for inpatient services of general, infirmary and mentally handicapped departments is to remain unchanged in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The method for calculating the cost per patient discharged is to divide the total cost of the relevant category of inpatient services (by bed type) by the number of patients discharged. The estimate for the cost per patient discharged in respect of mentally handicapped beds for 2006-07 is expected to be higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06 largely because the number of mentally handicapped patients discharged is expected to decrease from 460 in 2005-06 to 400 in 2006-07.

As for the minor increase in the costs per patient discharged in respect of general and infirmary beds between the revised estimate for 2005-06 and the estimate for 2006-07, they are due to an increase in the costs of drugs and utilities, which are partly offset by efficiency savings and a decrease in maintenance costs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB231

Question Serial No.

0509

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How is the percentage of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) waiver calculated?
What is the percentage of CSSA waiver for elderly CSSA recipients aged 65 or above?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The percentage of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) waiver is derived by comparing the amount of charges waived for CSSA recipients against the total charges for all public medical services provided by the Hospital Authority in a year. Of the total amount chargeable in 2004-05, 14.2% was waived for the elderly CSSA recipients aged 65 or over.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB232

Question Serial No.

0510

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the amount of expenditure on the development of family medicine in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007? Does the Hospital Authority have plans to increase manpower to facilitate the development of family medicine?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The amount of expenditure by the Hospital Authority for the development of Family Medicine (FM) that can be readily identifiable for both 2005-06 and 2006-07 is around \$93 million per year. In 2006-07, the HA is planning to make the following manpower provision for training in FM –

- Recruit about 60 medical graduates for basic FM training.
- Provide around 23 full-time equivalent of FM trainers.
- Employ at least 50% of graduating basic FM residents for one more year to fill vacancies in GOPC related services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 233

Question Serial No.

0511

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What will be the expenditure and manpower that the Hospital Authority plans to deploy to assist the Government in its work on revision of fees and charges ? What items of work will be included ? Regarding the deployment of expenditure and manpower, when will it start and when will it end ?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

A new round of review on public medical fees undertaken jointly by the Government and the Hospital Authority (HA) commenced in 2005-06 with a target completion date of around mid 2006. The review aims to target government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as to redress the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident and emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. The review examines also the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship.

The HA received \$3 million from the Government for conducting the review. The amount of funding has been used mainly for engaging two external consultants and a research firm to conduct a household survey on the socio-economic profile of HA users vis-à-vis the general public as well as paying part of the staff cost for the HA's staff who, together with some external overseas advisors and local academics, provided statistical and financial analysis to the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB234

Question Serial No.

0512

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What will be the estimated expenditure on general outpatient clinics for 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively? What will be the average expenditure and unit cost for each clinic?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The total number of general outpatient attendances and the total expenditure on general outpatient clinic (GOPC) service for 2005-06 are estimated to be 5 300 000 and \$1,283 million respectively. The respective projected figures for 2006-07 are similar to those for 2005-06.

The unit cost per GOPC attendance in 2005-06 is \$240. Because of the varying size, utilization pattern and operation mode of the GOPCs, the Hospital Authority does not have a breakdown of the unit cost by clinic.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB235

Question Serial No.

0513

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the Hospital Authority's average monthly expenditures on drugs before and after the implementation of the Central Drug List? What is the average daily expenditure on drugs for each patient?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Drug Formulary of the Hospital Authority (HA) has been implemented in public hospitals and clinics since July 2005. The drug expenditure by the HA between January and June 2005 was \$1.10 billion (monthly average of 0.183 billion) and that between July and December 2005 was \$1.07 billion (monthly average of 0.178 billion). Notwithstanding the above, the total drug expenditure by the HA is expected to increase from \$2.16 billion in 2005-06 to \$2.35 billion in 2006-07.

Given the large number of patients served by the HA and the varying lengths of time covered by their prescriptions, information on the HA's daily average expenditure on drugs per patient is not readily available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB236

Question Serial No.

0514

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Why the numbers of doctor trainees/non-specialists have been decreasing from 2004 to 2007?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo , Andrew

Reply:

From 2004 to 2007, the Hospital Authority (HA) has been retaining the vast majority of trainee doctors who have acquired their specialist qualifications through continuing their employment as specialists. The reduction in number of trainees / non-specialists in the estimate largely reflects the net effect of a group of serving doctors acquiring such qualifications to become specialists during this period and is hence accompanied by a corresponding increase in number of specialists in the workforce. To provide adequate training opportunities for medical graduates, over these years, the HA has also been recruiting about 300 trainees each year to receive training and provide services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB237

Question Serial No.

0515

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (No. & title):
Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the total medical fees and charges that the Hospital Authority (HA) could not recover in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively and their percentage of the total fees and charges payable to the HA? Please provide the details in respect of eligible and non-eligible persons.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The write-off of medical fees for services provided by the Hospital Authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) is summarized below. Statistics for February and March 2006 are not yet available.

	2004-05	2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006)
Amount written off	\$ (Million)	\$ (Million)
Eligible persons	9.2	5.9
Non-eligible persons	41.6	22.7
Total	50.8	28.6
As % of total medical fee income	2.6%	1.6%

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB238

Question Serial No.

0516

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How many cases were waived from the fees for accident and emergency services, outpatient services, drugs and inpatient services respectively in 2004-05 and 2005-06? What was the respective amount of waiver? Of which, how many senior citizens were involved and the respective amount waived ?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The number of waiver cases and amounts waived for 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) for accident and emergency service, outpatient services, drugs (for specialist outpatient clinics) and inpatient service are listed below.

	2004-05		2005-06 (as at 31 Jan 2006)	
	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)
Accident & Emergency	486 995	48.8	395 603	39.3
Specialist Outpatient - Attendances	1 392 347	89.3	1 179 718	75.4
- Drugs	-	31.5	-	27.0
General Outpatient	1 063 979	47.9	871 570	39.2
Inpatient	304 560	274.6	238 223	194.1

The number of waiver cases and amounts waived in respect of the elderly aged 65 or above for 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) for accident and emergency service, outpatient services, drugs (for specialist outpatient clinics) and inpatient service are listed below.

	2004-05		2005-06 (as of 31 Jan 2006)	
	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)
Accident & Emergency	195 511	19.5	161 530	16.0
Specialist Outpatient				
- Attendances	553 410	35.0	464 293	29.4
- Drugs	-	18.1	-	15.3
General Outpatient	385 736	17.4	389 212	17.5
Inpatient	172 911	146.7	133 720	109.3

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB240

Question Serial No.

0518

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the operation cost, fiscal deficit and reserve of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2005-06? Can the clusters under the HA have any reserve? How to assess whether the subvention received by the HA in 2006-07 is sufficient to meet the operation cost?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

According to the projection of the Hospital Authority (HA), the operating expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$29,500 million. The deficit, estimated to be about \$670 million, will be absorbed by the HA's General Reserve which operated with an initial balance of \$679 million at the beginning of 2005-06.

Hospital clusters are not allowed to keep a reserve.

The HA is currently working on its budget for 2006-07. With the Government's recurrent subvention of some \$27.4 billion together with other measures taken by HA, we are hopeful for HA to more or less balance its budget.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB241

Question Serial No.

0519

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the respective expenses of the Hospital Authority and its clusters on personal emoluments in 2004-05 and 2005-06? What are the number of doctors at consultant level or above in the clusters and the expenses on their annual emoluments?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The respective expenses of the Hospital Authority and its clusters on personal emoluments (PE), the number of doctors at consultant level or above in the clusters and the expenses on their annual emoluments in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the table below.

	HKE	HKW	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	Total
2004-05 (Actual)								
PE of all staff (\$M)	2,607	2,886	3,169	2,318	5,591	3,871	2,776	23,869
No. of Doctors in the clusters (as at 31.3.2005)	49	62	73.13	49.65	122.31	62.83	63.39	482.31
PE of Doctors in the clusters (\$M)	131	161	196	129	338	159	167	1,281

	HKE	HKW	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	Total
2005-06 (Projected)								
PE of all staff (\$M)	2,579	2,776	3,089	2,288	5,465	3,741	2,733	23,338
No. of Doctors in the clusters (as at 31.1.2006)	50	65.42	72.38	49.69	120.31	64.32	60.39	482.51
PE of Doctors in the clusters (\$M)	130	161	192	126	321	153	157	1,240

Note:

1. HKE = Hong Kong East Cluster
HKW = Hong Kong West Cluster
KC = Kowloon Central Cluster
KE = Kowloon East Cluster
KW = Kowloon West Cluster
NTE = New Territories East Cluster
NTW = New Territories West Cluster
2. PE of all staff covered also those at the HA Head Office.
3. Doctors include all those at consultant level or above in the clusters, as per the questions.
4. PE include basic salary, job related allowances and oncost.
5. PE of 2005-06 is projected based on the actual costs from April 2005 to February 2006.
6. Manpower on full-time equivalent basis, including all staff on permanent, contract and temporary terms.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB242

Question Serial No.

0520

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the respective expenses of the Hospital Authority (HA) and its clusters on allowances in 2004-05 and 2005-06? What are the number of doctors at consultant level or above in the clusters and the expenses on their annual allowances?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The respective expenses of the Hospital Authority and its clusters on job related allowances, the number of doctors at consultant level or above in the clusters and the expenses on their annual allowances in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are listed below.

	HKE	HKW	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	Total
2004-05 (Actual)								
Allowances paid to all staff (\$M)	29	30	36	26	59	39	32	251
No. of doctors in the clusters (as at 31.3.2005)	49	62	73.13	49.65	122.31	62.83	63.39	482.31
Allowances paid to doctors in the clusters(\$M)	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	14

	HKE	HKW	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	Total
2005-06 (Projected)								
Allowances paid to all staff (\$M)	29	29	35	25	56	37	31	242
No. of doctors in the clusters (as at 31.1.2006)	50	65.42	72.38	49.69	120.31	64.32	60.39	482.51
Allowances paid to doctors in the clusters (\$M)	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	14

Note:

1. HKE = Hong Kong East Cluster
HKW = Hong Kong West Cluster
KC = Kowloon Central Cluster
KE = Kowloon East Cluster
KW = Kowloon West Cluster
NTE = New Territories East Cluster
NTW = New Territories West Cluster
2. Allowances paid to all staff covered those at the HA Head Office.
3. Doctors include all those at consultant level or above in the clusters, as per the questions.
4. Expenses on job related allowances for 2005-06 are projected based on the actual payment from April 2005 to February 2006.
5. Manpower includes all staff on permanent, contract and temporary terms and are expressed in full-time equivalent basis, hence the numbers may not be integers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB243

Question Serial No.

0521

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated in the Budget Speech that a one-off grant of \$650 million was allocated to the Hospital Authority last year. Why does the revised estimate for 2005-06 show a mere increase of \$269 million against the original estimate instead of \$650 million?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The one-off funding of \$650 million has already been reflected in both the 2005-06 Original Estimate and 2005-06 Revised Estimate. The overall net increase of \$269 million in the 2005-06 Revised Estimate as against the 2005-06 Original Estimate is mainly a result of the inclusion of an additional funding of \$205 million for extension of temporary jobs in the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2005-06 and the cashflow requirement of Samaritan Fund, for which HA is the administrator, that amounts to \$150 million, off-set by the cessation of some one-off funding allocations in March 2006.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB244

Question Serial No.

0522

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (No. & title):
Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated in the Budget Speech that a recurrent funding of \$650 million and an additional funding of \$300 million will be provided to the Hospital Authority (HA) this year. Why does the estimate of the HA for 2006-07 show a mere increase of \$220 million against the revised estimate for 2005-06 instead of \$950 million?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The additional recurrent funding of about \$300 million is the annual growth in recurrent subvention to the Hospital Authority (HA) for 2006-07. The \$650 million comes from making recurrent of the previous one-off funding allocations to HA mainly for strengthening infectious disease control and provision of additional hospital services to meet increasing demand, which were supposed to lapse in March 2006.

The overall net increase of \$220 million in the 2006-07 Estimate as against the 2005-06 Revised Estimate is mainly a result of the provision of the above-mentioned additional recurrent funding of \$300 million, additional provision to meet the rental of general outpatient clinics located at joint users buildings charged by the Government Property Agency and increase in the provision to cover expenditure on equipment items and computerization projects costing over \$150,000 each, off-set by the reduced cashflow requirement of Samaritan Fund* in 2006-07.

- * The HA is responsible for the management of the Samaritan Fund on behalf of the Government. Contribution to the Samaritan Fund does not constitute part of Government's subvention to the HA.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB245

Question

Serial No.

0536

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: **(5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety**

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please advise the projected expenditure for and details of the plan to establish a new Centre for Food Safety in 2006-07.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

Our plan is to start establishing a new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) around mid-2006 subject to the Finance Committee's approval. We intend to create three additional directorate posts (i.e. one Controller, CFS (D4) post upgraded from one existing Deputy Director of Health (D3) post and two Principal Medical Officer (D1) posts) under the new CFS in FEHD. No provision has been made in the 2006-07 Estimates to meet the costs of the three additional directorate posts. Subject to Finance Committee's approval of the Directorate posts for the CFS in April, FEHD will endeavor to absorb the additional expenditure for these posts within the appropriations for Head 49 FEHD for 2006-07 and will seek supplementary provision when required. In addition, 71 non-directorate posts will be created under the new CFS and we have included \$31.9 million under Head 49 FEHD in 2006-07 to meet the costs. We shall continue to examine the need or otherwise for additional posts in the light of operational needs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB246

Question

Serial No.

0537

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

What are the number of applications and the expenditure involved for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In 2005-06, the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund received a total of 83 applications and approved 37 applications involving a total amount of about \$22.17 million.

Separately, in 2005-06, the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged received a total of 71 applications and approved 34 applications with a total sum of about \$11 million. The business sector contributed, in cash or in kind, a total of about \$13 million for these approved applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB247

Question Serial No.

0538

Head : 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the Administration's collaboration with the Central Policy Unit in conducting studies on financial security for the elderly in 2006-07, what are the estimated expenditure and the manpower involved? When will the studies be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : The Central Policy Unit is now conducting two research projects on the sustainability of the three pillars of retirement protection¹ and the financial disposition and retirement planning of current and future generations of older persons. The studies are staffed by existing CPU research personnel and will not require the creation of additional posts. The total estimated budget of the studies is about \$1.3 million. The studies are now in progress and are expected to be completed within 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

8 March 2006

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

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

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How will the Administration strengthen the community support services for people with disabilities and their families in 2006-07? What are the expenditure and the manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : The following are the planned new provisions to strengthen the community support services for people with disabilities and their family members and carers in 2006-07.

New Provisions	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)	Staffing
1. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDC)</u> The Social Welfare Department would set up five cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training, for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities are essential services rendered by these centres.	8.3 for 2006-07 (full-year effect 16.6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered Social Worker• Nurse• Physiotherapist• Occupational Therapist• Supporting staff

<p>2. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients</u> The centre provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living.</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charities Trust for four years including recurrent expenditure of 9.9 for 2006-07)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Social Worker • Nurse • Physiotherapist • Occupational Therapist • Supporting staff
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Signature	Paul TANG
Name in block letters	Director of Social Welfare
Post Title	10 March 2006
Date	

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 249

Question Serial No.

0540

Head : 149 – Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has indicated that it will oversee the implementation of a Family Support Programme to increase connection with vulnerable families, which are unmotivated, in 2006-07, what are the details of the work and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : Despite the full array of existing services available for our families, there remain needy families who are unwilling to seek help. To increase connection with these families and to address their problems at an early stage, about \$22 million (\$30 million in a full year) additional recurrent resources is allocated to launch a Family Support Programme in Integrated Family Service Centres / Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. Through telephone contacts, home visitations and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the needy families to various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crisis before will be recruited and trained to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. This is in line with the policy of using social capital and mobilise community resources to encourage self-help and mutual help in assisting the needy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 250

Question Serial No.

0543

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (8) Subvention : Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, welfare and Food

Question :

The subvention provided by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for the Guardianship Board for mentally disordered and mentally handicapped persons has decreased from \$5,500,000 in 2005-06 to an estimated \$5,100,000 in 2006-07, representing a decrease of 7.3%. What is the future service demand as anticipated by the Administration? What is the average waiting time for each person? How does the Administration plan the resources required for the future services?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The 2005-06 estimate for the Guardianship Board has included a provision for the payment of gratuity (\$0.5 million) for the Chairman of Guardianship Board upon the completion of his previous term of employment which was due in January 2006. Such provision is not required in 2006-07.

The annual growth rate of applications of both new and review cases is about 8% as expected. The average waiting time (i.e. from the receipt of application submission to the hearing of the Board with a decision made) is within three months. We closely monitor the caseload of the Guardianship Board to maintain the service pledge.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8.3.06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB251

Question Serial No.

0544

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Hospital Authority plans to reduce the number of hospital beds for the mentally ill from 4 714 to 4 670 and reduce those for the mentally handicapped from 700 to 680. What is the Government's projection of the future demand for such services? What are the reasons for the decrease of resources for such services?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The continued development of community outreach services such as the Community Psychiatric Service, the Community Psychiatric Nursing Service and the Psychogeriatric Service, coupled with the transfer of stable psychiatric long-stay patients to Long Stay Care Homes managed by welfare agencies, is expected to ease the demand for mentally ill beds in 2006-07.

The reduction of 20 mentally handicapped beds (or -2.86%) in 2006-07 is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit specializes in caring for profoundly mentally handicapped children under the age of 16. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of profoundly mentally handicapped children as a result of declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision of places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools, which offer an attractive option in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in CMC is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past few years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB252

Question Serial No.

0545

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the Hospital Authority's estimated expenditure for rehabilitation and geriatric services? The numbers of community nurses and geriatric day places in the estimate for March 2007 are the same as those in the revised estimate for March 2006. What is the Government's projection of the impact of the ageing population on the demand for services? Will the Government consider increasing the resources for rehabilitation and geriatric services to cope with the future demand for services?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The 2006-07 estimated expenditure for rehabilitation services is \$5,113.2 million and elderly services (aged over 65) is \$13,221 million. These two figures overlap substantially because the expenditure for those aged over 65 and above may also be accounted for under rehabilitation services when this group utilizes such services.

The ageing population would have an impact on the demand for services, but such impact is difficult to quantify as it is dependent on a number of factors including, for example, the general health condition of those who are aging, the effectiveness of preventive care programmes, and whether those in need seek timely and appropriate intervention to arrest their ailments. Furthermore, the impact of ageing population could be counter-balanced by provision of better clinical care and health education which would result in lower demand for, for example, in-patient services. The Hospital Authority will monitor the utilization of elderly services and advise the Government on the future demand for services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 253

Question Serial No.

0546

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating Expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The "Departmental Expenses" under the recurrent expenditure of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will increase from last year's \$62,460,000 to \$154,675,000, representing a rise of 147.6%. As such, please list in detail the items with increased expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The increase of \$92.2 million (147.6%) in the general departmental expenses in 2006-07, as compared with the 2005-06 revised estimate, is mainly due to the additional provision for influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious disease control/health services initiatives; and the one-off provision to strengthen family education and support to welfare-related policies and services.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB254

Question Serial No.

0550

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please explain to this Council why the number of trainees/non-specialists will be reduced from 2 112 as stated in last year's estimate to 1 892 as stated in the estimate of 2006-07. Please provide the number of training places of specialists for the past three years and the year 2006-07. What is the estimated expenditure in providing specialist training programmes? Will the Administration consider setting up a training fund for health care professionals so as to ensure that the quality of training will not be affected by the amount of annual provisions received?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

According to the projection of the Hospital Authority (HA), the expected decrease in the number of medical trainees/non-specialists of 220 from 2 112 in 2005-06 to 1 892 in 2006-07 will be entirely offset by an increase of 220 in the number of medical specialists from 2 438 in 2005-06 to 2 658 in 2006-07.

The number of doctors joining specialist training programmes over the past three years and the estimated number for 2006-07 are as follows:

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Number of doctors	274	264	316	over 300

Information on expenditure in providing specialist training programmes is not readily available.

HA has all along recognized the importance of offering appropriate and adequate training to health care professionals and has provided sufficient resources in this aspect. It does not consider it necessary to set up a separate training fund for health care professionals.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB255

Question Serial No.

0551

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the amount of provisions for each cluster budgeted by the Hospital Authority? Will additional resources be allocated to those clusters, such as the New Territories West Cluster, which are most short of resources? Does the Government have any plan to resolve the problem in the New Territories West Cluster where the resources for hospital services are severely inadequate for the increasing population?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The resource allocation within the Hospital Authority (HA) for hospital clusters is largely based on a population-based funding model. The share of funding to be allocated to each cluster is first calculated on the basis of age-adjusted geographic population within its catchment area, then adjustments are made for a number of factors which include the utilization of services by patients from other clusters; the funding requirement of some very specialized services that are provided in certain designated centres; and higher demand for long stay services. The amounts of funding that will be allocated to hospital clusters in 2006-07 are still subject to the approval of HA Board and, therefore, yet to be finalised.

Considering the increasing service demand in the New Territories West Cluster, we understand that the HA intends to increase the budget allocation to that Cluster in 2006-07. This will be on top of the resources given to the Cluster in previous years to enhance service provision in the coming years. The Pok Oi Hospital redevelopment project, which is underway and planned for completion by the end of 2006, will increase the number of beds in that hospital from 350 to 612. Works have also commenced in Tuen Mun Hospital for completion by early 2008 to build a new rehabilitation block which will provide an additional 512 beds.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB256

Question Serial No.

0552

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

I understand that due to a shortage of staff and beds, antenatal check-up services are not available in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departments of some public hospitals.

- (a) The Hospital Authority (HA) has introduced earlier new charges for non-Hong Kong residents using obstetric services. What are HA's revenues generated in this area so far? Can the Administration examine whether the number of Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong has decreased accordingly? Can the rights of Hong Kong residents to use public hospital services be safeguarded effectively?
- (b) What were the utilization rate, bed occupancy rate and patients to staff ratio of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department of each public hospital in the past three years? Please provide a breakdown of the number of Mainland women who have given birth in Hong Kong and the number of other non-Hong Kong residents using hospital services in Hong Kong. What are the ratios of these figures to the overall service utilization rate?
- (c) What were HA's expenditures of obstetric and gynaecological services in the past three years and what is the estimated expenditure for the coming year? Will the Administration allocate additional resources for obstetric and gynaecological services of public hospitals?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Kai-ki

Reply:

- (a) Since the implementation of the Obstetrics Package Charge for Non-eligible Persons (NEPs) on 1 September 2005, the Hospital Authority (HA) has derived an income of \$106 million up to the end of February 2006.

Judging from overall birth statistics provided by Immigration Department up to December 2005, it does not appear that the new NEP Obstetrics Package Charge has a dampening effect on the total number births by Mainland mothers in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, the new charge does seem to have reduced the utilization of the Obstetrics services in public hospitals by NEP mothers from November 2005 onwards, when compared with the relevant figures a year earlier. The number of births by NEP mothers in public hospitals for the months between September 2005 and February 2006, together with corresponding numbers for the same time a year earlier, are set out in the table below. It is necessary to compare year-on-year changes due to the seasonal pattern of birth figures.

	Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb	
	2004 (before)	2005 (after)	2004 (before)	2005 (after)	2004 (before)	2005 (after)	2004 (before)	2005 (after)	2005 (before)	2006 (after)	2005 (before)	2006 (after)
Births by NEP Mothers in Public hospitals	1 107	1 151 (+4.0%)	1 214	1 234 (+1.6%)	1 148	1 143 (-0.4%)	1 220	1 062 (-13.0%)	1 202	949 (-21.0%)	993	813 (-18.1%)

To ensure that there is a rational basis for the allocation of our social resources, heavily subsidised medical services should not be diverted to non-residents and visitors at the expense of local residents. We would continue to closely monitor the number of birth by NEP mothers in public hospitals to ensure that our social resources are targeted at those who are in need in Hong Kong.

- (b) The bed occupancy rates and number of doctors in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) Department in each public hospital are given in the tables below.

Bed Occupancy Rates

Hospital	2003	2004	2005
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern	71.6%	71.6%	73.5%
Queen Mary	49.6%	48.5%	63.3%
Queen Elizabeth	59.2%	56.1%	60.1%
United Christian	84.7%	98.2%	96.9%
Princess Margaret	46.6%	64.9%	65.5%
Kwong Wah	76.9%	68.6%	73.3%
Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole	25.5%	-	-
Prince of Wales	57.0%	80.1%	92.0%
Tuen Mun	64.4%	70.3%	77.1%
Overall :	62.5%	67.8%	73.8%

Number of O&G Doctors (in full-time equivalents)

Hospital	2003	2004	2005
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern	19	19	19
Queen Mary	26	25	24
Queen Elizabeth	25	24	24
Tseung Kwan O	7	7	7
United Christian	17	18	19
Princess Margaret	23	21	22
Kwong Wah	23	21	21
Prince of Wales	36	35	35
Tuen Mun	26	24	25
Total :	201	193	196

According to the HA, since O&G doctors are deployed to tend to both Obstetric and Gynaecology patients simultaneously with different ratios in different hospitals and settings, it is not possible to produce a meaningful manpower ratio or service utilization rate.

The respective numbers of births by local mothers (or Eligible Persons “EP”) and NEP mothers in public hospitals of the past three years are set out in the table below. Further breakdown of the NEP figures by Mainland mothers and other non-Hong Kong residents are not readily available.

	2003	2004	2005
Births by EP mothers	26 807 (75.5%)	26 552 (70.5%)	27 342 (66.3%)
Births by NEP mothers	8 692 (24.5%)	11 116 (29.5%)	13 917 (33.7%)

Note: figures in brackets () represent the percentage to total births in public hospitals for that year

- (c) The actual total costs incurred by the HA for its O&G services (including both inpatient and outpatient services) were \$1,885.7 million in 2002-03, \$1,781.5 million in 2003-04 and \$1,658.3 million in 2004-05.

The HA is planning to recruit additional doctors and nurses for its O&G Departments in 2006-07. However, it is difficult to project the growth in manpower strength with precision due to persistent loss of staff to the private sector.

Signature _____
 Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
 Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
 Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB257

Question Serial No.

0553

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide a breakdown of the number of cases in which the accident and emergency (A&E) services and the inpatient services were used due to industrial and traffic accidents in the past 3 years and the costs involved (including the number of attendances, number of admissions, length of stay and the expenditure incurred by the A&E and inpatient services). Does the Government have any plan to require the public or insurance companies to make contributions from the indemnities claimed from accident insurance so as to reduce the expenditure of the Hospital Authority ?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The respective numbers of attendances at Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments in public hospitals by patients injured in traffic and industrial accidents in the past three years are set out in the table below –

	Number of First Attendance at A&E Departments	
	<u>Due to traffic accidents</u>	<u>Due to industrial accidents</u>
2002-03	25 273	92 722
2003-04	22 218	78 535
2004-05	23 704	81 603

The overall average cost of an A&E attendance is around \$690 (revised estimate for 2005-06). The specific costing figures for A&E attendances by patients injured in traffic and industrial accidents are not readily available.

On average about 15.5% of A&E attendances by patients injured in traffic accidents and 7.4% by patients injured in industrial accidents would result in hospital admissions. The overall average cost of inpatient services for general beds is \$3,230 per day (revised estimate for 2005-06). The specific pattern of utilisation and costing figures for inpatient services utilised by patients injured in traffic and industrial accidents are not readily available.

Under the existing policy of the Hospital Authority (HA), patients who receive treatment in public hospitals for injuries sustained in traffic and industrial accidents are subject to the same medical charges as those applicable to any other patients. The patients are responsible for

paying for their medical charges. Whether claims would be made for reimbursement from insurance companies is a matter for the patients to decide. At the present moment, the HA does not have any plan to change its fee recovery policy.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB258

Question Serial No.

0554

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & 979 Hospital Authority –
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title): Equipment &
Information Systems

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Hospital Authority will allocate \$290,000,000 to develop equipment and information systems to cover expenditure on all equipment items and computerization projects costing over \$150,000 each. Please provide the relative proportions of expenditure of different account items (including basic equipment, medical record system and system maintenance, etc).

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Hospital Authority will make use of the provision of \$290 million in 2006-07 for the following purposes:

- (a) \$150.7 million for procurement of new medical equipment items to replace those aging ones and those with obsolete technology,
- (b) \$49.3 million for repair and replacement of electrical and mechanical items in public hospitals; and
- (c) \$90 million to meet the cashflow requirement for implementation of six existing information technology (IT) projects and development of a new IT project in 2006-07. The six existing projects include four clinical systems and two non-clinical systems with a cashflow requirement of \$36 million and \$34 million respectively in 2006-07. The new project, entitled “Next Generation Patient Billing System”, is a non-clinical system with a cashflow requirement of \$20 million in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB259

Question Serial No.

0555

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 979 Hospital
Authority –
Equipment &
Information Systems

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the expenses incurred by the Hospital Authority in developing its information technology systems and medical record database in each of the past five years? What achievements have been made in the development of its information systems? Can medical records of hospitals from different clusters be linked together and uploaded daily?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA) on the development of its information technology (IT) systems and medical record database from 2001-02 to 2005-06 is as follows:

Year	Expenditure \$ (Million)
2001-02	176
2002-03	164
2003-04	182
2004-05	166
2005-06	131

The following major IT systems/projects have been implemented in HA from 2001-02 to 2005-06:

Clinical Systems

- Clinical Management System Phase II
- Electronic Patient Record / Clinical Data Warehouse
- Implementation of cluster radiology and laboratory systems to medium and small hospitals
- Operating Theatre Management System
- Implementation of IT systems to new hospital blocks
- Clinical systems application architecture platform

- Implementation of IT systems to all general outpatient clinics
- Implementation of IT systems to newly opened Chinese medicine clinics

Non-Clinical Systems • Enterprise Resources Planning System (Phases I & II)

IT Infrastructure • Infrastructure standards for Health Level 7 (HL7) / Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) / Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

- Midrange computing environment enhancement to provide hot backup for mission critical systems
- Infrastructure upgrade for network and computer servers to improve system performance

As part of the Electronic Patient Record project, a corporate electronic Patient Record (ePR) database system has been developed to link and integrate all patient clinical-related information across all public hospitals and clinics. The frontline health care users can make access to relevant patients' clinical record/information via the corporate ePR database system following appropriate security protocols.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB260

Question Serial No.

0556

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 979 Hospital
Authority –
Equipment &
Information Systems

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Does the Hospital Authority have any detailed plan to develop information technology projects and an electronic medical record system in order to strengthen the co-operation between public and private medical systems and facilitate the free flow of patients' records?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) will implement in 2006 a pilot programme of "read-only" sharing of the clinical information on selected patients captured in HA's electronic Patient Record (ePR) database system with selected medical practitioners in the private sector. An evaluation of this pilot programme will be carried out in late 2006-07. The HA will work closely with the government and other stakeholders in the health care sector to explore the feasibility of developing a community-wide electronic medical record system in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 261

Question Serial No.

0580

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating Expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding research studies for policy making and assessment conducted by commissioned consultant of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (if any), please provide details in the following format :

- (a) Please provide details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2005-06 :

Name of Consultant (if available)	Description	Consultancy fee (\$)	Progress of Study (planning/ underway/ completed)	Action taken by the Administration to follow up the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are published, if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

- (b) Has financial provision been allocated for conducting consultancy studies in 2006-07? If yes, please provide the following details :

Name of Consultant (if available)	Description	Consultancy fee (\$)	Progress of Study (planning/ underway/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2006-07 will be published; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The information required is provided below :

- (a) Details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2005-06

Name of Consultant (if available)	Description	Consultancy fee (\$)	Progress of Study (planning/ underway/ completed)	Action taken by the Administration to follow up the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are published, if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
ACM Limited, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Professional services to conduct economic analysis for health and healthcare financing studies	100,000 ^{Note}	completed	The administration has applied the economic analysis results in developing various health care financing options	The results were incorporated into the Final Report on 'A study on Health Care Financing and Feasibility of a Medical Savings Scheme in Hong Kong' which were submitted to the LegCo in July 2004.
The University of Hong Kong	Project for updating of the Hong Kong Domestic Health Accounts	249,669	underway	A Working Group comprising representatives of several government departments has been formed to monitor the progress of the updating work and ensure deliverables are delivered satisfactorily	The project is still ongoing.

Note : The consultancy was substantially completed in 2003-04. The full cost of the consultancy was \$1.3m. The amount of \$100,000 was the last batch of payment made to the consultant in the year 2005-06.

(b) Details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2006-07 :

Name of Consultant (if available)	Description	Consultancy fee (\$)	Progress of Study (planning/ underway/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2006-07 will be published; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
The University of Hong Kong	Project for updating of the Hong Kong Domestic Health Accounts (DHA)	749,005	underway	Key findings of the DHA will include total, public and private health expenditure constructed according to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards. They will be posted on HWFB homepage and distributed to key stakeholders.
	Studies on health care financing options	Under planning	planning	Study results will be included in the consultation document to be issued by the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee in mid-2006.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB262

Question Serial No.

0425

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the enhancement of public health services for the prevention and control of food poisoning incidents, please advise on:

- a) the number of food poisoning cases received in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively;
- b) how preventive measures and their enforcement can be strengthened for high-risk foods at different levels from processing, delivery and retailing to serving at dining table in order to reduce the number of food poisoning cases in the coming years;
- c) the expenditure so involved;
- d) whether performance indicators have been set for the enhanced measures, and if so, the details; and whether indicators would be set for the "reduction of food incidents";
- e) whether provision has been made for enhancing public education on the proper handling of high-risk foods, and if so, the details and the target groups;
- f) whether, in addition to the regular food surveillance programme, enhanced measures and preventive surveillance programme will be implemented in respect of high-risk seasonal foods (such as turnip pudding and poon choi) in order to reduce the number of food poisoning cases, and if so, the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- a) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has been working closely with Department of Health in the investigation of food poisoning cases involving food premises. In 2004 and 2005, FEHD conducted 715 and 870 investigations respectively for these food poisoning cases.
- b) To further enhance the awareness and knowledge of the trade and the general public in preventing food poisoning, including those relating to high risk food, the Department will strengthen the promotion of food safety practices along the food chain from food processing, delivery, retailing to consumption. There will be a wide range of publicity and education programmes including workshops, seminars, press conferences, press releases, telephone hotlines, audio-visual productions, issue of education leaflets and media interviews in parallel with strict control and law enforcement actions.
- c) A financial provision of \$16.1 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for the relevant education and promotion work.
- d) No performance indicators have been set for the enhanced measures which form an integral part of the overall food safety prevention programme.

- e) A financial provision of \$16.1 million in the 2006-07 Estimate has included funds for public education on proper handling of high-risk foods. Furthermore, a series of workshops and seminars will be organized targetted at members of the food trade working in elderly and child care centres to promote food safety practices in these settings.
- f) Besides regular food surveillance, targetted surveillance will be conducted on high risk seasonal foods. The food premises offering high risk food will also be subject to more frequent inspections. There is no separate breakdown of expenditure and manpower for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB263

Question Serial No.

0495

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. In 2004-05, the Administration required that wages offered by government contractors to non-skilled workers should not be lower than the average market rates and the working hours of these workers should not be more than the average market level. Has the Administration assessed the effect of this requirement on departmental operational expenses? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

While prices of the service contracts awarded in the past 14 months have gone up by around 4%, the increases might have been related to a number of factors, including changes in our service and manpower requirements. It is not possible for us to come up with an assessment of the share of increase attributable to individual factors.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB264

Question Serial No.

0524

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong under the targets of Programme (1), please advise on:

- (a) the reasons why the number of inspections decreases from 43 in 2004-05 to the planned 35 for 2006-07;
- (b) the expenditure on such inspections in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively;
- (c) the Department's inspection procedures; and
- (d) the number of irregularities, if any, detected during the inspections in 2004-05 and 2005-06 in which the rearing of export food animals failed to meet the hygiene standards of Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The target set for Mainland farm inspection in 2005 and before had been 20 farms. Subsequent to the H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks in early 2004 and the temporary suspension of live poultry supply from the Mainland, FEHD conducted additional inspections to registered poultry farms in the Mainland. Additional farm inspections were also carried out last year in response to the occurrence of food related incidents. To reflect the enhancement of the farm inspection service, the target has been revised from 20 to 35 with effect from 2006, an increase by 75%.
- (b) The expenditure for farm inspections in 2004-05, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 is about \$2 million per year.
- (c) During each Mainland farm inspection, veterinary officers and field officers will conduct farm checks including :
 - checking of health of animals and information on farm layout and facilities;
 - meeting with the Mainland authorities to discuss relevant items including test results, vaccination protocols, feeding procedures, stocking conditions, movement of animals, quarantine facilities and disinfection procedures, and checking of documents;
 - procedures for handling of sick animals;
 - zoonotic disease monitoring measures.

We will provide advice and recommendation to the farms and the Mainland Inspection and Quarantine authorities as and when necessary.

- (d) As a result of our Mainland farm inspection visits conducted in 2004 and 2005, one farm was found unsuitable for supplying exports to Hong Kong.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB265

Question Serial No.

0525

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicator for “vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office” under Programme (1), the number of inspections in 2005 dropped drastically as compared with 2004. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

This is mainly due to the fact that larger capacity cross border trucks are being used in transportation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB266

Question Serial No.

0526

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicator for labels checked under Programme (1), there is a drop of more than 7 000 in the number of labels checked in 2005 as compared with 2004. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The reduction was mainly due to the deployment of health inspectors dedicated for checking of labels to support increased food surveillance and control work in response to a series of food incidents in 2005. The work included source tracing of incriminated foods, enhanced surveillance as well as taking enforcement action.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB267

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0527

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicator for poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks under Programme (1), there is a drop of more than 6 200 poison treatments in 2005 as compared with 2004. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The use of less poison treatments is due to the overall improvement in environmental hygiene conditions as a result of –

- (a) higher public awareness in keeping the environment clean, reducing sources of harbourage, eliminating food sources and removing waste accumulations;
- (b) rising trend of building management agents/cleansing contractors to provide pest control work as part of their services; and
- (c) gradual re-development of old tenement buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title _____

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB268

Question Serial No.

0528

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding water seepage under Programme (2), how many complaint cases concerning seepage in multi-storey buildings were received in 2004 and 2005 respectively? Among them, how many had the causes of seepage identified and how many had the seepage problem eradicated?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In 2004 and 2005, 12 598 and 16 180 water seepage complaints were received respectively. There is no ready collated information on the number of cases with causes identified and seepage problem eradicated.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB269

Question Serial No.

0529

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicator for courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors under Programme (2), the estimated number for 2006 is only 100, which is significantly smaller than previous years. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

It is anticipated that the demand for Hygiene Supervisor (HS) training will decrease in 2006 with the launch of the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Scheme since May 2005. As at 28.2.2006, about 49 000 participants have successfully completed HS courses organised or recognised by the Department against the current demand of around 20 000 HSs for some 20 000 licensed food premises.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB270

Question Serial No.

0530

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the number of unlicensed hawkers in Programme (3), the figure for 2005 was significantly smaller than that for 2004. Has the Department studied the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The decrease in the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in 2005 may be due to the Department's stringent enforcement action against illegal hawking and improvement of the local economy.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB271

Question Serial No.

0531

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Despite the decreasing trend in the number of different types of hawkers in Programme (3), the number of raids by Hawker Control Teams has increased. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The Department has stepped up enforcement actions against illegal hawking activities and street obstructions caused by licensed hawkers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB272

Question Serial No.

0532

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding hawker control under Programme (3), please advise on the establishment and actual departmental expenditure in 2004 and 2005 as well as the estimated establishment and expenditure for 2006.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The establishment of the Hawker Control Teams and the expenditure incurred in hawker management are set out below:

<u>Establishment of Hawker Control Teams</u>		
<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
2 705	2 648	2 648
<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>
<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Revised estimate)</u>	<u>(Estimate)</u>
\$789.9 m	\$735.6 m	\$723.2 m

Signature	GREGORY LEUNG
Name in block letters	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB273

Question Serial No.

0533

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the establishment under Programme (2), 28 posts will be deleted in 2006-07. What are the details of these 28 posts?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The 28 posts to be deleted in 2006-07 are in the Artisan, Ganger and Workman I ranks. These are existing vacancies and we no longer have an operational need to maintain these posts.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB274

Question Serial No.

1310

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the 71 posts to be created under Programme (1) in 2006-07, please advise on their respective ranks, functions and responsibilities.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

A breakdown of the 71 posts is as follows :

Grade	No. of Posts
Medical and Health Officer	4
Health Inspector	46
Chemist	2
Science Laboratory Technician	7
Scientific Officer	6
Administrative Support Staff	6
Total	71

The 71 posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB275

Question Serial No.

1311

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, the Department will organize talks and outreaching activities to promote health education to various target groups such as students and elderly. In this connection, please provide details of such talks and activities and a breakdown of the target groups.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Department plans to organize, in 2006, 1 200 school talks and 20 outreaching programmes for schools; and 1 400 seminars for the general public, in particular elders and new arrivals, to promote health education on environmental hygiene and food safety. Breakdown of the target groups can only be finalized when details of the talks/seminars/programmes have been firmed up and would be subject to changes in the light of public demand and our service needs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB276

Question Serial No.

1312

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the establishment of a committee to review food standards to enhance efforts in safeguarding food safety, please advise on:

- (a) the anticipated scope of review, work targets, performance indicators and the expenditure involved;
- (b) how the provision for 2006-07 will be spent to meet the targets and the performance indicators.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

A Food Safety Committee will be established under the new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department within 2006. The Committee will consist of academics, professionals, food experts and trade representatives. It will be responsible for advising on the formulation of food safety measures and reviewing of food safety standards in the light of international practices, trends and developments. The CFS will provide support to the Committee. There is no separate breakdown on the financial provision specially reserved for the operation of the Committee. No work targets or performance indicators have been set for the work of the Committee.

Signature	
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB277

Question Serial No.

1331

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the reasons for revising the target of stall let-out rate of public markets from 80% to 76% for 2006.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Department has been implementing general improvement works and organising market promotion activities in the past few years to improve the shopping environment in the public markets, but the market occupancy rate has continued to drop. This is possibly due to changes in shopping habits of the community and increasingly strong competition from other retail outlets in the neighbourhood. Having taken into account these factors, the Department considers that an overall occupancy rate of 76% represents the most appropriate target that it could reasonably attain for the public markets in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB278

Question Serial No.

1332

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the enhancement of facilities and management of public markets, inter alia, by continuing improvement works and market promotion, please provide details. How are the performance indicators set for these measures? Will these measures improve the occupancy rate of public markets?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Department will carry out general improvement works in eight markets, the estimated total cost of which amount to \$156 million and is working on plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 11 markets and two cooked food centres. These improvement works include mainly upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions. The Department will continue to carry out promotional activities in various public markets to attract potential customers. These include conducting special programmes on festival occasions, exhibitions, talks, issue of quarterly market newsletters, and adopting a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected markets. We will evaluate the effectiveness of these promotion activities by collecting feedback from market patrons and stallholders who have taken part in these events.

The improvement works and promotion activities should help improve the markets' trading environment and their attraction to customers. These however might not directly help increase the occupancy rate of individual markets as the latter would depend on some factors which are not within our control, for example, the number of competitors in the neighbourhood, demographic changes within the catchment area of the market concerned, and quality and prices of items offered by stallholders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB279

Question Serial No.

1333

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the issue of following up the regularisation of private kitchens :

- a. Will licensing control of private kitchens be included? If so, what is the timetable for the implementation and enforcement of the relevant measures?
- b. Has the Administration estimated the number of applications for private kitchen licences received each year after implementation of the relevant measures? If so, what is the estimated number?
- c. How licensed private kitchens will be regulated? Have provision and manpower been earmarked and if so, what are the details?
- d. What are the expenses involved in processing one private kitchen licence? How is the application fee for the licence determined and will it be lower than those for other food premises.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- a. The Administration is finalizing the detailed licensing requirements and conditions and preparing the draft amendment legislation. We plan to introduce amendments to the legislation in 2006.
- b. It is estimated that the number of applications for such licence will be small.
- c. "Private kitchens" will be required to comply with a number of restrictions including : a) the premises in which "private kitchens" are located must be permitted for commercial use; b) the maximum seating capacity is not more than 24 customers at any one time; c) they are open for business for a single continuous period of not more than 4 hours a day; d) they are required to close on or before 11:00 p.m.; and e) provision of meals for consumption off the premises is not allowed. Resources required for regulating the licensed "private kitchens" will be absorbed within the existing allocation.
- d. The expenditure for processing licence applications for "private kitchens" will be similar to that for general restaurants and the licence fee will be prescribed with regard to the existing fees for general restaurants.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB280

Question Serial No.

1334

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 is to streamline the food business licensing regime. The Financial Secretary has, in the Budget Speech, proposed to introduce a composite licence for ready-to-eat food. In this connection, please advise on:

- a. the details and the timetable for implementation;
- b. the number of licence applications estimated to be reduced upon introduction of the composite licence for ready-to-eat food, and the manpower and expenditure that can be saved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- a. We are working out proposals to introduce a new type of composite food licence to cover the sale of various ready-to-eat food. We will consult the trade and the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the proposals in 2006-07. Amendments to legislation are required for implementation.
- b. While it is anticipated that the number of applications for licences may decrease, it is too early at this stage to assess the impact of these proposals on the workload of the Department and whether savings can be achieved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title _____

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB281

Question Serial No.

1343

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the "Departmental expenses / General departmental expenses", the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$1,641,584,000, showing a substantial increase of \$492,896,000 over the revised estimate of \$1,148,688,000 for 2005-06. In this connection,

- (a) What are the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimated expenditure?
- (b) Does it involve any provision for outsourcing of services? If so, what is the expenditure involved? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The increase in 2006-07 estimated expenditure for "General departmental expenses" is mainly to cater for the following:
 - (i) sustaining temporary jobs for special improvement in environmental hygiene;
 - (ii) managing and operating new facilities, such as public markets and toilets, and providing cleansing services for new development areas;
 - (iii) enhancing food safety regulatory functions; and
 - (iv) coping with increases to utility charges, contract expenses, and maintenance requirements.
- (b) About \$300 million of the \$492.9 million increase in 2006-07 will be used for sustaining temporary jobs, largely through outsourced services, for special improvement in environmental hygiene. The exact expenditure for these outsourced services will only be known upon completion of the tendering exercises.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB282

Question Serial No.

1344

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to enhancing the facilities and management of public markets, please advise on:

1. the estimated expenditure and details;
2. the performance indicators, if any, for the improvement works and promotion.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. In 2006-07, the Department will carry out general improvement works in eight markets, the estimated total cost of which amount to \$156 million. The Department is also working on plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 11 markets and two cooked food centres. These improvement works would include mainly upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions.
2. The Department evaluates the effectiveness of improvement works and promotion activities by collecting feedback from market patrons and stallholders through surveys and/or discussions with Market Management Consultative Committees as appropriate. We do not have performance indicators for the market improvement/promotion works.

Signature	
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB283

Question Serial No.

1345

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the 28 posts to be deleted under this programme, what are their respective ranks and relevant duties?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The 28 posts to be deleted under this programme fall under the Artisan, Ganger and Workman I ranks. The main duties of these posts are to provide environmental hygiene services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB284

Question Serial No.

0623

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Despite an additional provision of \$20m earmarked for strengthening home care services for elders which only accounts for 0.06% of the total provision for the elderly services, as compared with the original estimate for 2005-06, the total provision for the elderly services actually decreases by 1.2%. In this regard, please provide a breakdown of the increase and decrease in the provision for individual categories of the elderly services.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The net decrease of 1.2% in provision for the Elderly Programme in 2006-07 as compared to the 2005-06 original estimate is mainly due to the revised cash flow requirements of the following projects/items arising from the adjustment to the schedule of phased implementation:

- (1) provision of infirmity service to elders amounting to \$20m;
- (2) provision of subsidised residential care places in contract homes amounting to \$33m;
- (3) conversion of self-care hostel and home for the aged places into care-and-attention places to provide a continuum of care amounting to \$34m; and
- (4) anticipated reduction of \$7.5m in operational expenses.

The reduction in 2006-07 is partly offset by the increase in provision of:

- (1) \$42.3m for the extension of temporary jobs;
- (2) \$8.7m for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged;
- (3) \$3.4m to strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of residential care homes for the elderly; and
- (4) \$1.1m to strengthen the manpower of the Contract Management Section for the monitoring of contract homes and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

The additional resources of \$20m which the Financial Secretary has allocated to the Social Welfare Department in 2006-07 to strengthen home care services for the elderly to realise our vision of "ageing in place" has not been reflected in the Estimates.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB285

Question Serial No.

0624

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In respect of this Programme, please advise the following:

- (a) it is set out under the Targets that the number of places in the day care centres for the elderly will increase by 20 in 2006-07, but the estimated enrolment rate of these centres for 2006-07 remains the same as that for 2005-06 (i.e. 115%, an over-enrolment rate of 15%). What are the reasons for such a situation? Will the 20 additional places be sufficient to meet the need arising from the over-enrolment rate of 15%?
- (b) please provide a breakdown of the enrolment rate and waiting time (if applicable) for places in the day care centres for the elderly;
- (c) please specify the districts in which the 20 additional places will be provided and explain why these places are provided there.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (a) For various reasons, e.g. sickness, attending medical appointments, there will be a number of elder members absent from the day care centres every day. Setting the enrolment rate at 115% will help to maximise the utilisation of the day care places. For this reason, the additional 20 places and 115% enrolment rate cannot be compared directly.
 - (b) Overall, there is a 2.4% vacancy rate for the 1 955 day care places as at February 2006, although there are waiting lists in some districts. Situation on the ground may change from time to time. The total number of elders waiting for day care places is 435 as at early March 2006 and the average waiting time is four months.
 - (c) In 2006-07, a 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a purpose-built Residential Care Home for the Elderly contract home in Kwai Tsing to meet the service demand in the district.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB286

Question Serial No.

0625

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Programme, please inform this Committee how many social workers and professionals will be provided with training courses on handling child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse and suicide cases in 2006-07. Please also provide in detail the contents of the courses and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2006-07, a total of 500 training places will be provided on child abuse and spouse battering, 200 training places on elder abuse and another 150 training places on suicide. The above training programmes for social workers and related professionals will cover the following areas respectively -

- risk assessment and intervention skills on child abuse and spouse battering, especially batterers intervention;
- clinical skills in working with victims and abusers of elder abuse; and
- professional awareness and intervention skills on suicide with special focus on the high risk groups of the middle-aged and the elders.

The estimated total expenditure for these training programmes is \$190,000.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB287

Question Serial No.

0626

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Could the Administration provide information on the average time for a social worker to serve a family and child protection case?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : While social workers of Family and Child Protective Services Units specialise in dealing with battered spouse, child abuse and child custody cases, social workers of other service units including Integrated Family Service Centres, Medical Social Services Units, Probation Offices, school social work service unit, child care services units, refuge and crisis centres, etc. also handle, among others, cases of such nature. We do not capture statistics on the time spent on each case which varies greatly depending on the nature of the case.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB288

Question Serial No.

0627

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Indicators of this programme area, in 2004-05 there were 7 907 family and child protection cases and the number of cases per social worker in the Government sector was 51. However, in the estimates of the following two years, the indicator for the number of cases per social worker is reduced to 45 even though the number of that type of cases is estimated to rise by over 800. Please inform this Committee of the reasons. Are there any measures for the Administration to reach the indicator? Has the indicator already been reached by now?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The provision of social workers for the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of the Social Welfare Department has increased from 105 in 2004-05 to 123 in 2005-06 through re-deployment of existing resources. Due to the increase in manpower, the average number of family and child protection supervision cases handled by each social worker in FCPSUs is reduced from 51 to 45 despite the estimated increase in the total number of cases served in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB289

Question Serial No.

1365

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

Programme : (4) Curative Care

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated in paragraph 21 that the target "appointment time for new dermatology cases within 12 weeks (90 % of cases)" cannot be fully met because a number of experienced doctors had left the service in the year. Could the Department state the longest waiting time and the average waiting time among the new dermatology cases per year from 2001-02 to 2005-06? Does the Department have any contingency plan in 2006-07 to ensure that the relevant target can be achieved and that the quality of service will not be affected by the departure of experienced doctors?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

From 2001 to 2004, the target appointment time for new dermatology cases was generally met and the longest waiting time was mostly about ten weeks.

In 2005, the performance was affected by the resignation and retirement of three specialists in dermatology from the Social Hygiene Service (SHS). The wastage rate of doctors was 9.6%. Nonetheless, over 60% of the new dermatology cases during the year were attended to within the 12-week target, with all urgent cases seen within two weeks. The other less urgent cases generally involved a longer waiting time of approximately 15 weeks.

The Department of Health (DH) has arranged internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits to replace doctors who left the SHS. Besides, DH plans to employ four contract doctors on a part-time basis in 2006-07 to shorten the appointment time. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB290

Question Serial No.

1366

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The following information is given under Indicators in paragraph 11 -

	<u>2004</u> (Actual)	<u>2005</u> (Actual)	<u>2006</u> (Estimate)
no. of enrolment in elderly health centres	39 900	37 400	38 000
no. of attendances for health assessment and medical consultation at elderly health centres	199 000	195 000	195 000
attendances at health education activities organised by elderly health centres and visiting health teams	440 000	460 000	450 000

Generally speaking, the above three indicators show that the estimated figures for 2006 are lower than those for 2004 and 2005. What is the Department's justification for making downward adjustment to these indicators? Given the reduction of such indicators, what plan does the Government have to address the increase in service demand for "elderly health centres" brought about by the aging population in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

We project that the Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) will increase their enrolment from the current 37 400 in 2005 to 38 000 in 2006, although this is lower than the number in 2004 because of difficulties in recruiting nurses in EHCs.

EHCs are not the only means to address the health care needs of the elderly. All the stakeholders have to work together to take concerted efforts to meet the varying needs of the elderly through various measures and services. Apart from EHCs, the Visiting Health Teams of Elderly Health Services (EHS) reach out into the community to provide health promotion activities for elders and carers. Also, there are more than 70 general out-patient clinics run by the Hospital Authority which provide general medical services to members of the public, including elders. Private practitioners are also key providers of primary health care. Besides, some non-government organisations (NGOs) are operating health centres on a

self-financing basis. EHS will strengthen collaboration with stakeholders including private practitioners and NGOs to enhance primary health services for the elderly in Hong Kong. At present, there is no plan to expand EHCs.

We have lowered our projection on the number of attendances at health education activities for 2006 because we have been changing our mode of delivery of health education activities from general health talks to more focused in-depth small group learning, which may result in a slight decrease in the total number of attendances.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB291

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

1396

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2006-07, additional resources will be allocated to the childhood obesity programme. What are the expenditure, staffing, programme content and number of clients involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) promotes healthy eating among members of the community as part of its ongoing activities in fostering a healthy lifestyle. To enhance its efforts in tackling the problem of childhood obesity, DH will launch a school-based campaign in 2006, targeting at over 440 000 primary school students. The campaign enlists intersectoral and multidisciplinary support from schools, health and dietary professionals, caterers as well as relevant Government departments. Guidelines on healthy school lunchboxes will be reviewed, updated and issued to schools, and educational resources for teachers and parents will be developed, coupled with training and publicity. The additional allocation for the campaign in 2006-07 will be \$3M. With internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits, a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, dietitians, health promotion officers, research and marketing personnel will be formed to carry out the campaign.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB292

Question Serial No.

0638

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, the market stall let-out rate fell below target in 2005. Please list out the markets where the stall let-out rate fell below target, their respective areas and let-out percentages.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The list of markets whose stall let-out rate fell below the target of 80% in 2005 is provided at

Annex.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

FEHD Markets with Occupancy Rate less than 80%
(as at 31.12.2005)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Total Market Stall Area (sq.m.)</i>	<i>Stall Occupancy Rate</i>
TIN WAN MARKET	937	78%
YEE ON STREET MARKET	285	78%
KAM TIN MARKET	493	78%
LUEN WO HUI MARKET	2 147	78%
HEUNG CHE STREET MARKET	1 461	78%
SHUI WO STREET MARKET	1 326	77%
KOWLOON CITY MARKET	2 716	76%
SAI KUNG MARKET	1 191	75%
WING FONG STREET MARKET	579	75%
JAVA ROAD MARKET	942	75%
NORTH POINT MARKET	188	74%
SAI WAN HO MARKET	1 287	74%
SHEUNG FUNG STREET MARKET	404	73%
CHOI HUNG ROAD MARKET	775	73%
TAI KOK TSUI MARKET	1 429	73%
CAUSEWAY BAY MARKET	263	71%
TAI KIU MARKET	1 967	69% *
SAN HUI MARKET	1 610	68% *
LEI YUE MUN MARKET	102	67%
SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET	268	67%
YAU MA TEI MARKET	1 349	66%
KWUN CHUNG MARKET	1 361	65%
SHAU KEI WAN MARKET	485	64%
LAM TEI MARKET	176	63%
WAN CHAI MARKET	657	62% *
ELECTRIC ROAD MARKET	513	62%
SHEK TONG TSUI MARKET	822	61%
HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET	1 149	60% *

<i>Name</i>	<i>Total Market Stall Area (sq.m.)</i>	<i>Stall Occupancy Rate</i>
TUNG CHAU STREET TEMPORARY MARKET	1 480	56% *
ON CHING ROAD FLOWER MARKET	39	54%
QUARRY BAY MARKET	549	52%
PLOVER COVE ROAD MARKET	1 249	52% *
PO ON ROAD MARKET	3 208	51% *
HAIPHONG ROAD TEMPORARY MARKET	723	51%
TUNG YICK MARKET	2 524	51% *
TSUEN KING CIRCUIT MARKET	1 027	45% *
CENTRE STREET MARKET	201	44%
PENG CHAU MARKET	299	39%
MONG KOK MARKET	937	39% *
BRIDGES STREET MARKET	310	37% *
TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET	502	33% *
KWONG CHOI MARKET	420	28% *

* The majority of the vacant stalls in these markets have been frozen due to impending market consolidation/improvement works, re-development, etc.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB293

Question Serial No.

0639

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the progress of the Administration's review on the policy on public markets.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Administration is still working on a review of public market policy and will consult the Legislative Council and relevant stakeholders on any major findings and recommendations prior to implementation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB294

Question Serial No.

0640

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the light of competition from supermarkets and changing shopping habits of the public, has the Administration assessed that the decrease in stall let-out rate of public markets will continue in the coming years? What measures will be taken to enhance the competitiveness of public markets? And what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We expect that the changes in shopping habits of the community and increasingly strong competition from other retail outlets will continue to adversely affect the occupancy rate of public markets and hence we have revised the target let-out rate to 76% in 2006-07.

To enhance the competitiveness of public markets, the Department has carried out general improvement works and been conducting promotion activities in public markets in the past few years. To improve the shopping environment and atmosphere in public markets, the Department will carry out general improvement works (including upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions) of a capital cost of about \$156 million in eight markets and is planning similar works in another 11 markets and two cooked food centres in 2006-07. The Department will also continue to carry out other measures in 2006-07 to help improve the attraction of the markets, including :

- ◆ maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets through enhanced cleansing services provided by the Department and the enforcement of the monthly market cleansing day;
- ◆ provision of flexibility in determining and changing, for individual stall, the trade of the stall business, and where feasible, the stall size;
- ◆ merging of selected vacant small stalls to become larger stalls to attract potential bidders;
- ◆ lowering, in selected markets, the upset auction prices of long-standing vacant stalls to attract potential bidders;
- ◆ adoption of a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected public markets; and
- ◆ conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and

distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

The resources required for the above measures will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB295

Question Serial No.

0641

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please give an itemized breakdown of contraventions pertaining to the labelling of prepackaged foods detected during routine inspections in 2004-05 and 2005-06, highlighting the number of detections, the number of warnings given and the prosecutions instituted. What are the maximum and minimum fines imposed on the convicted cases?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

There were 95 and 80 prosecutions taken out against the vendors/importers in 2004 and 2005 respectively for breach of the labelling regulations. Besides, 41 and 60 written warnings were issued in 2004 and 2005 respectively for minor discrepancies. A breakdown of the contraventions is provided at Annex. The fines imposed by the court ranged from \$500 to \$30,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

Breakdown on Enforcement Statistics
Labelling of Prepackaged Food (Year 2004 and Year 2005)

Year	2005		2004	
	No. of contraventions	No. of warning letter issued for minor discrepancies	No. of contraventions	No. of warning letter issued for minor discrepancies
Inadequate information on manufacturers	12	28	21	12
Sale of food beyond “use by” date, and improper format of indication of durability and expression of net weight	54	4	53	15
Improper/incomplete list of ingredients	28	23	10	10
False labelling	2	1	1	1
Inappropriate language	5	2	8	3
No food name/unclear food name marked on label	5	0	8	0
Lack of or incomplete storage information	5	0	7	0
Absence of exact percentage/amount of the special emphasis on a particular ingredient	2	2	11	0
Total no. of contraventions/warning letters	113	60	119	41
Total no. of prosecutions/warning letters issued @	80	60	95	41

@ The total number of prosecutions does not tally with that of the contraventions because one prosecution might cover more than one contravention.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB296

Question Serial No.

0642

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With the establishment of the Food Safety Centre in 2006-07, the Administration should step up the surveillance and control of various kinds of food, which will lead to a greater demand for food testing. However, the estimate number of food samples taken for testing in 2006-07 is 63 000, only marginally higher than the actual number for 2005. What are the reasons? Does the Administration have any plan to increase the handling capacity of its food laboratory? If so, what are the details of the plan and the expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The original estimated number of food samples to be taken for testing in 2005 was 61 000. In response to the occurrence of various food related incidents in 2005, additional samples were taken for testing during the year through re-deployment of resources. To reflect the enhancement of food surveillance work, 2 000 more samples will be taken for testing in 2006. As this forms a part of the work of the Food Surveillance and Certification Section, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB297

Question Serial No.

0647

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the 43 non-directorate posts to be created by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2006-07, what are the number of posts to be added to each policy programme (please list out their respective ranks, post titles, relevant duties and annual emoluments). What are the services that will be improved by the addition of these posts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2006-07, there will be a net increase of 43 permanent posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. This involves the creation of 71 posts under Programme (1) "Food and Public Health" and the deletion of 28 posts under Programme (2) "Environmental Hygiene and Related Services".

A breakdown of the 71 new posts is as follows:

Rank	No. of Posts	Notional Annual Mid-point Salary cost (NAMS) per post
Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	1	929,220
Superintendent of Environmental Health	4	773,100
Chief Health Inspector	8	622,440
Senior Health Inspector	8	503,580
Health Inspector I/II	25	338,070
Senior Medical and Health Officer	1	929,220
Medical and Health Officer	3	651,060
Chemist	2	568,020
Science Laboratory Technician I	3	365,160
Science Laboratory Technician II	4	216,120
Scientific Officer	6	568,020
Senior Administrative Officer	1	929,220
Statistician	1	568,020
Official Languages Officer I	1	481,020
Personal Secretary II	3	171,960

Rank	No. of Posts	Notional Annual Mid-point Salary cost (NAMS) per post
Total	71	

The 71 posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

The 28 posts to be deleted in 2006-07 are existing vacancies in the Artisan, Ganger and Workman I ranks, providing environmental hygiene services. There are no operational needs to keep these 28 vacancies.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB298

Question Serial No.

0724

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Item 436 under Subhead 700, how many live poultry retailers surrendered their licences or public market tenancies for selling live poultry in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

During 2005-06, up to end of February 2006, 56 live poultry retailers joined the voluntary surrender scheme to surrender their licences/market stall tenancies for selling live poultry.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB299

Question Serial No.

0725

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

At present, how many live poultry retailers are still holding licences or public market tenancies for selling live poultry?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Up to end of February 2006, 537 retailers are still holding licences or public market tenancies for selling live poultry.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB300

Question Serial No.

0726

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2006-07, how many live poultry retailers are expected to surrender their licences or public market tenancies for selling live poultry? What is the ex-gratia payment expected to be made?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The Department does not have any estimate on the number of retailers who will surrender their licences/tenancies for selling live poultry in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB301

Question Serial No.

0634

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies will be enhanced.

- a. At present, the proportion of female members in statutory and advisory bodies is 25% and the Administration stated in 2005 that such a proportion would be further raised. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the specific programmes to be launched in 2006-07 and what is the amount of estimated expenditure?
- b. Has the Administration decided on the proportion of female members in statutory and advisory bodies? If not, will the Administration conduct public consultation on this issue? What specific programmes will be launched and what is the amount of estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

(a) and (b)

The Government has set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs). A proactive approach has been taken to achieve the target, including –

- (i) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index managed by the Home Affairs Bureau;
- (ii) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
- (iii) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

As a result, women's participation in ASBs has been improving and reached the target of 25% in December 2005, against the level of 20.3% in December 2002.

2. On the suggestion of the Women's Commission, the Government will consider raising the gender benchmark to 30% having regard to local experience and international practices.
3. The Government would continue to work closely with the Women's Commission and women's organisations to enhance women's participation in ASBs. In 2006-07, we will prepare a database and organize a seminar to promote women's participation in ASBs, and an amount of \$400,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

HWFB 302

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 – Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

0635

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the item of Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 (paragraph 7 of page 427 of Volume 1A of Estimates 2006-07), it is stated that the Administration will oversee the provision of more residential care placements for vulnerable children and youth coming from problem families. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the followings:

- (a) What specific programmes will be launched in 2006-07 and what is the amount of estimated expenditure?
- (b) How many residential care placements will be provided in Shatin, Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung respectively and what is the respective amount of estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

- Reply :
- (a) In 2005-06, the Social Welfare Department, through additional resources and re-engineering of residential child care services, has achieved a net increase of 113 residential child care places for vulnerable children in need of out-of-home care arrangement. As at end of December 2005, the average utilization rate of residential child care services was 91%, indicating that placements are available for vulnerable children waiting for residential care places. In 2006-07, SWD will continue to work with NGOs on the re-engineering of residential child care services which aims at optimizing the usage of existing resources and achieving a better matching between service demand and provision to meet the changing service needs.
 - (b) Residential child care services are provided on a territory-wide basis and applications for residential care placements are monitored by a central referral system in accordance with the specific needs of the children and their families. The provision for the services for individual districts cannot be ascertained separately.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB303

Question

Serial No.

0727

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please state the reasons for not including an item about the implementation of a categorization scheme for food premises under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 for Programme (6). If the Scheme is to be implemented this year, please advise the projected expenditure required for 2006-07.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is drawing up the details of an Open Categorisation Scheme for licensed food premises for consultation with the Legislative Council and the trade later in the year. FEHD would work out an implementation timetable having regard to the views solicited and the resources implications for implementation. No financial provision has been earmarked for the scheme in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB304

Question Serial No.

1362

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health,
Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the project to explore the feasibility of introducing an electronic medical record system in Hong Kong:

- (a) What are the details of this project? Does it include any consultancy study or trial scheme?
- (b) What is the expenditure of this project?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The long term objective of developing an electronic medical record system is to enable the sharing of patient's personal health information, upon patients' consent, between the public and private sectors to enhance the continuity of care and provision of holistic care to patients. The success of the initiative hinges upon various factors such as the availability of the technology in building the information system, the readiness and acceptance of stakeholders including the patients and health care professionals, the resolving of privacy issues relating to the security and disclosure of personal data, and most important of all the full participation of the public and private sectors. As a first step, the Hospital Authority (HA) is developing a pilot project to explore the technical feasibility and to test the stakeholders acceptance of the concept. The project is confined to the sharing of HA's patients records by the private sector, subject to the patients' consent, and would involve about 200 medical professionals and about 10,000 patients from a few selected private hospitals, old age homes, private clinics. It is planned to launch the pilot in the second quarter of 2006 and to conduct an evaluation by end 2006-07. In view of the large scale of the initiative, we envisaged that further studies would have to be conducted before we can draw up detailed implementation plans and work out the funding requirement for developing an electronic medical record system for all patients in Hong Kong.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	:	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	:	<u>9 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 305

Question Serial No.

1381

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating Expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The estimated general departmental expenses under Subhead 000 is found to be increased by more than a double. Could the Administration explain the reason for such an increase?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase of \$92.2 million (147.6%) in the general departmental expenses in 2006-07, as compared with the 2005-06 revised estimate, is mainly due to the additional provision for influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious disease control/health services initiatives; and the one-off provision to strengthen family education and support to welfare-related policies and services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 306

Question

Serial No.

1384

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please provide details of the programmes to enhance tripartite partnership between the business community, the third sector and the Government and the amount of the expenditure involved in 2005-06? And in 2006-07, what programmes will be launched and what is the amount of estimated expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau promotes the formation of tripartite partnership among the business sector, the welfare sector and the Government. Apart from formulating policies, we have also introduced concrete incentives to encourage closer collaboration and partnership among the three parties. For example, we recognize and support such collaboration through operating the \$300-million Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, overseeing the \$200-million Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged administered by the Social Welfare Department and funding the annual event of the Caring Company Scheme undertaken by a Non-Government Organization.

As the policy formulation work for the above is undertaken by the existing staff of our Bureau, it is difficult to single out the expenditure.

As regards direct funding, among the concrete initiatives mentioned above, only the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (the Fund) is operated by this Bureau. In 2005-06, the Fund has approved 37 applications at a total of about \$22.17 million. The approved projects seek to enhance social capital, with 32 of them involving some form of tripartite partnership. As regards 2006-07, the amount to be approved would depend on the number, quality and requested amount of the applications and so on. Please see the draft estimates of the Lotteries Fund (Volume II) for the financial position of this Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB307

Question Serial No.

1385

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title)

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide details of the initiatives to cater for the needs of people with disabilities in employment, schooling and traveling under the programme to facilitate and encourage their full participation and integration into the community and the amount of the estimated expenditure involved in 2005-06. And in 2006-07, what programmes will be launched and what is the amount of estimated expenditure to be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Under Head 149, we provide vocational rehabilitation training and employment services for people with disabilities through Social Welfare Department and the three Skills Centres operated by the Vocational Training Council. Relevant measures and estimated expenditure in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services	Revised Estimated Expenditure for 2005-06 \$M	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 \$M
1. Sheltered Workshops	203.8	204.9
2. Supported Employment Service	35.9	38.0
3. Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres	91.4	95.1
4. Integrated Vocational Training Centres	25.7	25.8
5. On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities	5.6	5.8
6. Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities	3.5	7.0
7. Work Extension Programme	1.5	4.9
8. Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation)	4.4	4.1
9. “Enhancing Employment of People with Disability through Small Enterprise” Project	5.2	7.0
10. Skills Centres	95.3	86.2
Total	472.3	478.8

Separately, we address the transport needs of people with disabilities under Programme (5):

Transport Services for People with Disabilities of Head 186 - Transport Department. In 2005, the Department monitors the operation of a rebus fleet of 87 vehicles, providing point-to-point transportation service to people with disabilities to their work place, and to other destinations. In 2006, the fleet will increase to 92 vehicles. As for funding, \$33.1M and 35.3M are provided for the 2005-06 Revised Estimate and 2006-67 Estimate respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9.3.06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB308

Question Serial No.

1386

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide details of the work on domestic violence prevention and the expenditure involved in 2005-06. What is the estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims and batterers of family violence and families facing crises. These services include public education launched under the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence", a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), residential care placements for children, specialised services of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs) of SWD, refuge centres for women (RCW), Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), etc. The total estimated recurrent provision for FCPSUs, RCW and FCSC which are set up mainly for supporting victims and batterers or families facing crises is about \$139m in 2005-06 and \$146m in 2006-07. The provision for other service units such as IFSCs, CPUs, etc. specifically with regard to family violence and family crises cannot be separately ascertained as these units also serve users with needs not relating to family violence and family crises.

To facilitate the launching of the Batterers' Intervention Programme, an annual provision of \$1.0m was allocated to the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society since January 2006 while one additional clinical psychologist was employed in SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB309

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

1387

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide details of the programmes to be launched by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to collaborate with the Central Policy Unit in conducting studies on financial security for the elderly and the estimated amount of expenditure to be involved in 2006-07 ?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Central Policy Unit is now conducting two research projects on the sustainability of the three pillars of retirement protection¹ and the financial disposition and retirement planning of current and future generations of older persons. The studies are staffed by existing CPU research personnel and will not require the creation of additional posts. The total estimated budget of the studies is about \$1.3 million and the studies are expected to be completed within 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

8 March 2006

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 310

Question Serial No.

1388

Head : 149 – Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide the following details on the implementation of the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS)

- a) How many families have been identified by Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) for further services?
- b) How many families have been referred by MCHCs to Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), or other welfare services and vice versa?
- c) What are the case nature in general?
- d) What are the roles of respective Government Departments, e.g. Department of Health (DH) and Social Welfare Department (SWD), in overseeing the implementation of CCDS

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

- (a) In West Kowloon (WK) MCHC in Sham Shui Po, where the CCDS has been implemented since July 2005, up to January 2006, 131 mothers with probable postnatal depression were identified, and recommended for psychiatric as well as other support services, including counseling by MCHC nurses, parenting training and referral to IFSCs for social services. In addition, 710 clients have been interviewed for their need for social services, and 167 have been recommended for IFSC or MCHC support services.
- (b) During this period, 86 clients have been referred to IFSCs for social service. There were five clients referred by IFSCs to West Kowloon MCHC for services. There were 16 preschool children who were referred by their preschools to WKMCHC for assessment.
- (c) For clients referred to IFSCs, the major reasons for referral included childcare needs, emotional problems, marital problems and financial assistance. For cases referred by IFSCs to MCHCs, the services requested included parenting training, immunization, and family planning. For preschool referrals to MCHCs, the major reasons for referral were learning, behaviour and speech problems.
- (d) One of the objectives of the CCDS is to align respective services to enhance the interface among healthcare, social and education services at the community level.

DH takes the lead role in the programme design, development of service protocols and assessment tools, implementation and evaluation of the three components of CCDS: the identification and management of mothers with postnatal depression, the identification and referral of families with social service needs, and the identification and management of preschool children with health or developmental problems. Clients attending DH's MCHCs are systematically assessed for their needs for various services, which may be provided at the MCHCs and/or referrals may be arranged where appropriate. MCHCs also receive referrals of children with various health or developmental problems from preschool teachers for preliminary assessment.

The Hospital Authority (HA) is in charge of one component of CCDS, i.e., early identification and holistic management of at-risk pregnant women, such those with substance abuse or mental illness, or teenage or single mothers, and subsequent care of pre-school children with physical, development and behavioural problems referred by MCHCs.

With close collaboration with MCHCs, IFSCs of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organizations will provide a continuum of preventive, support and remedial services for families in need of assistance. If required, arrangements will be made between MCHCs and IFSCs to facilitate the acceptance of referral by clients. For example, social workers may meet clients on site at MCHCs.

The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) will work closely with DH to ensure the effective use of the referral and feedback system by kindergartens so that children in need can have timely support services provided by MCHCs or IFSCs and the kindergarten personnel themselves.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB311

Question Serial No.

1393

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Among measures that will be implemented for improving the quality of clinical care, the Hospital Authority will make more extensive use of new psychiatric drugs and more timely intervention for profoundly deaf patients through cochlear implant. What are the respective additional provisions for these new measures and the expected numbers of beneficiaries?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for the two new measures and the expected numbers of beneficiaries in 2006-07 are as follows –

Measure	Number of Beneficiaries	Estimated Expenditure (\$million)
More extensive use of new psychiatric drugs	6 000	45
Timely intervention for profoundly deaf patients through cochlear implant	40	10

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB312

Question Serial No.

1397

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

What are the details of the work involved and the expenditure incurred in implementing the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" in 2005-06? What are the details of the work to be involved and the estimated expenditure to be incurred in this respect in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. With the help of the Women's Commission, an analytical tool in the form of a "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" has been developed, and we are gradually introducing the use of the Checklist in different policy or programmes areas. So far, the Checklist has been applied to 19 policy or programme areas, including five in 2005-06.

All bureaux and departments have already designated a senior officer (a directorate officer in most cases) as the "Gender Focal Point" within their respective organisations. These Gender Focal Points help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, promote gender mainstreaming and the use of the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, and liaise and coordinate within their organisations, with the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) and the Women's Commission. In addition, gender-related training is provided to civil servants to equip them with the knowledge and skills to apply gender mainstreaming to their work.

In addition, in 2005-06, a core group of selected Gender Focal Points has been set up to devise plans or strategies to facilitate the bureaux/departments for proactive application of the Checklist. We have also implemented an evaluation mechanism, which includes focus group discussions with the Gender Focal Points to gather feedback and suggestions. Besides, we have organized a briefing for Principal Officials and Heads of Departments as well as a seminar for Members of the Legislative Council to promote gender mainstreaming. In collaboration with the Women's Commission, an experience-sharing booklet on completed gender mainstreaming cases has also been compiled.

In 2006-07, we will continue to roll out the Checklist to more policy or programme areas on an incremental basis. We will also follow up on the suggestions made by the core group and complete the evaluation exercise.

The workload associated with the above measures is absorbed by existing resources of HWFB and the participating bureaux and departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB313

Question Serial No.

1398

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please give an account of the details and effectiveness of the measures taken, and the expenditure incurred in enhancing women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies in the past three years. What are the details of the work to be involved and the estimated expenditure to be incurred in this respect in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

In the past three years, the Government has taken various measures to increase women's participation in government advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs). We have set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment to ASBs. A proactive approach has been taken to achieve the target, including –

- (iv) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index managed by the Home Affairs Bureau;
- (v) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
- (vi) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

As a result, women's participation in ASBs has been improving and reached the target of 25% in December 2005, against the level of 20.3% in December 2002.

Resources incurred in carrying out the above initiatives have been absorbed by the existing staff of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the Home Affairs Bureau and various bureaux and departments concerned.

The Government would continue to work closely with the Women's Commission and women's organizations to enhance women's participation in ASBs. In 2006-07, we will prepare a database and organize a seminar to promote women's participation in ASBs, and an amount of \$400,000 has been earmarked for these activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB314

Question Serial No.

1399

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please advise the committee on the details and effectiveness of the measures taken, and the expenditure incurred in assisting women to seek employment and ease their working pressure in the past three years. What are the details of the work to be involved and the estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Administration has put in place a series of measures to facilitate women's participation in the economy, including -

- (i) The Sex Discrimination Ordinance, enforced by the Equal Opportunities Commission, protects women's employment in various aspects through, amongst others, the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sex, pregnancy or marital status.
- (ii) The Labour Department (LD) provides a comprehensive range of free employment services to all job-seekers, irrespective of sex, through a network of 10 job centres, the Telephone Employment Service Centre as well as the Interactive Employment Service on the web. In 2005, a total of around 208 600 job-seekers were registered, of whom 52.3% were female. Among those placed by referrals, 55.5% were female.

To eliminate discriminatory practices on recruitment, the LD vets vacancies received to ensure that they do not contain restrictive requirements based on sex. Employers will be advised to remove such restrictive requirements, or their requests for placing such vacancies will be refused.

- (iii) The Education and Manpower Bureau has offered a number of continuing education and retraining programmes, irrespective of gender, to enhance the quality and employability of our labour force including Continuing Education Fund, Skills Upgrading Scheme and Employees Retraining Scheme.

- (iv) The Social Welfare Department and subvented service agencies also provide child care services to assist working mothers and fathers. In addition, low-income families with a social need to place their children in full day care can also receive financial assistance.

Expenditure incurred in carrying out the above initiatives is absorbed by the bureau, departments and organization concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB315

Question Serial No.

1379

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There will be a creation of 71 posts in 2006-07 under Programme 1 "Food Safety and Public Health". Please advise on the reasons for the creation of these posts and their work arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The 71 posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB316

Question Serial No.

1380

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There is no expenditure for item 012 "population-based food consumption survey" in 2005-06. Please advise on the progress.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

According to the agreement with the contractor, the latter will be paid the entire contract sum after the survey is completed instead of through payment by instalments. The survey has made reasonable progress and is expected to complete in 2007-08.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB317

Question Serial No.

1383

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to "Matters Requiring Special Attention" (paragraph 11 on page 243, Volume 1A of the Estimates), the Department will "convert designated aqua privies into flushing toilets by phases". Please advise on the number of designated aqua privies at present; the progress of works and the anticipated completion date of the conversion as well as the average expenditure involved for each conversion.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The project covers 100 aqua privies in the New Territories and outlying islands and is being implemented by phases. So far, 15 aqua privies have been converted into flushing toilets. The entire project is expected to be completed by end 2007. The estimated average cost for each conversion item is \$930,000.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB318

Question Serial No.

1411

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, provision for 2006-07 is \$180 million higher than that for 2005-06. This is mainly due to additional funding requirement for cleansing services and the provision for managing new facilities and replacement of specialized vehicles. Please provide details on the specific items and the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The increase of provision by \$188.3 million under Programme 2 is mainly to cater for the following :

- (a) increased capital expenditure on replacement/additional vehicles and equipment (\$35.2 million);
- (b) managing and operating new facilities, such as public toilets, and providing cleansing services for new development areas (\$19.8 million); and
- (c) sustaining temporary jobs for special improvement in environmental hygiene, and coping with increases to utility charges, contract expenses and maintenance requirements (\$133.3 million).

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB319

Question Serial No.

1412

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, the number of courses/seminars to be provided for Hygiene Supervisors decreases significantly to 100. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

It is anticipated that the demand for Hygiene Supervisor (HS) training will decrease in 2006 with the launch of the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Scheme since May 2005. As at 28.2.2006, about 49 000 participants have successfully completed HS courses organised or recognised by the Department against the current demand of around 20 000 HSs for some 20 000 licensed food premises.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

HWFB320

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Curative Care

0690

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated in item 21 under this Programme that the target for the appointment time for new dermatology cases was not achieved because a number of experienced doctors had left the service in the year. Please provide the present establishment of dermatologists and advise if there are any measures or financial arrangements to prevent the recurrence of the problem.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

As at end 2005, there were 31 doctors in the Social Hygiene Service (SHS). Three specialists in dermatology left the SHS in 2005, amounting to a wastage rate of 9.6%.

The Department of Health (DH) has arranged internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits to replace doctors who left the SHS. Besides, DH plans to employ four contract doctors on a part-time basis in 2006-07 to shorten the appointment time. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB321

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :
603 Plant, vehicles and equipment & 974
Subvented institutions – maintenance, repairs
and minor improvements (block vote)

Question Serial No.

0691

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please set out in detail the estimated expenditure under Subhead 603 “Plant, vehicles and equipment” and Subhead 974 “Subvented institutions - maintenance, repairs and minor improvements (block vote)”.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The provision of \$6.4M under Subhead 603 “Plant, vehicles and equipment” is made up of the following items -

	\$M
Replacement of two sets of air-cooled chillers and the associated accessories at Lam Tin Polyclinic	0.8
Acquisition of an Automated Haematology System	3.1
Replacement of one General X-ray machine with Computed Radiography System, Picture Archiving and Communication System and Radiology Information System at Tai Po Chest X-ray Unit	2.5
Total	6.4

The provision of \$0.9M under Subhead 974 “Subvented institutions – maintenance, repairs and minor improvements (block vote)” is for subventing the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong for the repair works of its Yuen Long Clinic Building.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB322

Question Serial No.

Head : 37 Department of Health

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

0692

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Could the Administration explain in detail the expenses for item 481 "Antiviral Stockpile for Influenza Pandemic" under subhead 700 "General non-recurrent" and advise on the present stockpile and the number of patients that can be catered for?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

A commitment of \$254M has been approved for increasing the stockpile of antivirals for influenza pandemic. Owing to the advancement of the delivery of the antivirals, the actual expenditure in 2005-06 will be around \$71M, instead of the revised estimate of \$29M.

As at 2 March 2006, the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority together have a stockpile of about 10 million doses of antivirals. This is equivalent to about 1 million treatment courses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB323

Question Serial No.

1360

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the Administration's works in providing training for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders and what was the expenditure incurred in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure involved in these works in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (1) In 2005-06, tailored-made training was arranged for a total of 113 professional staff and 118 non-professional staff who provide services to the demented elders. The total expenditure amounted to \$112,000. There were two classes involving three training days each for professional staff and two classes involving two training days each for non-professional staff.
- (2) In 2006-07, similar training programmes with 240 places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to the demented elders. The estimated expenditure for these training programmes is \$120,000.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB324

Question Serial No.

1361

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and expenditure incurred for the review and updating of the Training and Development (T&D) Roadmaps for the Social Security Officer (SSO) and Social Security Assistant (SSA) grades carried out by the Administration in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The T&D Roadmaps for the SSO and the SSA grades consist of a series of compulsory and optional training programmes to help the SSO and the SSA grade staff to develop and consolidate their core competencies as they progress in the grade. In 2005-06, the T&D Roadmaps have been reviewed and updated with a view to developing and consolidating the competencies of staff in meeting the challenges of service developments through -

- revamping training programmes under the T&D Roadmaps to provide more focused training; and
- shortening the compulsory programmes from three to two years to speed up the training and development of the staff.

No additional cost will be incurred as the cost for the new demands arising from the review will be met by revamping some existing training programmes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB325

Question Serial No.

1368

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding two items under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in the 2006-07 financial year, i.e., (1) continue to provide training for non-professional and professional staff serving demented elders; and (2) continue to provide training for care staff serving people with disabilities in the integrated home care services teams, what are the expenditure involved, staffing required and training arrangements?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

(1) In 2006-07, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to the demented elders. There will be two classes involving three training days each for professional staff and two classes involving two training days each for non-professional staff. The total estimated expenditure of these training programmes, which will be contracted-out, amounts to \$120,000, covering the provision of venue, facilities, trainers as well as co-ordination work by the training provider.

(2) In 2006-07, a total of 120 training places will be provided for the care staff serving people with disabilities in the integrated home care services teams. There will be two classes involving 2.5 training days each. The training programmes will continue to be conducted under an in-house mode with an estimated expenditure of \$18,000 mainly for the trainers' remuneration. The Department will provide the training venue and facilities as well as a training officer to take up all the co-ordination work for the course.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB326

Question Serial No.

1369

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the reasons for hiving-off the Wai On Home for Women (WOHW) to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for management and operation in 2006-07 and the corresponding savings in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : The utilisation of refuge centres for women has been rising in the recent years and there is a need to increase the total capacity. It is also the recommendation of the Review Panel on Family Services in Tin Shui Wai to transfer the management of WOHW from the Social Welfare Department to an NGO and to address the existing service gap for boys aged above 12 who need to be admitted with their mothers to these centres. Through the re-provisioning of WOHW to a larger set of premises with new design, the capacity of the new Centre can be increased from 40 to 50 places and accommodate boys aged above 12. The new Centre will be hived off to an NGO which can exercise more flexibility in the use of resources under the Lump Sum Grant to develop value-added services in addition to the essential service requirements.

In terms of departmental cash provision, the estimated amount of savings to be generated from the hiving-off of the WOHW to an NGO is \$0.022m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB327

Question Serial No.

1371

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the Targets set out in paragraph 17, the number of places in day care centre will rise from 1 955 in the 2005-06 revised estimate to 1 975 in the 2006-07 estimate, representing an increase of 20 places. Has the Administration allocated additional resources in this respect? Please give reason for this.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : In 2006-07, a 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a contract home in Kwai Tsing. The estimated recurrent provision for this unit is \$0.86m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB328

Question Serial No.

1372

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the day care centres for the elderly, please provide a detailed breakdown of the average enrolment rates, the percentage of unfilled day care places, the longest and the average waiting time for such places, and whether the Administration has plans to allocate additional resources to satisfy the demand from the elderly, by the 12 districts demarcated by the Social Welfare Department.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Overall, there is a 2.4% vacancy rate for the 1 955 day care places as at February 2006, although there are waiting lists in some districts. Situation on the ground may change from time to time. Overall the total number of elders waiting for day care places as at early March 2006 is 435 and the average waiting time is four months.

A new 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a contract home in Kwai Tsing in 2006-07. Two more day care units, each with 20 day care places, will be set up in two contract homes in Kwun Tong and Yuen Long respectively in 2007-08. We will keep in view the district demand and will continue to identify possible venues for provision of additional day care services.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB329

Question Serial No.

1373

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 63 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary states that the Administration will allocate “an additional \$20m to strengthen home care services for the elderly”. Regarding the home care services for the elderly, please provide a breakdown of the number of persons on the waiting list, the longest and the average waiting time, the number of additional places with the additional resources, whether the needs of the elderly can be fully satisfied, and whether the Administration has plans to enable the elderly in need to gain access to the service promptly without waiting, by the 12 districts demarcated by the Social Welfare Department.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : At present, there are about 2 000 ordinary cases waitlisting for the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS). All of them are not urgent cases. More than 75% of them require household cleaning services only. The waiting time varies from districts to districts, ranging from a couple of days to a few months. Needy cases requiring urgent assistance will be accorded priority. The additional \$20m recurrent funding in 2006-07 will be used to increase the capacity of the home care service provided by the IHCS, to reduce the waiting time and benefit more elders in greater need. Further deliberations will be made with the service providers to arrive at a realistic output level.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB330

Question Serial No.

1374

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the Targets set out in paragraph 17, the total number of subsidised and non-subsidised residential care places, including self-care (S/C) hostel/home for the aged (H/A), care-and-attention (C&A) home, nursing home, private home enhanced bought place, contract home and homes participating in the conversion of S/C hostel and H/A places, will be reduced from 26 985 places in 2004-05 to 24 827 places in the 2005-06 revised estimate, and further reduced to 24 361 places in 2006-07, representing a reduction of 2 624 places in total. What are the reasons for that? Has the Administration studied the impact of such a reduction on the services for elders, in particular the community care services for the elderly in Hong Kong? Would the Administration allocate additional resources to improve the residential care services or community care services for the elderly?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Subsidised S/C hostel and H/A places were introduced in 1960s targeting at elders capable of self-care but had housing needs.

International trend indicates that continuum of care is more suitable for older people with long term care needs. In line with this principle, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the conversion programme to convert S/C and H/A places which have no long term care element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places with continuum of care. The conversion proposal was supported by the welfare sector. The Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in March 2005.

Altogether, there are about 10 700 places in 75 homes which will be converted under the conversion programme. About 7 400 are S/C and H/A places. About 3 300 are C&A places not providing continuum of care.

The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a S/C place, a H/A place, or a C&A place not providing continuum of care. As the conversion exercise is conducted on a subvention-neutral basis, the number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places being replaced under the conversion programme. On the basis that all the 10 700 places will be converted, we project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will ultimately be generated under the conversion programme.

Although 2 627 S/C and H/A places and 738 existing C&A places without continuum of care are to be reduced as a result of the conversion in 2006-07, these places will be transformed into C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for long-term care services.

In parallel, we will continue to increase the number of subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care in purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators.

On home care services, we have since December 2005 increased the service volume of the 7 Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) teams which serve frail elders, to generate an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. We will increase the service volume of these 11 EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached. Also, we aim to deploy the additional recurrent funding of \$20m allocated to the SWD in 2006-07 to increase the capacity of the home care services for elders provided by the Integrated Home Care Services Teams.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB331

Question Serial No.

1375

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In paragraph 18 under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, the following items are included: "strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and provide training to enhance the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs" and "strengthen the manpower of the Contract Management Section (CMS) in order to enhance the monitoring of contract homes and enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS)". What are the details, timetables and indicators for these items? How much manpower and resources are involved?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : With a view to stepping up inspections, complaint investigations and prosecution against RCHEs in breach of licensing requirements, 10 additional frontline inspectors (i.e. five social workers and five Registered Nurses (RN)) will be recruited by phase in 2006-07 to strengthen both the Social Work Inspectorate Team and the Health Inspectorate Team of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE). Also, a Social Work Officer will be redeployed to LORCHE to enhance coaching and supervisory support.

The CMS of the Social Welfare Department will employ one additional RN, one Project Officer, one Technical Support Assistant and one Clerk in 2006-07 to strengthen the monitoring of contract homes and the EHCCS. Also, a social worker will be posted through re-deployment to further enhance the contract management mechanism.

The planned provision for the additional staff is \$4.5m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB332

Question Serial No.

1382

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will launch a Family Support Programme (FSP) to increase connection with vulnerable families. What is this Programme about? Which kind of families is the main target group? What is the difference between this Programme and the existing services of the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : The SWD will launch a FSP in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. It aims to serve vulnerable families who are identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units. The target groups mainly include families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation. Under FSP, through telephone contacts, home visitations and other outreaching service, we aim to introduce needy families to various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crisis before will be recruited to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. Programme Assistants will also be employed to assist in the non-professional logistics so as to enable social workers to focus mainly on professional intervention.

The FSP is an enhancement of the existing services of IFSCs because through the provision of more intensive support and proactive outreach services, FSP will be serving a more difficult-to-reach group of vulnerable and socially isolated individuals and families.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB333

Question Serial No.

1389

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The original budget for Elderly Service for 2005-06 is \$3,354.9m, but the revised budget becomes \$3,173.2m. Among them, the provision for government sector has increased by 14.6% (\$25.4m), but those for the subvented and private sector has decreased by 6.5% (\$207.1m). What are the respective increase and decrease in terms of services or programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Compared with the 2005-06 original estimate, the increase of \$25.4m (14.6%) in the Elderly Programme for the government sector in the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to:

- (a) increase in provision of \$42.3m for the extension of temporary jobs which was approved by the Finance Committee outside the 2005-06 original estimate; and to be offset by
- (b) reduction in funding allocation of \$13.2m under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, and slight reduction in operational expenses by \$2.6m.

Compared with the 2005-06 original estimate, the decrease of \$207.1m (6.5%) in the Elderly Programme for the subvented sector in the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to lower cashflow requirements as a result of the followings:

- (a) the provision involving \$62.9m for increasing the service capacity of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) has yet to be fully deployed since the EHCCS teams in many of the districts have yet to reach the agreed service capacity in 2005-06;
- (b) the amount of \$43m for the provision of planned additional subsidised places in contract homes is intended to be incurred over a number of years;
- (c) the \$68m for creating care-and-attention places providing continuum of care under the conversion of self-care and home for the aged places in 2005-06 may not be fully deployed before 31 March 2006; and
- (d) the proposal for providing infirmary care services in a non-hospital setting under a trial scheme amounting to \$20m has yet to be launched.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB334

Question Serial No.

1390

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : For the \$20m new resources to strengthen home care services for the elderly, please indicate which particular service will be strengthened? How many cases are expected to be served in a year?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : At present, there are about 2 000 ordinary cases waitlisting for the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS). All of them are not urgent cases. More than 75% of them require household cleaning services only. The waiting time varies from districts to districts, ranging from a couple of days to a few months. Needy cases requiring urgent assistance will be accorded priority. The additional \$20m recurrent funding in 2006-07 will be used to increase the capacity of the home care service provided by the IHCS, to reduce the waiting time and benefit more elders in greater need. Further deliberations will be made with the service providers to arrive at a realistic output level.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB335

Question Serial No.

1391

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources are involved in strengthening the manpower of the Contract Management Section (CMS)? How many staff are involved? Why should the CMS be strengthened when the number of Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) Teams has not increased? What kind of monitoring will be strengthened by the Social Welfare Department (SWD)?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The CMS of the SWD will employ one additional Registered Nurse, one Project Officer, one Technical Support Assistant and one Clerk in 2006-07 to strengthen the monitoring of contract homes and the EHCCS. Also, a social worker will be posted through re-deployment to further enhance the contract management mechanism.

The planned provision for the additional staff is \$1.1m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB336

Question Serial No.

1392

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Department will continue with the open tender exercise in selecting operator to run contract homes for the elderly. How many of such homes will be opened for tender in 2006-07 and how many of them are under-planning but already on the pipeline?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Three contract homes in Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, and Yuen Long Districts will be offered for tender in 2006-07. We have preliminarily identified a few more premises for contract homes under the premises-led programme. They are at different stages of planning/development in preparation for subsequent tendering.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB337

Question Serial No.

1410

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration indicated that an additional provision of \$20m would be provided to enhance home care services for elders. However, the estimated cost per case served under integrated home care services (IHCS) and enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS) is on the decrease instead of increase. Furthermore, the estimated number of cases served remains unchanged. What are the reasons? Please give a breakdown of items to be allocated with new resources under the said provision of \$20m.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : There is no significant reduction in the cost per case served per month for IHCS and EHCCS in 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06, i.e. \$1,210 and \$1,208 for IHCS and \$3,096 and \$3,095 for EHCCS in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

To take forward our vision of "ageing in place", the Financial Secretary has allocated an additional \$20m recurrent funding in 2006-07 for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen home care services for elders in need. This amount is not yet reflected in the 2006-07 Draft Estimate. We aim to deploy the additional resources to increase the capacity of the home care services for elders provided by the IHCS teams.

For the EHCCS which serve frail elders, SWD has in December 2005 increased the service volume of the 7 EHCCS teams to generate an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. The remaining 11 EHCCS teams have yet to reach the agreed service capacity. SWD will increase the service volume of these 11 EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB338

Question Serial No.

1363

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise on how the Administration will assess the effectiveness of the three additional rehabuses to be procured in 2006-07? Will the three additional buses be able to cater for the demand for rehabus?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Rehabus provides people with disabilities (PWDs) who have no alternative means of transport point-to-point transport service to their work place or other destinations. The addition of three buses to the rehabus service in 2006-07 will increase the carrying capacity of the fleet and improve services to PWDs. The Transport Department will continue to review annually the fleet size of rehabuses and the routes covered having regard to the demand for the service. With the availability of more accessible facilities, people with disabilities now have more choices by making use of public transport services apart from using the rehabus service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **9 March 2006** _____

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

HWFB 339

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

0643

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is going to provide assistance for alternative employment to chicken farmers who surrender their licences voluntarily. Please inform this Committee of the details of such plan and the expenditure and manpower involved. Apart from helping these farmers switch to greenhouse production, are there any other measures?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We are assisting chicken farmers who surrender their licences voluntarily to switch to greenhouse production and/or organic farming. We have so far conducted three tailor-made training seminars for them on 24 January, 16 and 17 February 2006. Some 120 chicken farmers have attended. We will continue to follow up with those interested and provide them with the necessary technical support to make the conversion. We will also hold more seminars and training workshops as the need arises. A total of \$10 million has been earmarked for the promotion of organic farming and greenhouse production.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

11 March 2006

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

HWFB 340

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

0644

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Since the Government is implementing the Voluntary Surrender Scheme for chicken farms and actively studying the feasibility of central slaughtering, the numbers of live chickens and farms in Hong Kong are expected to decrease substantially. In view of this, has the Government assessed whether the manpower requirement for monitoring these farms will be affected? If yes, how will the Government redeploy the excessive manpower that it might have?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Decrease in the number of chicken farms depends on the take-up rate of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme. We will monitor the farmers' response to the scheme, and redeploy resources saved from the scheme to other activities within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, such as enhancing Avian Influenza surveillance and increasing the frequency of inspection on the remaining poultry and pig farms.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

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

HWFB 341

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

0645

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) staff started to conduct inspections immediately after the law to ban backyard poultry-keeping took effect on 13 February. Please inform this Committee of the number of staff deployed in these inspections. What is the amount of staff cost involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

During 13-26 February 2006, AFCD deployed 260 staff to enforce the ban on the keeping of backyard poultry. The amount of staff cost involved was \$2.34 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

9 March 2006

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

HWFB 342

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

0646

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will delete 60 posts in 2006-07 under this subhead. Will the Administration provide details about the ranks and duties of these posts? How many of these posts for deletion are related to the establishment of the Centre for Food Safety?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The deletion of 60 posts in 2006-07 are achieved through reduction of existing vacancies and natural wastage. The savings derived will be allocated to meet new service needs relating to preventive measures against avian influenza and marine conservation. Details are as follows:-

Type of Work	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
Organic farming support service	Artisan	3
Accredited farm scheme	Artisan	1
	Motor Driver	1
Screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties	Field Officer I	1
Supervision of agricultural co-operative societies	Field Officer II	1
Wholesale market surveys	Field Officer II	2
Boards and committees works	Executive Officer I	1
Inspection of import and export of live animals and products	Field Assistant	2
Poultry breeding services	Field Officer II	1
Animal management	Field Officer II	2
	Workman I	5
Pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory work and inspection of import plant consignment	Field Officer I	3
	Field Officer II	3
Laboratory testing services	Veterinary Laboratory Technician II	1
	Laboratory Attendant	1

Type of Work	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
Fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials	Fisheries Craft Technician I	1
	Field Assistant	1
	Workman I	2
Country Parks management	Field Officer II	3
	Field Assistant	5
	Artisan	9
	Workman I	2
	Workman II	2
Country Parks ranger services	Field Assistant	1
	Forest Guard	1
Country Parks roads work	Workman I	1
	Workman II	1
Marine Parks management	Fisheries Supervisor I	1
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1
	Artisan	1
Total :		60

None of the above posts for deletion is related to the establishment of the Centre for Food Safety.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	11 March 2006

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

HWFB 343

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0698

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, what were the amounts of expenditure and manpower used by the department in monitoring avian influenza in the past three years (i.e. from 2003-04 to 2005-06)? In 2006-07, what are the amounts of expenditure and staffing arrangement in this area?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In the past three years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) deployed 2 Senior Veterinary Officers and 4 Veterinary Officers supported by 29 technical staff and 20 field officers to undertake monitoring and testing for avian influenza as well as preventing and control of other livestock diseases. In 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, AFCD spent \$18.5 million, \$20.9 million and \$22.5 million respectively in the monitoring and control of avian influenza which included expenditure in employing temporary contract staff and procurement of personal protective equipment.

In 2006-07, \$28.5 million has been earmarked for this activity. There is no change in the number of permanent staff involved in this area of work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006

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

HWFB 344

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical
Services

0699

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the amounts of resources earmarked in 2006-07 for the inspection of animals and plants imported into the territory, the inspection of local farms and fish farms, the monitoring of drug residues in food animals, and the regulation of feeding food animals with chemicals?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

For the year 2006-07, a provision of \$9.86 million has been earmarked for the inspection of animals and plants imported into the territory, \$3.4 million for the inspection of local livestock farms and the regulation of feeding food animals with chemicals; \$9.1 million for the inspection of fish farms, and \$11.7 million for the monitoring of drug residues in food animals.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 March 2006

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

HWFB 345

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0700

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the past three years (i.e. from 2003-04 to 2005-06), how many cases were there for illegal importation of animals under control or without quarantine? What special measures will be taken by the Government in 2006-07 to crack down on these illegal activities? What are the amounts of manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2003, 2004 and 2005, there were respectively 120, 93 and 64 cases of illegal importation of animals under control or without quarantine.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) staff will continue to work closely with the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force to control illegal import of animals at all entry points.

For the year 2006-07, AFCD will deploy 30 staff and allocate \$7.3 million for the inspection and control of animal importation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006

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

HWFB 346

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical
Services

0701

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Does the Government have any plan to vaccinate all pigs in local pig farms against Japanese encephalitis? If yes, what are the estimated amounts of manpower and expenditure involved in 2006-07? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Scientific Committee on Vectorborne Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection opines that the overall benefit of pig vaccination as a control strategy remains to be demonstrated. Having regard to limited protection that would be provided by vaccination and the strong objection from the trade, we have kept the situation under close monitoring and will consider whether additional measures would be necessary in the light of new developments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS STELLA HUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>11 March 2006</u>

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

HWFB 347

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

0702

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the amount of resources earmarked for helping fishermen develop offshore fishing and other sustainable fisheries in 2006-07, and how will the Administration conserve local fisheries resources?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A provision of \$2.2 million has been earmarked in 2006-07 for providing technical support, liaison services and training to help fishermen develop offshore fishing and other sustainable fisheries. Low interest loans under the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (with an approved commitment of \$100 million) and Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (with available funds of \$20 million) administered by the department are made available for application by local fishermen for the purpose. Moreover, fishermen may also apply to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund for sponsorships to attend the relevant training courses.

In 2006-07, we shall continue our existing efforts to conserve and manage local fisheries resources through conducting regular patrols and taking enforcement actions to combat destructive fishing practices, deployment and monitoring of artificial reefs, monitoring of local fisheries resources, and implementation of relevant educational and publicity activities. In addition, we will continue the exercise to formulate a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters with a view to conserving local fisheries resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

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

HWFB 348

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

0703

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Does the Administration have any plans for implementing a voluntary scheme for pig farmers to surrender their licenses? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated amount of staff savings to be achieved under the scheme in 2006-07? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Administration is in discussion with the pig farmers over the scheme. We will submit funding proposals to the Legislative Council as soon as we have finalized the details of the scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

11 March 2006

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

HWFB 349

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

0704

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What plans does the Government have to promote local agricultural and fisheries products in 2006-07? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will promote local agricultural produce emphasizing qualities and safety, the key characteristics of produce from accredited farms, organic farms and intensive greenhouse production. New or improved vegetable species and varieties will also be introduced to stimulate market demand and help capture high end markets for better economic returns. In addition, the Department will organize regular promotional activities and exhibitions to promote local produce to consumers.

As regards fisheries, we will continue to help fish farmers to raise production and quality control standards as well as competitiveness of their products through implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme and introducing new fish species such as Jade Perch for culture. We will also help fishermen and fish farmers promote their products through development of local brand names and marketing network, and emphasizing good quality to capture high-value market niches.

A total of \$18 million (i.e. \$13.4 million for agricultural products and \$4.6 million for fisheries products) has been earmarked for these tasks in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS STELLA HUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

HWFB 350

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical
Services

0904

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will the Government inform this Committee of its staffing level for implementation of the animal welfare policy and investigation of complaints about animal abuse? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

For 2006-07 the provision for animal welfare policy and investigation of complaints about animal abuse is about \$1.5 million.

1 Senior Veterinary Officer, 4 Veterinary Officers, 4 Field Officer I and 8 Field Officer II are involved in this area of work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

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

HWFB 351

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0905

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the past two years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) caught 16,000 stray animals each year. Please specify the types and figures of these captured stray animals. What was the amount of expenditure involved, including that for the capture, holding and euthanasia of these animals? Does the Government have any new plan to tackle the problem of stray animals and what is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In the last two years, the types and number of stray animals captured and the expenditure involved in dealing with them are as below:-

Year	Dogs	Cats	Cattle	Expenditure
2004	9,982	5,685	311	\$36.5M
2005	9,850	5,323	132	\$34.8M

For 2006-07 the provision for the capture, holding and euthanasia of stray animals is about \$36 million. AFCD will work closely with other departments, advisory committees and animal welfare organizations to address the stray animals problem.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB352

Question Serial No.

0874

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give an account of how the Social Welfare Department (SWD) monitors the three Enhanced Community Work (CW) projects? What are the expenditure and manpower to be incurred in continuing to monitor and review the effectiveness of the projects in the financial year 2006-07 as mentioned by the SWD?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : The three Enhanced CW projects are:

- (1) CW Experience and Training (CWET) Programme: a 2-year project run by the Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited from April 2005 to March 2007 to provide 1 000 (500 per year) long-term unemployed CSSA recipients (i.e. unemployed recipients of CSSA participated in Active Employment Assistance (AEA) for 12 months or more) in Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung Districts with CW and targeted job skills training;
- (2) Mosaic Public Arts (MPA) Project: a 5-month project operated by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Festivals from end of August 2005 to January 2006 to help some 40 long-term unemployed youths on CSSA in Sha Tin and Tai Po/North Districts increase their self-confidence, build up their sense of responsibility and commitment, enhance social skills through mosaic skill training/team work and assembling a mosaic mural to improve the public environment; and
- (3) CW-cum-Occupational Skills Training (CW-cum-OST) Project: a 17-month project run by the Society for Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong from January 2006 to May 2007, providing up to 216 long-term unemployed recipients of CSSA and youths in Kwun Tong/Kowloon City Districts with skill trainings and CW placements on three targeted job posts (dog trainer, programme assistant and general assistant).

These projects are closely monitored through regular visits by SWD staff, meeting with the non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) and submission of reports by NGOs to provide statistics during the period of implementation. The performance of individual project is measured against pre-set targets.

The expenditure including administrative support expenses for the three projects are \$7.1m for 2005-06 and \$5.5m for 2006-07. No additional staff is required by SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB353

Question Serial No.

0906

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How much resources are allocated for strengthening support services to victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crises at present?
- (b) For services tackling the above problems, what are the details of the cases served in the past two years?
- (c) Will additional manpower and resources be provided for strengthening the services?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crises. These services include public education launched under the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence", a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through the new Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) model, residential care placements for children, specialised services of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs) of SWD, refuge centres for women (RCW), Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), etc. The total estimated recurrent provision for FCPSUs, RCW and FCSC which are set up mainly for supporting victims and batterers or families facing crises is about \$139m in 2005-06. The provision for other service units such as IFSCs, CPUs, etc. specifically with regard to family violence and family crises cannot be separately ascertained as these units also serve users with needs not relating to domestic violence and family crises.
- (b) The number of battered spouse cases and child abuse cases handled by the FCPSUs was 7 066 in 2004-05 and is estimated to be 8 143 in 2005-06.
- (c) In view of the rising number of domestic violence cases,

resources allocated to FCPSUs were increased from \$104m to \$113.7m to strengthen the manpower from 105 to 123 social workers from 2004-05 to 2005-06.

To enhance the support to the refuge centres for women, in 2005-06 an annual additional funding of \$0.3m was allocated to each refuge centre and an additional provision of \$1m was allocated to the FCSC. To facilitate the launching of the Batterers Intervention Programme, an annual provision of \$1.0m was allocated to the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society in January 2005 while one additional clinical psychologist has been employed by SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB354

Question Serial No.

0854

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operation

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise this Committee the details and the amount of savings for the proposed deletion of six permanent posts in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The six permanent posts comprise three Science Laboratory Technician IIs and three Laboratory Attendants. The former are responsible for technical support in forensic science service and the latter for general cleaning support to the Laboratory. These posts can be deleted in 2006-07 after streamlining of internal processes and the total amount of savings that can be achieved in 2006-07 is about \$1.04 million.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Dr T L TING

Post Title : Government Chemist

Date : 7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 355

Question Serial No.

0857

Head : 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this programme, would the Administration advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) reasons for setting the indicator of the new category of "food complaint samples" at 10 000 samples in 2006 and the Administration's considerations in making such estimate; and
- (b) the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in handling these 10 000 "food complaint samples"?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

(a) There were analytical requests for 2 500 food complaint samples in 2005. Due to increase in public awareness in food safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has projected a moderate increase to about 3 200 food complaint samples in 2006-07, which is equivalent to about 10 000 tests.

(b) The Government Laboratory would deploy a team consisting of five professional staff, six technical staff and one minor staff for handling food complaint cases. The annual expenditure would be about \$6.174 m.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Dr T L TING

Post Title : Government Chemist

Date : 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 356

Question Serial No.

0858

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

a. Regarding "further enhancement of food safety efforts in Hong Kong" mentioned under the item of "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07", will the Administration inform this Committee whether additional manpower is required for implementing this policy? If so, what are the numbers and the posts of the additional staff involved?

b. What is the total number of posts deleted for efficiency saving purpose under this Programme? What are the posts involved and their duties and pay levels?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

a. We will deploy necessary resources having regard to service needs from user departments. We anticipate that there would be new service demands in food analysis and will actively discuss with Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on their service needs.

b. Two posts of Laboratory Attendant will be deleted for efficiency saving in 2006-07 under this Programme. The mid-point salary of each post is \$11 905 per month. The post mainly provides general cleaning support to the Laboratory.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Dr T L TING

Post Title : Government Chemist

Date : 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 703 BuildingsSubhead : 3004NMProgramme :Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural ServicesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise on : the progress of the improvement works mentioned in Item 3004NM – Provision of air-conditioning and improvement to existing markets/cooked food centres in the New Territories – phase 1, the markets/cooked food centres covered by the project; and the details of the improvement works and the breakdown of expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The scope of item 3004NM comprises the installation of air-conditioning system and improvement works of three markets, and general improvement works to another eight markets. The works were completed in September 2002.

The markets/cooked food centre (CFC) covered by the project and details of the improvement works are listed below.

<u>Markets/CFCs</u>	<u>Details of the improvement works</u>
(1) Shatin Market	} Installation of air-conditioning system and upgrading the electricity power supply.
(2) Yan Oi Market	
(3) Tai Kiu Market	} Installation of air-conditioning system and upgrading the electricity power supply, improvement to toilets and poultry section to enhance hygiene standards.
(4) North Kwai Chung Market	
(5) Wing Fong Street Market	
(6) Sai Kung Market	
(7) San Hui Market	
(8) Tsuen Wan Market	} Improvement to toilets and poultry section to enhance hygiene standards
(9) Tsuen King Circuit Market	
(10) Yeung Uk Road Market	
(11) Tung Yick Market	

The actual expenditure of the project was about \$185 million as at end February 2006, comprising broadly \$96m for building works, \$80 million for building services installations and \$9 million for utilities services works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

HWFB358

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1107

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3033NM General
improvement to six markets

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise on : the locations, the details of the improvement works and the breakdown of expenditure in respect of the six markets covered by Item 3033NM.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The project is under planning stage now and is forecast to start in the fourth quarter of the 2006-07 financial year.

The locations of the six markets are as follows :

Wing Fong Street Market, Kwai Tsing

North Kwai Chung Market, Kwai Tsing

Tsuen Wan Market, Tsuen Wan

Yeung Uk Road Market, Tsuen Wan

Sai Kung Market, Sai Kung

Sheung Wan Market, Central and Western District

The scope of the project comprises:

- (1) essential improvement works to meet the prevailing building / fire safety regulation such as upgrading of the fire services installation and provision of barrier free access; and
- (2) general improvement work to upgrade market conditions such as general lighting, ventilation system and new signage in order to improve the shopping / trading environment.

The estimated project cost is \$88 million including \$37 million for building works, \$32.7 million for building services, \$10.3 million for consultancy fees and \$8.0 million for project contingencies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

HWFB359

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1538

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3006NT, 3007NT, 3008NT

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please tabulate the locations of the aqua privies for which improvement works will be carried out/completed in 2006-07. What is the progress of the following projects? How will the provision for 2006-07 be spent?

- (a) 3006NT : Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets-phase 1
- (b) 3007NT : Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets-phase 2A
- (c) 3008NT : Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets-phase 2B

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The location and anticipated completion date for improvement works carried out in 2006-07 are at Appendix.

The progress of the works is as follows :

- (a) 3006NT - Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets, phase 1
(Total no. of aqua privies involved : 30)
The conversion of 16 aqua privies will be completed in 2005-06. The works for the remaining 14 are in progress and will be completed in end 2006 on schedule.
- (b) 3007NT - Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets, phase 2A
(Total no. of aqua privies involved: 40)
The conversion of 29 aqua privies is in progress and the works for the remaining 11 will commence soon. All works will finish in 2006-07 as planned.
- (c) 3008NT - Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets, phase 2B
(Total no. of aqua privies involved: 30)
The conversion of 9 aqua privies is in progress and will finish in end 2006. Works for the remaining 21 will commence soon. The conversion works of 16 aqua privies will be completed in 2006-07 and the remaining 14 in 2007-08-as planned.

The provision for 2006-07 will be used for payment of construction works and consultant fees, and settlement of project final accounts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

List of remaining Aqua Privies

District	Locations	To be completed in	
		2006/07	2007/08
3006NT – Conversion of Aqua Privies into Flushing Toilets, Phase 1			
North	Ma Wat Tsuen	✓	
	Kat O Island	✓	
	Lai Chi Wo	✓	
Sai Kung	Tai Mong Tsai	✓	
	Tseng Lan Shue	✓	
	Pak Sha Wan Carpark	✓	
	Tai Po Tsai	✓	
	Sha Kiu	✓	
Tai Po	Tap Mun Pier	✓	
	Wong Yee Au Village	✓	
Tuen Mun	San Hing Tsuen	✓	
Yuen Long	Ping Shan Heritage Trail (Hang Mei Tsuen)	✓	
	Kam Tin Yuen Kong Tsuen	✓	
	Sheung Tsuen Ku Miu	✓	
3007NT – Conversion of Aqua Privies into Flushing Toilets, Phase 2A			
Islands	Lo Wai Village	✓	
	Shek Mun Kap	✓	
North	Tze Tong Tsuen	✓	
	Yin Kong Site I	✓	
	Ying Pun Sun Tsuen	✓	
Sai Kung	Po Toi O	✓	
	Ko Tong Ha Yeung	✓	
	Pak Sha O	✓	
Sha Tin	Shap Yi Watt Village	✓	
Tai Po	Tai Po Tau Village Site I	✓	
	C.A.R.E. Village Site I	✓	
	Chung Shun Lane	✓	
	Ha Hang Village	✓	
	Ng Tung Tsai Village	✓	
	C.A.R.E. Village Site II	✓	
	Tai Hang Village Site II	✓	
	She Shan Village	✓	
Tsuen Wan	Yuen Tun Village	✓	
	Chuen Lung Village	✓	
	Pai Min Kok Village	✓	
	Wo Yi Hop Village	✓	
Yuen Long	Shap Pat Heung Tin Liu Tsuen	✓	
	Shap Pat Heung Small Traders New Village	✓	
	Shap Pat Heung Pak Sha Tsuen	✓	
	Shap Pat Heung Ying Lung Wai	✓	
	Mei Po Lung, San Tin	✓	
	Ping Shan Hang Tau Tsuen	✓	
	Lau Fau Shan Chung Pak Nai Site II	✓	
	Ping Shan Lam Hau Pok	✓	
	Hung Shui Kiu Tan Kwai Tsuen	✓	
	Lau Fau Shan Sha Kiu Ha Wan	✓	

District	Locations	To be completed in	
		2006/07	2007/08
Yuen Long (Cont'd)	Pat Heung Wang Toi Shan	✓	
	Shan Pui Chung Hau Tsuen	✓	
	Sheung Tsuen, Pat Heung	✓	
	Tsang Uk Tsuen, Pat Heung	✓	
	Shap Pat Heung Tai Wai Tsuen	✓	
	Shap Pat Heung Tung Tau Tsuen	✓	
	Mei Po Tsuen, San Tin	✓	
	Ping Shan Sheung Cheung Wai	✓	
	Lo Uk Tsuen, Pat Heung		
3008NT – Conversion of Aqua Privies into Flushing Toilets, Phase 2B			
Islands	Lutheran Village Site I	✓	
	Ma Wan Chung	✓	
	Tai Kwai Wan		✓
	Wai Tsai Street		✓
North	Kan Lung Wai	✓	
	Ho Ka Yuen	✓	
	Ho Sheung Heung Old Village Site I	✓	
	Ho Sheung Heung Old Village Site II	✓	
	Yin Kong Site II	✓	
	Ap Chau Site I	✓	
Sai Kung	Pik Uk Village	✓	
	Tai Chung Hau	✓	
	Tso Wo Hang	✓	
	Wo Mei	✓	
	Chek Keng	✓	
	Ham Tin		✓
	Sai Wan Site II		✓
Tai Po	Po Sam Pai Village		✓
Tsuen Wan	Hon Man Upper Village	✓	
Yuen Long	Wang Chau Yeung Uk Tsuen	✓	
	Ha Tsuen San Wai		✓
	Ha Tsuen Shi	✓	
	Kam Tin Shi		✓
	Kam Tin Tze Tong Tsuen		✓
	Lau Fau Shan Kau Nam Street		✓
	Ping Shan Shui Bui Tsuen		✓
	San Tin Pak Hok Chau		✓
	San Tin Tai Sang Wai		✓
	San Tin Tsing Lung Tsuen		✓
	Shap Pat Heung Wong Uk Tsuen		✓

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB360

Question Serial No.

1058

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 37, p.435, Estimates Volume 1A) that the Hospital Authority will “assist the Government in its work on revision of public medical fees and charges”. The Chairman of the Hospital Authority had also said earlier that fees and charges of hospital services would be increased. Could the Administration inform this Committee of the details of this revision exercise, types of services affected, percentage of adjustment and effective date of the new fees and charges ?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Government, together with the Hospital Authority (HA), is conducting a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident and emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. The review examines also the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients.

As the review is still in progress, outcome of the review (including the types of services likely to be affected, percentage of adjustment and effective date of the new fees and charges, if to be implemented) cannot be assessed at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB361

Question Serial No.

1059

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is indicated under Matters Requiring Special Attention (paragraph 37 on page 435 of Volume 1A of the Estimates) that the Hospital Authority will “facilitate the development of family medicine.” Would the Administration inform this Committee of the details of work to be carried out by the Administration for the development and promotion of family medicine and the training of personnel; and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

In 2006-07, the Hospital Authority (HA) will further promote the development of family medicine (FM) through the following measures –

Enhancing the gate-keeping function of the general outpatient clinics (GOPC)

- 18 family medicine specialist clinics will be operated to strengthen the GOPC service’s gate-keeping function, chronic illness management and inter-specialty and inter-disciplinary collaboration.
- 13 nurse clinics will be maintained to enhance the role of nursing in the management of chronic illnesses at the primary care level.

Improving accessibility and service quality of GOPCs

- Continue to implement the following improvement measures at the GOPCs in 2006-07, which include providing scheduled appointments for chronically ill patients, extending prescription durations, and rolling out the pilot automated phone appointment system for patients with episodic illness.

Promoting public-private interface

- Patient-held record system will be rolled out to improve exchange of patient information between public and private medical practitioners.

Training in FM

- Recruit about 60 medical graduates for basic FM training.
- Provide around 23 full-time equivalent of FM trainers.
- Employ at least 50% of graduating basic FM residents for one more year to fill vacancies in GOPC related services.

As the above programmes and measures form an integral part of HA's services, the expenditure involved in most of the above programmes are not readily identifiable, with the exception of training in FM which is expected to require a total expenditure of \$93 million in 2006-07.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB362

Question Serial No.

1060

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Despite that there is a constant increase in public demand for various hospital services, there has not been any corresponding increase in government funding for the Hospital Authority (HA) in recent years. In this connection, how does the Administration work out and adjust the amount of fund to be allocated to the HA each year? While the Administration has proposed a funding increase for the HA in the Budget of this year, can such additional resources meet the existing service demand and in what percentage can the deficits incurred by HA in recent years be reduced with these additional resources?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

Notwithstanding the Government's tight budgetary situation in the past years, from 2003-04 onwards, a 1% annual growth rate of subvention for the Hospital Authority (HA) had been applied to cater for general increase in public demand for various hospital services. In addition, we have injected funds targeted at specific programmes (such as strengthening infectious disease control and provision of additional hospital services) to meet increasing demand. The full amount of the financial deficits of the HA in past few years has been absorbed by its General Reserve. For the year 2006-07, with the Government's recurrent subvention of some \$27.4 billion together with other measures taken by the HA, we are hopeful for the HA to more or less balance its budget while maintaining the service level at that of 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB363

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title)

1061

Programme : (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Could the Administration inform this Committee of the number of attendances, expenditure and staffing establishment of each of the three existing public Chinese medicine outpatient clinics and compare them with the estimated expenditure and staffing of the new public Chinese medicine outpatient clinics to be set up in future?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

There are three Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs) in operation. The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic and is required to provide herbal Chinese medicine service at a fee of \$120 per attendance (includes consultation and two doses of medicine) with fee waiver for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. It may also provide other Chinese medicine services at the clinic at market fee. The fees collected from herbal and non-herbal medicine services are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Any surpluses must be ploughed back to the clinic for service development particularly in promoting Chinese medicine/western medicine interface activities. In addition, the NGO may deploy its own resources to maintain the operation of the clinic. The total number of consultations in the fourth quarter of 2005 for the clinics at Tung Wah Hospital, Yan Chai Hospital and Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (this clinic only came into full operation since December 2005) is about 9,400, 7,760 and 5,400 respectively.

The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for capital projects required for the establishment of six additional CMCs. We expect to open three CMCs by April 2006 and the remaining three by late 2006. The recurrent government funding provided for the CMCs mainly covers the maintenance of the Toxicology Reference Laboratory, quality assurance and central procurement of Chinese medicine herbs, the development of and provision of training in “evidence-based” Chinese medicine, maintenance of the Chinese Medicine Information System, and part of the expenses for the operation of the clinic. The recurrent government provision earmarked in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for CMCs is about \$25 million and \$55 million respectively. As many of the aforesaid expenditure items are provided centrally for all the clinics and as the NGOs are responsible for the daily operation of the clinics, we do not have detailed expenditure breakdowns of individual clinic.

Each NGO is required to staff the clinic by at least four senior Chinese medicine practitioners and to engage and provide training for graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes. Currently a total of nine graduates have been employed by the three existing clinics. For the new clinics, we shall require each NGO to engage at least five graduates. The NGOs which are required to operate the CMC on a self-financing basis have been given the operational flexibility to engage the required number of clinical and supporting staff (including registered/enrolled nurse, Chinese medicine pharmacist, Chinese medicine dispensers and general support staff) to meet operational needs.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	:	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	:	_____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB364

Question Serial No.

1062

Head : 149 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It has been mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention (in Paragraph 11 on Page 401 of Volume 1A of the Estimates) that the Bureau will "review strategies on health care financing". Would the Administration advise this Committee of what different health care financing strategies and proposals are under consideration; when the relevant consultation will be carried out; the detailed arrangements and timetable of the whole review exercise and the implementation of the final proposals as planned; and the expenditure of the whole consultation exercise?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) has set up a Working Group in November 2005 to study different health care financing options. The Working Group is chaired by a non-official and comprises representatives from the medical, commercial, banking, insurance, academic and social services sectors. The Working Group has taken reference from overseas experiences and is working on data collation and analysis with a view to exploring possible financing options that will suit Hong Kong. The HMDAC intends to put forth recommendations for public consultation around mid-2006.

Detailed arrangements for the public consultation will be made nearer the time. It is premature at this stage to consider the timetable for the implementation of the final proposals. Expenditure for the consultation exercise is expected to be minimal and will be absorbed within existing resources or through internal redeployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB365

Question Serial No.

1075

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Regarding the work of the Bureau to “continue to review the Domestic Violence Ordinance” under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 under this Programme, would the Administration advise us on the current progress and details of the work carried out, the expenditure and staffing involved; and the time when the review will be completed?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) has been reviewing the Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) to examine whether, and if so, how the existing legislative framework may be further strengthened to render protection to victims of domestic violence. Key issues under study include the scope of the Ordinance, the provision of court-ordered counseling for batterers and the duration of the injunction order, etc. We aim to complete the review within this year.

The review exercise is conducted by HWFB in consultation with relevant bureaux and departments. The related staff and administrative expenditure is absorbed by the existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB366

Question Serial No.

1076

Head : 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As stated in matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 under this programme, the Bureau will “collaborate with the Central Policy Unit in conducting studies on financial security for the elderly to meet challenges posed by population ageing”. Will the Administration inform us of the approach of studies, the work progress, the preliminary results of the studies, the exact date of announcement, and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-Kee, Frederick

Reply : The Central Policy Unit is now conducting two research projects on the sustainability of the three pillars of retirement protection¹ and the financial disposition and retirement planning of current and future generations of older persons. The studies are staffed by existing CPU research personnel and will not require the creation of additional posts. The total estimated budget of the studies is about \$1.3 million. The studies are now in progress and are expected to be completed within 2006-07.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs. Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB367

Question Serial No.

1077

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 under this Programme, the Department will “strengthen training and support services for family members and carers of people with disabilities (PWDs)”. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the work progress and details of the measures, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved? Would the Administration consider offering half remission of travelling expenses to PWDs and their carers?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The following are the planned new provisions to strengthen the community support services for carers of PWDs to be implemented in 2006-07.

New Provisions	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)	Staffing
<p>1. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDC)</u> SWD would set up five cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training, for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities are essential services rendered by these centres.</p>	<p>8.3 for 2006-07 (full-year effect 16.6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Social Worker • Nurse • Physiotherapist • Occupational Therapist • Supporting staff

<p>2. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients (TCSC)</u> The TCSC provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living.</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charities Trust for four years including recurrent expenditure of 9.9 for 2006-07)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Social Worker • Nurse • Physiotherapist • Occupational Therapist • Supporting staff
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The Administration is working with the Legislative Council to identify an appropriate approach on fare concession which is compatible with the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, agreeable to the disabled groups and public transport operators, and acceptable to the community at large.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB368

Question Serial No.

1063

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Department of Health is the major government department in promoting primary medical care. The Administration also emphasises the importance of primary prevention in "Building a Healthy Tomorrow – Discussion Paper on the Future Service Delivery Model for our Health Care System" released last year. In this regard, what specific work has been done by the Department of Health in the past three years to tie in with the above direction and how much has been spent on primary medical care services?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Under this Programme, the Department of Health has been providing integrated primary health care services to the public through a number of preventive services, the expenditure for which in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is about \$1,256M, \$1,222M and \$1,204M respectively. These services include the following -

- Family Health Service, which provides integrated child health and development programme for children from birth to five years of age; maternal health service for antenatal and postnatal women; and family planning services for women, with the aim to ensure better maternal and child health among the population.
- Woman Health Service, which provides integrated health promotion and disease prevention programme including physical examination and appropriate screening tests for women at or below 64 years of age with the aim to promote the health of women through addressing their health needs at different stages in life.
- School Dental Care Service, which provides annual dental examination, preventive and basic dental care as well as oral health education for primary school children with the aim to reduce dental problems among the population through early inculcation of good dental care habits.

- Student Health Service, which provides annual health assessment for primary and secondary school students including physical examination, screening for health problems, individual counselling and health education.
- Elderly Health Services aim to enhance primary health care for the elderly, improve their self-care ability, encourage healthy living and strengthen carer support so as to minimize illness and disability. Integrated primary health services for elders aged 65 and above are provided through elderly health centres and visiting health teams reach out into the community to provide health promotion programmes in collaboration with other elderly service providers.
- Cervical Screening Programme, which was launched in 2004 in collaboration with public and private providers and laboratories, provides cervical screening services at the maternal and child health centres.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB369

Question Serial No.

1067

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention (in paragraph 18 on page 155 of Estimates - Volumes IA) that the Department will (put) "emphasis on childhood obesity programme". Could the Department set out the specific details of the work concerned, the expenditure incurred and the staffing arrangements involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) promotes healthy eating among members of the community as part of its ongoing activities in fostering a healthy lifestyle. To enhance its efforts in tackling the problem of childhood obesity, DH will launch a school-based campaign in 2006, targeting at over 440 000 primary school students. The campaign enlists intersectoral and multidisciplinary support from schools, health and dietary professionals, caterers as well as relevant Government departments. Guidelines on healthy school lunchboxes will be reviewed, updated and issued to schools, and educational resources for teachers and parents will be developed, coupled with training and publicity. The additional allocation for the campaign in 2006-07 will be \$3M. With internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits, a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, dietitians, health promotion officers, research and marketing personnel will be formed to carry out the campaign.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB370

Question Serial No.

1068

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention (in paragraph 12 on page 154 of Estimates – Volume 1A) that the Department of Health will “continue to enhance the preparedness for influenza pandemic and other public health emergencies”. Would the Administration set out the specific details of the work concerned, the expenditure and the staffing arrangements involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Enhancing preparedness for outbreaks of human avian influenza is part and parcel of the Department of Health's work on prevention and control of infectious diseases, which is mainly undertaken by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and the Port Health Office. For example, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilising volunteers during public health emergencies; organising infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks. On the port health front, temperature screening measures for inbound passengers at immigration control points have been enhanced. In 2006-07, total allocation to the CHP and port health services for their overall functions, which include prevention and control of infectious diseases, is \$956M, and the staff complement is about 1 900.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB371

Question Serial No.

1069

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention (in paragraph on page 154 of Estimates – Volume 1A) that the Department of Health will “review the childhood immunisation programme”. Could the Department set out the specific details of the work concerned and the progress of the review; the arrangements and timetable for implementing the results of the review; and the expenditure and staffing arrangements involved in the whole review?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In line with international development in childhood immunisation practice, the Department of Health (DH) is actively considering replacing oral poliovirus vaccine with inactivated poliovirus vaccine and whole-cell pertussis vaccine with acellular pertussis vaccine. It is estimated that this change will require an additional annual recurrent cost of \$29.4M. DH will set up an internal working group to undertake the review. The new immunisation programme is expected to be implemented in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB372

Question Serial No.

1070

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The financial provision for the subvented sector is estimated to be increased by 4.8% to \$32.9M for 2006-07. Please list the names of the subvented organisations and their respective amounts allocated and increases in provision.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

There is only one subvented organisation under this Programme, namely the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong. The 4.8% increase in provision is mainly due to the capital subvention of \$943,000 in 2006-07 for the repair works of its Yuen Long Clinic Building.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB373

Question Serial No.

1071

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under Indicators (in paragraph 11 on page 153 of Estimates - Volumes IA) that the number of attendances at family planning clinics operated by Family Planning Association (FPA) has decreased in recent years. It has dropped from 180 000 in 2003 to 178 000 and 163 000 in 2004 and 2005 respectively. Please advise if the Administration has examined the underlying reason(s). Could the decrease be related to inadequate publicity and promotion? Has the subvention granted to FPA adjusted downward accordingly in recent years? Could the Administration list the respective subventions granted to FPA by the Department in the past five years?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Since March 2004, the Family Planning Association has adopted more cost-effective practices in performing cervical screening test at three yearly intervals for women who have had two initial consecutive normal results instead of doing it annually, and increasing the number of cycles of oral contraceptive pills prescribed per visit. This change in practice has enabled clients to make less visits, thereby resulting in a decrease in attendances in 2004 and 2005. The subvention to the Association for the past five years and in 2006 are as follows –

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	\$M
2001-02	36.6
2002-03	35.0
2003-04	33.0
2004-05	29.8
2005-06	31.4
2006-07	32.9

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB374

Question Serial No.

0997

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary announced in Budget Speech (paragraph 64) that the Government will allocate an additional HK\$60m over the next two years to continue the Intensive Employment Assistance Project (IEAP) to help unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients rejoin the workforce. Please advise the total number of CSSA recipients who rejoined the workforce after taking part in the project and how many of them have ceased to rely on CSSA.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : With funding from the Lotteries Fund and Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Social Welfare Department has commissioned non-governmental organisations to launch 105 IEAPs by three batches from October 2003 to September 2007 to assist employable CSSA recipients and 'near-CSSA' unemployed to remove work barriers and move towards self-reliance.

Up to the end of January 2006, 7 185 out of 20 348 CSSA participants had been assisted to secure full-time employment. Among those who have rejoined the workforce, 1 987 have ceased to receive CSSA and 5 198 have moved to the CSSA low-earnings category.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB375

Question Serial No.

0998

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Though our economy is recovering, there is still no increase in Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) for the elderly and the disabled whose payments were cut down by 11% during the economical downturn in previous years. Please explain how these members of the society will be assisted by the Government as they will not be able to benefit from the Special Training and Enhancement Programme, the one-off incentive subsidies and the short-term travel support.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : Our social security system is designed to provide a safety net for people who cannot support themselves financially for various reasons such as old age, disability or unemployment, while ensuring that those who can work can get the help they need to move into work and achieve self-reliance.

The Special Training and Enhancement Programme and other employment assistance measures announced in the 2006-07 Budget aim to help unemployed people in need, including those on CSSA, to enhance their employability to rejoin the workforce. Unlike able-bodied adults, elderly and disabled people on CSSA are not required to seek work. The CSSA Scheme takes care of their basic and special needs through the provision of standard rates, special grants and supplements. The standard rates for elderly and disabled CSSA recipients are considerably higher than those for able-bodied adults. In addition to rent allowance and water/sewage allowance, these CSSA recipients are entitled to a wide range of special grants to meet their special needs, such as glasses, dentures, removal expenses, fares to hospital/clinic, medically recommended diets and appliances. They are also entitled to an annual long-term supplement to meet the costs of replacing major household and durable goods. Since November 2005, a monthly community living supplement has been payable to severely disabled recipients who are not living in institutions.

CSSA standard payment rates are reviewed annually to take account of price changes with reference to the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP). As approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in December 2005, the CSSA standard payment rates were increased by 0.4% from 1 February 2006 to take account of inflation in accordance with the movement of the SSAIP up to October 2005.

Expenditure on Services for Elders and Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services will also be increased in 2006-07 covering direct service for the elderly and disabled.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB376

Question Serial No.

1056

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The estimated numbers of intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases served by the integrated family service centres (IFSCs) of the government sector and the subvented sector show an increase over the respective revised estimates for 2005-06 by 496 and 1 459. In this connection, will the Administration consider increasing the number of IFSCs and their manpower, as well as taking specific measures, such as establishing centres for single parents and people with disabilities, to meet the needs of society? What will be the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The increase of 496 and 1 459 is mainly due to the greater number of cases estimated to be brought forward in 2006-07 than that of 2005-06. The increase can be managed through enhanced caseload management and the use of intervention methods other than casework in meeting the needs of service users. We have no plan to increase the number of IFSCs.

IFSCs, located all over the territory, are more easily accessible and provide comprehensive family services than 'single purpose' centre. IFSCs also have an advantage in promoting social integration while providing target oriented services for specific groups of service users. For those disabled in need of rehabilitative services, they will be referred to appropriate rehabilitation service units/centres for assistance.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will launch a Family Support Programme (FSP) in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07 to proactively reach out to vulnerable families, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation that are unmotivated to seek help. About \$30m additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement FSP. SWD will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including the funding and manpower arrangement.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB377

Question Serial No.

1057

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Social Welfare Department will “follow up the review of the provision of disregarded earnings under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme”. Could the Administration inform this Committee of the current progress, the initial results of the review and the date of formal announcement of the results?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The review of the provision of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme is in progress. We plan to consult relevant bodies, including the Social Welfare Advisory Committee and the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services, about the findings of the review in the first half of 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB378

Question Serial No.

1073

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, the Social Welfare Department “enhanced support to the Refuge Centres for Women” in 2005. Could the Administration set out the details of the work **done** and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : With effect from October 2005, each refuge centre for women has been allocated an additional annual provision of \$0.3m to enhance social work and other support to the residents. With the additional provision, each centre is required to employ at least one additional social worker to provide support service to the residents after normal office hours both during weekdays and on Saturday or Sunday and non-social work staff to provide, among other duties, child care assistance to residents.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB379

Question Serial No.

1078

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 under this programme area that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will "implement the recommendations of the review of existing Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) arrangements for single parent families through a trial employment assistance project, namely, 'the New Dawn (ND) Project'. Could the Administration inform this Committee of the progress of work as well as the expenditure and manpower to be involved? Would the Administration consider providing work-focused support service and additional financial assistance for single parents based on the principle of taking up paid employment voluntarily and non-compulsorily?"

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : In order to empower single parents/child carers with youngest child aged between 12 to 14 under the CSSA to achieve self-reliance and social integration through engagement in employment as soon as possible, we will launch the ND Project (the Project) for 18 months commencing from April 2006. The Project will provide intensive employment assistance including basic skills and skills-upgrading training programmes for those with no or limited work experience. We estimate that in 2006-07, the Project will serve around 18 000 target participants and no less than 2 600 participants will benefit from ND Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs). 18 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) currently running IEAPs for able-bodied CSSA recipients have been commissioned to run 20 ND IEAPs .

The total cost of running the Project from 1 April 2006 to September 2007 would be \$30m. A total of 50 additional Employment Assistance Coordinators and two project management staff will be recruited on contract terms to help operate the employment assistance programme and monitor the ND IEAPs.

Currently CSSA recipients taking care of young children are not required to seek work until the youngest child reaches the age of 15. In March 2002, we introduced the voluntary Ending Exclusion

Project (EEP) to assist single parents on CSSA with young children to seek employment, but voluntary participation in active employment was not encouraging. In view of our experience in the EEP and in order to help these recipients to reduce the risk of social exclusion and start the process of becoming self-reliant through paid employment as soon as their family circumstances permit, participation in ND Project will be mandatory for all single parents and child carers on CSSA with the youngest child aged 12 to 14 to seek employment entailing not less than 32 hours a month. Exemption from the requirement will also be allowed where justified, for example, the recently bereaved, those who have recently been victims of domestic violence and those having to care for a disabled family member.

To support target participants to seek and secure employment, needy families will be provided with a wide range of services including the after-school-care services, counselling and other support services provided by 61 Integrated Family Service Centres.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB380

Question Serial No.

1533

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Has any target or indicator been set for public education and community involvement under this programme to assess the effectiveness of the various educational activities? If so, what are the targets or indicators? If not, what are the reasons? Will the Administration consider asking the participants to complete questionnaires as a way to measure the effectiveness of these activities?

Asked by : Hon FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Department aims to enhance public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental hygiene through talks, seminars and outreaching activities. The Department plans to organize, in 2006, 1 200 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools, and 1 400 seminars for the general public, in particular, the elders and new arrivals. Questionnaires are used to collect feedback from participants to evaluate the effectiveness of these programmes. Worksheets are also used after school talks to assess students' knowledge of public health and food hygiene. The opinion surveys and worksheet assessment show that these programmes have helped enhance participants' awareness/knowledge in food safety and environmental hygiene.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB381

Question Serial No.

1534

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention (paragraph 6 on page 241, Volume IA of the Estimates) is to “enhance various efforts in safeguarding food safety including the establishment of a committee to review food standards”. Please advise on the details and progress; and whether the Administration will, like other advanced countries, establish a sound and comprehensive set of food import standards to regulate the chemical levels in food. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

A Food Safety Committee will be established under the new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department within 2006. The Committee will consist of academics, professionals, food experts and trade representatives. It will be responsible for advising on the formulation of food safety measures and reviewing of food safety standards in light of international practices, trends and developments.

To ensure that all food for sale in Hong Kong are safe for consumption, the Administration will review the existing legislation and food safety standards from time to time and formulate appropriate food safety legislation by making reference to international standards and trends, risk assessment studies conducted, and specific local circumstances.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB382

Question Serial No.

1535

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, the original estimate of \$2,071,300,000 is much higher than the revised estimate of \$1,890,900,000 for 2005-06. Please account for such great difference. Is it due to wrong estimation or other reasons? The estimate for 2006-07 is still more than \$2 billion. Will the same situation happen again? In addition, according to the matters requiring special attention (paragraph 11 of page 243 of Volume 1A), the Department will "continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards". In view of the many food poisoning incidents happened last year, have more resources been allocated in this respect? Are there any measures to step up enforcement actions? If so, what are the details and if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

For 2005-06, the revised estimate under this programme is lower than the original estimate by 8.7%. This is mainly due to the lower than estimated expenditure under personal emoluments arising from natural wastage of officers and under general departmental expenses. Under current plans for 2006-07, we require the estimated provision for effective delivery of our services under this programme.

The Department will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises in operation and food premises that pose immediate health hazard to the public, and where necessary, deploy resources from other areas for this purpose in the light of prevailing circumstances.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB383

Question Serial No.

1597

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Since the implementation of the risk-based categorization scheme for restaurants, inspections to food premises have decreased year on year. In this connection, please advise on:

- a. Whether health inspectorate posts will be deleted subsequent to the decrease in food premises inspections, or will health inspectors charged with such duties be redeployed to other posts in 2006-07? If so, what are the respective numbers involved? How much savings will be achieved?
- b. There has been a sharp decrease in food premises inspections over the past 10 years. Under the "user-pays" principle, will the licence fees for food business and food premises be adjusted?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) 154 health inspector posts have been deleted in connection with the civil service voluntary retirement scheme. There are no plans to delete additional health inspector posts in 2006 – 07. In the light of manpower provision, the frequency of inspection for low risk and medium risk food premises has been reduced, resulting in a lower number of inspections in total since 2005 in order to better target the Department's resources at high risk food premises, including those found to have operated without licences.
- (b) The Government is still working on a review of the food and trade licence fees inherited from the two former Provisional Municipal Councils and will continue to adopt the "user-pays" principle in the review exercise. We will consult the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and relevant stakeholders upon completion of the review.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB384

Question Serial No.

1598

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the following:

- a. In 2005, 125 food business licences were suspended/cancelled. What is the breakdown by the number of food business licences suspended and cancelled?
- b. Among the food business licences suspended in 2005, how many appeal cases were successful? What is the maximum, minimum and average time of suspension?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- a. Among the 125 cases in 2005, 121 food business licences were suspended and 4 food business licences were cancelled.
- b. In 2005, two appeal cases of 7-day suspension and one appeal case of 14-day suspension were heard and only one case of 7-day suspension was successful with the time of suspension reduced to 4 days. The time of suspension therefore ranged from 4 days to 14 days.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB385

Question Serial No.

1599

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the following :

- a. The stall let-out rate of public markets was only 75% in 2005. What is the floor area of vacant stalls against the gross floor area of markets and the rental loss incurred?
- b. What are the number and percentage of vacant stalls set aside for designated purposes? What are the number and percentage of vacant stalls originally designated for poultry retail and the rental loss incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- a. Discounting designated stalls that are not made available for leasing due to designated purposes (such as re-development, impending renovation works, resiting commitment), the floor area of all vacant stalls was about 12 622 square metres, amounting to 14% of the total floor area of all market stalls managed by the Department. These vacant stalls could earn the Government about \$5.5 million per month if they could all be leased out at the current open market rental.
- b. As at 31.12.2005, the total number of vacant stalls was 3 772, including 1 334 stalls (35.4%) set aside for designated purposes. 537 stalls in the public markets are originally designated for selling live poultry and 250 (46.6%) are vacant at the moment. As the Department has no plans to let out new market tenancies for selling live poultry, the issue of revenue loss does not arise.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB386

Question Serial No.

1510

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the figures under Indicators (in paragraph 11 on page 153 of Estimates - Volume 1A), the number of primary school children participating in the School Dental Care Service has decreased in recent years, from 436 000 in 2003 to 426 500 and 414 000 in 2004 and 2005 respectively. In this regard, please advise if the trend is related to the decrease in the number of primary school children? If no, what is/are the reason(s)? How much resource was thus saved in this period? How does the Department make use of the resource saved? Will it consider expanding the dental care service to secondary school children and the elderly or other needy groups?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The decrease in the number of primary school children participating in the School Dental Care Service (SDCS) from 2003 to 2005 was mainly due to the decreasing number of primary school children. Resources thus saved are not separately identifiable. With the decrease in the number of students, the SDCS has redeployed resources to strengthen its infection control, quality assurance, dental disease prevention and oral health education.

As far as dental services for secondary school children, the elderly and other needy groups are concerned, the Oral Health Education Unit (OHEU) under the Department of Health (DH) has been training secondary school students as Peer Promoters to assist in oral health promotion in secondary schools. OHEU also organises promotional and educational activities to adults and elderly. Besides, DH also provides free emergency dental services, mainly dental extraction and dressing, to members of the public, at 11 designated government dental clinics. There is no plan to expand dental care services to these groups for the time being.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB387

Question Serial No.

1514

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under Targets (in paragraph 11 on page 153 of Estimates - Volume IA) that both the infant and maternal mortality rates have shown slight increases over the figures of 2004. Please advise if the Administration has examined the underlying reasons and formulated the corresponding counter-measures. Please also provide details of the work done in this regard over the past three years as well as the expenditure and staff establishment involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Hong Kong's infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) are among the best in the world. This is largely attributable to the overall efforts and effectiveness of the various health promotion, preventive and curative services provided in the public and private sectors.

The quoted IMR of 3.0 per 1 000 live births and the MMR of 5.0 per 100 000 live births are estimated figures for 2005, with reference to the actual figures in 2004. The provisional figures for 2005, as recently worked out by the Department of Health, are 2.4 and 1.8 respectively. It is very likely that the actual figures for 2005 will be lower than those for 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB388

Question Serial No.

1516

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under Targets (in paragraph 11 on page 153 of Estimates - Volume 1A) that the target of School Dental Care Service participation rate is set only at > 80%. Will the Department consider setting the target at 100% to enable all school-age children to receive dental care service? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

All primary school children are eligible and welcome to join the School Dental Care Service (SDCS). Participation is however voluntary and parents are free to decide whether or not to enrol their children in the SDCS. Given the voluntary nature of SDCS, the setting of target at >80% is considered reasonable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB389

Question Serial No.

1600

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The revised estimate under this Programme for 2006-07 is increased by \$8.3M (3.9%). The Administration states that one of the reasons is to strengthen the publicity and education programme on smoking prevention. Why does the number of publicity/educational activities delivered by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health in 2006 remain at 340, the same figure as in 2005?
- (b) In this regard, please provide the total expenditure on the publicity and education programme on smoking prevention in the past three years. In addition, what is the increased expenditure required in strengthening the publicity and education programme on smoking prevention in 2006-07. Please explain in detail how the related services will be strengthened? Also, how will the anti-smoking education targetting employees of the catering and entertainment industries and their customers be strengthened?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The \$8.3M increase represents the net increase under this Programme. In relation to tobacco control activities, the Department of Health (DH) will have a provision of \$29.1M in 2006-07 for the Tobacco Control Office and the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) to carry out publicity and education programmes, representing an increase of \$2.5M over 2005-06.

With the completion of general non-recurrent projects in 2005-06, COSH will still maintain its publicity/educational activities at 340.

- (b) The provision for conducting publicity and education programmes on smoking prevention in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was \$18.5M, \$23.1M and \$26.6M respectively.

DH adopts an integrated approach to promoting a smoke-free culture in Hong Kong including anti-smoking activities to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, and a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service. In 2006-07, DH will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide

implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB390

Question Serial No.

1638

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Concerning inspection and control of retail drugs, the Government has not increased the number of inspections in 2006-07 (Estimate). In this regard, could the Administration list the figures for the past three years and for 2006-07 in respect of inspections to retail points of prescription drugs, cough medicines and other dangerous drugs (such as antibiotics), the number of inspectors and related expenditure? How will the Government strengthen enforcement of the related ordinance(s)?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The number of inspection of licensed retail drug premises in 2003, 2004 and 2005 were 6 485, 6 453 and 6 686 respectively. It is estimated that 6 700 inspections will be conducted in 2006.

Four Senior Pharmacists and 24 Pharmacists are responsible for inspection duties, including inspection of licensed retail drug premises. The staff cost involved in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was \$18.2M, \$18.1M and \$17.4M respectively, and the estimated staff cost for 2006-07 will remain at \$17.4M.

The Department of Health will continue to inspect licensed retail drug premises on a regular basis. Surprise visit, test purchases and joint operation with the Customs and Police will be conducted. Priority will be given to repeated offenders such that those drug retailers with a poor track record of law compliance will be inspected more frequently.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB391

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1639

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Could the Administration set out the figures for the past three years and for 2006-07 in respect of the government expenditure spent on purchasing influenza vaccines and the number of high-risk people (including the elderly, the chronically ill and the school children) receiving vaccination. How will the Government arrange for vaccination to ensure the effectiveness of influenza prevention initiatives?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The number of high risk clients who have received influenza vaccination under the Government Influenza Vaccination Programme (GIVP) in the past three years and the corresponding expenditure on vaccine procurement are -

	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Doses given</u>
	\$M	
2003-04	3.2	152 500
2004-05	5.3	202 000
2005-06	7.3	260 000

The Department of Health (DH) is planning for the GIVP for 2006-07. DH undertakes annual reviews to assess vaccination coverage and adverse effects, and where appropriate, conducts research for better understanding of population needs and service planning, as well as assessment of programme effectiveness. Planning of the 2006-07 GIVP will take into account the findings of the above reviews, as appropriate. DH works closely with the Hospital Authority, private medical sector, welfare agencies and relevant government departments in providing vaccination to recommended groups, and will continue to strengthen coordination with relevant parties to maximise vaccination coverage of high risk individuals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB392

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1640

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Could the Administration set out the figures for the past three years and for 2006-07 in respect of the government resources allocated to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), including staff establishment, disease prevention / epidemic prevention systems and operating expenses? In response to the risk of influenza outbreak, does the Government have any plan to enhance the capacity of CHP and increase the provision? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The Government's recurrent provision (mainly under Head 37: Department of Health) for the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), which is a public health infrastructure set up in June 2004 for enhancing Hong Kong's capacity for disease prevention and control, for the recent three years are set out below –

	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u> (Revised estimates)	<u>2006-07</u> (Estimates)
	\$M	\$M	\$M
Staff cost	570	600	600
Operating expenses	<u>360</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>330</u>
	<u>930</u>	<u>910</u>	<u>930</u>

The Government attaches great importance to enhancing Hong Kong's preparedness for influenza pandemic. Specifically, the CHP has drawn up and will regularly update preparedness plans for major infectious disease outbreaks with public health significance. Under these plans, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilizing volunteers during public health emergencies; organising infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in

the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks.

CHP adopts a cross-sectoral, population-based approach for combating influenza pandemic. In collaboration with other government departments and relevant agencies, it has been fine-tuning and will continue to enhance their services and use of resources for meeting the challenges posed by emerging infectious diseases, including the influenza pandemic. The Administration will closely monitor the situation, and will enhance CHP's capacity, steer concerted efforts from all fronts and seek to provide the necessary resources as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB393

Question Serial No.

1641

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) :000

Operational
expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the detailed plans carried out / to be carried out by the Government in the past three years and in 2006-07 for regulating undesirable medical advertisements? Please list the related expenditures and amounts of provision.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) has been regulating undesirable medical advertisements by enforcing the Undesirable Medical Advertisements Ordinance (UMAO) to prevent improper self-medication by members of the public. Regular and systematic monitoring is conducted to monitor medical advertisements. Warnings are issued and referrals made to the Hong Kong Police Force for investigation or prosecution actions as appropriate. The expenditures for regulation of undesirable medical advertisement in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were about \$1.0M, \$2.5M and \$3.0M respectively. The provision for 2006-07 is \$4.3M.

In June 2005, the UMA (Amendment) Ordinance 2005 was enacted to extend the scope of regulations. Preparatory work in relation to commencement of the Amendment Ordinance is in progress. Guidelines have been issued to facilitate the understanding of the trade about and their legal obligation under the new legal requirements. Publicity and internal staff training and streamlining of workflow will be arranged to facilitate effective implementation of the Amendment Ordinance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB394

Question Serial No.

1642

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the detailed plans carried out / to be carried out by the Government in the past three years and in 2006-07 for conducting public education and promotion in respect of human organ transplant? Please list the related expenditures and amounts of provision.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

Promotion of organ donation is a concerted effort of the Government, the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong Medical Association, and other non-government organisations.

Specifically, the Department of Health (DH) focuses on the following activities to raise public awareness of and increase community support for organ donation -

- (a) distribution of promotional pamphlets and organ donation cards widely in health care and community settings. In the financial year of 2004-05, DH has distributed over 240 000 organ donation cards through its clinics, hospitals under the Hospital Authority, other government departments and public amenities as well as non-government organisations.
- (b) provision of audio-visual materials to facilitate community-initiated activities;
- (c) dissemination of information through telephone hotline and educational website; and
- (d) regular visits by a mobile promotion bus (Donormobile) to public housing estates, schools, shopping centres and other public venues. In the financial year of 2004-05, Donormobile has visited a total of 55 sites.

DH will continue to carry out the above activities in 2006-07. Expenditures on these activities are absorbed in the Department's overall provision on health promotion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB395

Question Serial No.

1643

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) From 2001-02 to 2005-06, what were the manpower and resources involved in, and the capacities of, smoking cessation service provided by the Department to smokers? Is the Department satisfied with the relevant performance?
- (b) In 2006-07, what are the planned manpower and resources involved in, and the expected capacity of, smoking cessation service provided by the Department to smokers?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

- (a) The Department of Health promotes smoking cessation through health education, smoking cessation counselling telephone hotline and smoking cessation service in elderly health centres and accredited Family Medicine training clinics. The smoking cessation hotline was upgraded with a computerised call handling system in 2005-06. Smoking information kits were also distributed to doctors and dentists.

In the five years to 2005-06, some 12 000 calls to the hotline were handled by nursing staff and over 49 000 clients utilised the smoking cessation service. The expenditure on medication was \$5.7M. The resources including staffing required for smoking cessation clinics were absorbed within the existing resources of the respective services and were not separately budgeted for.

The smoking cessation rate at one year for smokers attending smoking cessation clinics at 35% is comparable to the performance in overseas countries.

- (b) In 2006-07, it is estimated that there would be about 4 000 calls to the smoking cessation hotline and the estimated expenditure on medication for smoking cessation is \$1.4M. The resources including staffing required were absorbed within the existing resources of the respective services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB396

Question Serial No.

1644

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list in detail the respective amounts of actual and estimated subventions granted by the Administration to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health and the Tobacco Control Office of the Department of Health in 2006-07. Please also set out the relevant research projects and publicity/educational programmes completed and in progress as well as the specific outcomes of such initiatives and their future directions.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The provision for the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) in 2006-07 is \$11.2M. Health promotion activities are on-going. In 2006, COSH plans to conduct 340 publicity, educational and research programmes concentrating on youth smoking intervention, promotion of smoke-free community and supporting legislative amendments of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance.

The provision for the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) in 2006-07 for health promotion is \$17.9M. TCO will continue to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. In 2006, TCO will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

The Department seeks, through a step-by-step approach, to discourage smoking, contain the proliferation of tobacco use and protect the public from passive smoking to maximum possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB397

Question Serial No.

1645

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards the implementation of the existing Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance by the Administration in 2005-06, please give a breakdown of the expenditure and the staff establishment involved. When making amendments to the Ordinance in 2006-07, what are the necessary provision for the expenditure incurred and the complementary initiatives required? Has such expenditure been included in the estimate for this year?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

Financial provision for tobacco control activities comes under Programme (1) Statutory Functions and Programme (3) Health Promotion. In 2006-07, the total provision will be \$35.7M, representing an increase of \$7.6M over 2005-06.

Tobacco control activities are delivered mainly through the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) in the Department of Health (DH) and the subvented Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH). In 2006-07, the TCO will have a provision \$24.5M and a staff complement of 66, compared to the current strength of 36. As for COSH, the subvention will be \$11.2M.

Tobacco control inspectors will be employed to carry out enforcement duties upon enactment of the amendment bill, including investigation, collection of evidence and initiation of prosecution actions for contravention of the law.

On health promotion, DH will continue to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, and provides a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service. DH will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB398

Question Serial No.

1646

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, it is stated under Targets that “inspections of licensed institutions registered under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance not less than once a year”. With what justification does the Department consider that inspection not less than once a year should provide adequate protection to the general public? Between 2001-02 to 2005-06, what were the yearly maximum and minimum numbers of inspections made to the same institution by the Department? What is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

Institutions applying for registration under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance will be inspected to ensure that the statutory requirements on accommodation, staffing and equipment have been complied with. Registration has to be renewed on an annual basis. All institutions are required to comply with the “Code of Practice for Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes” as a condition of registration.

When the registration is due for renewal at the end of the year, the institution is required to submit an annual report on their management, staffing and equipment. A thorough inspection will be conducted to ensure that the institution continues to be suitable for the purpose of operating as a hospital, nursing home or maternity home.

In addition to annual registration inspection, at least one unannounced inspection will be conducted every year to each institution. During these inspections, surprise check on the adequacy of manpower, maintenance of equipment and implementation of quality assurance programme is carried out to monitor the service provided by the institutions. DH considers that the annual registration inspections and unannounced inspections are sufficient to ensure proper operation of the institutions.

The maximum and minimum numbers of inspections performed for registered institutions for the years from 2001-02 to 2005-06, including registration and unannounced inspections, are as follows :

	Minimum number of inspection to <u>the same institution</u>	Maximum number of inspection to <u>the same institution</u>
2001-02	2	3
2002-03	2	4
2003-04	1	4
2004-05	2	5
2005-06	2	4

Additional inspections were required for some institutions because of opening of new facilities or relocation of existing ones.

In 2003-04, the target of minimum two inspections per institution was not attained for some institutions because some staff had been deployed to combat SARS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB399

Question Serial No.

1659

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

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants
Working in Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As at 1 April, the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority managed has decreased from 4 364 in 2004 to 3 768 in 2005. However, the estimated provision for such service in 2006-07 remains at the same level as in 2004-05 and 2005-06. In this regard, please inform the Committee of the detailed allocation of the estimated provision for 2006-07. What is the specific content of such service? Is there any other data which can reflect the effectiveness of the work concerned? What is the detailed scope of responsibilities for personnel management?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The day-to-day personnel management functions in respect of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) have been devolved to HA. However, the Department of Health (DH) retains certain major personnel management responsibilities for these staff. These responsibilities include -

- operating a staff consultative machinery comprising one departmental consultative committee and four grade consultative committees, and conducting good-will visits to civil servants working in various hospitals;
- advising HA on issues which may affect the working conditions and morale of civil servants, such as the job-related allowance review;
- processing cases relating to staff discipline;
- processing cases relating to appointment and promotion under the Shadow Promotion Scheme. Civil servants working in HA enjoy the same promotion prospect as their counterparts employed on HA terms of service. Through the Scheme, DH ensures that on promotion, civil servants will continue with their civil service terms of service; and
- preparing pension papers for retiring civil servants. This function extends to cover ex-civil servants (who have opted for HA terms of employment) upon their final departure from HA. The number of ex-civil servants serving in HA as at 1 March 2006 is 6 931 and the workload involved is not reflected in the indicator under this Programme.

Most of the duties have to be performed and the decrease in number of civil servants does not necessarily result in a proportionate reduction in workload. The above functions are integral parts of management of civil servants.

The provision of \$10.1M in 2006-07 comprises \$9.8M for personal emoluments and \$0.3M for departmental expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB400

Question Serial No.

1661

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Among the various services provided by the Department of Health (DH) in 2005, the number of attendances at maternal and child health centers for family planning service was 210 000 while the number of attendances at family planning clinics operated by Family Planning Association (FPA) was only 163 000. When compared with 2004, the numbers of attendances for both services have dropped. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the specific details of FPA's family planning service subvented by DH? What is the provision concerned? What is the detailed breakdown of the provision? What effectiveness has been achieved? Is there sufficient subvention for promoting the service concerned?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The subvented services of Family Planning Association (FPA) include contraceptive counselling, prescription of birth control methods, infertility counselling and termination of pregnancy. Specialised services for newly-wed couples as well as youth sexual health services for women aged below 27 years are also provided.

Since March 2004, in a bid to improve cost-effectiveness of its services, the FPA has started to perform cervical screening tests at three yearly intervals for women who have had two initial consecutive normal results instead of doing it annually. FPA has also increased the number of cycles of oral contraceptive pills prescribed per visit. These changes in practice have enabled clients to make less frequent visits and hence caused a decrease in attendances in 2004 and 2005.

The services rendered by FPA are either of established effectiveness (e.g. various contraceptive methods) or subject to regular review and evaluation by the FPA. Outcomes of such review showed that FPA's services were generally effective for their intended objectives.

The provision for FPA in 2006-07 is \$32.9M, comprising recurrent subvention of \$31,915,000 and capital subvention of \$943,000.

Subvention to FPA covers promotion of its services. FPA has been formulating its own publicity strategies and actively promoting its family planning services through various channels including its website as well as printed and electronic media. These services are well known by and easily accessible to the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB401

Question Serial No.

1504

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform us whether the Administration could provide the actual and estimate figures of the previous year and of the current year on the number of people who could be granted a fee waiver for all types of medical fee and the expenditure involved; and whether the Administration has set a ceiling on this item of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The number of waiver cases and amounts waived for 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) for all types of public medical services provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) are summarized below.

Service	2004-05		2005-06 (as at 31 Jan 2006)	
	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)
Accident & Emergency	486 995	48.8	395 603	39.3

Service	2004-05		2005-06 (as at 31 Jan 2006)	
	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)	No. of Waiver Cases/ Attendances	Amount Waived \$ (Million)
Specialist Outpatient - Attendances	1 392 347	89.3	1 179 718	75.4
- Drugs	-	31.5	-	27.0
General Outpatient	1 063 979	47.9	871 570	39.2
Community Nursing	710 469	53.6	533 201	40.3
Day Hospital, Dressing & Injection	356 000	12.6	321 437	11.5
Inpatient	304 560	274.6	238 223	194.1
Total	4 314 350	558.3	3 539 752	426.8

The HA does not set an upper limit on the amount of waivers.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 402

Question Serial No.

1518

Head: 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As stated in matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 under this programme, the Bureau will “work with the Elderly Commission to explore means to further develop community-based elderly care services”. Will the Administration inform us of the work progress with details and the expenditure and manpower involved? Would the Administration consider strengthening and expanding the integrated home care services as well as enhancing the home and community care services in a short time?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Federick

Reply:

To take forward our vision of “ageing in place”, the Financial Secretary has allocated an additional \$20 million recurrent money in 2006-07 for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen home care services for elders in need. We aim to deploy the additional resources to increase the capacity of the home care services for elders, which include household cleaning, meal delivery and escort currently provided by the Integrated Home Care Services Teams.

For home care services for frail elders provided by the 18 Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) teams, SWD has increased the service volume of the 7 teams in December 2005 to generate an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. The remaining 11 EHCCS teams have yet to reach the agreed service capacity. SWD will increase the service volume of these 11 EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached.

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) is working with the Elderly Commission (EC) to review existing long-term care (LTC) services, with a view to coming up with recommendations on means to further enhance elderly care. In this regard, the EC has set up a Working Group on LTC Model (the Working Group). One of the priorities of the Working Group is to examine means to enhance community care services to further facilitate elders to age in the community. The Working Group has commenced work in November 2005. It is serviced by HWFB's existing manpower and resources.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 7 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB403

Question Serial No.

1550

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

For Programme (3), the provision for 2006-07 is 51.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. The Administration states that this is mainly due to the additional provision for influenza pandemic contingency measures and infectious disease control/health services initiatives. Would the Administration inform us of the details of the above measures and initiatives and give a breakdown of their estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

We have set aside about \$54 million in the Bureau in 2006-07 to meet various contingencies for combating a possible influenza pandemic, for example, an urgent need to step up port health or other public health measures. We expect that measures and initiatives that may probably require additional funding support will include temperature screening for outgoing travellers, health declaration measures carried out at immigration control points, special public education and publicity programmes and purchase of effective vaccines for the influenza pandemic in the event they become available, etc.

The actual expenditure will depend on a number of factors relating to the scale and nature of such an outbreak, which are unknown to us at the moment. We therefore cannot state at the present how this amount will be specifically deployed. Nevertheless, this \$54 million will provide the flexibility and a buffer to ensure that any response measures that have not been budgeted for can be activated in a timely manner. If it turns out that additional funding is needed, we will seek the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for additional allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB404

Question Serial No.

1573

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

(a) How does the Administration review the policies and services related to women? Which country's model will be taken for reference? Will pressure groups and human rights bodies be consulted?

(b) What are the details of the review and estimated expenditure in this regard in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

- (a) The Administration works with the Women's Commission to review policies and services related to women. In the past years, we reviewed key services for women, including welfare services, family services, adult and continuous education, employment services, women's health programmes, parenting education and childcare facilities. We take into account women's perspectives in the review and consult women's groups and other stakeholder groups as appropriate.
- (b) In 2006-07, the Administration will work with the Women's Commission on the details of further reviews. Workload incurred in the review exercise would be absorbed by the existing staff of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and the respective bureaux and departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB405

Question Serial No.

1574

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) How many resources are allocated to the specialist medical centres that specially serve women?
- (b) Will the number of these centres be increased to meet the demand of women?
- (c) How many Chinese medicine clinics will be set up?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) operates 11 obstetric specialist clinics and 16 gynaecology specialist clinics, providing specialist-based outpatient services to all women in Hong Kong. At present the services are considered adequate to cope with the demand and the HA will continue to monitor the service needs.

There are three existing Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs). The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for capital projects required for the establishment of six additional CMCs. We expect to open three CMCs by April 2006 and the remaining three by late 2006.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB406

Question Serial No.

1575

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

- (a) whether the Administration has earmarked any funding for assisting grassroot women to take part in important international conferences?
- (b) if yes, how much is the funding and what selection criteria are adopted?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

There is no provision for sponsoring women's groups to attend important international conferences.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB407

Question Serial No.

1576

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Many critics from the community point out that in the past, an overwhelming large number of pro-government members were appointed to the advisory and statutory bodies whereas members of pressure groups as well as women from grassroot and vulnerable groups were seldom appointed. Could the Administration inform this Committee of the ratio of appointment of these two categories of members? Are there any support measures in place to facilitate the equal participation of pressure group members and vulnerable women? What are the relevant details and the estimated expenditures in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

In making appointments to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs), the Government aims to secure the services of the most suitable persons to meet the requirements of the board or committee concerned. Each appointment is made on the basis of the merit of the individual concerned, taking into account the candidate's ability, expertise, experience, integrity and commitment to public service, and having due regard to the functions and nature of business of the board or committee concerned. As a matter of general principle, the composition of ASBs should broadly reflect the interests and views of the community. While the principle of merit should be the overriding principle, bureaux and departments have been encouraged to pay particular attention to the participation of women and the disadvantaged (such as the ethnic minorities and the disabled) in ASBs. We do not have readily available information on the number of disadvantaged serving on ASBs.

To increase women's participation in ASBs, the Government has set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment to ASBs. A proactive approach has been taken to achieve the target, including –

- (vii) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index managed by the Home Affairs Bureau;
- (viii) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
- (ix) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

As a result, women's participation in ASBs has been improving and reached the target of 25% in December 2005, against the level of 20.3% in December 2002.

Resources incurred in carrying out the above initiatives have been absorbed by the existing staff of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Home Affairs Bureau and various bureaux and departments concerned.

The Government would continue to work closely with the Women's Commission and women's organizations to enhance women's participation in ASBs. In 2006-07, we will prepare a database and organize a seminar to promote women's participation in ASBs, and an amount of

\$400,000 has been earmarked for these activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB408

Question Serial No.

1577

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

- a. When will the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist be adopted for reviewing how women are influenced by the existing laws and policies?
- b. What are the relevant details, and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. With the help of the Women's Commission, an analytical tool in the form of a "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" has been developed, and we are gradually introducing the use of the Checklist in different policy or programme areas. So far, the Checklist has been applied to 19 policy or programme areas, including five in 2005-06.

In addition to various on-going initiatives, in 2005-06, a core group of selected Gender Focal Points has been set up to devise plans or strategies to facilitate the bureaux/departments for proactive application of the Checklist. Besides, we have organized a briefing for Principal Officials and Heads of Departments as well as a seminar for Members of the Legislative Council to promote gender mainstreaming. In collaboration with the Women's Commission, an experience-sharing booklet on completed gender mainstreaming cases has also been compiled. Copies of the booklet have been distributed to all bureaux and departments, the Legislative Council and women's organisations, and uploaded onto our website for public information.

In 2006-07, we will continue to roll out the Checklist, amongst other measures, to more policy or programme areas on an incremental basis. We will also follow up on the suggestions made by the core group.

The workload associated with the above measures is absorbed by existing resources of HWFB and the participating bureaux and departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB409

Question Serial No.

1578

Head: 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

How much resources will be allocated in 2006-07 for the promotion of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and will funding be provided to women groups for promoting CEDAW?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Administration is committed to the advancement of the interests and well-being of women in Hong Kong, and to discharging the treaty obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau together with other relevant bureaux and departments have put in place various policies and measures to fulfill the objectives of CEDAW. In addition, we also promote public awareness of CEDAW. In 2006-07, an amount of \$550,000 has been earmarked for the promotion of CEDAW, including roving exhibition, leaflets and video. There is no provision for women groups for promoting CEDAW.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB410

Question Serial No.

1609

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Would the Administration list in terms of hospital cluster the provision, the number of doctors, nurses and general hospital beds in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The budget allocation, number of doctors, nurses and general hospital beds in respect of each cluster of the Hospital Authority in 2005-06 are as follows:

Cluster	Budget ¹ allocation (\$ billion)	Number of healthcare professional ² as at 31 January 2006		Number of general beds
		Doctors ³	Nurses ⁴	
Hong Kong East	3.01	525	2 037	1 942
Hong Kong West	3.22	500	2 413	2 965
Kowloon Central	3.69	584	2 582	3 002
Kowloon East	2.65	553	1 930	2 057
Kowloon West	6.18	1 100	4 712	5 146
New Territories East	4.44	767	3 181	3 471
New Territories West	3.26	552	2 416	1 655
Total	26.45	4 581	19 271	20 238

Notes :

1. Calculated on the basis of age-adjusted geographic population within its catchment area, then adjustments are made for a number of factors which include the utilization of services by patients from other clusters, the funding requirement of some very specialised services that are provided in certain designated centres and higher demand for long stay services.
2. Manpower on full-time equivalent basis, including all staff on permanent, contract and temporary terms.
3. Doctors include Medical Officers / Residents and above.
4. Nurses include Registered Nurses and above, Enrolled Nurses and trainees.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB411

Question Serial No.

1610

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Would the Administration give a breakdown of the expenditures in respect of the one-off provision in the sum of \$650 million allocated to the Hospital Authority in 2005-06 and inform this Committee of the planned uses of the sum of \$650 million in 2006-07 and the percentages of this sum of money allocated to each of the hospital clusters?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The breakdown of expenditures in 2005-06 in respect of the \$650 million one-off funding is as follows:

		2005-06 (\$Million)
(A)	<u>Infection Control</u>	
1.	Employing additional manpower to strengthen infection control in public hospital and clinic settings such as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uphold infection control setting by spacing out wards to avoid cross-infection, and operate additional isolation beds and wards etc. • adhere strictly to infection control requirements such as to carry out extra cleansing activities, etc. 	190
2.	Enhancing the infrastructure and equipment on infection control in public hospitals and clinics	30
3.	Stockpiling of personal protective equipment	54
4.	Stockpiling of drug and vaccines	10
5.	Purchase of additional consumables such as medical consumables and cleansing materials, etc. to strengthen infection control in public hospitals and clinics	29
	Total for Infection Control	313
(B)	<u>Other Activities</u>	
1.	Carrying out new initiatives and enhancing existing services in various hospitals to meet increasing service demand and rising cost of medical treatment, such as opening of an oncology block at Princess Margaret Hospital, relocation of rehabilitation services from Pok Oi Hospital to Tuen Mun Hospital, and opening additional private wards at Queen Mary Hospital, etc.	166
2.	Enhancing information technology systems, purchasing medical equipment, computer equipment, furniture and other equipment to meet technological advancement, and rising demand for services that require highly complex and specialized care.	71
3.	Completing the exercise to set up general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) in HA.	100
	<u>Total for Other Activities</u>	337
	Grand Total (A+B)	650

The \$650 million which has been made recurrent in 2006-07 would be allocated by the HA as follows:

		2006-07 (\$Million)
(A)	<u>Infection Control</u>	
1.	Employing additional manpower to strengthen infection control in public hospital and clinic settings such as to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uphold infection control setting by spacing out wards to avoid cross-infection, and operate additional isolation beds and wards etc. • adhere strictly to infection control requirements such as to carry out extra cleansing activities, etc. 	192
2.	Enhancing information technology systems, purchasing medical equipment, computer equipment, furniture and other equipment to meet technological advancement and escalating demand for services requiring highly complex and specialized care.	30
3.	Stockpiling of personal protective equipment	92
4.	Stockpiling of drug and vaccines	14
5.	Purchase of additional consumables such as medical consumables and cleansing materials, etc. to strengthen infection control in public hospitals and clinics	24
	Total for Infection Control	352
(B)	<u>Other Activities</u>	
1.	Improving the quality of clinical care by carrying out new initiatives such as more extensive use of new psychiatric drugs, additional provision for haemodialysis, more timely intervention for profoundly deaf patients through cochlear implant, improving cancer care, strengthening services on the prevention and control of poisoning in Hong Kong, and enhancement of training for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.	100
2.	Carrying out new initiatives and enhancing existing services in various hospitals to meet increasing service demand and rising cost of medical treatment, such as opening of a convalescent ward at Tseung Kwan O Hospital, etc.	106
3.	Purchasing medical equipment and improving medical facilities to meet technological advancement and rising demand for services that require highly complex and specialized care.	92
	Total for Other Activities	298
	Grand Total (A+B)	650

Since the \$650 million has been merged into the total pool for funding allocation, the percentage of the sum allocated to each hospital cluster cannot be separately identified.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB412

Question Serial No.

1611

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will the Administration list the amounts of expenditure on Special Drugs and General Drugs by hospital clusters and the Hospital Authority (HA) as a whole since HA's introduction of the Central Drug List and the percentage of expenditure on Special Drugs in the overall expenditure on drugs?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The Drug Formulary of the Hospital Authority (HA) has been implemented in public hospitals and clinics since July 2005. HA's expenditures on Special Drugs and General Dugs since July 2005 and up to February 2006 are \$529.98 million (or 37.8% of total drug expenditure within the period) and \$872.97 million (or 62.2%) respectively. A breakdown of the expenditure by hospital cluster is given in the table below.

Hospital Cluster	Expenditure on Special Drugs (\$ million)	<u>Expenditure on General Drugs</u> (\$ million)
Hong Kong East	58.72	95.10
Hong Kong West	79.05	114.95
Kowloon Central	79.14	124.67
Kowloon East	72.89	101.24
Kowloon West	97.14	185.04
New Territories East	84.57	154.90
New Territories West	58.46	97.07
Total	529.98	872.97

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB413

Question Serial No.

1612

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (No. & title):

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will the Administration list the amounts of expenditure on drugs by Hospital Authority (HA) as a whole and each hospital cluster and express them as a percentage of the overall expenditure in 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The overall projected expenditures on drug by the Hospital Authority (HA) is \$2,159 million for 2005-06 and \$2,346 million for 2006-07. These amounts represent 7.3% and 8.0% of HA's total expenditure in the respective year. A breakdown of the projected expenditure on drugs by cluster is as follows –

Cluster	2005-06 (\$ million)	2006-07 (\$ million)
Hong Kong East Cluster	246	287
Hong Kong West Cluster	337	353
Kowloon Central Cluster	305	343
Kowloon East Cluster	210	219
Kowloon West Cluster	451	462
New Territories East Cluster	354	399
New Territories West Cluster	256	283
Total:	2,159	2,346

The difference in drug expenditures amongst hospital clusters is due to a number of factors, including the size of the population in their catchment areas; the concentration of certain specialized services (tertiary and quaternary services) in some of the clusters; and the extent of cross-cluster utilization of services by patients.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____

Date _____ 8 March 2006 _____

Note : * HKE = Hong Kong East Cluster
HKW = Hong Kong West Cluster
KC = Kowloon Central Cluster
KE = Kowloon East Cluster
KW = Kowloon West Cluster
NTE = New Territories East Cluster
NTW = New Territories West Cluster

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB415

Question Serial No.

1614

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list in terms of hospital cluster the cost per patient day of general inpatient bed, the cost per accident and emergency attendance, the cost per specialist outpatient attendance and the cost per general outpatient attendance in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

Information on the cost per patient day (general), cost per accident and emergency (A&E) attendance, cost per specialist outpatient (SOP) attendance and cost per general outpatient (GOP) attendance by hospital cluster for 2005-06 are not yet available from the HA. Respective information for 2004-05 is nevertheless set out in the table below for reference.

Service	2004-05 Unit Cost (Actual)						
	HKWC (\$)	HKEC (\$)	KCC (\$)	KEC (\$)	KWC (\$)	NTEC (\$)	NTWC (\$)
Inpatient (General) (per patient day)	3 560	3 300	3 270	3 230	3 090	3 420	3 500
A&E (per attendance)	680	740	730	670	630	770	730

Service	2004-05 Unit Cost (Actual)						
	HKWC (\$)	HKEC (\$)	KCC (\$)	KEC (\$)	KWC (\$)	NTEC (\$)	NTWC (\$)
SOP (per attendance)	810	660	660	680	690	760	660
GOP (per attendance)	240	280	270	240	240	250	220

Note :

HKWC - Hong Kong West Cluster

HKEC - Hong Kong East Cluster

KCC - Kowloon Central Cluster

KEC - Kowloon East Cluster

KWC - Kowloon West Cluster

NTEC - New Territories East Cluster

NTWC - New Territories West Cluster

HA – Hospital Authority

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB416

Question Serial No.

1633

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It has been mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Hospital Authority is to focus on four priority areas : (a) acute and emergency care; (b) services for the low income group and the underprivileged; (c) illnesses that entail high cost, advanced technology and multi-disciplinary professional team work in their treatment; and (d) training of health care professionals. Can the Administration state the various new programmes and special measures drawn up by the Hospital Authority under each of the above priority areas in accordance with the Government's direction and taking into account the recommendations in Building a Healthy Tomorrow - Discussion Paper on the Future Service Delivery Model for our Health Care System, and the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The services rendered by the Hospital Authority (HA) generally focus on the four priority areas set out by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food. The HA provides acute and emergency care; a well established waiver and exemption system is in place to cater for the needs of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistant recipients and the low income groups; almost all tertiary and specialized services are provided in the HA hospitals and the HA provides training to doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

The major strategic directions of the HA in 2006-07 set out below seek to focus on the above four priority areas and the recommendations made in the Discussion paper on the Future Service Delivery Model for our Health Care System -

- Improving population health
With programmes covering secondary prevention (fall, stroke prevention); strengthening health protection (infection surveillance); provision of information on poisoning; enhancing community-based healthcare delivery (new psychiatric drugs, diabetes and hypertension management, additional number of community nurses).
- Enhancing organization performance
With commissioning of a new cancer centre in Princess Margaret Hospital and establishment of the new infectious disease block.
- Enhancing healthcare system sustainability
With enhancement of public private partnership by sharing clinical information.
- Improving service quality and clinical governance
With programmes on improving outcomes in disease management (for example, use of new psychiatric drugs, enhance haemodialysis facilities, enhance cancer registry) and upgrading services (e.g. initiate multi-centre clinical trials on two types of cancers)
- Building human resources capability
With enhanced training for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

As the above programmes and measures form an integral part of the HA's services, the expenditure involved in most of the above programmes are not readily identifiable, with the following exception –

Initiative	Projected Expenditure (\$million)
Provision of new psychiatric drugs	45
Enhanced training	25
Prevention and control of Poisoning	10
Enhancing cancer care by conducting clinical trials	5
Enhance haemodialysis services	5

Signature _____
 Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
 Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
 Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB417

Question Serial No.

1634

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will the Administration list out by service nature the proportion of the actual revenue to service cost of the Hospital Authority in each year since its introduction of medical fees? Apart from medical charges, what are the other items and sources of supplementary funding and what is the amount of revenue? What programmes are expected to be introduced in 2006-07 and what is the estimated amount of revenue?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Hospital Authority has been levying fees for various hospital services for many years. In November 2002, a charge was introduced in respect of services rendered at HA's Accident and Emergency Department and in April 2003, there was an increase in charges for inpatient, specialist outpatient and general outpatient services. The proportion of income to operating expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA) since the introduction and increase of such fees is listed below.

Service	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Projection)
Inpatient	1.8%	2.1%	2.7%
Accident & Emergency	8.6%	10.0%	10.0%
Specialist Outpatient	6.9%	7.7%	7.7%
General Outpatient	14.0%	15.2%	15.2%

Apart from income from medical fees and charges, the HA has been generating income from interest, rentals from staff quarters and additional income from business activities such as operating car-parks and cafeterias at the HA premises, and leasing out the HA premises for operation of co-op shops, convenience shops, vending machines and coin phones, etc. by private contractors. The income generated in 2003-04, 2004-05 and

2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) are summarized in the table below. Statistics for February and March 2006 are not yet available.

Income	2003-04 \$ (Million)	2004-05 \$ (Million)	2005-06 (as at 31 Jan 2006) \$ (Million)
Interest	49.0	26.4	65.8
Rental from staff quarters	25.9	24.4	22.5
Income from business activities	34.9	43.5	47.4
Total	109.8	94.3	135.7

The HA would explore means to generate income in 2006-07 and specific measures are being explored.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB418

Question Serial No.

1635

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Could the Administration inform us of the resources made available for the Samaritan Fund in 2006-07? Apart from the Government, is there any other source for the Fund to obtain additional funding? Please provide a breakdown of cases by types of services provided and the amount of subsidy granted in 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Finance Committee approved the creation of a commitment of \$200 million for a grant to the Samaritan Fund (the Fund) in 2005-06. The grant is to be injected by the Government into the Fund by two instalments, with the first in the amount of \$150 million already made in 2005-06. A second instalment in the amount of \$50 million will be made in 2006-07. Apart from the said grant, the Fund has other sources of income, which include donations from the community and various charitable organisations and Government reimbursements for assistance given under the Fund to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.

The estimated number of approved applications and the corresponding amounts of expenditure of the Samaritan Fund in 2005-06 are set out in the following table –

Items	No. of approved applications	Amount (\$ million)
Cardiac Pacemakers	463	18.2
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) and other consumables for interventional cardiology	2 043	63.1
Intraocular lens	1 076	1.6
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	171	1.5
Drugs (other than Imatinib)	158	11.0
Imatinib (Glivec)	138	26.1
Gamma knife surgeries in private hospital	40	2.5
Cost of harvesting bone marrow in foreign countries	9	0.9
Myoelectric prosthesis / custom-made prosthesis / appliances for prosthetic and orthotic services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services	162	1.4
Grant to needy patients	N/A	0.1
Total :	4 260	126.4

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB419

Question Serial No.

1636

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Could the Administration provide a breakdown of the services purchased by patients of different specialties at their own expense (including equipment and drugs) from 2003-04 to 2005-06 by service items, service types, number of cases as well as the disbursement on behalf of the patients?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Patients are required to purchase privately purchased medical items (PPMIs) at their own expenses. However, they do not have to acquire these items through the Hospital Authority (HA). Therefore, complete information on the expenditure on PPMIs is not available.

The expenditure on PPMIs purchased by the HA on behalf of patients for 2003-04 and 2004-05 is summarized in the table below. Information for 2005-06 is not yet available.

Items	Specialty	2003-04		2004-05	
		Amount (\$'000)	No. of cases	Amount (\$'000)	No. of cases
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty and other consumables for interventional cardiology	Medical	135,233	4 427	185,457	5 670
Cardiac Pacemakers	Medical	8,724	265	5,152	136
Intraocular Lens	Ophthalmology	17,714	11 498	18,516	11 988
Myoelectric Prosthesis, Custom-made Prosthesis and appliances for prosthetic and orthotic services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services	Allied Health	1,278	7 683	1,728	8 980
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	Various specialties	769	2 046	1,508	6 036
Total (non-drugs)	Various specialties	163,718	25 919	212,361	32 810

Apart from the above non-drug items, certain drugs items were purchased by the HA on behalf of patients for 2003-04 and 2004-05 in the context of Samaritan Fund assistance. The cost of these drugs items for those two years were \$8.5 million and \$33.5 million respectively, though the expenditure was partially subsidised by the Samaritan Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB420

Question Serial No.

1637

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Question :

Please set out the total health care expenditure, public health care expenditure and the actual subvention for the Hospital Authority for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 and make a comparison with their corresponding estimates for 2006-07, with their year-on-year and cumulative growth/decline rates as well as the respective percentage of public and private health care expenditures in our GDP.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

According to government estimates, the total health expenditure has increased from 65 billion to 67 billion from 2002/03 to 2004/05. The increase was mainly contributed by the increase in private health expenditure. The public health expenditure and the subvention to Hospital Authority in 2006/07 are expected to be increased by 2.2% and 0.8% respectively when compared with those of 2005/06. Detailed breakdown is shown in the following table.

Table : Health Expenditure from 2002/03 to 2006/07

	2002/03 Actual expenditure (% GDP)	2003/04 Actual expenditure (% GDP)	2004/05 Actual expenditure (% GDP)	2005/06 Revised estimate	2006/07 Estimate
Total health expenditure (\$M)	65,114 (5.1%)	66,384 (5.4%)	67,467 (5.2%)	n.a.	n.a.
Private health expenditure (\$M)	31,915 (2.5%)	32,153 (2.6%)	35,239 (2.7%)	n.a.	n.a.
Public health expenditure (\$M)	33,199 (2.6%)	34,231 (2.8%)	32,228 (2.5%)	31,639	32,340
Year-on-year percentage change		3.1%	-5.9%	-1.8%	2.2%
2006/07 over 2002/03					-2.6%
Total subvention to Hospital Authority (\$M)	29,836	29,549	28,218	27,541	27,761
Year-on-year percentage change		-1.0%	-4.5%	-2.4%	0.8%
2006/07 over 2002/03					-7.0%

n.a.: not yet available

The total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP stands at around 5% in recent few years. It should be noted that compared with other economies, Hong Kong's total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP is not particularly high. However, our public health expenditure is financed mainly by tax. Hong Kong has a low tax rate when compared to other economies and a narrow tax base. The ratio of our public health expenditure to our total tax revenue is also among the highest when compared to other developed economies. Taking into consideration the latest revenue and expenditure estimates, for every \$100 we have received from tax revenue, we are spending about \$19 on health care.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB421

Question Serial No.

1668

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Health, Subhead (No. & title)
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There are reports saying that some private hostels for the mentally handicapped or people with disabilities are packed and are of dire quality, and even with tying up of boarders in some of them. The Legislative Council has passed a motion to request the Government legislate on the regulation of private hostels and increase the number of subsidised residential places. In this connection, does the Bureau have any plans for introducing such legislation in 2006-07? What are the details of the legislative work and the estimated expenses?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

We are considering the suggestion of licensing the private hostels for people with disabilities, along with other measures to improve the service qualities of these hostels. We will discuss these with the Panel on Welfare Services in the near future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8.3.06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB422

Question Serial No.

1669

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the number of additional Government-subsented places for mentally handicapped and disabled persons planned to be provided in 2006-07? What is the estimated expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The planned additional provisions for subsented residential services for people with disability for 2006-07 and their estimated expenditure are given below:

Additional Provisions	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 (\$m)
1. 50 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	4.6
2. 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	3.2
3. 120 supported hostel places	8.2

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 423

Question Serial No.

1670

Head: 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Some elderly groups have commented that as there are only 18 elderly health centres in Hong Kong, the elderly people have to wait for 26 months on average for a medical check-up. In certain districts with ageing population, the waiting time is more than three years. How many places does the Administration plan to add in 2006-07 in order to reduce the waiting time of the elderly people for a medical check-up to less than a year. What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

At a very reasonable annual fee of \$110 which provides health assessment, physical check ups, counselling, and curative treatment, there is huge demand for the membership of the Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) of the Department of Health (DH).

The staffing situation and the complexity of the cases may affect the total number of enrolments of EHCs and the total number of attendances for health assessment and medical consultation conducted by them in a particular year. DH projects that the EHCs may increase their enrolment from the current 37 400 in 2005-06 to 38 000 in 2006-07.

That said, EHCs are not the only means to address the health care needs of the elderly. The following stakeholders are working together to take concerted efforts to meet the varying needs of the elderly through various measures and services :

- (a) DH also operates the Visiting Health Teams (VHTs) which reach out into the community to provide health promotion activities for elders and carers. In 2005-06, VHTs in collaboration with EHCs organized health talks and health promotion activities for elders with total attendances of 460 000. Government's expenditure on services provided by VHTs was \$60.2M in 2005-06, and is estimated to be \$61.2M in 2006-07;

- (b) there are more than 70 general out-patient clinics run by the Hospital Authority which provide general medical services to members of the public, including elders;
- (c) private practitioners are also key providers of primary health care to elders in the community; and
- (d) various non-government organizations (NGOs) are operating health centres on a self-financing basis.

DH will strengthen collaboration with stakeholders including private practitioners and NGOs to enhance primary health services for the elderly in Hong Kong.

Government's expenditure on EHCs in 2006-07 is estimated to be \$85.4M, which is about 1.5% higher than the 2005-06 Revised Estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB424

Question Serial No.

1671

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee if the Administration plans in 2006-07 to study the provision of "medical fee waiver cards" for the poverty-stricken elderly people who are not CSSA recipients. What are the details of the specific work involved and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The Government, together with the Hospital Authority (HA), will review the medical fee waiver system in the context of the new round of review on public medical fees, which is planned for completion by around mid 2006. The current fee waiver system already caters for the needs of the non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, with special consideration given to elderly applicants. In the review, we will consider, among other things, whether the needs of elderly non-CSSA recipients are sufficiently addressed by the current waiver system. Nevertheless, as a matter of principle, we believe that medical fee waiver should continue to be subject to assessment, and not be granted on the basis of age alone, in order to ensure the rational use of valuable public resources.

The Government has provided \$3 million to the HA for the commissioning of the review on public medical fees.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 425

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1476

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with the deletion of 60 non-directorate posts,

1. what is the reason for the deletion?
2. what are the posts to be deleted, their work areas and the units they belong to?
3. please provide a detailed assessment of the impact on service quality after the deletion.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The deletion of 60 posts in 2006-07 are achieved through reduction of existing vacancies and natural wastage. The savings derived will be allocated to meet new service needs relating to preventive measures against avian influenza and marine conservation. Details are as follows:-

Work Areas and Units	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
Organic farming support service (Crop Division)	To streamline the experiments on crop husbandry and plant protection	Artisan	3
Accredited farm scheme (Crop Division)	To streamline the work of monitoring local accredited farm	Artisan Motor Driver	1 1
Screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties (Crop Division)	To streamline the work relating to screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties	Field Officer I	1
Supervision of agricultural co-operative societies (Agricultural Development Division)	To streamline supervision of agricultural co-operative societies through reprioritization of duties	Field Officer II	1
Wholesale market surveys (Wholesale Markets Development Division)	To reprioritize work relating to wholesale market surveys	Field Officer II	2
Boards and committees works	To re-engineer the duties of Boards and Committees Section	Executive Officer I	1

Work Areas and Units	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
(Administration Division)			
Inspection of import and export of live animals and products (Import and Export Division)	To reduce manpower in inspection of import and export of live animals and products by re-arranging job priorities	Field Assistant	2
Poultry breeding services (Livestock Farm Division)	To reduce manpower in breeding and raising of poultry due to diminishing need of poultry breeding services	Field Officer II	1
Animal management (Animal Management Division)	To re-organize the establishment of 4 animal management centers	Field Officer II Workman I	2 5
Pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory work and inspection of import plant consignment (Plant and Pesticide Regulatory Division)	To streamline the work relating to pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory and inspection of import plant consignment through adjusting the number of inspection on a risk assessment basis and reprioritize the regulatory work on plant and pesticides	Field Officer I Field Officer II	3 3
Laboratory testing services (Veterinary Laboratory Division)	To streamline testing work	Veterinary Laboratory Technician II Laboratory Attendant	1 1
Fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials (Fisheries Supporting Services Division, Fisheries Enforcement and Special Projects Division, Aquaculture Fisheries Division)	To streamline the work relating to fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials	Fisheries Craft Technician I Field Assistant Workman I	1 1 2
Country Parks management (Country Parks Divisions)	To rationalize park management and facilities maintenance works and re-organize the country park management centers	Field Officer II Field Assistant Artisan Workman I Workman II	3 5 9 2 2
Country Parks ranger services (Country Parks Ranger Services Division)	To streamline the staff establishment of visitor centers in country parks	Field Assistant Forest Guard	1 1
Country Parks roads work (Engineering Division)	To streamline road maintenance works in country parks through reprioritization of duties	Workman I Workman II	1 1

Work Areas and Units	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
Marine Parks management (Marine Parks Division)	To streamline management and patrolling duties in marine parks through reprioritization of duties	Fisheries Supervisor I	1
		Assistant Clerical Officer	1
		Artisan	1
Total :			60

Department will redeploy existing resources to ensure that all existing essential services will be maintained and the service quality will not be adversely affected by the deletion of posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS STELLA HUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB426

Question Serial No.

1631

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (7), 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 : One new Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre (ICYSC) involving a recurrent provision of \$6.3m is earmarked for Tin Shui Wai North, Yuen Long in 2006-07. It will provide comprehensive services including guidance and counselling services, supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes and programmes for development of social responsibility and competence for young people. Given the lead time to invite applications and to select an NGO to run the ICYSC and to fit out the premises, the new ICYSC is expected to commence operation in the first quarter of 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB427

Question Serial No.

1647

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, it is stated in Programme (2) that due to an estimated increase in the number of cases under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Schemes, the estimated provision will have to increase (by 5.7%), and there is a net decrease of 8 posts in 2006-07. Would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) What were the average numbers of "CSSA and SSA Schemes" cases processed by a staff member of the Social Security Branch of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) per year during the period from 2001-02 to 2005-06?
- (b) What is the projected number of new cases in 2006-07?
- (c) What is the projected average numbers of "CSSA and SSA Schemes" cases processed by a staff member of the Social Security Branch of SWD in 2006-07?
- (d) Can the above arrangements meet the needs of the public?
- (e) Will the Administration formulate an indicator on caseload per social security staff to ensure service quality and prevent the workload of social security staff from increasing without limit?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (a) There are different levels of staff in our 37 Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) who are responsible for the investigation and authorisation of social security cases. Staff at the rank of Social Security Assistant and Senior Social Security Assistant are responsible for the investigation of cases such as paying home visits, conducting interviews and verifying information with applicants. These two ranks of staff carry cases of different nature and staff of the same rank carry different number of cases depending on their complexity. Officers in charge of the field units closely monitor the position and adjust the allocation of cases to the staff. Hence, it is not meaningful to set an average number of cases per staff. Authorisation of cases are handled by the Social Security

Officer Grade. In addition there are other staff for fraud prevention and investigation.

(b) & (c) The average numbers of CSSA/SSA paid cases and Social Security Staff in SSFUs from 2001-02 to 2006-07 are as follows:

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Revised estimate)	2006-07 (Draft)
Average no. of paid cases	CSSA	216 964 (386 568)	243 213 (449 893)	267 584 (511 487)	277 786 (537 681)	282 700 (542 700)	292 800 (566 700)
	SSA	530 630 (530 630)	539 291 (539 291)	542 982 (542 982)	545 110 (545 110)	556 700 (556 700)	581 200 (581 200)
Establishment of Social Security Staff		1 140	1 167	1 167	1 167	1 166	1 166

() indicates number of recipients involved

- (d) With the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we have seen a stabilised CSSA caseload in the past year. We keep under constant review the operation procedures and re-deploy staff regularly to ensure that there is adequate manpower at the frontline to meet the needs of the public.
- (e) We will continue to closely monitor the workload of staff in SSFUs to ensure that there is adequate manpower at the frontline to provide quality service to the public. If necessary, we will deploy existing manpower resources from other social security service units to strengthen our support at the frontline.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

HWFB 428

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1601

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the estimated increase in the number of applications for exhibition licences in 2006-07 following the enactment of the legislation on the control of backyard chicken-keeping. What are the estimated amounts of expenditure and manpower required for the monitoring work in connection with these additional licences?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

It is estimated that around 250 new applications for Exhibition Licences will be processed in 2006-07.

The estimated expenditure is about \$0.68 million and the manpower required is as follows:

30% of 1 Veterinary Officer, 1 Field Officer I, 2 Field Officer II, 50% of 1 Assistant Clerical Officer

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006

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

HWFB 429

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical
Services

1602

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee whether the Government will provide more support to the farmers, wholesalers and transporters in connection with avian influenza preventive measures. If yes, please state the measures and the amounts of additional expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

To help prevent avian flu outbreak, we have been assisting local poultry farmers to upgrade their farm bio-security facilities through provision of loans, technical advice and vocational training. As at 28 February, 2006, 114 loans amounting to \$18.47 million had been approved.

Similarly, we have provided guidelines on public health and bio-security to wholesalers and transporters, and the facilities needed to properly clean and disinfect their poultry cages and vehicles at the wholesale market.

The above measures have been undertaken on existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS STELLA HUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

HWFB 430

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1603

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the following information:

- (a) The Government has implemented the scheme for live poultry farmers, wholesalers and transporters to surrender their licences/tenancies. Why has it estimated that the number of livestock farm licences to be issued in 2006 will be 165, which is 27 more than that of 2005 (about 20% higher)?
- (b) What is the response so far since the implementation of the scheme in August last year? Will it be extended?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) A livestock keeping licence is valid for three years. Depending on the expiry dates of individual licences, the number of licences issued each year may vary. The higher figure for 2006 is estimated on the basis of the number of licences expiring in the year.
- (b) As at 7 March 2006, we have received 93 applications since the launch of the voluntary surrender scheme in August 2005. These include 74 from poultry farmers (36 from chicken farmers, 33 from pigeon farmers and 5 from duck farmers), 12 from wholesalers, 1 from transporters, and 6 from farm and wholesale workers. The scheme is scheduled to end on 4 August 2006 and it is too early to consider whether there is a need for an extension at this stage.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 431

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

1605

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide the following information:

How many stalls are there in Western Wholesale Food Market (WWFM)? How many of them were vacant in 2005? How much area did they take up? What was the percentage of these vacant stalls among the total number of vacant stalls in all government fresh food wholesale markets? What was the amount of rental loss involved?

What were the amounts of manpower and expenditure for the management of WWFM in 2005?

Will WWFM be reserved as one of the locations for the regional poultry slaughterhouse? If no, what are the reasons? Are there any plans to put it into other uses so as to cut loss?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

There are 511 market stalls in WWFM. As at 31 December 2005, 63 stalls, covering 4,271m², remained vacant at the WWFM. The number accounts for 71% of the total vacant stalls in all government wholesale fresh food markets. The estimated rental value for these vacant stalls is \$418,000 per month.

In 2005, a total of 19 staff was deployed to manage WWFM. The total expenditure was about \$9.6 million. The Administration is still considering the best option to locate the proposed slaughterhouse, taking into account its possible impacts on environment and public health. We shall consider how best to fully utilize WWFM after the decision is made.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

13 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB432

Question Serial No.

1511

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The planned places for self-care (S/C) hostels/homes for the aged (H/A) is 2 627 lower than the revised estimate in 2005-06, and the planned places for care-and-attention (C&A) homes has also reduced by 738. However, places provided under the programme of converting S/C hostels and H/A places into C&A places has only increased by 1 758. This represents a significant decrease in the overall number of residential places by 1 607. In this connection, please give reasons for the reduction in the overall provision of places and state the implications as a result. When will the number of residential places for elders be increased again in order to meet the needs of society?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Subsidised S/C hostel and H/A places were introduced in 1960s targeting at elders capable of self-care but had housing needs.

International trend indicates that continuum of care is more suitable for older people with long term care needs. In line with this principle, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the conversion programme to convert S/C and H/A places which have no long term care element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places with continuum of care. The conversion proposal was supported by the welfare sector. The Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in March 2005.

Altogether, there are about 10 700 places in 75 homes which will be converted under the conversion programme. About 7 400 are S/C and H/A places. About 3 300 are C&A places not providing continuum of care.

The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a S/C place, a H/A place, or a C&A place not providing continuum of care. As the conversion exercise is conducted on a subvention-neutral basis, the number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places being replaced under the conversion programme. On the basis that all the 10 700 places will be converted, we project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will ultimately be generated under the conversion programme.

Although 2 627 S/C and H/A places and 738 existing C&A places without continuum of care are to be reduced as a result of the conversion in 2006-07, these places will be transformed into C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for long-term care services.

In parallel, we will continue to increase the number of subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care in purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB433

Question Serial No.

1512

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The estimated number of cases served under the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) has decreased by 585 against the actual number in 2004-05. On the other hand, the number of cases served under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) has only increased by 337. In this connection, please give reasons for the reduction in the overall number of cases served and state the implications as a result. When will the manpower for the services teams be strengthened and the caseload be increased in order to meet the needs of the society?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The drop in the number of cases served by the IHCS in 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05 was due to differences in the composition of persons being served in these two years. IHCS teams serve frail elders, non-frail elders, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and families in need of help. Frail elders and PWDs require more intensive care than the other service users. Therefore, the amount of resources required to serve a frail case is greater than that required to serve an ordinary case. With the increase in the number of frail cases served by IHCS in 2005-06, the total number of cases served by IHCS teams has decreased as compared with 2004-05.

To take forward our vision of "ageing in place", the Financial Secretary has allocated an additional \$20m recurrent money in 2006-07 for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to strengthen home care services for elders in need. This amount is not yet reflected in the 2006-07 Draft Estimate. We aim to deploy the additional resources to increase the capacity of the home care services for elders provided by the IHCS teams.

For the EHCCS which serve frail elders, SWD has in December 2005 increased the service volume of the 7 EHCCS teams to generate an additional 181 places to meet the increase in demand exceeding the agreed service capacity. The remaining 11 EHCCS teams have yet to reach the agreed service capacity. SWD will increase the service volume of these 11 EHCCS teams suitably when the agreed service capacity is reached.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB434

Question Serial No.

1546

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is reported that in 2005 the Government set up an additional Family and Child Protective Services Unit (FCPSU) in Tin Shui Wai to serve the cases of the whole Yuen Long District (including Tin Shui Wai). Could the Government provide information on the expenditure for this unit in 2005-06, the number of cases received and the number of cases served per social worker? What is the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 and the estimated number of cases served?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Through deployment of existing resources, Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Yuen Long) [FCPSU(YL)] has been set up since April 2005. The estimated numbers of supervision cases served by FCPSU(YL) in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are 844 and 1 045 respectively. The caseload per worker in FCPSU(YL) in 2005-06 is estimated to be 35. The total estimated expenditure of family and child protection service in 2006-07 is \$118m. However, the funding specifically allocated for FCPSU(YL) cannot be separately ascertained as the funding of family and child protection service covers the expenditure of all FCPSUs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB435

Question Serial No.

1560

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Compared with the figures in the 2005-06 revised estimate, there are increases in places of various services run by the subvented sector in 2006-07 as follows: 120 places in supported hostel; 50 places in severely mentally handicapped hostel; 60 places in care-and-attention home for severely disabled persons; 50 places in day activity centre; 120 places in early education and training centre; and a combined increase of 115 places in sheltered workshop and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre. With regard to this plan, would the Administration inform this Committee of the geographical distribution of these newly-added places?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department is securing premises for new service units in accordance with the planned additional provisions for 2006-07. Details are given below:

Additional Provisions	Location of New Service Unit
1. 50 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	Sha Tin
2. 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	Sha Tin
3. 50 day activity centre places	Sha Tin
4. 115 sheltered workshop and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre (IVRSC) places	40 IVRSC places in Sha Tin and others by insitu expansion in existing centres
5. 120 supported hostel places	20 places in Kwun Tong and others pending confirmation
6. 120 early education and training centre places	Pending confirmation

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB436

Question Serial No.

1561

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide new transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, care and support services to tetraplegic patients, and provide new continuing rehabilitation day services to discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairment. Please inform this Committee what is the provision for and how many places will be provided by the respective services.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Planned new provisions by SWD to support tetraplegic patients and discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairment in 2006-07 are as follows:

New Provisions	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)	Capacity
<p>1. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients (TCSC)</u> The TCSC provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living.</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charities Trust for four years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential training places - 14 • Day training places - 20 • Respite places - 4

<p>2. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDCs)</u> SWD would set up five cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training, for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities are essential services rendered by these centres.</p>	<p>\$8.3 for 2006-07 (Full-year effect will be \$16.6)</p>	<p>Training places - 400</p>
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB437

Question Serial No.

1563

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : An additional \$30m will be provided to strengthen Family Support and these resources will be allocated to Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Medical Social Services (MSS). Please provide information on:

- (a) the resources to be provided to IFSCs, FCPSUs, MSS respectively.
- (b) which are the IFSC, FCPSU and MSS service units which will be allocated Family Support resources?
- (c) the service terms and the budget for the Family Support Programme (FSP) to be launched.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) & (b) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will launch a FSP in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. About \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement FSP. Resources will be deployed according to the needs and characteristics of the different services and districts. SWD will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including the funding and manpower arrangement.

- (c) FSP aims to serve vulnerable families who are identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units. The target groups mainly include families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation. Under FSP, through telephone contacts, home visitations and other outreaching service, we aim to introduce needy families to various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of

their problems. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crisis before will be recruited to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. Programme Assistants will also be employed to assist in the non-professional logistics so as to enable social workers to focus mainly on professional intervention. As mentioned above, about \$30m additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement FSP.

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB438

Question Serial No.

1564

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide the recurrent and time-limited subvention for each Integrated Family Services Centre (IFSC) (including the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)) and the percentage increase in the budget for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : 40 out of 61 IFSCs are operated by SWD, whereas the remaining 21 IFSCs by NGOs. The estimated total recurrent cost in 2006-07 is \$593.8m, representing an increase of 3.6% as compared with that of 2005-06. We do not have a breakdown on the cost of individual IFSCs. There is no time-limited subvention for IFSCs.

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB439

Question Serial No.

1565

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of new and renewed members per children and youth centre will be raised from 1 621 for 2004-05 (actual) to 2 311 for 2005-06 and 2006-07 (estimate). What is the reason for this great increase?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In order to provide better support to deprived young people and to expand network of members with the aim to offer young people a wide range of services and comprehensive support, it is a general trend among non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to renew existing members and recruit new members as many as possible. The revised estimate in 2005-06 and the estimate in 2006-07 have duly reflected NGOs' efforts in this respect.

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Date	10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB440

Question Serial No.

1567

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the total number of cases that were exempted from the seven-year residence requirement in getting Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme in 2003-04 (since policy implementation), 2004-05 and 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The seven-year residence requirement for CSSA was implemented on 1 January 2004. This requirement does not apply to persons who have become Hong Kong residents before 1 January 2004 and Hong Kong residents below the age of 18.

The total number of CSSA applications that were exempted from the seven-year residence requirement in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

	Applications approved
2003-04 (since January 2004)	3
2004-05	230
2005-06	663*

* Up to end of January 2006

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB441

Question Serial No.

1568

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give more details regarding “implement a programme of measures to improve efficient delivery of social security schemes and minimise fraud and abuse” as specified in paragraph 13 of Head 170 – what are the measures and whether new resources are added for implementation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) completed three reviews in 2005 on reducing fraud, overpayment and enhancing work effectiveness of the social security system. One was conducted by the Efficiency Unit, one by a police superintendent seconded to SWD for nine months, and one by an internal committee. SWD is following up the recommendations of these reviews which basically aim to strengthen the existing gate-keeping mechanism, improve staff’s investigation techniques and plug loopholes in the social security system.

To strengthen the work of the Special Investigation Section, SWD will appoint four retired police officers at the inspectorate rank as fraud investigation advisers starting from 2006-07 to assist in handling difficult cases and making further efforts to combat fraud and abuse cases. This will cost \$0.78m. SWD will continue its efforts to combat CSSA fraud and abuse cases to ensure that public resources are effectively utilised to help those in genuine need.

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Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB442

Question Serial No.

1569

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the total number of fraud and abuse cases in 2005-06, with breakdowns on

- (a) total number of newly reported cases in that year;
- (b) number of fraud and abuse cases; and
- (c) total amount of money involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2005-06, up to end of February 2006, there were 4 257 newly reported cases, of these 706 were established fraud cases. The total amount of payment involved is \$44.3m. The Social Welfare Department has taken action to recover overpayment from the fraud claimants.

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB443

Question Serial No.

1570

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Regarding the provision of additional resources and manpower to Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in this year, will the staffing establishment of IFSCs be maintained at the level of 12-15 registered social workers per centre?
- (b) Regarding the provision of additional manpower, will the corresponding indicator for service subvention be raised?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (a) There is no change in the requirement that each IFSC should normally have at least 12 registered social workers apart from a supervisor as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreement.
 - (b) About \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to launch a Family Support Programme in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. The Social Welfare Department will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including the funding, manpower arrangement and output indicators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB444

Question Serial No.

1571

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Will the Administration consider setting aside provisions to establish a "support team for victims of domestic violence" for training ex-victims of domestic violence to assist people currently subjected to domestic violence?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : At present, the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) are the mainstream service units providing support and service to victims of domestic violence. Apart from professional intervention by social workers, ex-service users having gone through similar problems are recruited and trained to provide support to victims. In case of need, witness support service will also be provided by a group of trained volunteers and staff of the Social Welfare Department to accompany the victim, who is a child or mentally incapacitated person, in giving evidence in court. With the provision of the above services in supporting victims of domestic violence, we do not see a need to set up a dedicated support team.

Furthermore, about \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to launch a Family Support Programme in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. It aims to serve vulnerable families who are identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units. The target groups mainly include families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crises before will be recruited and trained to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB445

Question Serial No.

1572

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Will the Administration examine the criminalization of domestic violence in the context of the Domestic Violence Ordinance and conduct public consultation in this regard? If yes, how much provision will be set aside for this purpose? If no provision will be set aside, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Offenders in domestic violence cases involving assaults or other criminal offences are liable for criminal charges under the Crimes Ordinance (Chapter 200) and the Offences Against the Person Ordinance (Chapter 212). There is also legislation to protect children from neglect and abandonment. As such, we have no plan for creating a new criminal offence for domestic violence, and hence no need for public consultation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 446

Question Serial No.

1579

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The Report on Domestic Violence Ordinance published by the Law Society of Hong Kong in 2005 supported the creation of a Specialised Domestic Violence Court. Has any provision been earmarked for 2006-07 to set up such a court? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

As a broad concept, certain aspects of a dedicated court for domestic violence cases would warrant detailed study by the Administration. These include, for instance -

- (a) how the proposed domestic violence court would fit in with the existing framework, such that a single court would be able to deal with both criminal and civil aspects of domestic violence cases;
- (b) whether new statutory powers would be given to the court to order non-criminal remedies to assist the parties concerned, and to law enforcement and social service agencies to take necessary actions and make necessary referrals; and
- (c) the resource implications for all parties concerned.

As domestic violence is a multi-faceted problem, the setting up of a dedicated domestic violence court alone cannot address the problem. The Government will carefully study this proposal, whilst at the same time, it will continue to adopt multi-disciplinary and multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of domestic violence.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title _____ Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB447

Question Serial No.

1580

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : One social worker will be added to each Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) in 2006-07. Why is the addition carried out in such a manner instead of in accordance with the needs of each district? What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : About \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to launch a Family Support Programme in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. The Social Welfare Department will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including the funding and manpower arrangement. We will deploy resources according to the needs and characteristics of the different services and districts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB448

Question Serial No.

1581

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : After the addition of manpower, how much resources have to be earmarked to support the victims and frontline social workers?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : About \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to launch a Family Support Programme (FSP) in Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units (PsyMSSUs) in 2006-07. It aims to serve vulnerable families who are identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units. It is an enhancement of the existing services of IFSCs/ISCs, FCPSUs and PsyMSSUs through provision of more intensive support and proactive outreach services. To enable social workers to focus mainly on professional intervention, Programme Assistants will be employed to assist in the non-professional logistics for mass programmes, group activities, escort, outings, preparation of programme equipment and materials, making phone contacts, paying visits/pair-up visits with social workers to vulnerable families, etc. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crises before will be recruited to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. We will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including funding and manpower arrangement.

Signature
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Paul TANG

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11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB449

Question Serial No.

1582

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : “The study on child abuse and spouse battering” conducted by the University of Hong Kong last year indicated that only 1% of the victims of battered spouse cases would seek help, while 99% of the victims of hidden domestic violence did not seek help. Is there any plan to set up a distinctive 24-hour task force comprising police officers, social workers and other professionals to help the families in need?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Individuals and families affected by family violence or in face of crisis can approach or be referred to Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) for service. During office hours, social workers of FCPSUs, IFSCs and ISCs will respond to requests for emergency services such as cases involving child abuse or battered spouses and provide immediate outreaching and crisis intervention service as necessary.

To meet the need for emergency social work support after office hours, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has in place two major hotlines operated by the SWD and the Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC) of Caritas – Hong Kong. In case outreaching duty by a social worker outside normal office hours is required, the Hotline staff can enlist support from social workers of SWD on the After Office Hours Outreaching Team for Child Abuse and Battered Spouse Cases. Where necessary, the social worker will solicit intervention from the Police and other parties. The Police can also be contacted during emergency. Hence, we do not see any need to set up a distinctive 24-hour task force.

In 2005-06, additional resources were allocated to strengthen the social work support to the refuge centres for women after office hours and improve the manpower of the FCSC to answer the hotline particularly during night time.

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Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB450

Question Serial No.

1583

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : “The study on child abuse and spouse battering” conducted by the University of Hong Kong last year indicated that only 1% of the victims of battered spouse cases would seek help, while 99% of the victims of hidden domestic violence did not seek help. Is there any plan to set up a distinctive 24-hour task force comprising police officers, social workers and other professionals to help the families in need? If not, what is the reason? If yes, please state the details of the plan as well as the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Individuals and families affected by family violence or in face of crisis can approach or be referred to Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) for service. During office hours, social workers of FCPSUs, IFSCs and ISCs will respond to requests for emergency services such as cases involving child abuse or battered spouses and provide immediate outreaching and crisis intervention service as necessary.

To meet the need for emergency social work support after office hours, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has in place two major hotlines operated by the SWD and the Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC) of Caritas – Hong Kong. In case outreaching duty by a social worker outside normal office hours is required, the Hotline staff can enlist support from social workers of SWD on the After Office Hours Outreaching Team for Child Abuse and Battered Spouse Cases. Where necessary, the social worker will solicit intervention from the Police and other parties. The Police can also be contacted during emergency. Hence, we do not see any need to set up a distinctive 24-hour task force.

In 2005-06, additional resources were allocated to strengthen the social work support to the refuge centres for women after office hours and improve the manpower of the FCSC to answer the hotline particularly during night time. In 2006-07, the SWD will continue to strengthen the emergency service after office hours as necessary.

To serve the vulnerable families including those who are at risk of family violence but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units, about \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement a Family Support Programme in FCPSUs, IFSCs/ISCs and psychiatric medical social services units in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB451

Question Serial No.

1584

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the development work for the prevention of child abuse, has provision been earmarked for carrying out home visits? If yes, what are the details? What is the amount? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations provide various services to prevent and protect children from abuse. Supportive and counselling services are mainly delivered through Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres and Family and Child Protective Services Units. In the work process, social workers may provide their service through interviews, home visits, telephone contacts and other activities. As such, resources spent on home visitation to child abuse cases cannot be separately ascertained.

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Name in block letters
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Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
10 March 2006

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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB452

Question Serial No.

1585

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much provision has been earmarked to take care of the child abuse victims? What are the details? If no provision has been earmarked for this purpose, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Child abuse cases are mainly handled by six specialised Family and Child Protective Services Units of the Social Welfare Department which also provide services for families with problems of spouse battering and child custody disputes. Moreover, clinical psychological service, integrated family service, medical social service, probation service, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children, etc. also serve child abuse cases. As such, the provision specifically earmarked for handling child abuse cases cannot be separately ascertained.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB453

Question Serial No.

1586

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Has provision been earmarked by the Government for the prevention of child abuse? What is the amount? What are the details and estimated expenditure? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : A total amount of \$3.5m was earmarked for launching the Publicity Campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence" and organising district programmes on prevention of domestic violence in 2005-06. The objectives of the Publicity Campaign and district programmes are to enhance public awareness of the need to strengthen families, encourage early help-seeking and prevent child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, sexual violence and suicide. As the public education and publicity programmes are carried out as a package, breakdown on the resources spent on the programmes solely for the prevention of child abuse cannot be provided. The Working Group on the Publicity Campaign convened by the Social Welfare Department and comprising representatives from the Information Services Department and non-governmental organisations will meet to work out plans for 2006-07 and their implementation.

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Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB454

Question Serial No.

1617

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 6 under Programme (1) that the Department reduced seven small group homes and 21 residential nursery places. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2005-06, the Social Welfare Department worked jointly with non-governmental organisations on the re-engineering of residential child care services which aims at optimising the usage of existing resources and achieving a better matching between service demand and provision so as to meet the changing service needs. As a result, provision in seven small group homes (56 places) and 21 places in residential nurseries was reduced while 85 additional foster care places and 15 Children's Home places were created. Through such service re-engineering, we are able to better regulate the under-utilised residential nursery service. Besides, we can increase the provision of foster care which is a more preferred placement option for children as it enables them to grow up in a family-like environment, and achieve an overall net increase of 23 residential care places to benefit more children.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB455

Question Serial No.

1618

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 7 under Programme (1) that the Estimate for Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) in 2006-07 will be increased. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The increase of 496 cases served is the difference between the aggregates of the number of cases estimated to be handled by the IFSCs of the Social Welfare Department in 2005-06 (i.e. 50 053) and 2006-07 (i.e. 50 549). The increase of 1 459 represents the difference between the aggregates of the number of cases estimated to be handled by the IFSCs of the subvented sector in 2005-06 (i.e. 22 602) and 2006-07 (i.e. 24 061). The aggregate figures comprise cases carried forward from the previous financial year that still require service plus all new and re-activated cases requiring casework service in the current year. The increase is mainly due to the greater number of cases estimated to be brought forward in 2006-07 than that of 2005-06.

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Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB456

Question Serial No.

1619

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (2), on what grounds does the government estimate that the number of cases served under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme will be increased to 369 100 in 2006-07 from 361 600 in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The projection on the increase in the number of CSSA cases for 2006-07 is based on the recent trend of CSSA caseload. Although we have seen a decreasing trend in unemployment cases during the past year mainly due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases, notably low earnings cases. Besides, continuous increases have been observed in old age cases and disability cases which are less susceptible to the impact of an improving economy. We therefore estimate that there will be an overall increase in the number of CSSA cases in 2006-07.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB457

Question Serial No.

2150

Head : 149 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Will the Administration provide us the work details and the relevant expenditures involved in the promotion and issuance of Registration Cards for People with Disabilities in 2005-06? What will be the estimated expenditures involved in such work in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Bureau started issuing new Registration Cards (RCs) from July 2005. The work involved setting up a new computer system, informing relevant organizations of the changes, and the administration of the card issuance. So far, we have issued over 4 000 new cards.

Starting from 2006-07, we shall renew the existing 40 000 old cards by phases over a period of 18 months. The additional cost for the renewal project for the year, estimated to be around \$300,000 mainly for computer hardware and employment of temporary staff, will be funded with savings to be achieved by the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB458

Question Serial No.

1621

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding paragraph 13 under Programme (2), what are the estimates in 2006-07 for investigating the fraud and abuse cases under the social security schemes?

Asked by : HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The estimate in 2006-07 for investigating fraud and abuse cases under the social security schemes is \$41.4m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB459

Question Serial No.

2085

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

On what grounds does the Administration conclude that additional recurrent funds of some \$300 million per annum will be provided to the Hospital Authority over the next three years? Has the Administration assessed the impact of the service requirements arising from the changes in population and age profile on the expenditure of public health service? If there is the need for an increase in expenditure, how much will be the anticipated increase?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

In general, the Government's subvention for the Hospital Authority (HA) is largely worked out on the basis of the population-based funding model which takes into account factors like population growth and aging effect. Notwithstanding the Government's tight budgetary situation in the past years, from 2003-04 onwards, a 1% annual growth rate had been applied to cater for general increase in public demand for various hospital services. In addition, we have injected funds targeted at specific programmes to meet increasing demand.

As mentioned in the 2006-07 Budget Speech, in addition to converting the HA's one-off grant of \$650 million last year to recurrent funding, Government will provide the HA with additional recurrent funds rising by around \$300 million per annum over the next three years to strengthen HA's financial position and allow it to cope better with service requirements. This arrangement provides HA with certainty in respect of funding growth and enables it to conduct longer term planning for its services.

The Government is currently reviewing the long term healthcare financing needs to ensure its sustainability in the age of rising demographic need and technological advancement. We would in this process take into account the projected impact of the changes in population profile and other relevant factors, for example, drugs and introduction of new technology.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB460

Question Serial No.

1623

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 17 under Programme (3) that the number of places in the self-care (S/C) hostels/homes for the aged (H/A) will be reduced to 2 841 in the 2006-07 estimate from 5 468 in 2005-06 revised estimate, representing a cut of 2 627 places. However, the number of places in the homes participating in the conversion of S/C hostels and H/A places is increased by just 1 758 as compared with the preceding year. Please give reasons for the cut of S/C or H/A places in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Subsidised S/C hostel and H/A places were introduced in 1960s targeting at elders capable of self-care but had housing needs.

International trend indicates that continuum of care is more suitable for older people with long term care needs. In line with this principle, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the conversion programme to convert S/C and H/A places which have no long term care element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places with continuum of care. The conversion proposal was supported by the welfare sector. The Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in March 2005.

Altogether, there are about 10 700 places in 75 homes which will be converted under the conversion programme. About 7 400 are S/C and H/A places. About 3 300 are C&A places not providing continuum of care.

The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a S/C place, a H/A place, or a C&A place not providing continuum of care. As the conversion exercise is conducted on a subvention-neutral basis, the number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places being replaced under the conversion programme. On the basis that all the 10 700 places will be converted, we project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will ultimately be generated under the conversion programme.

Although 2 627 S/C and H/A places and 738 existing C&A places without continuum of care are to be reduced as a result of the conversion in 2006-07, these places will be transformed into C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for long-term care services.

In parallel, we will continue to increase the number of subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care in purpose-built premises for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through open bidding by non-governmental organisations and private RCHE operators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>11 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB461

Question Serial No.

1624

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated under Programme (3) that the cost per place per month for the care-and-attention (C&A) places to provide a continuum of care arising from conversion of self-care hostel and home-for-the-aged places will be reduced to \$8,745 in the 2006-07 estimate from \$8,814 in the 2005-06 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the reduction? What will be the impact of the reduction on the elders?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The slight decrease in the cost per place per month for C&A places to provide a continuum of care in the 2006-07 estimate as compared with that in the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to the lower rent, rates and special other charges specific to those residential care homes for the elderly which will start their conversion process in 2006-07. The decrease has no impact on the service users.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB462

Question Serial No.

1625

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (1), how many domestic violence cases have been handled in 2005-06 and what is the average expenditure in this respect? What are the estimates for handling domestic violence in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Domestic violence cases are defined here as family and child protection supervision cases and in 2005-06, 8 856 such cases were handled by Family and Child Protective Services Units. The estimated expenditure for the above in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is \$113.7m and \$118m respectively.

It has to be stressed that Integrated Family Service Centres of the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations also deal with family cases which do not involve protection supervision.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB463

Question Serial No.

1626

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (2), how many Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme cases were handled in 2005-06? What is the budget for the SFS Scheme in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has implemented the SFS Scheme since June 1999 and intensified its measures since June 2003 to assist the unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients back to work. From April 2005 to January 2006, 38 277 CSSA unemployed recipients were enrolled in the SFS Scheme. In the same period, 14 744 participants have taken up full-time paid employment through the Scheme. As at end of January 2006, 42 757 active participants remain in the Scheme. The estimated expenditure of the SFS Scheme for 2006-07 is \$77.3m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB464

Question Serial No.

1627

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding paragraph 21 under Programme (4), please set out the details and the related expenditure for implementing the Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities was implemented in October 2005 to provide 311 places for young people aged between 15 and 24 with disabilities or early signs of mental illness. The objectives of the programme are to enhance the employment of these people and provide incentives to encourage employers, especially those who have no experience in employing people with disabilities.

Under this programme, each participant receives an individual job-related counselling, guidance and support plan comprising a combination of the employment training (180 hours), job attachment (3 months), job trial in the open market with an employer (3 months) and post-placement service (6 months). An allowance of \$1,250 per month for a maximum of three months is given to each participant attending job attachment. Employers offering job trial opportunities are also given an allowance of \$3,000 per month per participant (or half of the wage to the participant, whichever is the lower) for a maximum of three months.

The estimated expenditure of the programme for 2006-07 is \$7m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB465

Question Serial No.

1628

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (4), 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 : The planned additional provisions and new services for 2006-07, their purposes and nature, as well as their estimated expenditure are given below. The additional provisions and new items will be implemented from the second to the fourth quarter of 2006-07.

Additional Provisions and New Services for 2006-07	Purpose and Nature	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 (\$m)
1. Addition of 50 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	Residential service to provide home living for the severely mentally handicapped persons who lack basic self-care skills and require assistance in personal and some nursing care	4.6
2. Addition of 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	Residential service to provide home living for the severely disabled persons who are in need of nursing and intensive personal care	3.2
3. Addition of 50 day activity centre (DAC) places	DAC provides day care and training in daily living skills and simple work skills to mentally handicapped persons	2.6
4. Addition of 45 sheltered workshop (SW) places	SW provides people with disabilities (PWD) a working environment specially designed to accommodate their needs, in which they can be trained to engage in income-generating work process	1.1

5. Addition of 120 supported hostel places	Residential service providing group home living for PWD who can only live semi-independently with a fair amount of assistance from hostel staff in daily activities	8.2
6. Addition of 120 early education and training centre (EETC) places	EETC provides early education and training programmes for pre-school children with disability or at risk of becoming disabled	5.2
7. Addition of 70 integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSC) places	IVRSC provides PWD with a series of integrated and seamless vocational rehabilitation services in a training environment specially designed to accommodate their needs	2.1
8. New cluster-based community rehabilitation day centres (CRDC)	CRDC will provide a short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation service for discharged patients who have already received medical/allied health treatment and rehabilitation therapy and are assessed to be in need of continuous rehabilitation service with a view to enhancing their independent living in the community	8.3
9. Launching a new visiting medical practitioner scheme	The Scheme will provide primary health care and support for PWD living in subvented residential rehabilitation services centres	10.4

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB466

Question Serial No.

1629

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (5), 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 (5).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 467

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

1720

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is estimated that the culture fish production in 2006-07 under this programme will increase by 33 tonnes as compared to 2005-06. In this connection, please answer these questions:

- (a) What are the details of the plans in promoting environmental-friendly culture practices and stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management in 2006-07? What are the staffing level and the amount of expenditure required?
- (b) How many local fish farms are allowed to use the accredited fish mark under the accreditation system? What is their production volume? What is the market share of this type of fisheries products?
- (c) Is there an increase in the provision in 2006-07 earmarked for the promotion of the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme? If yes, what are the details of the plan and the amount of expenditure required? What are the expected increases in the number of these fish farms and the market share of these fisheries products in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) This department promotes environmentally friendly culture practices, steps up monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management to enhance the sustainability of the local aquaculture industry. Environmentally friendly culture practices being promoted include the use of dry pellet feeds and proper waste and refuse disposal measures to reduce water pollution in fish culture zones. Apart from regular monitoring of water quality and red tide in fish culture zones for early detection of red tide outbreak and other environmental deterioration, a fish health management programme is in place to help fish farmers minimize losses due to fish diseases through on-farm fish health checks, disease diagnostic and treatment services. In addition, we will continue to implement the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme aimed to help fish farmers improve the quality, safety and hence competitiveness of their cultured fish. A provision of \$14.3 million has been allocated in 2006-07 for these services and 30 staff will be deployed to implement these tasks among other duties.
- (b) 37 fish farms have been registered since the introduction of the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme in mid 2005 and the total annual production volume of these farms is estimated at 130 tonnes, representing about 0.1% of the annual fish consumption in Hong Kong.

- (c) A provision of \$3.2 million, similar to that in 2005-06, has been earmarked in 2006-07 for implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme. We will continue our efforts to promote the scheme and the marketing of accredited fisheries products with a view to increasing the number of fish farms and the market share of fisheries products accredited under the scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS STELLA HUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

HWFB 468

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

1721

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is estimated that the livestock production in 2006-07 under this programme will decrease by 5,000 tonnes as compared to 2005-06. In this connection, please answer these questions:

- (a) What are the estimated number and types of livestock and poultry involved in the decrease?
How many livestock farmers and workers are expected to be affected?
- (b) What are the reasons for the expected decrease in livestock production?
- (c) Is there a conversion scheme for livestock farmers who have ceased or will cease production permanently? If yes, what are the details of the scheme and the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) The expected decrease comprises some 3,000 tonnes of pigs and 2,000 tonnes of chickens. We estimate that about 50 livestock farmers and 60 local farm workers are involved.
- (b) Reduced production is expected as a result of cessation of business of livestock farmers under the current voluntary surrender scheme for poultry farmers and a similar one being formulated for pig farmers.
- (c) We are assisting livestock farmers who surrender their licences voluntarily to switch to greenhouse production and/or organic farming. We have so far conducted three tailor-made training seminars for them on 24 January, 16 and 17 February 2006. Some 120 chicken farmers have attended. We will continue to follow up with those interested and provide them the necessary technical support to make the conversion. A total of \$10 million has been earmarked for promotion of organic farming and greenhouse production.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 469

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1722

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with the instigation of prosecution against offenders under relevant legislation in the programme of "Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services", please answer these questions:

- (a) What is the specific plan for enforcing the legislation to ban backyard poultry-keeping? What are the expenditure and manpower required?
- (b) Are there any plans to eliminate the unlawful transactions of live poultry at a time when there is no legislation to ban live poultry selling at live poultry retail markets, and are there any plans to ensure rigorous enforcement of the legislation which bans backyard poultry-keeping? If yes, what are the details of the plans and the expenditure and manpower required?
- (c) What measures are there to further crack down on the smuggling of poultry at the border? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

(a) To enforce the banning of backyard poultry, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department deploys staff to patrol villages, seize any poultry that are kept illegally and initiate prosecutions. In 2006-07, \$4.8 million involving 15 staff (1 Veterinary Officer and 14 Field Officers) will be earmarked for this activity.

(b) A licence or specific market tenancy is required for selling live poultry at retail outlets. There is no legislation to disallow live poultry retailers to sell live poultry direct to consumers. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has notified all live poultry retailers to advise their customers to have their live poultry slaughtered at the stalls after purchase. The FEHD has also provided retailers with posters carrying this message for display at their stalls.

(c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department staff will continue to work closely with the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force to control the illegal import of animals at all entry points. For 2006-07, 30 staff with a provision of \$7.3 million is allocated for the inspection and control of animal importation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	11 March 2006

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

HWFB 470

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1723

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2006-07, the Administration will implement measures to prevent the incursions of avian influenza and will draw up legislative proposals to enhance the control of animal and bird diseases, in particular new diseases and newly identified disease transmission mechanisms.

Please answer these questions:

- (a) What are these measures? What are the details of the vaccination programme for poultry and birds? What is the expenditure involved?
- (b) What are these legislative proposals? What is the amount of resources earmarked in 2006-07 for the control of new diseases and new disease transmission mechanisms? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) The measures to prevent the incursion of avian flu include monitoring and surveillance of local poultry farms, vaccination of avian flu H5 in chicken, biosecurity requirement in local poultry farms, enforcement of the banning of backyard poultry, import control of birds and surveillance of dead wild birds. The vaccination programme includes testing of every consignment of local poultry before it is allowed to be sent to markets, biosecurity requirement in local farms and monitoring of sentinel chickens. In 2006-07, the estimated expenditure is \$28.5 million.
- (b) The legislative proposals to enhance the control of animal and bird diseases are to amend the Cap. 139 (Animals and Birds) Ordinance to strengthen import control of animals and birds, their products, and animal feeds and fodder. No additional expenditure or staff will be involved in 2006-07 as the work of making the legislative proposals will be carried out by existing staff.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

10 March 2006

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

HWFB 471

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1724

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under this programme that the Government will strengthen the facilities and ability to provide diagnostic tests for veterinary and zoonotic diseases. Please answer these questions:

- (a) What are the details of this plan?
- (b) What are the facilities to be enhanced and the improvement items involved? What is the amount of expenditure required and what are the staffing level and work areas involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The plan is to construct a new laboratory annex of about 450 m² to enhance the capacity of rapid molecular testing for the surveillance and testing of important infectious animal diseases that have potential impact on public health. These include avian influenza, Japanese encephalitis and psittacosis. The new laboratory annex will have separate facilities for handling samples from different animal species. The project cost for the construction of the annex is \$14.1 million. No additional staffing requirement for running the new annex is required.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

10 March 2006

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

HWFB 472

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

1725

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the technical services under this programme, the number of livestock farm licences estimated to issue in 2006-07 is 27 more than that in 2005-06. What is the reason for issuing more licences?

Instead of decreasing, the number of licences issued is on the rise. How can the Administration ensure that the voluntary surrender scheme for livestock farm licences and the ex-gratia payment scheme are implemented in the most cost-effective way, and the policy of separating chickens from people can be carried out as soon as possible?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

A livestock keeping licence is valid for 3 years. The number of licences due for renewal in 2007 is estimated to be higher than that in 2006.

As at 7 March 2006, we have received 93 applications for the voluntary surrender scheme for livestock farm licences since its commencement in August 2005, including 36 from chicken farmers, 33 from pigeon farmers and 5 from duck farmers. We will continue to encourage farmers to join the scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 473

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1732

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide details on the 60 permanent posts to be deleted in 2006-07 and the estimated amount of savings.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The deletion of 60 posts in 2006-07 are achieved through reduction of existing vacancies and natural wastage. The savings derived will be allocated to meet new service needs relating to preventive measures against avian influenza and marine conservation. Details are as follows:-

Work Areas	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted	Notional Annual Mid-point salary \$
Organic farming support service	To streamline the experiments on crop husbandry and plant protection	Artisan	3	428,580
Accredited farm scheme	To streamline the work of monitoring local accredited farm	Artisan Motor Driver	1 1	142,860 142,860
Screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties	To streamline the work relating to screening and testing of new premium vegetables varieties	Field Officer I	1	365,160
Supervision of agricultural co-operative societies	To streamline supervision of agricultural co-operative societies through reprioritization of duties	Field Officer II	1	164,730
Wholesale market surveys	To reprioritize work relating to wholesale market surveys	Field Officer II	2	329,460
Boards and committees works	To re-engineer the duties of Boards and Committees Section	Executive Officer I	1	481,020

Work Areas	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted	Notional Annual Mid-point salary \$
Inspection of import and export of live animals and products	To reduce manpower in inspection of import and export of live animals and products by re-arranging job priorities	Field Assistant	2	324,360
Poultry breeding services	To reduce manpower in breeding and raising of poultry due to diminishing need of poultry breeding services	Field Officer II	1	164,730
Animal management	To re-organize the establishment of 4 animal management centers	Field Officer II Workman I	2 5	329,460 576,900
Pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory work and inspection of import plant consignment	To streamline the work relating to pesticides registration, enforcement and advisory and inspection of import plant consignment through adjusting the number of inspection on a risk assessment basis and reprioritize the regulatory work on plant and pesticides	Field Officer I Field Officer II	3 3	1,095,480 494,190
Laboratory testing services	To streamline testing work	Veterinary Laboratory Technician II Laboratory Attendant	1 1	164,730 142,860
Fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials	To streamline the work relating to fishermen training, fisheries enforcement and fish culture trials	Fisheries Craft Technician I Field Assistant Workman I	1 1 2	438,900 162,180 230,760
Country parks management	To rationalize park management and facilities maintenance works and re-organize the country park management centers	Field Officer II Field Assistant Artisan Workman I Workman II	3 5 9 2 2	494,190 810,900 1,285,740 230,760 213,024
Country parks ranger services	To streamline the staff establishment of visitor centers in country parks	Field Assistant Forest Guard	1 1	162,180 142,860
Country parks road works	To streamline road maintenance works in country parks through reprioritization of duties	Workman I Workman II	1 1	115,380 106,512

Work Areas	Reasons for deletion	Ranks of posts	No. of posts to be deleted	Notional Annual Mid-point salary \$
Marine Parks management	To streamline management and patrolling duties in marine parks through reprioritization of duties	Fisheries Supervisor I	1	365,160
		Assistant Clerical Officer	1	162,180
		Artisan	1	142,860
		Total :	60	10,410,966

Signature _____
Name in block letters MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date 11 March 2006

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

HWFB 474

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1733

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the number of civil service permanent posts, non-civil service contract posts and outsourcing contract posts created in 2005-06 under the programme of "Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services". What were the respective amounts of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The number of civil service permanent posts, non-civil service contract posts and outsourcing contract posts created in 2005-06 under the programme of "Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services" is given below:-

	Types	Number of posts created in 2005-06	Amounts of expenditure (\$M)	Remarks
1.	Civil service permanent posts	0	0	
2.	Non-civil service contract posts	53	1.27	The additional posts are created mainly for the control of zoonotic diseases, Avian Influenza, collection of dead birds and culling of backyard poultry.
3.	Outsourcing contract posts	23	0.04	Casual workers from a contractor have been hired for collection and culling of poultry for over 10 days before contract staff was employed.
	Total	76	1.31	

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

10 March 2006

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

HWFB 475

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1734

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With reference to "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07", please provide details on the measures to prevent the incursions of avian influenza in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What plans does the Administration have for this task in 2006-07 and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The measures to prevent the incursion of avian flu in 2005-06 include monitoring and surveillance of local poultry farms, vaccination programme of avian flu H5 in chicken, biosecurity requirement in local poultry farms, import control of birds, enforcement of the banning of backyard poultry and surveillance of dead wild birds. The expenditure involved was \$22.5 million. For 2006-07, the estimated expenditure is about \$28.5 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

10 March 2006

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

HWFB 476

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1745

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the number of civil service permanent posts, non-civil service contract posts and outsourcing contract posts created in 2005-06 under the programme of "Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets". What were the respective amounts of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

No civil service permanent posts, non-civil service contract posts and outsourcing contract posts were created in 2005-06 under the programme of "Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets".

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 March 2006

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

HWFB 477

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1746

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the details on the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What plans does the Administration have for this task in 2006-07 and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In agriculture, the tasks include the provision and maintenance of irrigation and marketing facilities, organizing technical seminars and demonstrations to introduce modern horticultural practices, regular farm visits to provide on-farm technical advice and assistance, administration of loan funds, and supervision of related cooperative societies.

As regards fisheries, the tasks include organizing training courses and technical seminars to introduce new fishing techniques and modern aquaculture practices, provision of technical advice, administration of loan funds, monitoring of red tide and aquaculture environment, provision of fish health management services, and supervision of fisheries cooperative societies.

A total of \$ 33.5 million (\$9.8 million for agriculture and \$23.7 million for fisheries) has been allocated in 2005-06 for these tasks. We will continue with these tasks on the same provision in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	11 March 2006

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

HWFB 478

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1747

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the details on the Administration's work to facilitate efficient production and improve the quality of agricultural and fisheries products in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What plans does the Administration have for this task in 2006-07 and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department assists farmers to improve their production efficiency and quality of produce through introducing new or improved species/varieties, bringing in modern horticultural practices such as organic farming and intensive greenhouse production, and implementing accredited farm schemes requiring higher production and quality control standards.

As regards fisheries, we assist fish farmers to improve their production efficiency and product quality through introducing new fish species such as Jade Perch for culture, implementing programmes for control of fish diseases and monitoring of aquaculture environment, as well as the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme with the aim to enhance the production level and quality control standards of local aquaculture products.

A total of \$31.7 million (i.e. \$17.4 million for agricultural products and \$14.3 million for fisheries products) has been allocated for these tasks in 2005-06. Same amount of provision has been earmarked for these tasks in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 479

Question Serial No.

1808

Head : 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. Regarding the testing of Chinese medicines within target reporting time, the rate of target achievement was 98% in both 2004 and 2005. Has the Government considered shortening the existing target reporting time of 30 working days to enhance the efficiency?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The current pledged performance target of 30 working days for average sample turnaround time is based on the time required for proper processing and analysis of routine samples in accordance with client departments' requirements. Taking into account the increasing complexity of the analysis required for these samples, maintaining the current performance target of 30 working days is considered appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB480

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1699

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the total provision allocated by the Administration for 2006-07 Estimate on disease prevention, there is an increase of 15% over 2005-06 Original Estimate, and among which the increase in provision for the government sector accounts for 14.4%, 4.8% higher than that for the subvented sector. What is/are the reason(s)? Please set out the specific details of disease prevention initiatives.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The increase in the provision for the government sector is mainly due to the increase in cashflow for procurement of antiviral stockpile and the additional provision for other new initiatives in 2006-07 including the full year effect of the pilot Comprehensive Child Development Scheme (CCDS) and the review of childhood immunisation programme.

A capital commitment of \$254M has been approved for increasing the stockpile of antivirals for influenza pandemic to 20.6 million doses. As at 2 March 2006, the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority together have a stockpile of about 10 million doses of antivirals for prophylaxis and treatment purposes.

CCDS is a community-based programme which aims at augmenting the existing universal service in our Maternal and Child Health Centres through better alignment of the delivery of health, education and social services. The varied needs of children aged 0 to 5 and their families are identified at an early stage, so that appropriate and timely services could be provided for them. The pilot CCDS was launched in Sham Shui Po in July 2005. It has been extended to Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O since January 2006.

In line with international development in childhood immunisation practice, DH is actively considering replacing oral poliovirus vaccine with inactivated poliovirus vaccine and whole-cell pertussis vaccine with acellular pertussis vaccine. DH will set up an internal working group to undertake the review. The new immunisation programme is expected to be implemented in 2007.

In respect of the subvented sector, the Family Planning Association (FPA) is the only organisation subvented by DH under this Programme. Services provided by FPA include contraceptive counselling, prescription of birth control methods, infertility counselling and termination of pregnancy. Specialised services for newly-wed couples as well as youth sexual health services for women aged below 27 years are also provided. The increase in provision of 4.8% is mainly due to capital subvention of \$943,000 in 2006-07 for the repair works of its Yuen Long Clinic Building.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB481

Question Serial No.

1700

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of attendances at Social Hygiene Clinics in 2005 is 6 200 less than that in 2004 (145 000 – 151 200), but the Administration estimates an increase (5 000 more) in the number of attendances this year. What is/are the reason(s)? What is the estimated unit cost of handling one case? What is the total expenditure involved? In the past two years, what were the types of symptoms presented by clients attending social hygiene clinics? Among the cases of each type of symptoms, how many of them required a referral to hospitals for specialist follow-up?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Social Hygiene Clinics (SHC) provide specialised outpatient services for patients with sexually transmitted infections on a walk-in basis and there is no turning away of patients. The past attendance figures showed the actual demand for the service. The attendance figure projected for 2006 is a rounded estimate, making reference to the actual attendance in 2005.

In the past two years, the major presenting symptoms among patients included urethral discharge, genital ulcer and genital growth. There was essentially no referral of SHC patients to hospitals in the past two years.

Provision for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is \$61.2M and \$61.9M respectively. The unit cost per attendance in the SHC is estimated to be \$610 for 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB482

Question Serial No.

1702

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration estimates an increase of 3.9% in the total provision for health promotion in 2006-07 over the original estimate for 2005-06 while a decrease of 6.4% in the provision for the subvented sector over last year. What is/are the reason(s)? How does the Administration ensure that the subvented sector can maintain its service quality?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2006-07, the total provision for conducting publicity and education programmes on smoking prevention will be \$29.1M, representing an increase of \$2.5M. These health promotion activities are carried out by the Tobacco Control Office in the Department of Health and the subvented Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH). The two organisations complement one another. The decrease in provision for the subvented sector is mainly due to the completion of general non-recurrent projects in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB483

Question Serial No.

1704

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

Programme : (5) Rehabilitation

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration plans to provide comprehensive assessment for children with developmental problems in 2006-07. What is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details of the assessment items? How many children have been assessed in the past two years? What are the respective numbers of new and old cases?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The provision in 2006-07 for comprehensive assessment services for children with developmental problems is \$71.9M.

The Child Assessment Service (CAS) assesses children with developmental problems through a multidisciplinary approach. The conditions that require assessment include developmental delay and mental retardation, cerebral palsy, hearing impairment, visual impairment, autistic spectrum disorder, specific language impairment, dyslexia, mathematics disorder, developmental coordination disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and acquired cognitive impairment.

In the past two years, 11 700 children were assessed by the CAS in 2004 which included 5 300 new clients and for 2005, 12 600 children were assessed which included 6 000 new clients.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB484

Question Serial No.

1715

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the provision for 2006-07 Estimate is increased by 14.1% over 2005-06 Revised Estimate. Out of such provision, how much will be allocated for elderly care services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The additional provision for Elderly Health Services in 2006-07 is \$2.3M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB485

Question Serial No.

1716

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards the health assessment and medical consultation provided by the elderly health centres (EHCs), could the Administration inform us of the following –

- (a) What are the cost per attendance, the total cost involved and the scope of services provided by the centres?
- (b) What are the utilisation rate, the number of people on the waiting list and the average waiting time in 2005-06?
- (c) What is the number of attendances achieved per year by the centres?
- (d) What is the number of healthcare personnel serving in the centres and what are their posts?
- (e) At present, there are only 18 EHCs over the territory. Will the Administration allocate additional resources to establish more EHCs? If yes, what is the number of new centres to be established, their locations and their estimated service capacities? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) The Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) provide integrated health services to enrolled members, including physical check up, health assessment, counselling, curative treatment and health education. The costs per attendance for health assessment and medical consultation in EHCs in 2005-06 are \$410 and \$360 respectively. The total expenditure on EHCs is \$84.1M in 2005-06.
- (b) The utilisation rate on health assessment in 2005 was 98.6%. As at end of 2005, there were about 28 000 applications for enrolment. The median waiting time for new enrolment was 37.5 months.
- (c) EHCs provided about 37 400 enrolments in 2005. They aim to provide about 38 000 enrolments in 2006.
- (d) In 2005, there were a total of 163 staff working in EHCs including 24 doctors and 55 nurses.
- (e) EHCs are not the only means to address the health care needs of the elderly. All the stakeholders have to work together to take concerted efforts to meet the varying needs of the elderly through various measures and services. Apart from EHCs, the Visiting Health Teams of Elderly Health Services (EHS) reach out into the community to provide health promotion activities for elders and carers. Also, there are more than 70 general out-patient clinics run by the Hospital Authority which provide general medical services to

members of the public, including elders. Private practitioners are also key providers of primary health care. Besides, some non-government organisations (NGOs) are operating health centres on a self-financing basis. EHS will strengthen collaboration with stakeholders including private practitioners and NGOs to enhance primary health services for the elderly in Hong Kong. At present, there is no plan to expand EHCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB486

Question Serial No.

1717

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration has not committed any resources for establishing elderly ophthalmic/dental clinics to provide ophthalmic and dental services and conduct regular examination for the elderly to ensure their ophthalmic and dental health. What is/are the reason(s)? Will the Administration consider providing ophthalmic or dental care services for the elderly? If yes, what are the specific arrangements? If no, what is/are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Elderly Health Centres under the Department of Health provide integrated primary health care services for enrolled members, including general assessment on eye and oral health problems. There is no plan to provide separate ophthalmic or dental care services for the elderly. The Department will strengthen collaboration with other stakeholders, including private practitioners and non-government organisations, to enhance primary health services for the elderly in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB487

Question Serial No.

1718

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In paragraph 13 under this Programme, it is stated that "to promote health and increase health awareness in the community and among specific target groups". Please advise whether elderly is one of these "specific target groups". If yes, what is the provision earmarked for increasing health awareness among the elderly. If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

Activities to promote health and increase health awareness in the community include the elderly as one of the target groups. The work is mainly undertaken by the Central Health Education Unit (CHEU) under the Department of Health (DH). The provision for CHEU in 2006-07 is \$32.2M. However, the amount of resources allocated for health education for the elderly is not separately identifiable.

Health promotion work for the elderly is also undertaken by the Elderly Health Services (EHS). EHS provide integrated primary health care services for the elderly and their carers through elderly health centres (EHCs) and visiting health teams (VHTs). VHTs reach out into the community to provide health promotion activities to the elderly people and carers through collaboration with other elderly service providers, and provide influenza vaccination to the elderly in elderly homes. The provision for EHS in 2006-07 is \$146.6M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB488

Question Serial No.

1772

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000
Operational
expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Department of Health plans to delete 26 non-directorate permanent posts in 2006-07. Could the Administration inform us of the details and the expenditure saved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Department of Health will create four posts and delete 30 posts. The net deletion is 26 posts. Details of the posts to be deleted are at Annex. The estimated annual savings are \$2.8M. The level of service will be maintained through re-engineering of operations, staff redeployment and outsourcing of services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Dr P Y LAM _____
Post Title	_____ Director of Health _____
Date	_____ 9 March 2006 _____

Posts to be deleted in 2006-07

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>
Chief Dispenser	1
Inoculator	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	2
Office Assistant	1
Telephone Operator	1
Property Attendant	5
Workman II	18
Total	<hr/> 30 <hr/> <hr/>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB489

Question Serial No.

1773

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, please advise the respective expenditures incurred by the integrated health care service to the elderly and the elderly health centres in 2005-06? What are the respective estimated expenditures in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The total expenditure for Elderly Health Services in the year 2005-06 is \$144.3M, including \$84.1M for Elderly Health Centres (EHCs). The estimated expenditures in the year 2006-07 are \$146.6M for Elderly Health Services and \$85.4M for EHCs respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB490

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1774

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, please advise the total number of eligible persons receiving influenza vaccination from the Department of Health in 2005-06? What was the expenditure involved? In 2006-07, what are the details of work concerned and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Government Influenza Vaccination Programme (GIVP) covers about 260 000 high risk clients for influenza vaccination and the estimated expenditure is \$7.3M.

The Department of Health (DH) is planning for the GIVP for 2006-07. DH undertakes annual reviews to assess vaccination coverage and adverse effects, and where appropriate, conducts research for better understanding of population needs and service planning, as well as assessment of programme effectiveness. Planning of the 2006-07 GIVP will take into account the findings of the above review as appropriate. Provision is earmarked for implementing the 2006-07 GIVP, with regard to the actual expenditure in 2005-06. Actual expenditure for 2006-07 GIVP will however depend on the final scope of the 2006-07 programme. DH works closely with the Hospital Authority, private medical sector, welfare agencies and relevant government departments in providing vaccination to recommended groups.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB491

Question Serial No.

1775

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, please advise the number of patients with sexually-transmitted diseases treated by the Department of Health in the past three years? How many of them were non-Hong Kong residents? What was the expenditure incurred by the overall work? In 2006-07, what are the details of the work concerned and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The annual sexually transmitted infections (STI) attendances for the past three years are as follows -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Non-resident cases</u>
2003	143 605	1 431
2004	152 428	1 009
2005	143 558	899

The expenditures from 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as follows -

	\$M
2003-04	73.3
2004-05	66.0
2005-06	61.2

In 2006-07 DH will continue with its work to control and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STI) through the following measures -

- (a) operation of the Social Hygiene Clinics to provide counselling and clinical services to public with STI;
- (b) provision of regular check up services every two weeks for sex workers;
- (c) public education to contain the spread of STI;

- (d) training of medical and healthcare professionals by DH to set the benchmark for all health professionals who are involved in management of STI and to maintain the good professional standard in the management of STI; and
- (e) planning, developing and conducting various surveillance and survey programmes to study the prevalence and pattern of STI in the community so as to guide the direction and to focus the effort of DH to certain groups for tackling the STI/AIDS problems in the community.

The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 will be \$61.9M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB492

Question Serial No.

1776

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, please advise the details of work undertaken by the Department of Health in the past three years to prevent the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases and the expenditure involved? In 2006-07, what are the details of the work concerned and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The expenditure designated for prevention and spread of sexually transmitted diseases from 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as follows -

	\$M
2003-04	73.3
2004-05	66.0
2005-06	61.2

In 2006-07 DH will continue with its work to control and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STI) through the following work -

- (a) operation of the Social Hygiene Clinics to provide counselling and clinical services to public with STI;
- (b) provision of regular check up services every two weeks for sex workers;
- (c) public education to contain the spread of STI;
- (d) training of medical and healthcare professionals by DH to set the benchmark for all health professionals who are involved in management of STI and to maintain the good professional standard in the management of STI; and
- (e) planning, developing and conducting various surveillance and survey

programmes to study the prevalence and pattern of STI in the community so as to guide the direction and to focus the effort of DH to certain groups for tackling the STI/AIDS problems in the community.

The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 will be \$61.9M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB493

Question Serial No.

1777

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, what was the expenditure incurred by the Tobacco Control Office in the past three years? Out of such expenditure, how much was spent per year on suppressing the sale of tobacco products by retailers to minors? In 2006-07, what are the details of such work and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) adopts an integrated approach to tobacco control in Hong Kong including the prevention of sale of tobacco products to minors. However, no separate account has been kept on the allocation to the latter. The Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of DH conducts health education activities, inspection to retailers and provides a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service.

In 2005-06, TCO has incurred \$1.5M to prepare for the enactment of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005. In 2006-07, TCO will have a provision of \$6.6M to carry out the statutory functions. Tobacco control inspectors will be employed to carry out enforcement duties, including investigation, collection of evidence and initiating prosecution actions for contravention of the law, and conduct health education activities. No expenditure was incurred by TCO in 2003-04 and 2004-05 under Programme (1) as TCO had no statutory functions in the past.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB494

Question Serial No.

1778

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding this Programme, what were the details of work undertaken by the Department of Health in 2005-06 to prevent the importation of quarantinable diseases into Hong Kong and the expenditure incurred? In 2006-07, what are the details of such work and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Regarding the prevention of importation of quarantinable diseases, the Port Health Office (PHO) has implemented the following measures -

- (a) to monitor the sanitation conditions of the Hong Kong International Airport, seaports and land crossings;
- (b) to conduct inspections of incoming ocean-going vessels to ensure that they are free of rodent infestation, and to monitor the health conditions of passengers and crew members of incoming ocean-going vessels; and
- (c) to provide yellow fever vaccination for travellers going to yellow fever endemic areas.

The PHO also operates two Travel Health Centres to provide travel health risk assessment and advice for travellers.

The PHO will continue the above measures in 2006-07. Port health measures will be strengthened in preparation for the coming into force of the revised International Health Regulations (IHR).

The PHO's expenditure in 2005-06 amounts to \$39.6M. The provision for 2006-07 is \$54.1M, including an additional funding of \$13.2M for strengthening port health measures in preparation for the revised IHR.

In addition to the above expenditure in 2005-06, DH also deployed \$17.9M to meet operating expenditure for conducting temperature screening for inbound travellers at the Hong Kong International Airport and all other immigration control points.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB495

Question Serial No.

1803

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Curative Care

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Department of Health explains that the failure to achieve the target on the appointment time for new dermatology cases in 2005 is due to the departure of a number of experienced doctors from the service in the year. In this regard, could the Government inform this Committee of -

- (a) the respective numbers of departed doctors in various specialised outpatient clinics in the past three years and the reason(s) for their departure;
- (b) doctors' average hours of work per week in the clinics and the doctor-to-patient ratio(s);
- (c) whether the Administration has assessed the negative impact brought about by the departure of experienced doctors and formulated any solution to the problem.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of doctors who resigned or retired from the Social Hygiene Service (SHS) in 2003, 2004 and 2005 were two, six and three respectively.
- (b) On average, a doctor works 44 hours a week and attends to about 70 patients a day.
- (c) In 2003 and 2004, the target appointment time for new dermatology cases was generally met and the longest waiting time was mostly about ten weeks.

In 2005, the performance was affected by the resignation and retirement of three specialists in dermatology from the SHS. The wastage rate of doctors was 9.6%. Nonetheless, over 60% of the new dermatology cases during the year were attended to within the 12-week target, with all urgent cases seen within two weeks. The other less urgent cases generally involved a longer waiting time of approximately 15 weeks.

The Department of Health (DH) has arranged internal redeployment and appointment of new recruits to replace doctors who left the SHS. Besides, DH plans to employ four contract doctors on a part-time basis in 2006-07 to shorten the appointment time. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB496

Question Serial No.

1811

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the number of attendances to training activities on infection control was 11 000 in 2005, representing a substantial increase of 7 540 over the number of 3 460 in 2004. What is/are the reason(s) for the increase? What is the additional expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Infection Control Branch of the Centre for Health Protection was established in June 2004. The 2004 figure therefore only accounted for the half-year output of the Branch from June to December 2004. The number of attendances increased to 11 000 in 2005 mainly because the Branch was in full operation in 2005. The extra resources were absorbed within the existing allocation of the Branch.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB497

Question Serial No.

1823

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

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in
Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the ranks of the civil servants currently working in the Hospital Authority and their respective percentages?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

Breakdowns of the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) by ranks and their respective percentages in the establishment of the Department of Health (DH) are at the Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

(Position as at 1.4.2006)

GRADE/RANK	(a) No. of Civil Servants in HA	(b) No. of Civil Service posts in DH	(c)=(a)+(b) Total	a/c x 100% Percentage
MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICER GRADES				
General Manager (Clinical Services)	1	0	1	100.0%
Consultant	10	20	30	33.3%
Senior Medical & Health Officer	42	102	144	29.2%
Medical & Health Officer	90	250	340	26.5%
Sub-total	143	372	515	27.8%
NURSING & ALLIED GRADES				
General Manager (Nursing)	3	0	3	100.0%
Senior Nursing Officer	8	20	28	28.6%
Departmental Operations Manager	19	0	19	100.0%
Ward Manager	101	0	101	100.0%
Nurse Specialist	27	0	27	100.0%
Nursing Officer	355	280	635	55.9%
Nursing Officer (Education)	10	0	10	100.0%
Registered Nurse	319	647	966	33.0%
Enrolled Nurse	151	221	372	40.6%
Senior Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	4	0	4	100.0%
Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	72	0	72	100.0%
Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)	113	0	113	100.0%
Enrolled Nurse (Psychiatric)	128	0	128	100.0%
Student Nurse (Psychiatric)	1	0	1	100.0%
Midwife	3	21	24	12.5%
Sub-total	1 314	1 189	2 503	52.5%

GRADE/RANK	(a) No. of Civil Servants in HA	(b) No. of Civil Service posts in DH	(c)=(a)+(b) Total	a/c x 100% Percentage
SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL GRADES				
Department Manager	15	0	15	100.0%
General Manager (Allied Health Services)	1	0	1	100.0%
Audiology Technician I	1	0	1	100.0%
Senior Dietitian	1	1	2	50.0%
Chief Dispenser	3	4	7	42.9%
Senior Dispenser	92	18	110	83.6%
Dispenser	190	40	230	82.6%
Senior Medical Technologist	7	18	25	28.0%
Medical Technologist	42	90	132	31.8%
Medical Laboratory Technician I	6	18	24	25.0%
Medical Laboratory Technician II	1	113	114	0.9%
Mould Laboratory Technologist	1	0	1	100.0%
Senior Mould Laboratory Technician	1	0	1	100.0%
Mould Laboratory Technician	3	0	3	100.0%
Occupational Therapy Assistant	78	0	78	100.0%
Orthoptist I	1	4	5	20.0%
Pharmacist	6	47	53	11.3%
Physicist	3	7	10	30.0%
Senior Physiotherapist	5	1	6	83.3%
Physiotherapist I	5	8	13	38.5%
Prosthetist-Orthotist I	3	0	3	100.0%
Senior Radiographer	12	3	15	80.0%
Radiographer I	62	13	75	82.7%
Scientific Officer (Med)	3	17	20	15.0%
Sub-total	542	402	944	57.4%

GRADE/RANK	(a) No. of Civil Servants in HA	(b) No. of Civil Service posts in DH	(c)=(a)+(b) Total	a/c x 100% Percentage
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR GRADE				
Chief Hospital Administrator	1	1	2	50.0%
Senior Hospital Administrator	5	8	13	38.5%
Hospital Administrator I	9	13	22	40.9%
General Manager (Administrative Services)	3	0	3	100.0%
Sub-total	18	22	40	45.0%
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL GRADES				
Senior Artisan	5	0	5	100.0%
Artisan	89	11	100	89.0%
Cook	46	0	46	100.0%
Darkroom Technician	28	13	41	68.3%
Chief Electrical Technician	5	0	5	100.0%
Senior Electrical Technician	4	0	4	100.0%
Electrical Technician	8	4	12	66.7%
Senior Foreman	3	0	3	100.0%
Foreman	7	0	7	100.0%
Head Property Attendant	3	0	3	100.0%
Chief Hospital Foreman	6	0	6	100.0%
Senior Hospital Foreman	11	3	14	78.6%
Hospital Foreman	32	5	37	86.5%
Hostel Manager/Manageress	1	0	1	100.0%
Laboratory Attendant	63	59	122	51.6%
Laundry Manager	1	0	1	100.0%
Laundry Worker	48	0	48	100.0%
Linen Production Unit Supervisor	1	0	1	100.0%
Machinist	10	0	10	100.0%

GRADE/RANK	(a) No. of Civil Servants in HA	(b) No. of Civil Service posts in DH	(c)=(a)+(b) Total	a/c x 100% Percentage
Mortuary Attendant	6	18	24	25.0%
Mortuary Officer	1	4	5	20.0%
Mortuary Technician	1	3	4	25.0%
Operating Theatre Assistant	50	0	50	100.0%
Photographer I	1	3	4	25.0%
X-Ray Mechanic	4	0	4	100.0%
Health Care Assistant	191	0	191	100.0%
Sub-total	625	123	748	83.6%
MODEL SCALE I GRADES				
Barber	5	0	5	100.0%
Ganger	11	5	16	68.8%
Ward Attendant	246	0	246	100.0%
Property Attendant	27	46	73	37.0%
Workman I	32	3	35	91.4%
Workman II	512	565	1 077	47.5%
Sub-total	833	619	1 452	57.4%
GENERAL GRADES				
Assistant Clerical Officer	2	274	276	0.7%
Clerical Assistant	22	493	515	4.3%
Office Assistant	53	65	118	44.9%
Personal Secretary II	1	20	21	4.8%
Telephone Operator	5	2	7	71.4%
Motor Driver	1	55	56	1.8%
Sub-total	84	909	993	8.5%
TOTAL	3 559	3 636	7 195	49.5%

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB498

Question Serial No.

1824

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

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants
Working in Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the specific items of work carried out by the Department of Health in 2005 under this Programme with regard to the following aims and the respective expenditures involved:

- (a) to discharge the personnel management responsibility for the civil servants working in the Hospital Authority;
- (b) to maintain morale and efficiency?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The day-to-day personnel management functions in respect of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) have been devolved to HA. However, the Department of Health (DH) retains certain major personnel management responsibilities for these staff. These responsibilities include-

- operating a staff consultative machinery comprising one departmental consultative committee and four grade consultative committees, and conducting good-will visits to civil servants working in various hospitals;
- advising HA on issues which may affect the working conditions and morale of civil servants, such as the job-related allowance review;
- processing cases relating to staff discipline;
- processing cases relating to appointment and promotion under the Shadow Promotion Scheme. Civil servants working in HA enjoy the same promotion prospect as their counterparts employed on HA terms of service. Through the Scheme, DH ensures that on promotion, civil servants will continue with their civil service terms of service; and
- preparing pension papers for retiring civil servants. This function extends to cover ex-civil servants (who have opted for HA terms of employment) upon their final departure from HA. The number of ex-civil servants serving in HA as at 1 March 2006 is 6 931 and the workload involved is not reflected in the indicator under this

Programme.

The operation of the staff consultative machinery, rendering advice to HA on issues which may affect conditions of civil servants etc mentioned above all contribute to the aims listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) in the question.

The expenditure in 2005-06 was \$10.1M, comprising \$9.8M for personal emoluments and \$0.3M for departmental expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB499

Question Serial No.

1825

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

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants
Working in Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the distribution of ranks and staff under this Programme?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The distribution of ranks and staff responsible for personnel management of civil servants working in Hospital Authority is as follows -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>
Chief Executive Officer	1
Senior Executive Officer	2
Executive Officer I	4
Personal Secretary II	1
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Officer	6
Assistant Clerical Officer	10
Clerical Assistant	5
Office Assistant	1
Total	31

There are other general administration staff at the Headquarters of the Department also indirectly providing support to this Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB500

Question Serial No.

1877

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There is an increase of \$5.6M in the provision for 2006-07 over the revised estimate for 2005-06. Out of the increased provision,

(1) how much will be used to strengthen port health measures in preparation for the coming into force of the revised International Health Regulations? What are the specific details of the enhanced measures? What is the detailed allocation of the provision?

(2) how much will be used to cater for the increased operating expenses and creation of four posts after the enactment of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance? What are the scopes of duties of these newly created posts? How is work demarcated?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

In 2006-07, the additional funding to be provided to the Port Health Office (PHO) for enhancing the port health measures in preparation for the coming into force of the revised International Health Regulations and the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) under this Programme will be \$13.2M and \$5.1M respectively. As some resources in respect of other services within this Programme Area (Statutory Functions) have been redeployed to other Programme Areas, the net increase in this Programme in 2006-07 will be \$5.6M.

The port health measures to be strengthened include the following -

- (a) establishing health posts at immigration control points (ICPs) for carrying out health screening measures and public education programmes;
- (b) installing infra-red thermo-imaging machines to facilitate the implementation of body temperature screening measures and stockpiling of personal protective equipment at future ICPs;

- (c) constructing isolation facilities at existing and future ICPs as temporary accommodation for sick travelers who need to be transferred to hospitals;
- (d) establishing a sanitation monitoring and inspection system for ICPs and conveyances to minimise the risk of spread of infectious diseases; and
- (e) developing guidelines for prevention and control of public health emergencies for, and providing relevant training to ICP and conveyance operators.

Out of the additional funding of \$13.2M for enhancing port health measures, \$8.1M and \$5.1M will be used for recruiting 47 additional staff and other expenditure respectively.

There will be 34 tobacco control inspectors to carry out enforcement duties upon the enactment of the bill. These duties include investigation, collection of evidence and initiation of prosecution actions for contravention of the law. Included in the additional provision of \$5.1M are four posts of police officers for training and assisting tobacco control inspectors to carry out their enforcement function.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB501

Question Serial No.

1879

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the reason for the number of enrolments in Elderly Health Centre (EHC) to drop from 39 900 in 2004 (actual) to 37 400 in 2005 (actual) and 38 000 (estimate)? Again, what is the reason for the number of attendance for health assessment and medical consultation at EHCs to drop from 199 000 (actual) in 2004 to 195 000 (actual) in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The staffing situation and the complexity of the cases being handled may affect the total number of enrolments of the Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) and the total number of attendances for health assessment and medical consultation conducted by the EHCs in a particular year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB502

Question Serial No.

1689

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of payments under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) System by case categories in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The estimates on CSSA expenditure by nature of case for 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as follows :

Nature of case	2003-04 (Actual)		2004-05 (Actual)		2005-06 (Revised Estimate)	
	\$m	No. of recipients	\$m	No. of recipients	\$m	No. of recipients
Old Age	8,030	190 152	8,021	197 218	8,111	201 300
Permanent Disability	877	24 056	914	25 869	960	27 000
Ill Health	1,506	44 221	1,552	46 981	1,582	47 400
Single Parent	3,022	94 836	3,176	101 334	3,253	103 200
Low Earnings	923	47 365	1,132	58 067	1,290	65 400
Unemployment	2,731	104 158	2,586	100 415	2,356	90 000
Others	217	6 699	252	7 797	281	8 400
Total	17,306	511 487	17,631*	537 681	17,833	542 700

* Figures do not add up to the total due to rounding.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB503

Question Serial No.

1690

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the number of "low-earnings" cases transferred from other Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) case categories (by comparing the figures by the end of 2004 and those by the end of 2005).
 - (b) "Low-earning" CSSA cases have been increased from 4 714 in 1997-98 to 18 127 recently (in January 2006). Has the Administration studied the reasons for such a significant upward adjustment in the number of "low-earnings" CSSA cases? Is there any initiative to reduce the number of "low-earning" cases?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

- Reply :
- (a) Among the 18 089 low earnings cases involving 65 655 recipients as at December 2005, 4 633 cases were originally classified under other categories as at December 2004. Details are set out below:

Nature of case as at December 2004	Number of cases changed to low earning category as at December 2005	Number of recipients
Old Age	557	1 905
Permanent Disability	103	356
Ill Health	304	1 142
Single Parent	634	1 856
Unemployment	2 941	10 645
Others	94	314
Total	4 633	16 218

- (b) We have not conducted any research into the reasons for the increase in low earnings cases between 1997-98 and January 2006. We believe the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme have allowed many CSSA recipients under the unemployment and other categories to rejoin the workforce, even though some of them are not able to leave the safety net altogether.

The Disregarded Earning arrangement under the CSSA Scheme also allows recipients to keep part of their earnings from paid work while staying in the CSSA low earnings category.

The number of low earnings cases represents about 6% of the total number of CSSA cases, as compared with 13.8% for unemployment cases and 13.3% for single parent cases. We will continue our effort in assisting CSSA recipients to achieve self-reliance. Our current priority is to help unemployed CSSA recipients and single parents to take up paid work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB504

Question Serial No.

1691

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the work to “follow up the review of the provision of disregarded earnings under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme”?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The main purpose of the review of the provision of disregarded earnings (DE) under the CSSA Scheme is to assess the effectiveness of the current DE arrangements in helping employable CSSA recipients move into work and achieve self-reliance. The review is in progress. We plan to consult relevant bodies, including the Social Welfare Advisory Committee and the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services, about the findings of the review in the first half of 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB505

Question Serial No.

1692

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of commissioning non-governemntal organisations (NGOs) to launch a new batch of Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs)? Please state the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 and the estimated number of people who will be benefited from the projects.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : To continue our efforts to help unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and 'near-CSSA' unemployed to rejoin the workforce, the Social Welfare Department will commission NGOs to implement 40 IEAPs from October 2006 to September 2008. Together with IEAPs currently in operation, we expect to serve no less than 14 500 participants in the next two years.

The new IEAPs will model after existing ones, i.e. we will provide subvention to NGOs to provide participants with various services such as workshops, employment counselling, job matching and post-employment support services to help enhance their employability and ability to sustain employment. We shall invite NGOs to bid for the next batch of IEAPs later in the year. Similar to existing IEAPs, each 2-year project will be supported with \$1.4m.

In 2006-07, the estimated expenditure is \$15m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB506

Question Serial No.

1697

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the cost per place per month of residential homes, the figure for the government sector in the 2006-07 estimate is higher than the 2005-06 revised estimate whereas that for the subvented sector in 2006-07 is lower than the revised figure in 2005-06. Would the Government explain the following:

- (a) Reasons for the increase in the costs of residential homes run by the government sector and the criteria in calculating such increase.
- (b) Reasons for the decrease in the costs of residential homes run by the subvented sector and the criteria in calculating such decrease.
- (c) Given that the costs of residential homes run by the subvented sector are lower than those run by the government sector, would the Administration consider increasing the number of places of the residential homes run by the subvented sector in order to reduce expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : (a & b) The component of administrative support costs was included in the calculation of the cost per place per month of residential homes. The slight increase in the costs of residential homes run by the government sector and slight decrease in those of the subvented sector as compared between 2005-06 and 2006-07 were due to minor fluctuations in the administrative support costs.

- (c) The Social Welfare Department will continue to support the subvented sector to provide residential homes for the disabled. The additional rehabilitation homes for 2006-07, including hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, care-and-attention home for severely disabled persons and supported hostels, are all provided by the subvented sector.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB507

Question Serial No.

1698

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated that the Administration will “provide specialised teams in medical social services to strengthen specialised support services for young persons with early signs of mental health problem”. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Does the Administration have any specific plan?
- (b) Except social workers who serve as principal members of the specialised teams in medical social services, would the Administration consider including care health personnel (such as doctors and nurses) to provide support?
- (c) What is the provision earmarked for such services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Administration has set up specialised teams in medical social services to strengthen support for young persons with early signs of mental health problems. The details of the service are:

- (a) The project, named as “Community support project for child and adolescent mental health” (CAMH), is to provide early identification and intervention for children and adolescents aged 18 or below with mild to moderate degree of mental health problems. Five specialised CAMH Teams are formed and work jointly with the five Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Teams of the Hospital Authority (HA) in the territories. The CAMH Teams provide public education on mental health, advisory and consultation services to schools, youth centres and other organisations in the community and training for personnel working with youth. The teams also arrange and network with local organisations to provide services to the young persons, either in group or individually, which may include rehabilitation/vocational training, life skills and resilience enhancement activities to meet their special needs.
- (b) The CAMH Teams comprise a total of ten social workers, one clinical psychologist, one project officer and five project assistants. They also receive clinical support (including doctors, nurse, clinical psychologist and other allied health professions) from the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Teams

of HA.

(c) The funding earmarked for the project is \$5.5m per year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB508

Question Serial No.

1712

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As regards the “enhancement of the computerised Long Term Care Services Delivery System (LDS)”, please advise the amounts of money spent in 2005-06 and to be spent in the 2006-07 estimate, as well as the current progress of this item.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : In 2005, the Social Welfare Department continued with the enhancement of the computerised LDS to meet the operational needs such as those arising from the conversion of self-care hostel and home for the aged places into care-and-attention places providing continuum of care. The programme change and user acceptance tests in respect of the LDS enhancement have been completed and the enhancement items will be rolled out in 2006-07. \$0.4m was spent on the enhancement of LDS in 2005-06 and a further payment of \$0.2m will be made upon the roll-out of the enhancement items in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB509

Question Serial No.

1713

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning the relaxation of the eligibility requirements under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, what are the number of cases and CSSA payment involved? Has the Administration set up any monitoring system and complementary arrangements?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The eligibility requirements under the PCSSA Scheme were relaxed from 1 August 2005 to allow elderly persons who have received CSSA for not less than one year (previously not less than three years) the option to retire to Guangdong or Fujian (previously Guangdong only).

As at the end of January 2006, a total of 112 cases had benefited from the relaxed eligibility requirements. These included:

- (a) 61 cases benefiting from the relaxation of the requirement of having received CSSA for not less than three years;
- (b) 44 cases benefiting from the extension of the Scheme to Fujian; and
- (c) 7 cases benefiting from both relaxed requirements.

PCSSA recipients receive their monthly standard rate and annual long-term supplement but not special grants under the CSSA Scheme.

A non-governmental organisation has been commissioned as the Social Welfare Department's agent to help monitor PCSSA cases and provide a range of services for the recipients. The main duties of the agent include conducting annual checks on PCSSA cases by means of home visits and postal reviews to ensure that payments made to the recipients are in order, providing transport/escort service for recipients retiring to Guangdong, handling enquiries and reports of changes from recipients and other interested parties, and processing burial grant applications from deceased recipients' relatives or friends.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB510

Question Serial No.

1714

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the conversion of homes for the aged blind (H/AB) (20 places) into care-and-attention homes for the aged blind (C&A/AB) (801 places), the combined number of these two types of subvented places is planned to reduce to 811 in 2006-07 from 821(20 + 801 places) in 2005-06. Please explain the reduction and provide the figure for the provision involved. What are the enrolment rates of these two types of places in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Having regard to the policy direction of "Ageing in Place" and "Continuum of Care" and with considerable progress in strengthening the provision of community support services, the Social Welfare Department has focused on providing C&A/AB service to those of moderate to severe level of impairment. This is achieved by phasing out the services of H/AB by converting these places to C&A/AB places. As the conversion is conducted on a cost-neutral basis and the unit cost of a C&A/AB place is higher than that of a H/AB place, the number of C&A/AB place to be created through the conversion will be smaller than the number of H/AB places so reduced. The average enrolment rates for H/AB and C&A/AB in 2005-06 (till December 2005) are 40% and 100% respectively. The low enrolment rate for H/AB home is due to the fact that admission has ceased in preparation for the conversion.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB511

Question Serial No.

1727

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated that the Department has completed the review on the operation of the integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs) in 2005 and plans to introduce an assessment tool in these centres to ascertain the progress of their service users. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Contents of the review report.
- (b) Expenditure incurred in the review.
- (c) The specific plan for introducing such assessment tool and when will the assessment report be completed.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The Review on the IVRSCs conducted by a working group in 2004-05 covered various aspects relating to the operation of IVRSCs, including training contents of the service, assessment of the work ability of the trainees, staff training, case referrals, service performance indicators, etc. The Review Report contained the discussions and recommendations of the working group.
- (b) The review working group, chaired by the Social Welfare Department, was set up with representatives from the service operators, parent associations and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. No expenditure was incurred by the review.
- (c) The purpose of the assessment tool is to evaluate the progress of the trainees in the centre with a view to facilitating the setting and arrangement of appropriate training targets for trainees. It will be applied to the trainees at least once a year to evaluate their progress and the reports generated will be for reference by the training staff of the centres. With contributions from the service operators, the production of the assessment tool was already completed and will be implemented in all IVRSCs by April 2006.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB512

Question Serial No.

1728

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please advise whether the Administration has studied or surveyed the situation (such as recidivism rate, readmission rate, etc.) of young offenders who have completed probation services/residential trainings (at probation homes, reformatory schools, places of refuge and places of detention, remand homes, boys' hostels/girls' hostels, boys' homes/girls' homes, etc.) provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) subvented by SWD, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of probation services/residential trainings? If yes, what are the details? Please set out by institutions the findings of studies or surveys conducted over the past three years. If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The residential homes operated by NGOs admit young persons with social problems/needs. They are not statutory homes for offender cases. The homes operated by NGOs under the subvention performance management system of SWD have to meet the pre-set service output/outcome standards.

Remand homes, place of refuge and places for detention under SWD are short-term homes providing temporary custodial facilities to meet the needs of young residents pending court proceedings. These units are performing satisfactorily and we see no need for any particular review. As regards probation homes and reformatory schools under SWD which are long-term correctional homes for young offenders, they are effectively managed although the recidivism rates fluctuate in recent years. A summary is given below:

Service	Recidivism Rate (%)*		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Probation Homes	26	26	18
Reformatory School [#]	23	50	45

* Recidivism rate refers to the percentage of cases with conviction of further offence within court order period against

total number of expired/discharged cases in the respective years.

- # On the relatively high recidivism rate of the Reformatory School (RS). Members may note that there is only one RS with a small capacity and the recidivism rate is therefore easily affected by the number of discharges who are hardcore cases. This also explains the rather fluctuating recidivism rates in different years as the number of such hardcore cases varies.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB513

Question Serial No.

1939

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, eight rehabuses will be replaced and three additional rehabuses will be procured. Please elaborate:

- (a) What is the estimated cost of each bus?
- (b) What is the anticipated number of people with disabilities to be served?
- (c) What is the ratio between the people with disabilities served by rebus service and the total number of people with disabilities in Hong Kong?
- (d) What is the anticipated number of people with disabilities not adequately served after the procurement of buses?
- (e) Whether there is any plan to greatly increase funding for the programme so as to assist the people with other disabilities?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The average estimated cost of each bus is about \$0.66M.
- (b) We estimate that the rebus service will take care of about 573,300 passenger trips in 2006.
- (c)&(d) Rebus provides people with disabilities (PWDs) who have no alternative means of transport point-to-point transport service to their work place or other destinations. It is difficult to ascertain the total number of PWDs.
- (e) The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rehabuses and the routes covered having regard to the demand for the service. With the availability of more accessible facilities, people with disabilities now have more choices by making use of public transport services apart from using the rebus service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB514

Question Serial No.

1736

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details and the estimated expenditure involved in the re-organisation of probation offices in the New Territories in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The re-organisation of probation offices in the New Territories is no longer required as the Judiciary has just advised us that their plan for merging the Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts, which necessitates the re-organisation, will not be implemented.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB515

Question Serial No.

1737

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the posts created by the Administration for the "Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services" (RMSS) in 2005-06, how many have been created by the Administration which are on permanent terms, Non-Civil Service Contract terms and outsourcing contract terms respectively? What is the expenditure involved respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, there is a net deletion of seven civil service posts in relation to RMSS and the annual savings involved are about \$0.8m. 25 non-civil service contract jobs were created during 2005-06 in relation to the services and the expenditure involved is about \$1.4m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB516

Question Serial No.

1738

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and expenditure for the pre-school services for disabled children provided by the Administration in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Rehabilitation services for disabled pre-school children and the estimated expenditure are given below:

Services	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)	
	2005-06	2006-07
1. Early Education and Training Centres	93.8	95.8
2. Special Child Care Centres (including occasional child care services and special provision for children with autistic features)	167.4	168.1
3. Residential Special Child Care Centres	15.1	15.2
4. Integrated Programme in Kindergarten cum Child Care Centres	79.8	81.7

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB517

Question Serial No.

1739

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What was the expenditure incurred by the Administration in launching a new batch of community-based support projects in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, the allocated funding for various community support projects for people with disabilities and their carers is \$12.8m (full-year effect is \$16.2m).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB518

Question Serial No.

1740

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and expenditure for assisting people with disabilities in finding employment in 2005-06? What are the details and estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The details and the estimated expenditure of the vocational rehabilitation services for people with disabilities under the welfare schedule in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services	Revised Estimated Expenditure for 2005-06 (\$m)	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 (\$m)
1. Sheltered Workshops	203.8	204.9
2. Supported Employment Service	35.9	38.0
3. Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres	91.4	95.1
4. Integrated Vocational Training Centres	25.7	25.8
5. On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities	5.6	5.8
6. Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities	3.5	7.0
7. Work Extension Programme in Sheltered Workshops and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres	1.5	4.9

8. Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation)	4.4	4.1
9. "Enhancing Employment of People with Disability through Small Enterprise" Project	5.2	7.0
Total	377.0	392.6

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB519

Question Serial No.

1741

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and expenditure for strengthening the training and support services for family members and carers of people with disabilities (PWDs) in 2005-06? What are the details and estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, the provisions for providing training and support programmes for family members and carers of PWDs are as follows:

Provisions	Expenditure (\$m)
1. <u>Community-based Support Projects for PWDs and their Families/Carers</u> A new batch of Community-based Support Projects aiming to strengthen the caring capacity of the families/carers of PWDs, relieving their stress, as well as providing PWDs and their families with a better quality of life, was launched in October 2005. These projects include Holiday Care Service, Family-based Respite Service, Day Care Service for Severely Disabled Persons, Home Care Service, Personal Development Programme, Specialised Programmes for People with Autism and Challenging Behaviours, Home-based Rehabilitation Training Service, Support Scheme for Newly Blind Persons, and Junior Gateway Club.	12.8 for 2005-06 (full-year effect will be 16.2)
2. <u>Special Funding Allocation</u> A one-off special funding has been allocated to 116 service units (92 agencies/organisations) to provide training and support programmes for family members and carers of PWDs from March 2006 till December 2006.	8.7

In 2006-07, the planned new provisions to strengthen the community support services for carers of PWDs are as follows:

New Provisions	Estimated Expenditure (\$m)	No. of places
<p>1. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDCs)</u> The Social Welfare Department would set up five cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training, for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities are essential services rendered by these centres.</p>	<p>8.3 for 2006-07 (full-year effect will be 16.6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training places - 400
<p>2. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients</u> The centre provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living.</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charities Trust for four years including recurrent expenditure of 9.9 for 2006-07)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential training places - 14 • Day training places - 20 • Respite places - 4

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB520

Question Serial No.

1812

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Brief Description of this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provided a comprehensive network of family and child welfare services such as child care centres (CCCs) for children aged under three and CCCs Advisory Inspectorate. However, after mid-2005 all day nurseries are converted to kindergarten-cum-child care centres to be subvented and monitored by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB). In this respect, please inform this Committee of the differences between the SWD's CCCs for children aged under three and the EMB's kindergarten-cum-child care centres in the financial year of 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : CCCs used to serve children aged from 0 to 6 and were governed by the Child Care Services Ordinance and monitored by SWD. Kindergartens are for children aged 3-6 and governed by the Education Ordinance and monitored by EMB. There was an overlapping of service between CCC and kindergarten for the age group of 3-6. In September 2005 the Administration harmonised pre-primary services with the aim to ensuring that pre-primary institutions offer appropriate programmes to cater for the different needs of children at different developmental stages. Upon harmonisation, CCC is redefined as services for children aged under 3 and monitored by SWD while kindergarten continues to serve children aged 3-6 under the monitoring of EMB.

Upon harmonisation, CCCs that used to serve children aged from 0/2 to 6 have been converted to become kindergarten-cum-child care centres, subsidised and monitored by EMB while those CCCs serving only children aged under 3 remain under the monitoring of SWD.

However, there is no difference in terms of service content provided by standalone CCCs or CCC sections in a kindergarten before and after harmonisation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB521

Question Serial No.

1813

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Estimate, in 2006-07 the Administration will provide an additional \$30m to strengthen family support, including enhanced out-reach services from Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs). In this connection, could the Administration explain how the additional provision will be allocated to the 40 IFSCs of the government sector and the 21 IFSCs of the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : About \$22m (\$30m in a full year) additional recurrent resources will be deployed to launch a Family Support Programme in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. The Social Welfare Department will work closely with the service providers concerned in firming up the implementation scope and details, including funding and manpower arrangement. Resources will be deployed according to the needs and characteristics of the different services and districts.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB522

Question Serial No.

1814

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide information on the total number of staff in the seven Family Support Networking Teams (FSNTs) and the number of staff in each team. Which districts do the seven FSNTs serve?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The staffing provision and the service areas of the seven FSNTs are given below –

Taker non-governmental organisations of the FSNT	Provision of Social Work Assistant Posts Remunerated at Mid-point <small>(Note)</small>	Serving Old Urban Areas
Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	2	Yau Tsim Mong
The Mong Kok Kai Fong Association Ltd. Chan Hing Social Service Centre	6	
Caritas – Hong Kong	2	Sham Shui Po
The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council	2	
The Salvation Army	2	
Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service	2	Kowloon City
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui	4	
Total	20	-

(Note) The operating organisations are all subvented under the Lump Sum Grant mode. They have full flexibility in using the resources to appoint an appropriate number of staff to meet operational needs as they deem fit.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB523

Question Serial No.

1693

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicator for HACCP seminars/workshops, the 2006 estimate number is 30. As the many food poisoning cases occurred in 2005-06 resulting in food poisoning outbreaks involved consumption of food from sushi chain restaurants and "Poon Choi" suppliers, please advise on the following:

- a) Are there measures to enhance food safety so as to minimize the occurrences of food poisoning outbreaks? If so, what are the details, the expenditure and manpower involved? Has performance indicator been set in this regard? How many food poisoning cases are expected to be reduced in the coming year?
- b) With no increase in the indicator for "HACCP seminars/workshops" in 2006-07, how will the Administration ensure that food safety awareness is enhanced among food suppliers?
- c) With regard to the promotion of the HACCP approach in the coming year, what are the details of the resources support for the trade, the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- a) Prevention of food poisoning outbreaks is an integral part of the food safety control framework. There will be a wide range of publicity and education programmes, including workshops, seminars, press conferences, press releases, telephone hotlines, audio-visual productions, issue of education leaflets and media interviews, in parallel with control and law enforcement actions. These activities aim to strengthen food safety practices throughout the food chain from food processing, delivery, retailing to consumption. A financial provision of \$16.1 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for this purpose, with a team of 28 professionals including medical doctors, scientific officers, health inspectors and supporting staff. No performance indicators have been set for reduction of food poisoning outbreaks.
- b) Besides organizing 30 HACCP seminars, there will be a range of other publicity and education activities, including workshops, seminars and issue of practice guidelines, bulletins and education leaflets to help the food trade enhance their food safety practices in 2006-07.
- c) Promotion of HACCP is part and parcel of the overall education and promotion programmes on food safety. There is no separate breakdown on its expenditure. On HACCP education,

a series of workshops will be organized in 2006-07 targetted at the management and food handlers of elderly and child care centres.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
	Director of
Post Title	<u>Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>9 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB524

Question Serial No.

1694

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicators for public education and community involvement, there is no increase for 2006-07. But the financial provision is reduced by 20.4% on the 2005-06 Original. In this connection, can the Administration advise on:

- a) how to enhance public awareness of the importance of food safety and empowering consumers to make informed choices;
- b) the progress of expediting the implementation of regulatory measures on the genetically modified food labelling system to empower consumers to make informed choices.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- a) In addition to the promotional activities on environmental hygiene and on general food safety for the public and schools provided under Programme (4), the Department will strengthen the promotion of food safety practices for the trade along the food chain from food purchasing, processing to retailing. There will be a wide range of publicity and education programmes, including specialized workshops, seminars, press conferences, press releases, telephone hotlines, media interviews, audio-visual productions and issue of printed education materials. A financial provision of \$16.1 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate under Programme (1) for this purpose, an increase of 34%.
- b) There is at present no international consensus on the details for labelling genetically modified food. To promote public understanding of the issue, we will continue with our publicity and education efforts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB525

Question Serial No.

1695

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the population-based food consumption survey mentioned under this programme (sic), please advise on:

- a. the progress of the survey, and the expenditure and manpower required for 2006-07;
- b. the anticipated date of completion of the survey report;
- c. the way forward, and the projected time required for the construction of a database on the food consumption patterns of Hong Kong people.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Chinese University of Hong Kong has been commissioned to conduct the Population-based Food Consumption Survey at a contract price of \$3.2 million. The Survey is expected to complete in 2007-08. Based on information collected from the Survey, a database on the food consumption pattern of Hong Kong people will be constructed within one year. The database will be used in risk assessment studies on food hazards. Findings of such studies will be valuable for formulating policies to enhance food safety and strategies for public education.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB526

Question Serial No.

1696

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to "re-training and one-off grants to assist affected live poultry retail workers" for 2006-07, please advise on:

- a. the re-training courses and their numbers;
- b. the number of affected workers, course participants and the overall participation rate;
- c. the anticipated effectiveness and performance indicator of the re-training programmes;
- d. the assessment method for the employment prospect of participants;
- e. the estimated expenditure of the one-off grants for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a),(c),(d) On approval of the Legislative Council on 8 July 2005, the Department has ceased the retraining scheme for affected live poultry retail workers and instead offers each qualified worker a one-off grant of \$18,000.
- (b), (e) The Department does not have any estimate on the number of affected workers nor the amount of expenditure for the one-off grant for 2006-07 as much would depend on the number of retailers who will surrender their licences/market tenancies for selling live poultry under the voluntary surrender scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB527

Question Serial No.

1742

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to "Public Education and Community Involvement", please advise on the number of posts created under civil service permanent establishment, non-civil service contract terms and outsourced contracts in 2005-06 and the respective expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, no civil service permanent posts were created. As at 1.3.2006, there were 8 non-civil service contract staff with estimated expenditure of \$2.1 million and 5 contractor staff engaged under outsourced contracts with estimated payment of \$0.4 million to contractors in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB528

Question Serial No.

1743

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditure involved in enhancing public awareness of the importance of food safety in 2005-06 as well as the details and the estimated expenditure involved in this area for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005, the Department organized 1 207 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools, and 1 443 seminars for the general public on food safety and environmental hygiene matters, in addition to producing two TV and three radio announcements on these subjects. There is no separate breakdown on provision spent specifically on promotion of food safety.

The Department plans to organize, in 2006, 1 200 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools, and 1 400 seminars for the general public on health education matters, in addition to producing three TV and three radio announcements on these subjects. Again, there is no separate breakdown on provision reserved specifically for promotion of food safety.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB529

Question Serial No.

1744

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditure involved in mobilising community involvement and support for activities in keeping the environment clean in 2005-06 as well as the details and estimated expenditure involved in this area for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005, the Department organized 1 207 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools, and 1 443 seminars for the general public on health education matters, including messages to keep the environment clean. The total expenditure for public education and community involvement is estimated to be around \$23.9 million in 2005-06.

The Department plans to organize, in 2006, 1 200 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools, and 1 400 seminars for the general public on health education concerning both environmental hygiene and food safety. Keeping the environment clean will continue to remain a key theme in our promotion activities. The expenditure will be absorbed within the budget of \$21.9 million which the Department has reserved for public education and community involvement in 2006-07.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB530

Question Serial No.

1748

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the posts to be deleted under this programme in 2006-07, please advise on the post titles, nature of contracts and savings to be achieved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The 28 posts to be deleted in 2006-07 under this programme are in the Artisan, Ganger and Workman I ranks. These are civil service posts. As they are existing vacancies, their deletion does not involve any reduction in salary expenditure.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB531

Question Serial No.

1749

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to "Environmental Hygiene and Related Services", please advise on the number of posts created under civil service permanent establishment, non-civil service contract terms and outsourced contracts in 2005-06 and the respective expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, no civil service permanent posts were created. As at 1.3.2006, there were 707 non-civil service contract staff with estimated expenditure of \$89.3 million and 4 540 contractor staff engaged under outsourced contracts with estimated payment of \$464 million to contractors in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB532

Question Serial No.

1750

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The 2005 actual number and 2006 estimate number of inspections to food premises are both less than the 2004 actual number of inspections. Please advise on the reasons for the reduction and the expenditure saved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

154 health inspector posts have been deleted in connection with the civil service voluntary retirement scheme. In the light of manpower provision, the frequency of inspection for low risk and medium risk food premises has been reduced, resulting in a lower number of inspections in total in 2005 and 2006 in order to better target the Department's resources at high risk food premises, including those found to have operated without licences. As the staff in FEHD District Offices have various duties apart from food premises inspections, there is no breakdown on the expenditure reduced arising from the lower number of inspections.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB533

Question Serial No.

1751

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to "Matters Regarding Special Attention in 2006-07 (paragraph 11 on page 243, Volume 1A of the Estimates)", the Department will convert designated aqua privies into flushing toilets by phases in 2006-07. Please advise on the details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The conversion project covers 100 aqua privies in the New Territories and outlying islands and is being implemented by phases, starting from February 2005. The entire project is expected to be completed by end 2007. The total estimated cost for the project is around \$92.8 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB534

Question Serial No.

1752

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditure involved in the streamlining of the food business licensing regime in 2005-06 as well as the details and estimated expenditure involved in this area for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have implemented the following streamlining measures for food business licensing -

- informing applicants of any specific licensing requirements with regard to the application before the Application Vetting Panel meeting to facilitate discussion at the meeting
- reminding applicants to involve their consultants/contractors at an early stage and at the Application Vetting Panel meeting
- expediting the processing of alteration cases by requiring applicants to highlight proposed changes in the plans submitted for processing
- relaxing certain licensing requirements which have little food hygiene impact, for example, lowering the minimum height of food counters and removing the requirement of providing a drip board for the sink
- streamlining the workflow for issue of new licence by treating applications as withdrawn upon 6 months after expiry date of provisional licence or 12 months after the issue of Letter of Requirements for a full licence
- launching the computerized Licensing Management Information System which helps access to data about the trade and facilitate processing of applications

We will continue to take further steps to streamline the licensing procedures in 2006-07.

Measures will include -

- taking steps to introduce a composite licence to cover the sale of various ready-to-eat food

- replacing the need for a general restaurant to hold a separate bakery licence by a relevant endorsement on the general restaurant licence for retail sale of bakery products for consumption off the premises
- simplifying the procedures for changes to approved layout plan by specifying items which are not required to be shown on the plan

Resources required have been and will continue to be absorbed within the existing allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB535

Question Serial No.

1753

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to "Market Management and Hawker Control", please advise on the number of posts created under civil service permanent establishment, non-civil service contract terms and outsourced contracts in 2005-06 and the respective expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, no civil service permanent posts were created. As at 1.3.2006, there were 182 non-civil service contract staff with estimated expenditure of \$25.3 million and 1 620 contractor staff engaged under outsourced contracts with estimated payment of \$120.9 million to contractors in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB536

Question Serial No.

1754

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditure involved in market improvements carried out in 2005-06 as well as the details and estimated expenditure for market improvements planned for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department carried out general improvement works in 11 markets and four cooked food centres (CFCs). The estimated total project cost of these items add up to \$207 million.

In 2006-07, the Department will carry out general improvement works in another eight markets, the estimated total cost of which amount to \$156 million. In addition to these, the Department is working on plans to carry out general improvement works in another 11 markets and two CFCs.

These market improvement works include mainly upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB537

Question Serial No.

1755

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditure involved in the scheme on contracting out of market management in Kowloon City District in 2005-2006. The scheme will be extended to other districts in addition to Kowloon City in 2006-07. Which districts will be selected and what are the details and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The service contractor for Kowloon City District provides overall management, cleansing services, minor repairs and maintenance to all the four markets in the district. The contract sum for the first two years from 1 March 2004 to 28 February 2006 was \$13.31 million, resulting in an annual saving of about \$0.6 million. The contract sum for the next two years from 1.3.2006 to 29.2.2008 is \$13.16 million.

The Department has planned to extend the scheme to all the public markets/cooked food centres in Mong Kok District and Wong Tai Sin District in 2006-07. We will award the service contracts by open tender. Expenditure will only be known after completion of the tendering exercise.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB538

Question Serial No.

1756

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :000 Operational expenses

Programme :(3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditure involved in market promotion carried out in 2005-06 as well as the details and estimated expenditure for market promotion planned for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department organized a range of promotional activities in public markets, such as roving exhibitions, talks and workshops, contests, festive decorations and promotions. Special promotional activities were also held for three renovated/new markets. In addition to these, the Department published market information booklet and quarterly newsletters to publicize the public markets and the promotional activities. Minor improvement works such as addition of signage and LED display board were undertaken in selected markets to enhance the shopping environment as well as to facilitate dissemination of useful information to the customers. The total expenditure involved in market promotion in 2005-06 is estimated to be around \$3.4 million.

In 2006-07, the Department will continue to carry out similar promotional activities in public markets and special programmes for renovated/new markets. The resources required can only be determined after consulting market tenants on the programme details and the expenditure incurred will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB539

Question Serial No.

1757

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the posts to be created under this programme in 2006-07, please advise on the post titles, nature of contracts (sic) and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2006-07, 71 permanent posts will be created under Programme (1) "Food Safety and Public Health". A financial provision of \$16.5 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for this purpose. A breakdown of these posts is as follows:

Grade	No. of Posts
Medical and Health Officer	4
Health Inspector	46
Chemist	2
Science Laboratory Technician	7
Scientific Officer	6
Administrative Support Staff	6
Total	71

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB540

Question Serial No.

1758

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to "Food Safety and Public Health", please advise on the number of posts created under civil service permanent establishment, non-civil service contract terms and outsourced contracts in 2005-06 and the respective expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, no civil service permanent posts were created. As at 1.3.2006, there were 146 non-civil service contract staff with estimated expenditure of \$24.8 million and 1 085 contractor staff engaged under outsourced contracts with estimated payment of \$101.9 million to contractors in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB541

Question Serial No.

1759

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the work and expenditures involved in the prevention against the import of live poultry infected with avian influenza or their food products into Hong Kong in 2005-06. In 2006-07, do the Administration have any plans to enhance prevention towards this end and what are the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

To prevent avian influenza, all live poultry from the Mainland must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by Mainland authorities certifying, among others, that the poultry have been tested for H5 with negative results. FEHD conducts inspection, serological testing and screening test for H5 at the border control point, and pays inspection visits to Mainland poultry farms to examine whether the operations of the farms comply with our requirements. A financial provision of \$6.9 million and \$7.2 million has been included in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 Estimate respectively for this purpose.

Import of poultry meat from outside Hong Kong requires prior approval from the Department. Every consignment of poultry meat must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the exporting authorities certifying that the meat is safe for consumption. The work involved forms part of the overall import control programme. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure for control of poultry meat.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB542

Question Serial No.

1760

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the details and expenditures involved in the prevention of food poisoning cases in 2005-06. There are plans to step up prevention in 2006-07. What are the details and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Prevention of food poisoning outbreaks is an integral part of the food safety control framework. In 2005-06, there were a wide range of publicity and education programmes, including workshops, seminars, press conferences, press releases, media interviews, telephone hotlines, audio-visual productions and issue of printed education materials, targetting at both the food trade and the general public. In 2006-07, additional programmes such as monthly web-based publications on current and important food safety issues will be organized in parallel with control and law enforcement actions. These activities aim to strengthen food safety practices throughout the food chain from food processing, delivery, retailing to consumption. A financial provision of \$12 million and \$16.1 million has been included in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 Estimate respectively for this purpose. There is no separate breakdown on expenditure specifically reserved for the prevention of food poisoning outbreaks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title _____

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB543

Question Serial No.

1806

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- a. The Department will extend to a few selected districts the trial scheme on contracting out market management in 2006-07. What are the districts selected? Please provide the number and names of the markets involved; and
- b. What is the estimated savings in manpower and resources in contracting out market management in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The Department has planned to extend the trial scheme on outsourcing market management to all the public markets/cooked food centres in Mong Kok District and Wong Tai Sin District in 2006-07. Mong Kok District has five public markets/cooked food centres, namely Fa Yuen Street Market and Cooked Food Centre, Mong Kok Market, Tai Kok Tsui Market and Cooked Food Centre, Soy Street Temporary Cooked Food Market and Mong Kok Cooked Food Market. Wong Tai Sin District has four public markets/cooked food centres, namely Ngau Chi Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre, Choi Hung Road Market and Cooked Food Centre, Tai Shing Street Market and Cooked Food Centre and Sheung Fung Street Market.
- (b) The extension of the trial scheme to Mong Kok and Wong Tai Sin Districts will lead to saving of around 55 civil service posts. Affected staff will be gainfully re-deployed. We expect some savings in expenditure but the actual amount will only be known after the completion of the open tendering exercise.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB544

Question Serial No.

1687

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 700 General
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau non-recurrent

Programme (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide a breakdown of the applications approved by the Samaritan Fund and of the expenditure for different items in 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The estimated number of approved applications and the corresponding amounts of expenditure of the Samaritan Fund in 2005-06 are set out in the following table –

Items	No. of approved applications	Amount (\$ million)
Cardiac Pacemakers	463	18.2
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) and other consumables for interventional cardiology	2 043	63.1
Intraocular lens	1 076	1.6
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	171	1.5
Drugs (other than Imatinib)	158	11.0
Imatinib (Glivec)	138	26.1
Gamma knife surgeries in private hospital	40	2.5
Cost of harvesting bone marrow in foreign countries	9	0.9
Myoelectric prosthesis / custom-made prosthesis / appliances for prosthetic and orthotic services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services	162	1.4
Grant to needy patients	N/A	0.1
Total :	4 260	126.4

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB545

Question Serial No.

1688

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

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

Programme

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a commitment of \$200 m to provide funding to the Samaritan Fund in May 2005. It is estimated that the above commitment will be reduced to only \$50 m at the close of 2005-06. How can the Administration ensure that the Samaritan Fund will have sufficient resources to provide financial assistance to needy patients?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

Item 484 under Subhead 700 for general non-recurrent funding presents the funding position of the \$200 million grant from the Government's point of view. It reflects the fact that the grant is to be injected by the Government into the Samaritan Fund (the Fund) by two instalments, with the first instalment in the amount of \$150 million already made in 2005-06. The \$50 million is the amount of the second instalment to be made to the Fund in 2006-07. Apart from the said grant, the Fund has other sources of income, which include donations from the community and various charitable organisations and Government reimbursements for assistance given under the Fund to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. The Government and the Hospital Authority will closely monitor the income and expenditure of the Fund. We will also review its long-term funding arrangement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB546

Question Serial No.

1701

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Centre for Health Protection began its operation in 2004-05. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following :

- a. the achievements in building up our surge capacity in dealing with infectious diseases over the past two years; and
- b. the provision to be allocated to the Centre for Health Protection in 2006-07, a breakdown of expenditure for its initiatives as well as its manpower and establishment.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP), which is a public health infrastructure set up in June 2004 for enhancing Hong Kong's capacity for disease prevention and control, has carried out various programmes and measures to build up our surge capacity in dealing with infectious diseases. Specifically, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilizing volunteers during public health emergencies; organizing infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks.

For 2006-07, the Government has provided a recurrent provision (mainly under Head 37 of the Department of Health) of \$930 million for the operations of the CHP, with a staff complement of 1 563, comprising 185 doctors, 433 nurses, 311 paramedical staff and 634 administrative staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB547

Question Serial No.

1703

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In view of the impending threat of influenza pandemic, the Administration is tasked with managing the Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases to enhance the overall system preparedness for infectious diseases. In this connection, please advise the estimated expenditure involved and list in detail all the expenditure items in the contingency plan.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID) was set up in 2003 with a one-off grant of \$500 million. Its objectives are to encourage, facilitate and support research on the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases, in particular emerging infectious diseases such as avian influenza and SARS.

A sum of \$50 million was used to support infectious disease research in the Mainland through the Ministry of Science and Technology. Of the remaining \$450 million earmarked for local use, \$130 million has been approved so far to fund research studies that cover a wide variety of infectious diseases, including influenza, SARS, and other infections (e.g. tuberculosis, hepatitis, food borne infections, sexually transmitted diseases). Specifically, approximately \$43 million has been committed to research in influenza and overall system preparedness for infectious diseases. Included is \$8 million that has been allocated to the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to strengthen its Biosafety Level 3 laboratory facility, which allows research to be conducted on potentially hazardous viruses such as avian influenza. The remaining \$35 million has been approved to support individual studies that cover a wide range of areas as listed in the table below.

Research area / facility	Number of studies	Approved funding amount \$'000
Infrastructure (Biosafety Level 3 laboratory in HKU)	--	8,000
Epidemiology (e.g. prevalence, risk factors, mortality, informatics, surveillance)	14	8,424
Pathogenesis (e.g. genetics, immune reactions, protein expression)	14	10,829
Prevention (including infection control, ventilation systems, vaccination)	11	6,593
Population behaviour	3	2,327
<u>Rapid and early diagnosis</u>	4	2,673
Management (including drug treatment, general / nursing management)	6	4,078
Total	52	42,924

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB548

Question Serial No.

1705

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will the Administration provide details for 2006-07 regarding :

- (1) The number of doctors, nurses and allied health staff in various hospital clusters and the medical staff to population ratio in the respective clusters;
- (2) The number of doctors, nurses and allied health staff in each hospital under the Hospital Authority?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The estimated manpower of doctors, nurses, allied health staff in the Hospital Authority (HA) for 2006-07 is 4 550, 19 326 and 4 842 respectively. While detailed information on staff distribution in hospital clusters for 2006-07 is not available at this stage, information on the number and ratio of health care staff per 1 000 population for 2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) is given below.

Cluster*	No. of Doctors	Ratio per 1 000 population	No. of Nurses	Ratio per 1 000 population	No. of Allied Health staff	Ratio per 1 000 population
HKE	525	0.65	2 037	2.53	564	0.70
HKW	500	0.95	2 413	4.59	676	1.28
KC	584	1.18	2 582	5.23	712	1.44
KE	553	0.59	1 930	2.04	499	0.53
KW	1 100	0.58	4 712	2.51	1 043	0.55
NTE	767	0.59	3 181	2.43	830	0.63
NTW	552	0.51	2 416	2.24	515	0.48
Overall	4 581	0.65	19 271	2.74	4 839	0.69

Note: * HKE = Hong Kong East Cluster
 HKW = Hong Kong West Cluster
 KC = Kowloon Central Cluster
 KE = Kowloon East Cluster
 KW = Kowloon West Cluster

Distribution of Healthcare Staff in Hospitals (as at 31 January 2006)

Hospital	Doctors	Nurses	Allied Health
Hong Kong East Cluster			
Cheshire Home (Chung Hom Kok)	3.0	52.2	9.0
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	395.5	1 326.7	339.4
Ruttonjee Hospital and Tang Shiu Kin Hospital	84.2	407.4	140.0
St. John Hospital	7.0	32.0	8.0
Tung Wah Eastern Hospital	33.6	176.9	53.0
Wong Chuk Hang Hospital	2.0	42.0	14.6
Hong Kong West Cluster			
Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital	9.0	64.0	38.0
Fung Yiu King Hospital	13.2	91.9	16.0
Grantham Hospital	53.2	371.0	60.0
Maclehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre	3.0	34.0	33.0
Queen Mary Hospital	386.9	1 530.1	468.1
Tung Wah Hospital	35.0	322.0	61.0
Kowloon Central Cluster			
Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	13.3	127.0	23.0
Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	3.0	44.9	46.0
Hong Kong Eye Hospital	36.1	62.2	15.0
Kowloon Hospital	49.7	655.1	144.2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	482.2	1 693.0	472.0
Rehabaid Centre	-	-	12.0
Kowloon East Cluster			
Haven of Hope Hospital	17.8	234.0	44.4
Tseung Kwan O Hospital	124.0	405.5	119.5
United Christian Hospital	411.5	1 289.9	335.0
Kowloon West Cluster			
Caritas Medical Centre	215.9	715.5	176.0
Kwai Chung Hospital	64.0	582.0	66.0
Kwong Wah Hospital	280.6	1 087.0	247.0
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	58.9	217.0	53.0
Princess Margaret Hospital	316.0	1 289.8	329.0
Wong Tai Sin Hospital	25.0	236.0	37.0
Yan Chai Hospital	139.0	585.0	135.0
New Territories East Cluster			
Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	114.4	471.0	150.0
Bradbury Hospice	2.0	26.0	3.0
North District Hospital	146.3	574.0	141.0
Prince of Wales Hospital	434.8	1 468.4	421.0
Cheshire Home (Shatin)	2.0	64.0	5.0
Shatin Hospital	33.4	281.0	56.0
Tai Po Hospital	34.0	296.0	54.0
New Territories West Cluster			
Castle Peak Hospital	57.0	564.9	51.0
Pok Oi Hospital	22.0	169.8	59.0
Siu Lam Hospital	3.0	80.2	4.0
Tuen Mun Hospital	469.4	1 601.2	401.0
Overall	4 581	19 271	4 839

Note:

1. It should be noted that services of the HA are organized and provided on a cluster basis at present. Manpower will be deployed, rotated and utilized flexibly amongst various hospitals within a cluster.
2. Manpower on full-time equivalent basis, including all staff on permanent, contract and temporary terms.
3. Doctors include Medical Officers / Residents and above.
4. Nurses include Registered Nurses and above, Enrolled Nurses and trainees.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB549

Question Serial No.

1706

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the inpatient services under the item "Access to services" in the estimate of 2006-07, the numbers of hospital beds for general patients, mentally ill and mentally handicapped have been reduced as compared with the revised estimate of 2005-06. The decrease is more substantial when compared with the actual figures for 2005-06. Will the Administration inform this Council :

- (a) of the method for reckoning the decrease in the demand for hospital beds;
- (b) of the amount of savings to be achieved from the reduction of hospital beds, and how the savings will be utilized.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) Generally speaking, the demand for hospital beds is based on the assessment of individual clusters, having regard to a number of factors including the utilization trend of the inpatient services of the hospitals within their clusters and the development and expected results of their ambulatory and community care programmes. Based on the revised estimate for 2005-06 and the estimate for 2006-07, the total number of hospital beds to be reduced in 2006-07 is 137. The actual figures of the number of hospital beds for 2005-06 are yet to be available.

As with the strategy in previous years, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The reduction in the number of general beds (73 beds or -0.36%) and mentally ill beds (44 beds or -0.93%) in 2006-07 is in line with this development. The reduction in the number of general beds is made possible by the development of the Visiting Medical Officers Scheme, the Community Nursing Service and the Community Geriatric Assessment Service, which serve to improve the health of the population and reduce hospital readmissions; strengthening of the gate-keeping role of General Outpatient Clinics and Accident and Emergency Departments; and enhanced utilization of hospital beds. As regards mentally ill beds, the continued

development of community outreach services such as the Community Psychiatric Service, the Community Psychiatric Nursing Service and the Psychogeriatric Service, coupled with the transfer of stable psychiatric long-stay patients to Long Stay Care Homes managed by welfare agencies, is expected to ease the demand for this type of beds in 2006-07.

The reduction of 20 mentally handicapped beds (or -2.86%) in 2006-07 is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit specializes in caring for profoundly mentally handicapped children under the age of 16. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of profoundly mentally handicapped children as a result of declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision of places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools, which offer an attractive option in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in CMC is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past few years.

- (b) Hospitals where the number of beds would be reduced in 2006-07 will space out the remaining beds to enhance prevention against infectious disease outbreaks. In order to maintain an optimal level of care, the number of staff dedicated to the relevant wards would not be reduced. Hence, the HA does not expect to have any savings from the reduction of hospital beds.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB550

Question Serial No.

1707

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau No. & title):

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform the Council of the overall expenditure on medicines of the Hospital Authority and that of each cluster in 2005-06 as well as the percentage of such expenditure in the total expenditure. Please also advise the Council on the amount paid by patient on privately purchased medicines since the introduction of the drug formulary.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The overall projected expenditure on drugs by the Hospital Authority (HA) is \$2,159 million for 2005-06, representing 7.3% of HA's total expenditure in that year. A breakdown of the projected expenditure on drugs by cluster is as follows –

Cluster	2005-06 (\$ million)
Hong Kong East	246
Hong Kong West	337
Kowloon Central	305
Kowloon East	210
Kowloon West	451
New Territories East	354
New Territories West	256
Total:	2,159

The difference in drug expenditures amongst hospital clusters is due to a number of factors, including the size of the population in their catchment areas; the concentration of certain specialized services (tertiary and quaternary services) in some of the clusters; and the extent of cross-cluster utilization of services by patients.

The HA does not have complete record on the amount paid by patients on self-financed drugs since the introduction of the HA Drug Formulary in July 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB551

Question Serial No.

1708

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The unit cost for all inpatient services in 2005-06 has dropped as compared with that of 2004-05. What are the reasons for that? What are the parameters the Administration adopted in projecting that the unit cost for all inpatient services in 2006-07 will be higher than that of 2005-06? What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The method for calculating the cost per patient discharged is to divide the total cost of the relevant category of inpatient services (by bed type) by the number of patients discharged. The revised estimates for the cost per patient discharged for all types of beds for 2005-06 are expected to be lower than the actual costs in 2004-05 largely due to the expected slightly higher numbers for patients discharged in 2005-06 and lower staff costs in the same year as a result of the pay cut that took effect on 1 January 2005.

As for the comparison between the revised estimate for 2005-06 and the estimate for 2006-07, there are a number of reasons for the projected increase in the cost per patient discharged. An increase in the costs of drugs and utilities, as partly offset by efficiency savings and a decrease in maintenance costs, are common factors that are expected to increase the costs per patient discharged for all types of beds in 2006-07. The more pronounced increase in the cost per patient discharged for mentally ill beds can be attributed to the new initiative to make more extensive use of new psychiatric drugs in 2006-07. The substantial increase in the cost for mentally handicapped beds is largely because the number of mentally handicapped patients discharged is expected to decrease from 460 in 2005-06 to 400 in 2006-07.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB552

Question Serial No.

1709

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Hospital Authority has estimated an increase in the provision for salaries and allowances under personal emoluments in 2006-07, as compared to the 2005-06 revised estimate. What are the reasons? Please provide the expenditure on salaries and allowances in 2005-06 and 2006-07 with a breakdown by grades of health care practitioners.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The breakdown of the Hospital Authority's (HA's) projected expenditures on personal emoluments (PE) (including salary, job related allowances and staff oncost) by staff groups for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is as follows -

<u>Staff Group</u>	<u>2005-06</u> <u>(Projection)</u> <u>(\$M)</u>	<u>2006-07</u> <u>(Projection)</u> <u>(\$M)</u>
Medical	6,205	6,094
Nursing	9,245	9,379
Allied Health	2,801	2,835
Management and other professionals (non-clinical)	906	918
Supporting and others	4,181	4,181
Total PE payment	23,338	23,407
Less: Projected PE cost to be recharged to other programmes*	(39)	(39)
Net PE expenditure	23,299	23,368

Note: * This refers mainly to the charges received from the provision of healthcare training to the private sector.

The projected total PE cost in 2006-07 will be higher than that in 2005-06. It is mainly due to an additional financial implication arising from the annual increment of the serving staff, which will be partially offset by the projected savings arising from staff turnover with replacement of staff at lower costs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB553

Question Serial No.

1710

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title)
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the provision allocated for Chinese medicine out-patient services and the related staff establishment in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005-06, there are three Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs) in operation. The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic and is required to provide herbal Chinese medicine service at a fee of \$120 per attendance (includes consultation and two doses of medicine) with fee waiver for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. It may also provide other Chinese medicine services at the clinic at market fee. The fees collected from herbal and non-herbal medicine services are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Any surpluses must be ploughed back to the clinic for service development particularly in promoting Chinese medicine/western medicine interface activities. In addition, the NGO may deploy its own resources to maintain the operation of the clinic.

The recurrent provision for Chinese medicine service mainly covers the maintenance of the Toxicology Reference Laboratory, quality assurance and central procurement of Chinese medicine herbs, the development of and provision of training in “evidence-based” Chinese medicine, maintenance of the Chinese Medicine Information System, and part of the expenses for the operation of the clinic. The recurrent provision earmarked in 2005-06 is about \$25 million.

Each NGO is required to staff the clinic by at least four senior Chinese medicine practitioners and to engage and provide training for graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes. Currently a total of nine graduates have been employed by the three existing clinics. The NGOs which are required to operate the CMC on a self-financing basis have been given the operational flexibility to engage the required number of clinical and supporting staff (including registered/enrolled nurse, Chinese medicine pharmacist, Chinese medicine dispensers and general support staff) to meet operational needs.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title : Permanent Secretary for Health,
 Welfare and Food
Date : 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB554

Question Serial No.

1711

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Subhead (No. & title)

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What specific training opportunities are in place for graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

There are three Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs) in operation. The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for capital projects required for the establishment of six additional CMCs. We expect to open three CMCs by April 2006 and the remaining three by late 2006. The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic. Apart from Chinese herbal medicine services, it may also provide other non-herbal medicine services at the clinic but all the fees collected are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Experience with the NGOs running CMC has been encouraging in that they need to employ more graduates to support their additional services and/or research. The three existing clinics are currently engaging nine graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes. For the new clinics, we shall require each clinic to employ and provide training for at least five graduates and a tailor-made training program has been developed for the new graduates. The Government has also been encouraging Chinese medicine practitioners in private practice to offer training opportunities to new graduates.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title : Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food
Date : 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB555

Question Serial No.

1719

Head : 149 - Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure on the promotion of active ageing in 2006-07? What are the major initiatives?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Administration will work with the Elderly Commission (the Commission) to launch a series of programmes to promote active ageing in 2006-07. These include producing an Announcement in the Public Interest (API) for TV and radio broadcast to promote a positive image of elders, organising a "Silver Market" fair and a workshop on "Ageing in Place". A Working Group on Active Ageing has been set up under the Commission to take forward the organization of the events. We also plan to make use of the balance of \$326,000 from this item and \$5M donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for promotion of active ageing to fund the programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB556

Question Serial No.

1763

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2005-06, how many long-term, temporary and outsourcing posts were created in the Hospital Authority under this Programme? What were the expenses involved for each type of posts? In 2006-07, will the Hospital Authority consider turning the temporary contracts into long-term contracts? If yes, what are the numbers of staff involved, their posts and estimated expenses?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

As at 31 January 2006, the Hospital Authority (HA) employed a total of 457 supporting staff on temporary terms (i.e. a contract with duration from 6 to 12 months) and 5 222 on contract terms (i.e. a contract with duration from 12 to 36 months). The estimated total costs for employing supporting staff on temporary terms and contract terms in 2005-06 are \$78 million and \$471 million respectively.

The number of workers employed by HA's contractors to provide hospital support services and to carry out minor hospital improvement and maintenance works is around 2 200 as at 31 January 2006. As these workers are employed by the HA's contractors direct, the HA does not have information on the total costs involved for their employment.

It is the HA's human resources policy that consideration would be given to offering longer-term contracts to those supporting staff who have been employed by the HA for one year or more and who have good performance, having regard to operational needs and availability of funds. With the implementation of this policy in 2005-06, the number of the HA's supporting staff on temporary terms has decreased from 813 in October 2005 to 457 in January 2006, while the number of those who are on contract terms has increased from 4 604 to 5 222 during the same period. The HA would continue to consider offering longer-term contracts to the eligible supporting staff in 2006-07 in line with the prevailing policy. As the number of offers is not known at this stage, it is not feasible to make an estimate of the expenses involved.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB557

Question Serial No.

1764

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2005-06, what were the details and expenses involved for the provision of personal protective equipment for its staff by the Hospital Authority? In 2006-07, what is the estimated expenditure in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

According to the projection of the Hospital Authority (HA), the expenditure on the procurement of personal protective equipment for staff would amount to about \$54 million in 2005-06 and \$92 million in 2006-07. The relevant details are as follows –

Description		2005-06 (\$ million)	2006-07 (\$ million)
1.	Disposable Caps	0.6	0.6
2.	Eye wears/Goggles	1.3	1.7
3.	Face Shields	5.2	29.7
4.	Surgical Masks	6.6	6.6
5.	Disposable Respirators	12.6	21.7
6.	Disposable Examination Gloves	14.1	17.0
7.	Disposable Isolation Gowns	7.4	7.8
8.	Disposable Shoes Covers	0.8	0.7
9.	Others (including : "Filters" for ventilators and "Disposable Hoods" and "Hepa filters" for powered respirators)	5.4	6.2
Total		54	92

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 558

Question Serial No.

1765

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2005 – 06, what were the details of work done and the expenses involved for the Hospital Authority to facilitate the waiting for appointments for patients and to shorten patients' waiting time? In 2006-07, what are the estimated expenses involved in this respect?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) has introduced a series of measures to alleviate the waiting time problem at the general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) and specialist outpatient clinics (SOPCs) in 2005/06. These include:

GOPC:

1. Opening clinic doors at 7:30 am or earlier where feasible and appropriate;
2. Posting up in the clinics the utilization information of other clinics in the same district to facilitate patients' choice of clinics/consultation sessions;
3. Arranging follow-up appointments for patients with chronic diseases who require regular follow-up, to encourage them to take up such appointments in less busy sessions;
4. Introducing in phases an automated phone appointment system to instantaneously arrange for patients with episodic illnesses the next available consultation slot; and
5. Rolling out a pilot "next-day appointment system" in 12 GOPCs on Hong Kong Island to allow elderly patients who line up at the clinics from 3 to 5 pm to have clinical consultation on the following day.

SOPC:

1. Implementing the triage system to differentiate patients into urgent (priority 1), semi-urgent (priority 2) and routine cases, and ensure timely attendance for patients with urgent medical needs;
2. Sending specialists on sessional basis to support management of chronically ill patients at GOPCs, and thus reducing the need for referring them to SOPCs; and
3. Setting up 18 Family Medicine Specialist Clinics, which take a gatekeeping role for SOPCs, to take care of patients triaged as non-urgent cases.

The estimated cost of implementing the automated phone appointment system (i.e. GOPC Item 4 above) for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are \$0.66 million and \$1.8 million respectively. The rest of the measures above are taken forward primarily by redeploying existing resources in accordance to service needs and priorities, so the expenditure involved in them cannot be separately identifiable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters YAU TSANG Ka-lai

Post Title PSHWF

Date 8.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB559

Question Serial No.

1766

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2005-06, what were the details of work and expenses involved for the Hospital Authority to alleviate the overcrowding condition in some hospital wards? In 2006-07, what are the estimated expenses involved in this respect?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The most important objective in relieving the overcrowding condition in some hospital wards is to strengthen infection control in public hospitals and clinics. In this connection, the Hospital Authority (HA) has employed additional manpower so as to enable public hospitals to space out hospital beds to avoid cross-infection, operate additional isolation beds, and adhere strictly to infection control requirements such as to carry out extra cleansing activities. The estimated expenditures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are \$190 million and \$192 million respectively. In support of the spacing out of hospital beds, the HA will continue to develop its ambulatory and outreach services to ease the demand for in-patient services.

Apart from the above, there are a number of on-going capital works projects which will provide additional hospital beds in the near future. These projects include the redevelopment of Pok Oi Hospital, which will increase the number of beds at that hospital from 350 to 612, and the construction of a new rehabilitation block at Tuen Mun Hospital, which will provide an additional 512 beds. The total cost of these two projects is \$2.7 billion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB560

Question Serial No.

1767

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee the details of work and expenditure involved in 2005-06 for the prevention of major outbreaks, such as SARS and avian influenza? What are the details of work planned in this regard in 2006-07 and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Under Programme Area 3, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) formulates and coordinates policy and programmes to protect and promote health, prevent and treat illness and disease and minimise the impact of disability. In relation to infectious diseases, HWFB works closely with the Department of Health (DH) and its Centre for Health Protection (CHP).

At the operational end, the CHP focuses on training, surveillance, risk communication, research, coordination and preparedness and contingency planning. In this connection, the CHP has drawn up preparedness plans for major infectious disease outbreaks with public health significance, including SARS and influenza pandemic caused by avian influenza, etc. Under these plans, the CHP has been strengthening their disease surveillance system in hospitals; stockpiling antivirals, personal protective equipment and laboratory diagnostics reagents; enhancing the capacity of laboratories in the public sector; building up surge capacity by setting up a mechanism for mobilizing volunteers during public health emergencies; organizing infection control training and developing relevant guidelines for relevant government departments and healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors; holding briefing sessions/forums and education/publicity programmes on preparedness for influenza pandemic for different sectors of the community; strengthening communication and collaboration with regional and international partners; and supporting applied research on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, the CHP has been conducting and will continue to conduct inter-departmental drills/exercises for emergency response against major infectious disease outbreaks. On the port health front, temperature screening measures for inbound passengers at immigration control points have been enhanced. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, \$934 million and \$956 million respectively have been earmarked for DH to undertake the operations of the CHP and various port health measures, including the above measures and programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB561

Question

Serial No.

1768

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Regarding the new Food Safety Centre to be established in 2006-07, please advise the number of post to be created, the nature of staffing contracts and the projected operating cost.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

Our plan is to establish a new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). We intend to create three directorate posts (i.e. one Controller, CFS (D4) post upgraded from one existing Deputy Director of Health (D3) post and two Principal Medical Officer (D1) posts) and 71 non-directorate posts under the new CFS in FEHD. All these posts are permanent posts.

No provision has been made in the 2006-07 Estimates to meet the costs of the three new directorate posts. Subject to Finance Committee's approval of the Directorate posts for the CFS in April, FEHD will endeavor to absorb the additional expenditure for these posts within the appropriations for Head 49 FEHD for 2006-07 and will seek supplementary provision when required. As regards the 71 non-directorate posts, we have included \$31.9 million under Head 49 FEHD in 2006-07 to meet the costs. We shall continue to examine the need or otherwise for additional posts in the light of operational needs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB562

Question

Serial No.

1769

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The Government has implemented measures for promoting sustainable development of local agriculture and fisheries industry in 2005-06. Please advise details of these measures, their effectiveness and costs. In addition, please provide details and projected costs of these measures for 2006-07.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries through the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen.

In 2005-06, the Department promoted safe and environmentally friendly agricultural production through the Accredited Farm Scheme, organic farming and intensive greenhouse production. Improved vegetable varieties such as rock melon were also introduced. At present, 218 farms covering a total production area of 1,584 hectares have been accredited. Another 53 local farms covering some 26 hectares have engaged in organic farming. In addition, greenhouses covering some 12,000 m² have been established for production of high-value crops.

In 2006-07, AFCD will focus on assisting farmers to improve their produce quality for higher return through knowledge transfer and better marketing outlets. It will also make use of the established sale network of the Vegetable Marketing Organization to extend local produce to high-end markets like hotels, health institutions, supermarket chains and specialty food stores.

As regards fisheries, AFCD assists fish farmers to raise production and quality control standards as well as competitiveness of their products through implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme and development of brand names and marketing network for local fisheries products. A total of 37 fish farms have been registered under the Scheme so far and their accredited fish products have been well received by local consumers. Efforts are also made to help fishermen to develop sustainable fisheries operations. Moreover, we are pursuing the formulation of a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters with a view to conserving local fisheries resources.

A total of \$21.2 million (\$13.2 million for agriculture and \$8 million for fisheries) has been allocated for these tasks in 2005-06. We will continue with these tasks on the same

provision in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB563

Question

Serial No.

1770

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

For food safety work in 2006-07, please advise the measures to be taken to prevent food infected with avian influenza from entering into Hong Kong and their projected cost.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

While the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau formulates the policy on food safety, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is tasked with ensuring the safety of all imported food. To prevent avian influenza, all live poultry from the Mainland must be accompanied by an official health certificate certifying, among others, that the poultry have been tested and certified free from H5 avian influenza virus. In addition, FEHD staff conducts inspection, serological testing of poultry and screening test for H5 at the border control point. To monitor the health of poultry at source, FEHD also conducts inspection visits to Mainland poultry farms.

In addition, all poultry meat imports require prior approval from FEHD. A valid health certificate certifying that the meat is safe for consumption must accompany every consignment of poultry meat. The work involved forms part of the overall import control programme. There is no breakdown on the expenditure for control of poultry meat imports.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB564

Question Serial No.

1809

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) :
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

On overseeing the implementation of the registration system for proprietary Chinese medicines, please advise:

- (a) the manpower and expenditure to be involved; and
- (b) the number of applications for and approved applications of proprietary Chinese medicines registration per annum during the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

(a) The Health Division of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is responsible for, among other duties, overseeing the implementation of the registration system for proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm). The staff cost is included in the overall provision for the Programme (3): Health, but the manpower and expenditure in respect of such function is not separately identifiable.

Registration of pCm is undertaken by the Chinese Medicines Board with Department of Health as its executive arm. The provision in the Department in 2006-07 for registration of pCm is \$10.2M. The number and rank of staff deployed to handle registration of pCm in 2006-07 are as follows -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Full-time Equivalent</u>
Senior Pharmacist	1
Pharmacist	6
Chinese Medicines Officer	1
Assistant Chinese Medicines Officer	4
Chinese Medicines Assistant	4
Dispenser	3
Clerical Staff	14
Total	33

(b) The number of applications for pCm registration received in the past three years are as follows -

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Applications</u>
2003-04	488
2004-05	15 606
2005-06	25

As at 6 March 2006, the Chinese Medicines Board has completed assessment of 2 477 applications for pCm registration. Annual breakdown is as follows-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Applications</u>
2003-04	0
2004-05	1 078
2005-06	1 399

It is estimated that it would take about two more years to complete the registration of those pCm applications in hand. In 2006-07, about 3000 cases will be processed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB565

Question

Serial No.

1810

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The Government will implement measures to strengthen control on abstraction of seawater. Please advise the projected expenditure and staffing establishment required as well as details of the measures.

Asked by: Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

We strive to strengthen control on abstraction of seawater to enhance fish tank water quality through a two-pronged approach, i.e. implementation of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme followed by legislative amendment to prohibit abstraction of seawater from specified areas for keeping live fish and shellfish intended for human consumption. Except that \$300,000 has been earmarked for the publicity of the Quality Seawater Assurance Scheme, we will absorb the additional work involved by existing staff and resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB566

Question Serial No.

1860

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (4) Women's Interests
Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Expenditure for Programme (4) will increase by 17 % and the Administration states that a series of programmes, liaison and studies will be conducted. Can the Administration provide details on these account items?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

The increase in recurrent provision for this programme area in 2006-07 is mainly due to the anticipated increase in the expenses for organizing programmes, liaison with local women's groups, participation in major international forums as well as conducting surveys and studies. For example, we will provide support to the Women's Commission, among other on-going initiatives, for organizing a conference or seminar on a variety of topics of interests to women, and for preparing a database and organizing a seminar to promote women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies. We would work out the details with the Commission.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB567

Question Serial No.

1861

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As the waiting time for specialist clinics of the Hospital Authority becomes longer and longer, will the Administration allocate more resources for specialist clinics so as to shorten the waiting time?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) has taken a number of measures to alleviate the waiting time problem at Specialist Out-patient Clinics (SOPCs). These include –

- Implementing the triage system to differentiate patients into urgent (priority 1), semi-urgent (priority 2) and routine cases, and ensure timely attendance for patients with urgent medical needs;
- Deploying specialists on sessional basis at General Out-patients Clinics to support the management of chronically ill patients; and
- Setting up 18 Family Medicine Specialist Clinics to take up the patients triaged as non-urgent cases and act as the gatekeeper for SOPCs.

The above measures are taken forward primarily through the redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB568

Question

Serial No.

1878

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Provision for agriculture, fisheries and food safety programme will be increased by 3 million (29.1%) as an one-off additional provision. Please advise how much of the provision would be used in setting up the Food Safety Centre and the respective costs for staffing establishment and operation. Also, please advise the uses of the remaining additional provision.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The plan is to establish the new Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As such, no financial provision has been earmarked for the new CFS under Head 149.

The \$3 million one-off provision will be used on enhancing food safety, such as regulation of fisheries products safety by reviewing overseas regulatory regimes and practices for aquatic and marine products and implementation of Labelling Scheme for Nutrition Information. The increase in provision also covers reserves for contingency measures arising from unforeseeable events such as avian influenza, and promotion on inspection and quarantine items, etc. Expenditure for these activities falls within Programme (5) which caters for a number of activities, hence the provision in respect of each item may not be separately identifiable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

HWFB 569

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

2117

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with “assisting fishermen to develop offshore fishing and other sustainable fisheries through technical support services and credit facilities” under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the estimated amount of expenditure involved? What is the amount of expenditure for the provision of credit facilities?
- (b) What are the criteria for application of credit facilities? When will the service be available? What are the details?
- (c) Has the Administration drawn up indicators to review the effectiveness of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) A provision of \$2.2 million has been allocated in 2006-07 for assisting fishermen to develop offshore fishing and other sustainable fisheries through technical support services and credit facilities. \$0.9 million of the provision has been earmarked for the administration of loan funds including the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (with an approved commitment of \$100 million) and Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (with available funds of \$20 million) to make available low interest loans to local fishermen for the development of sustainable fisheries.
- (b) The above-mentioned loan funds are currently available for local fishermen who are interested in developing sustainable fisheries. Each application will be assessed on its individual merit according to the established vetting criteria including the technical and financial viability of development proposal, loan security, credibility and repayment ability of the applicant.
- (c) We have not drawn up any indicator for this activity as whether local fishermen will pursue offshore fishing or other sustainable fisheries is a business decision of their own. This department will continue to assist them through provision of technical support services and credit facilities, and review these services as necessary to cope with the needs of the fishing industry.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

10 March 2006

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

HWFB 570

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

2118

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with Fisheries new loans under the Indicators, the amount of loans has increased by \$13.7 million from \$51.3 million in 2005 to \$65 million in 2006, but the number of loans remains the same, i.e. 560 for both years. Please inform this Committee the reasons for this. How will the increased sum be used?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

This is mainly due to anticipated issue of several large loans of several million dollars each to fishermen for development of sustainable fisheries operations in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 571

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

2119

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with Agriculture new loans under the Indicators, what is the basis for the estimated decrease of new loans from 231 in 2005 to 170 in 2006?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages three loan funds to provide loans to farmers for meeting their operational need or for farm improvement. In August 2005, the Department has launched a Voluntary Surrender Scheme to encourage poultry farmers to surrender their licences to the Government. Similar scheme for pig farmers is also under discussion. Against this background, we anticipate that there will be a decrease in the number of applications for loans in 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS STELLA HUNG

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

10 March 2006

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

HWFB 572

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

2120

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The financial provision for this programme has increased substantially by \$172.5 million (84.7%) from \$203.6 million in 2005-06 to \$376.1 million in 2006-07. Please inform this Committee of the reasons for this. Please list out the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The financial provision for Programme (1) in 2006-07 is \$376.1 million, which is \$172.5 million (or 84.7%) higher than the 2005-06 Revised Estimate of \$203.6 million. The increase is mainly due to the increase in non-recurrent provision amounting to \$179.8 million for ex-gratia payment to live poultry farmers, wholesalers and related transporters and one-off grants to the affected live poultry farm, wholesale and transport workers under the Voluntary Surrender Scheme (VSS).

The VSS is a one-year voluntary surrender scheme which started on 5 August 2005 for live poultry farmers, wholesalers and transporters who choose to receive an ex-gratia payment in exchange for surrendering their licences/tenancies and ceasing operation on a permanent basis. The purpose is to minimize the risk of avian influenza outbreak.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MRS STELLA HUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

HWFB 573

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

2122

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In connection with “implementing a voluntary scheme for live poultry farmers, wholesalers and related transporters by which they would be granted ex-gratia payment in return for opting to cease their business permanently” under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the estimated amount of expenditure involved? How many live poultry farmers, wholesalers and related transporters will be offered ex-gratia payment? What is the percentage of these recipients among all the poultry farmers, wholesalers and related transporters in Hong Kong?
- (b) Has the Administration drawn up indicators to review the effectiveness of the scheme?
- (c) How many applications have been received since the implementation of the scheme on 5 August 2005? Please provide breakdown figures by using the following table.

	Live poultry farmers	Live poultry wholesalers	Live poultry related transporters
Applications received			
Percentage among all live poultry farmers in Hong Kong		-----	-----
Percentage among all live poultry wholesalers in Hong Kong	-----		-----
Percentage among all live poultry related transporters in Hong Kong	-----	-----	
Expenditure involved			

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) There were 194 live poultry farmers, 86 wholesalers and 120 eligible transporters immediately before the implementation of the voluntary surrender scheme. If all of them make applications under the scheme, the total expenditure in ex-gratia payment is estimated at \$344.5 million.
- (b) The scheme is designed to attract as many poultry operators as possible to cease business in order to reduce the risk of avian flu. We will keep monitoring its progress.
- (c) Progress of the scheme as at 7 March 2006 is as follows.

	Live poultry farmers	Live poultry wholesalers	Live poultry transporters
No. of applications received	74	12	1
% of all live poultry farmers in Hong Kong	38%	--	--
% of all live poultry wholesaler in Hong Kong	--	14%	--
% of all eligible live poultry transporter in Hong Kong	--	--	1%
Expenditure involved (assuming all applications approved)	\$76.42 million	\$6.48 million	\$0.05 million

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

HWFB 574

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

2127

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the details on the Administration's work for promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What plans does the Administration have for this task in 2006-07 and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department promotes the sustainable development of local agriculture through the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training. In 2005-06, we assisted farmers to capture high-value market niches by promoting the development of organic farming and intensive greenhouse production. We plan to continue in this direction in 2006-07, and further extend the distribution of local produce to hotels, health institutions, supermarket chains and specialty food stores.

As regards fisheries, we assist fish farmers to raise production and quality control standards as well as competitiveness of their products through implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme and introducing new fish species such as Jade Perch for culture. We also help fishermen and fish farmers promote their products through development of local brand names and marketing network. Efforts are also made to help fishermen to develop sustainable fisheries operations. Moreover, we are pursuing the formulation of a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters with a view to conserving local fisheries resources.

A total of \$22.6 million (\$13.2 million for agriculture and \$9.4 million for fisheries) has been allocated for these tasks in 2005-06. We will continue with these tasks with the same provision in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB575

Question Serial No.

1155

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Provision for 2006-07 is \$219.7 million (0.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly due to the additional provision to meet increasing demand for hospital services and to actively implement measures for improving the quality of clinical care. Please give a detailed account of the allocation of resources.

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

The overall net increase of \$219.7 million in the 2006-07 Estimate as against the 2005-06 Revised Estimate is mainly a result of the provision of an additional recurrent funding of \$300 million; additional provision to meet the rental of general outpatient clinics located at joint users buildings charged by the Government Property Agency and increase in the provision to cover expenditure on equipment items and computerization projects costing over \$150,000 each; off-set by the reduced cashflow requirement of Samaritan Fund* in 2006-07. The additional recurrent funding of \$300 million will be provided to HA in 2006-07 and the two years thereon so as to strengthen HA's financial position and allow it to cope better with service requirements.

The total of Government's recurrent subvention for HA for 2006-07 amounts to some \$27.4 billion. HA is currently working on its budget for 2006-07 and details of the allocation of resources are not available at this stage.

- * The HA is responsible for the management of the Samaritan Fund on behalf of the Government. Contribution to the Samaritan Fund does not constitute part of Government's subvention to the HA.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB576

Question Serial No.

1156

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the "Targets" of the services of the Hospital Authority (HA) in para 35 under Programme (9), the four types of hospital beds under inpatient services of "Access to services" have seen a drop in number in 2007 as compared to 2005. General (acute and convalescent) beds will decrease by 346; mentally ill beds by 44; and mentally handicapped beds by 120. As acute and convalescent services have been the core services of the HA, what are the reasons for the decrease in the number of beds? Are the demands for these three types of services falling or is the Administration providing related services through other channels? As regards inpatient services under "Indicators", what are the reasons for the increase in the number of discharges and deaths under the item "general (acute and convalescent)" in 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

As with the strategy in previous years, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The reduction in the number of general beds and mentally ill beds in 2006-07 is in line with this development. The reduction in the number of general beds is made possible by the development of the Visiting Medical Officers Scheme, the Community Nursing Service and the Community Geriatric Assessment Service, which serve to improve the health of the population and reduce hospital readmissions; strengthening of the gate-keeping role of General Outpatient Clinics and Accident and Emergency Departments; and enhanced utilization of hospital beds. As regards mentally ill beds, the continued development of community outreach services such as the Community Psychiatric Service, the Community Psychiatric Nursing Service and the Psychogeriatric Service, coupled with the transfer of stable psychiatric long-stay patients to Long Stay Care Homes managed by welfare agencies, is expected to ease the demand for this type of beds in 2006-07.

The reduction of 20 mentally handicapped beds (or -2.86%) in 2006-07 is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit

specializes in caring for profoundly mentally handicapped children under the age of 16. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of profoundly mentally handicapped children as a result of declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision of places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools, which offer an attractive option in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in CMC is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past few years.

Although the number of general beds will be reduced by 346 and 73 in 2006-07 as compared to 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively, HA projects that, as part of the overall move to increase cost-efficiency, the number of inpatient discharges and deaths (general) will increase by 0.4% in 2006-07 as compared to 2004-05 and remain the same level as 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB577

Question Serial No.

1157

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As seen from the estimated number of day inpatients and number of attendances seeking outpatient services, the Hospital Authority has come up with an estimation on the number of patients whom it can serve in 2006-07. What is the basis of this estimation? Is the use of a fixed estimate of expenditure to gauge the number of service recipients based on its allocated resources in contravention of the public medical sector's principle of "keeping all served"? In the event where demands for medical service increase substantially, how could the Hospital Authority redeploy resources to enhance its services? Or would the Hospital Authority refer patients to the private medical sector for treatment?

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

The 2006-07 estimate on the number of day inpatients (DI), specialist out-patient (SOP) attendances and general out-patient (GOP) attendances are made on the basis of the revised estimate for 2005-06, assuming the scope and level of service would remain unchanged. The 2006-07 estimates reflect the planned capacity of the relevant services in the coming year. Appointments for DI and SOP services are scheduled in accordance with the medical needs of the patients to ensure that patients in urgent clinical conditions would be attended to in a timely manner. Public hospitals and clinics would not turn away patients in need of medical attention, but the waiting time for patients with non-urgent medical conditions would be longer in comparison. Where necessary, the HA would redeploy resources as far as possible to meet service demand.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB578

Question Serial No.

2036

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the number of pre-packaged food labels checked by FEHD, what are the reasons for the 13% decrease in the actual number for 2005 over 2004, and why is the estimate for 2006 restored to the 2004 level?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The reduction was mainly due to the deployment of health inspectors dedicated for checking of labels to support increased food surveillance and control work in response to a series of food incidents in 2005. The work included source tracing of incriminated foods, enhanced surveillance as well as taking enforcement action. With the additional provision for enhancing food safety work in 2006-07, it is estimated that the number of food labels checked will be returned to the level in 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB579

Question Serial No.

2037

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the specific plans for prevention of avian influenza in 2006? What is the financial provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. Tam Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Department will continue its efforts on prevention of avian influenza through monitoring and sampling of live poultry at the border control point, conducting inspections to Mainland poultry farms, and surveillance at retail outlets. A financial provision of \$17 million has been included in the 2006-07 Estimate for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB580

Question Serial No.

2038

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the indicator on the number of vehicles carrying vegetables inspected in Man Kam To, the 2005 actual and 2006 estimate figures are 30% less than the figure for 2004. What are the reasons? What are the plans to ensure vegetables imported to Hong Kong are safe for consumption?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

This is mainly due to the fact that larger capacity cross border trucks are being used in transportation. The number of vegetable samples taken for testing at Man Kam To Food Control Office was maintained at around 16 000 in 2004 and 2005. In addition to these, vegetable samples are also taken at the wholesale and retail levels for testing of chemicals. The Department will continue to maintain vigilance at the various control points to ensure the safety of vegetables for consumption.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB581

Question Serial No.

2039

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of inspections to food premises in 2005 decreased by 10% as compared to the previous year. Please advise on whether the number will be increased in 2006 in the light of the many food poisoning incidents happened past year.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In the light of manpower provision, the frequency of inspection for low risk and medium risk food premises has been reduced, resulting in a lower number of inspections in total in 2005 and 2006. The Department will deploy its resources to target at high risk food premises, including those found to have operated without licences.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB582

Question Serial No.

2040

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is FEHD's expenditure on cleansing services for 2006, the proportion of the services to be contracted out, and the number of staff employed by the cleansing contractors in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

FEHD's expenditure on cleansing services under this programme, including outsourced services, is estimated to be around \$1,600 million for 2006-07. The proportion of outsourced services in major service areas are set out below:

- (a) Street/toilet cleansing - 63%
- (b) Waste collection - 58%
- (c) Conservancy - 100%
- (d) Gully emptying - 70%
- (e) Mechanized cleansing - 100%

In 2005-06, FEHD's cleansing contractors under this programme employed around 4,400 non-skilled workers.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB583

Question Serial No.

2041

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding Item 013 "special improvement in environmental hygiene" under sub-head 700, please advise on the details of the work plan for 2006-07 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

This item is related to engagement of 3 291 temporary workers for special improvement in environmental hygiene. The work includes enhanced cleansing/ washing of public places/markets/bazaars/toilets and pest/mosquito/rodent control work on top of our regular services. To sustain these temporary jobs in 2006-07 will require about \$300 million, which will be funded under Subhead 000 Operational expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB584

Question Serial No.

2046

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The estimate for 2006-07 is \$46.7 million or 8.5% higher due to additional provision for enhancing food safety efforts and creation of 71 posts. Are these 71 posts all created for the Centre for Food Safety? Will all the provision be spent on their salaries? If so, will additional cost be needed to set up the Centre or procure equipment and what is the source of funding? If not, please give details on the use of the provision.

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The additional provision for 2006-07 is to cater for the increase in salary provision following the creation of 71 new posts, additional departmental expenses, such as sampling and laboratory test expenses required for food surveillance, and strengthening pest control work. The 71 posts are created for enhancing the existing food safety regulatory functions, including strengthening food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels, improving efficiency in handling the growing number of food incidents and food complaints, increasing liaison with Mainland and overseas food authorities and enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB585

Question Serial No.

2047

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the indicator for "food samples taken for testing", the estimated number for 2006 is 63 000, which is close to the figure of 62 419 in 2005. Please advise if samples to be tested by the soon to be established Centre for Food Safety are included.

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The estimated number of food samples taken for testing in 2005 was originally set at 61 000. In response to the occurrence of various food related incidents last year, additional samples had been taken for testing through internal re-deployment of resources. To reflect the enhancement of food surveillance, it is estimated that in 2006, 63 000 samples will be taken for testing, which has reflected the additional surveillance work to be carried out with the setting up of the Centre for Food Safety.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB586

Question Serial No.

2048

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under the indicator "vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office", the actual number of vehicles inspected reduced substantially by more than 30% from 41 658 in 2004 to 27 939 in 2005. What are the reasons for such drastic decrease?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

This is mainly due to the fact that larger capacity cross border trucks are being used in transportation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB587

Question Serial No.

2096

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There have been requests for higher efficiency in the licensing and more inspections to food premises to safeguard public interest. However, 28 posts will be deleted under this programme. Please advise on whether such deletion will affect the licensing and inspecting of food premises.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The 28 posts to be deleted in 2006-07 under this programme are not responsible for licensing or inspection of restaurants. Deletion of these existing vacancies will not affect our services under this programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB588

Question Serial No.

2097

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Subhead 000, the estimated expenditure for "General departmental expenses" for 2006-07 increases by more than 40% over the revised estimate for 2005-06. Please account for the increase.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in 2006-07 estimated expenditure for "General departmental expenses" is mainly to cater for the following:

- (a) sustaining temporary jobs for special improvement in environmental hygiene;
- (b) managing and operating new facilities, such as public markets and toilets, and providing cleansing services for new development areas;
- (c) enhancing food safety regulatory functions; and
- (d) coping with increases to utility charges, contract expenses and maintenance requirements.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB589

Question Serial No.

2138

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

“Food complaints received” is a new indicator as from 2006. What are the reasons for setting the indicator at 6 000 and what is the estimated expenditure involved for this new indicator?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The estimated number of food complaints received in 2006 is set based on the increasing trend in 2004 and 2005, which were 5 270 and 5 538 respectively. Since the work involves initial handling of the complaints, subsequent investigation and enforcement work, and is performed by various units of the Department, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB590

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

2139

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding indicator "poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks", the number of poison treatments raised from 44 927 (2005 actual) to 54 700 (2006 estimate). What are the reasons for the increase? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Following the commencement of the one-year pilot scheme since December 2005 to test the effectiveness of an eradication programme to eliminate rodent infestation in six selected villages, it is anticipated that the number of poison treatments used in 2006 will be increased.

This pilot scheme forms part of the work of the pest control teams. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure for this programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB591

Question Serial No.

2140

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the relevant indicators, what are the reasons for reducing the number of "itinerant hawkers" from 726 (2005 actual) to 660 (2006 estimate)?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The estimated reduction in the number of licensed itinerant hawkers in 2006 is based on the past trend of annual reduction in the number of such hawkers, who are eligible for voluntary surrender of the itinerant hawker licences for ex-gratia payment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title _____

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB592

Question Serial No.

2141

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 (paragraph 21 on page 245, Volume IA of the Estimates) is to “promote health education to various target groups such as students and elderly through talks and outreaching activities”. Please advise on:

- a. the details of the activities;
- b. the estimated expenditure involved; and
- c. whether performance indicators have been set to review the effectiveness of the activities. If so, what are the indicators? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- a. The Department plans to organize, in 2006, 1 200 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools and 1 400 seminars for the general public including elders and new arrivals.
- b. The expenditure will be absorbed within the budget of \$21.9 million which the Department has reserved for public education and community involvement in 2006-07.
- c. Questionnaires are used to collect feedback from participants to evaluate the effectiveness of these programmes. Worksheets are also used after school talks to assess students' knowledge of public health and food hygiene. The opinion surveys and worksheet assessment show that these programmes have helped enhance participants' awareness/knowledge in food safety and environmental hygiene.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB593

Question Serial No.

1123

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With the expected 2.3% increase in Composite Consumer Price Index and further increase in inflation forecasted in the year 2006-2007, it is reported that the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), including the special allowance, for our school children is only \$1,700 per month. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service has revealed that the monthly expenses for a normal school child should be \$2,181. These children can hardly participate in any extra curricular activities or even the school picnics. Our Government encourages balanced development and whole-person education, but these students seemed to be abandoned or even sacrificed by our Government under the name of 'prudent management of our public finance'. Please explain how these school children would be helped by our Government under the pressure of expected increase in inflation and consumer price index but no increase in the CSSA.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The CSSA Scheme ensures that children in need have sufficient means to meet their basic and essential needs. The monthly CSSA standard rates for able-bodied children, ranging from \$1,280 to \$1,930, are higher than those for able-bodied adults by \$130 to \$320 to take account of their developmental needs. In addition to standard rates, school children on CSSA are entitled to a wide range of special grants to meet their educational expenses. These include grants to cover school fees, fares to school and examination fees, a monthly meal allowance for full-day students taking lunch away from home, and a flat-rate grant, now ranging from \$1,245 to \$3,810, for selected items of school-related expenses (i.e. books, stationery, school uniforms, miscellaneous and minor one-off expenses) per school year. Currently, the estimated average monthly CSSA payment for a school child is \$2,100.

CSSA standard payment rates are reviewed annually to take account of price changes as reflected by the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) to ensure that their purchasing power is maintained. As approved by the

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in December 2005, they were increased by 0.4% from 1 February 2006 to take account of inflation according to the movement of the SSAIP up to the end of October 2005. The next annual revision exercise will take place in the third quarter of 2006-07.

There are also well-established mechanisms for revising non-standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme to take account of price changes. For example, the rates of the flat-rate grant for selected items of school-related expenses are reviewed annually in accordance with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A).

It should be pointed out that the CSSA Scheme is designed as a safety net of last resort for people who cannot support themselves financially. Assistance under the Scheme is but part of the Government's overall strategy to help disadvantaged members in the community.

The Administration has developed a comprehensive network of services, many of them highly subsidised, to take care of our children's developmental needs. These include education, housing, medical services and a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial welfare services for families. In particular, the Education and Manpower Bureau has also earmarked a recurrent provision of \$75m per annum starting from the 2005-06 financial year to enable schools to provide school-based after-school learning and support programmes, so as to increase students' learning effectiveness, broaden their learning experiences outside classroom, and raise their understanding of the community and sense of belonging.

To support needy students to participate in extra-curricular activities organised by schools, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has set up a Life-wide Learning Fund with a sum of about \$140m in 2002 for a period of five years. Primary 4-6 or Secondary 1-3 students who are eligible for CSSA or full-rate grant from the Student Financial Assistance Agency are eligible to apply. During 2002-04, each year some 60 000 eligible students from more than 1 100 schools received assistance through the scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB594

Question Serial No.

1972

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the manpower and resources deployed by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for the investigation of fraud and abuse cases on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : In 2005-06, there are 120 Social Security grade officers deployed by SWD for the investigation of fraud and abuse cases on CSSA and Social Security Allowance. The total manpower and operational cost is about \$41.9m.

SWD will appoint four retired police officers at the inspectorate rank as fraud investigation advisors starting from 2006-07 to assist in handling difficult cases and making further efforts to combat fraud and abuse cases. This will cost \$0.78m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB595

Question Serial No.

1973

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Programme, the cost per place per month of residential homes of the subvented sector is less than that of the government sector by over 20%. Has the Administration considered allocating more resources to the subvented sector for further strengthening of its residential care services. If yes, please give the details. If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : The Social Welfare Department will continue to support the subvented sector to provide residential homes for the disabled. The additional rehabilitation homes for 2006-07, which are all provided by the subvented sector, are as follows:

Additional Provisions	Estimated Expenditure for 2006-07 (\$m)
1. 50 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	4.6
2. 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	3.2
3. 120 supported hostel places	8.2

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB596

Question Serial No.

1974

Head: 170 – Social Welfare Department Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the reasons for the respective increases of over 80% and 60% in “General departmental expenses” and “Programme and training expenses of institutions” under Subhead 000 Operational expenses in the 2006-07 estimate when compared with the 2005-06 revised estimate.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : The increase in provision for General departmental expenses in the 2006-07 estimate as compared to the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to:

- (a) re-classification of the funding allocation for the extension of temporary jobs from General non-recurrent expenses to General departmental expenses in 2006-07;
- (b) full-year effect for the implementation of the Technical Infrastructure/Client Information System; and
- (c) additional resources for the implementation of the new Family Support Programme.

The increase in provision for Programme and training expenses of institutions in the 2006-07 estimate as compared to the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to:

- (a) new resources for the extension of the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects;
- (b) new resources for the implementation of the Visiting Medical Practitioner Scheme; and
- (c) increase in funding allocation for the community-based support projects.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB597

Question Serial No.

1996

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much provision will be allocated to provide one-stop services for victims of sexual violence? Will any review been taken on the adequacy of the existing services?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The six specialised Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provide service for families with problem of child sexual abuse and spouse sexual abuse. The Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) as well as Medical Social Services Units (MSSUs) of the SWD and non-governmental organisations provide counselling and other support services for victims and families affected by sexual violence. Furthermore, the refuge centres for women (RCW) and the Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC) provide emergency accommodation and other support services to victims of sexual violence. However, as FCPSUs, IFSCs/ISCs, MSSUs, RCW and FCSC also handle individual and family problems of nature other than sexual violence, the funding specifically allocated for handling sexual violence cases cannot be separately ascertained.

In 2006-07, the SWD together with the Hospital Authority, the Police and the forensic pathologists, will continue to review the existing service model in handling sexual violence cases. We seek to co-ordinate the associated services, including medical, social welfare, statement taking and forensic examination, in a more comprehensive manner, with a view to providing a more convenient service to the victims. The review results are expected to be available in the middle of this year.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB598

Question Serial No.

2035

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) It is stated in the expenditure estimate that the increase in expenditure is caused by the rise in the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases. With the economy recovering and the implementation of the poverty alleviation policy, would the growth in CSSA cases slow down?
- (b) Whether such estimate has taken into account the possible adjustment in the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP)?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

- Reply :
- (a) The increase in the number of CSSA cases for 2006-07 is projected based on the recent trend of CSSA caseload. Although we have seen a decreasing trend of unemployment cases during the past year mainly due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of CSSA cases, notably low earnings cases. In fact, continuous increases over a sustained period have been observed in old age cases and disability cases. The CSSA caseload relating to the old, disabled and people in ill-health is less likely to be affected by changes in the economy.
 - (b) The draft estimates on CSSA expenditure for 2006-07 have already taken into account the 0.4% increase in CSSA standard payment rates effective from 1 February 2006, after making reference to the actual movement of the SSAIP up to October 2005. We shall follow the annual adjustment cycle for CSSA and SSA standard payment rates that takes into account the SSAIP movement for the past 12 months ending in October 2006, with approval by the Finance Committee in December 2006, and new rates to be effected in February 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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Reply Serial No.

HWFB599

Question Serial No.

2049

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Government conducted a study on the "basic needs" of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in 1996. As ten years have lapsed, it can hardly keep pace with the development of the current period. Please advise if there is any funding earmarked by the Administration for carrying out a "basic needs" study in order to keep pace with the development of our society. If yes, what are the details and what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Based on the 1996 CSSA Review, the CSSA standard payment rates are reviewed annually to take account of price changes as reflected by the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) to ensure their purchasing power is maintained. The SSAIP is specially compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a monthly basis to measure inflation/deflation according to the expenditure pattern of CSSA households.

In addition to the annual adjustment and the regular monitoring of the changes of SSAIP, a Household Expenditure Survey for CSSA Households is conducted every five years for the purpose of updating the weighting system of the SSAIP to ensure that the index can accurately reflect the up-to-date expenditure pattern of CSSA households. We are now in the process of updating the weighting system of the SSAIP on the basis of the findings of the 2004-05 Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households, and the results are expected to be available in mid-2006.

We have no plan to conduct another study on the basic needs of CSSA recipients in 2006-07.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB600

Question Serial No.

2050

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide information on the following:

With the rise in the number of domestic violence cases in recent years, those children and adults witnessing domestic violence suffer great trauma. How much provision has been set aside by the Government to provide them with psychological treatment? What are the details? How many additional **clinical psychologists** and psychiatrists will be provided? **How to support children** who suffer from learning disabilities after witnessing domestic violence? If the Administration has no such plans, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims and batterers of family violence and families facing crises. Supportive and counselling services are mainly delivered through Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres and Family and Child Protective Services Units. In case of need, adults and children affected by family violence will be referred for clinical psychological/psychiatric service.

Resources earmarked for clinical psychological service will be increased from \$50.1m in 2005-06 to \$52.9m in 2006-07. However, as clinical psychologists handle individual and family problems of nature other than family violence, the funding specifically allocated for handling children and adult victims affected by family violence cannot be separately ascertained.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB601

Question Serial No.

2051

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Given that life-wide learning is being implemented in schools, and the activity approach also encourages students to learn outside the classrooms, has the Administration earmarked any provision for supporting the additional study needs of children on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated expenditure? How will the support programme be implemented? If not, what does the Administration think could be done to nurture the future pillar of our society by life-wide learning?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The CSSA Scheme ensures that children in need have sufficient means to meet their basic and essential needs. The monthly CSSA standard rates for able-bodied children, ranging from \$1,280 to \$1,930, are higher than those for able-bodied adults by \$130 to \$320 to take account of their developmental needs. In addition to standard rates, school children on CSSA are entitled to a wide range of special grants to meet their educational expenses. These include grants to cover school fees, fares to school and examination fees, monthly meal allowance for full-day students taking lunch away from home, and a flat-rate grant, now ranging from \$1,245 to \$3,810, for selected items of school-related expenses (i.e. books, stationery, school uniforms, miscellaneous and minor one-off expenses) each school year.

It should be pointed out that the CSSA Scheme is designed as a safety net of last resort for people who cannot support themselves financially. Assistance under the Scheme is but part of the Government's overall strategy to help disadvantaged members in the community. The Administration has developed a comprehensive network of services, many of them highly subsidised, to take care of our children's developmental needs. These include education, housing, medical services and a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial welfare services for families. In particular, the Education and Manpower Bureau has also earmarked a recurrent provision of \$75m per annum starting from the 2005-06 financial year to

enable schools to provide school-based after-school learning and support programmes, so as to increase students' learning effectiveness, broaden their learning experiences outside classroom, and raise their understanding of the community and sense of belonging.

To support needy students to participate in life-wide learning activities organised by the schools, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has set up a Life-wide Learning Fund with a sum of about \$140m in 2002 for a period of five years. Primary 4-6 or Secondary 1-3 students who are eligible for CSSA or full-rate grant from the Student Financial Assistance Agency are eligible to apply. During 2002-2004, each year some 60 000 eligible students from more than 1 100 schools received assistance through the scheme.

A recurrent provision of \$15m per annum has been allocated to the 12 administrative districts of the Social Welfare Department for implementing the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB602

Question Serial No.

2052

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : “The New Dawn (ND) Project” will be implemented in April 2006 to encourage the family carers to go to work. Please advise how much funding has been earmarked by the Administration for the provision of travel subsidy as an incentive? What are the details? If there is no plan to provide travel subsidy, what is the reason and how can the Administration encourage those family carers to go to work in order to achieve the desired objectives?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The ND Project will provide intensive employment assistance including basic skills and skills-upgrading training programmes for those single parents/child carers with the youngest child aged between 12 to 14 with no or limited work experience. 18 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) currently running Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs) for able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients have been commissioned to run 20 ND IEAPs. \$4m will be allocated to these NGOs (i.e. \$200,000 per ND IEAP) as Temporary Financial Aid to help needy participants meet employment-related expenses such as travelling expenses when seeking jobs. Once a participant has secured paid work, the salary together with the provision of Disregarded Earnings under the CSSA Scheme would enable the participant to improve his/her family income. Participation in paid employment can help CSSA recipients build better lives for themselves and their families achieve early social integration and provide their children with a good role model.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB603

Question Serial No.

2053

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Estimate that the future inflation rate is expected to be 1.1%. However, the current Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) rates has increased only by 0.4%. Please advise if there is any plan to make further upward adjustment in the CSSA rates. What is the amount and what are the details? If there is no plan to make any upward adjustment in the CSSA rates, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme are reviewed annually with reference to the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) to ensure that the purchasing power of the CSSA payment rates is maintained.

The SSAIP index is specially compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a monthly basis to measure inflation/deflation according to the expenditure pattern of CSSA households. It consists of the same items as the Consumer Price Index (CPI), except that items which are covered by special grants under the CSSA Scheme (for example, rent) or provided free by the Government (for example, medical service) are excluded. The CPI measures the changes over time in the price level of consumer goods and services generally purchased by households. Since the SSAIP aims to reflect the impact of price changes on CSSA households based on their expenditure pattern, it would not be appropriate to compare the SSAIP with the CPI.

Since 2005-06, we have adopted an annual adjustment cycle in which we will review the CSSA standard payment rates with reference to the SSAIP movement for the past 12 months ending in October, and seek the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in December for implementing the new rates in February of the following year.

As approved by the FC in December 2005, the CSSA standard payment rates were increased by 0.4% from 1 February 2006 to take account of inflation according to the SSAIP movement up to the end of October 2005.

For the 2006-07 cycle, we will review in the third quarter of 2006-07 the CSSA standard payment rates with reference to the SSAIP movement up to the end of October 2006, with a view to seeking the approval of the FC in December 2006 for implementing the new rates in February 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB604

Question Serial No.

2054

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Estimate mentions that the Administration would help families in trouble. Please inform this Committee how much provision the Administration plans to set aside for the above purpose. How could the families in trouble be identified? How to provide them with assistance?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a continuum of preventive, supportive and specialised services to, among other purposes, help families in trouble. All the family and child welfare services under Programme (1) such as Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), family and child protective service, family support networking teams, clinical psychological service, residential care services for children, child care centres for children aged under three, hotline service, etc., which are provided by both SWD and non-governmental organisations, are geared towards this goal. The total provision is estimated to be \$1,330.2m in 2006-07.

With the aim to serve vulnerable families who are identified to be in need of support services but unmotivated to be contacted by welfare units, SWD will launch a Family Support Programme (FSP) in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units in 2006-07. The target groups mainly include families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation. Through telephone contacts, home visitations and other outreaching service, we aim to introduce needy families to various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have gone through similar problems or crisis before will be recruited to contact these families to form a network of community care and assistance. About \$30m additional recurrent resources will be deployed to implement FSP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB605

Question Serial No.

2055

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As applications for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) currently have to be made on a household basis, how could we help the victims of domestic violence to apply for CSSA if the batterers refuse to do so? How much provision has been earmarked by the Administration to assist these victims? If no, what is the reason? How to resolve the financial difficulties they are faced with?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Applications for CSSA are assessed on a household basis taking into account the resources and needs of all family members living together under the same roof and enjoying the benefit of shared household facilities. This principle is applicable to all applications.

If domestic violence is involved, we will provide appropriate casework service for such families. Under special circumstances and based on the recommendations of social workers, the victims in such families may apply for CSSA on their own.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB606

Question Serial No.

2056

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Estimate mentions the prevention and post-trauma care in violence cases. How much provision has been set aside by the Administration to provide post-trauma care? What are the details? How will care services be provided for the victims? What kind of care will they receive?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims of family violence including post-trauma counselling and other support services. The services are mainly delivered by the Family and Child Protective Services Units, Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Medical Social Service Units and Clinical Psychological Units.

Based on the needs of individual cases, social workers of the above-mentioned units will provide a range of services including statutory protection of children, counselling, group work service and referrals for psychological/psychiatric service, residential service, financial or housing assistance, legal assistance, etc. to support victims of family violence.

Clinical psychologists help victims of family violence overcome trauma and regain independence in personal and family functioning through individual and group psychological treatment.

However, as social workers and clinical psychologists of these units handle individual and family problems of nature other than family violence, the funding specifically allocated for handling victims affected by family violence cannot be separately ascertained.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB607

Question Serial No.

2084

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In light of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the responses by the committee concerned, and the fact that Hong Kong's economy has recovered, the Government should increase the payment of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). What is the amount of additional provision that the Government plans to earmark for CSSA recipients and their children for learning and social activities? What are the details? If the Administration has no such plan, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The CSSA Scheme ensures that children in need have sufficient means to meet their basic and essential needs. The monthly CSSA standard rates for able-bodied children, ranging from \$1,280 to \$1,930, are higher than those for able-bodied adults by \$130 to \$320 to take account of their developmental needs. In addition to standard rates, school children on CSSA are entitled to a wide range of special grants to meet their educational expenses. These include grants to cover school fees, fares to school and examination fees, a monthly meal allowance for full-day students taking lunch away from home, and a flat-rate grant, now ranging from \$1,245 to \$3,810, for selected items of school-related expenses (i.e. books, stationery, school uniforms, miscellaneous and minor one-off expenses) per each school year. Currently, the estimated average monthly CSSA payment for a school child is \$2,100.

CSSA standard payment rates are reviewed annually to take account of price changes as reflected by the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) to ensure that their purchasing power is maintained. As approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in December 2005, they were increased by 0.4% from 1 February 2006 to take account of inflation according to the movement of the SSAIP up to the end of October 2005. The next annual revision exercise will take place in the third quarter of 2006-07.

There are also well-established mechanisms for revising non-standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme to take account of price changes. For example, the rates of the flat-rate grant for selected items of school-related expenses are reviewed annually in accordance with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A).

It should be pointed out that the CSSA Scheme is designed as a safety net of last resort for people who cannot support themselves financially. Assistance under the Scheme is but part of the Government's overall strategy to help disadvantaged members in the community.

The Administration has developed a comprehensive network of services, many of them highly subsidised, to take care of our children's developmental needs. These include education, housing, medical services and a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial welfare services for families. In particular, the Education and Manpower Bureau has also earmarked a recurrent provision of \$75m per annum starting from the 2005-06 financial year to enable schools to provide school-based after-school learning and support programmes, so as to increase students' learning effectiveness, broaden their learning experiences outside classroom, and raise their understanding of the community and sense of belonging.

To support needy students to participate in life-wide learning activities organised by schools, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has set up a Life-wide Learning Fund with a sum of about \$140m in 2002 for a period of five years. Primary 4-6 or Secondary 1-3 students who are eligible for CSSA or full-rate grant from the Student Financial Assistance Agency are eligible to apply. During 2002-2004, each year some 60 000 eligible students from more than 1 100 schools received assistance through the scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB608

Question Serial No.

2114

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : For this Programme, please provide information on the following:

- (a) Regarding the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme, please set out the measures implemented, the number of participants, the number of completed cases and the expenditure involved in 2005-06.
- (b) In 2005-06, how many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) took part in Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs)? How many Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and near-CSSA recipients participated in IEAPs in the same year and how many of them successfully rejoin the workforce after participating in IEAPs? What is the government expenditure involved?
- (c) In 2006-07, how many people are expected to participate in the SFS Scheme and IEAPs? How many CSSA recipients are expected to become self-reliant with the assistance of the SFS Scheme and IEAPs? What are the estimates for the SFS Scheme and IEAPs in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented the SFS Scheme since June 1999 and intensified its measures since June 2003 to assist the unemployed CSSA recipients rejoin the workforce. The Scheme provides Active Employment Assistance including direct job matching and post-placement support and Community Work Programme. In addition, NGOs are commissioned to launch IEAPs for CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients and 'near-CSSA' unemployed. In 2005-06 (up to January 2006), 38 277 unemployed persons enrolled in the SFS Scheme. In the same period, 14 744 persons have been assisted to secure paid employment. As at end of January 2006, there were 42 757 active participants in the SFS. The expenditure on SFS Scheme in 2005-06 is \$66.3m.

(b) With funding support from the Lotteries Fund and Hong

Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, SWD has commissioned 39 NGOs to run 105 IEAPs to assist employable CSSA recipients and 'near-CSSA' unemployed to remove work barriers and achieve self-reliance. A breakdown of IEAP participants is set out below :

Year	No. of CSSA Participants	No. of 'near-CSSA' Unemployed
Oct 2003-Sep 2004	4 778	1 467
Oct 2004-Sep 2005	8 705	2 874
Oct 2005-Jan 2006	6 865	1 487
Total	20 348	5 828

Out of a total of 26 176 participants, 10 376 participants (7 185 CSSA recipients and 3 191 near-CSSA unemployed) have been assisted to secure full-time employment.

The expenditure for running 105 IEAPs in 2005-06 is \$64.2m.

(c) The provision earmarked for the SFS Scheme in 2006-07 is \$77.3m. Based on the trend in the past 12 months, we estimate that in 2006-07, 38 000 participants will enroll in the programme and 15 600 participants will leave the CSSA net, or move to low-earnings category under the CSSA Scheme.

In 2006-07, it is planned that a total of 105 IEAPs would serve no less than 10 500 participants. The estimated expenditure is \$77.3m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB609

Question Serial No.

2115

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Programme, the estimated provision by the Administration for 2006-07 will increase by \$142.7m (4.5%) when compared with the revised estimate of 2005-06. Could the Administration inform this Committee of which projects and services that the increased provision for 2006-07 will be spent on? Please set out the details of the projects and the estimated amount of expenditure required.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The increase in provision for the Elderly Programme by \$142.7m in 2006-07 as compared to the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to:

- (1) planned expansion of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Service (EHCCS) amounting to \$62.9m;
- (2) full-year effect of the project for conversion of self-care and home for the aged places to long-term care places amounting to \$52.8m;
- (3) anticipated increase in funding allocation under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged amounting to \$21.9m;
- (4) additional provision of \$3.4m to strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of residential care homes for the elderly; and
- (5) additional provision of \$1.1m to strengthen the manpower of the Contract Management Section for monitoring contract homes and EHCCS.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB610

Question Serial No.

2116

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will increase the estimated provision for this Programme by 5.7% in 2006-07. At the same time, however, eight posts under this Programme will be deleted by the Department. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Which social security units do these eight posts belong to?
- (b) What are the duties and ranks of these eight posts?
- (c) Are these eight posts on contract terms or do they belong to the permanent establishment?
- (d) What are the reasons for deleting these posts despite the increase in provision and the continuous rise in the caseload?
- (e) How to absorb the workload of these posts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Part (a)
The eight posts to be deleted in 2006-07 in relation to social security services belong to the Social Security Branch Headquarters and the Research and Statistics Section of the Department.

Part (b)
These posts are in the ranks of Senior Social Security Officer, Social Security Officer I, Statistician, Statistical Officer I and Statistical Officer II. These posts are not frontline social security staff. They mainly provide support to the computerisation project, research and statistics duties related to the programme.

Part (c) – (e)
The above eight posts are time-limited civil service posts created for undertaking the projects. Upon the completion of these time-limited projects, the relevant posts will be deleted and the staff concerned will be redeployed within the Department. There is no need to absorb the workload of these posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

HWFB611

Question Serial No.

2142

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Brief Description under this Programme that the Administration will implement the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development (the Scheme) to meet the developmental needs of deprived children and youth at district level. In this connection, could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) List out the projects implemented by the Scheme in 2005-06, their outcome, the districts where the projects were implemented, and a breakdown of the expenditure.
- (b) For the New Territories districts with more deprived families, such as Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and the North District, what measures does the Administration have to implement the Scheme in 2006-07? What is the estimated amount to be spent on these districts by the Administration in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) The Scheme aims to address the developmental needs of children and youth aged 0 to 24 in disadvantaged circumstances at district level. As at 14 February 2006, \$10.88m out of the total provision of \$15m was spent to subsidise 179 district projects run by non-governmental organisations and provide direct cash assistance to needy children and youth. The total number of beneficiaries of the Scheme was 18 724 children and youth, comprising 14 796 under the former and 3 928 the latter. The implemented projects and funded items covered various aspects to facilitate the development of children and youth like learning and education, job skills training and employment and social development.

- (b) Having regard to the social factors of various Social Welfare Department's (SWD) administrative districts, the approved resources under the Scheme for Yuen Long (including Tin Shui Wai), Tai Po & North, Tuen Mun and Central West & Islands (including Tung Chung) were \$1.5m, \$1.5m, \$1.2m and \$1.0m in 2005-06 respectively.

The 2005-06 provision for the above districts will serve as a reference base for SWD to consider allocation of the resources in 2006-07. We will also take into account new factors, if any. District Social Welfare Officers will consult district stakeholders in mapping out the measures in 2006-07 in their respective districts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB612

Question Serial No.

1120

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (No. & title):

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list out the lower quartile, median and upper quartile of the waiting time, the longest waiting time and the average unit cost for first consultation appointments at specialist out-patient clinics under the Hospital Authority as a whole and in each hospital cluster in 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The lower quartile, median and upper quartile of and the longest waiting time (in weeks) for first appointment at Specialist Outpatient (SOP) Clinics of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2005-06 (figures up to February 2006 only), broken down by hospital clusters, are given in the table below.

Cluster	SOP waiting time for first appointment (in weeks)			
	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	Longest
Hong Kong East	<1	5	19	132
Hong Kong West	<1	3	13	106
Kowloon Central	<1	4	18	113
Kowloon East	1	7	42	151
Kowloon West	1	6	31	155
New Territories East	2	11	36	171
New Territories West	1	8	40	134
HA Overall	1	6	30	171

Figure for the average cost per SOP attendance by hospital clusters for 2005-06 is not yet available. The relevant figures for 2004-05 is given in the table below.

Cluster	Average Cost per SOP Attendance (\$)
Hong Kong East	660
Hong Kong West	810
Kowloon Central	660
Kowloon East	680
Kowloon West	690
New Territories East	760
New Territories West	660
HA Overall	700

Variation in the average costs per SOP attendance amongst hospital clusters is mainly due to the varying complexity of the cases treated. For instance, the Hong Kong West Cluster and the New Territories East Cluster are providing a larger share of unique tertiary and quaternary specialized services than other clusters. Since they handle more complex cases, their average costs per SOP attendance are also higher as a result.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB613

Question Serial No.

1121

Head: 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): 000

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide information on the occupancy rate of general and specialist inpatient beds of the Hospital Authority as a whole and of its respective hospital clusters and the length of stay of the patients in the year of 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The occupancy rate of general inpatient beds and those of the major specialties of the Hospital Authority and the average length of stay (ALOS) of inpatients in 2005-06 (up to January 2006) are as follows :

	Cluster							Overall
	HKE	HKW	KE	KC	KW	NTE	NTW	
<u>General inpatient beds</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	83%	75%	86%	82%	81%	87%	85%	82%
ALOS (days)	5.8	7.5	5.9	7.6	6.1	6.2	5.6	6.4
<u>Ear, Nose and Throat</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	67%	57%	71%	60%	60%	59%	59%	60%
ALOS (days)	2.6	3.6	3.3	2.4	3.4	2.9	2.9	3.0
<u>Gynaecology</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	81%	69%	76%	69%	71%	70%	79%	72%
ALOS (days)	2.6	2.5	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.7
<u>Medicine</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	85%	83%	91%	88%	87%	94%	97%	89%
ALOS (days)	5.5	7.3	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.5
<u>Ophthalmology</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	57%	75%	61%	57%	96%	61%	84%	69%
ALOS (days)	3.6	2.8	3.5	4.3	6.0	2.4	3.5	3.7
<u>Orthopaedics and Traumatology</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	86%	76%	93%	82%	88%	86%	91%	86%
ALOS (days)	7.3	10.0	7.5	11.4	8.3	9.1	8.3	8.8

	Cluster							Overall
	HKE	HKW	KE	KC	KW	NTE	NTW	
<u>Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	80%	70%	72%	77%	61%	83%	82%	72%
ALOS (days)	3.6	5.3	3.1	5.7	3.5	4.1	3.9	4.0
<u>Surgery</u>								
Bed occupancy rate	74%	79%	74%	77%	79%	85%	90%	80%
ALOS (days)	4.1	6.6	4.2	4.8	4.6	6.0	4.3	5.0

Note:

HKE = Hong Kong East Cluster

HKW = Hong Kong West Cluster

KE = Kowloon East Cluster

KC = Kowloon Central Cluster

KW = Kowloon West Cluster

NTE = New Territories East Cluster

NTW = New Territories West Cluster

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB614

Question Serial No.

1122

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide information on the number of doctors, nurses and allied health staff of the Hospital Authority as a whole and of its respective hospital clusters and their ratio to the overall population and to people aged 65 or above in the hospital clusters in the year of 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The number and ratio of health care professionals per 1 000 population in the Hospital Authority in 2005-06 (as at 31 January 2006) are as follows:

Cluster	No. of healthcare professionals and ratio per 1 000 population								
	Doctors	Ratio to the overall population	Ratio to people aged 65+	Nurses	Ratio to the overall population	Ratio to people aged 65+	Allied health	Ratio to the overall population	Ratio to people aged 65+
Hong Kong East	525	0.65	4.65	2 037	2.53	18.04	564	0.70	5.00
Hong Kong West	500	0.95	7.31	2 413	4.59	35.28	676	1.28	9.88
Kowloon Central	584	1.18	7.89	2 582	5.23	34.87	712	1.44	9.61
Kowloon East	553	0.59	4.50	1 930	2.04	15.71	499	0.53	4.06
Kowloon West	1 100	0.58	4.18	4 712	2.51	17.90	1 043	0.55	3.96
New Territories East	767	0.59	5.87	3 181	2.43	24.34	830	0.63	6.35
New Territories West	552	0.51	6.39	2 416	2.24	27.98	515	0.48	5.96
Total	4 581	0.65	5.44	19 271	2.74	22.85	4 839	0.69	5.78

It should be noted that the ratio of health care professionals per 1 000 population varies among clusters and the variance do not necessarily correspond to the difference between the population of the clusters because :

- (a) patients can receive care in hospitals other than those in their own residential districts. There is currently a notable cross-cluster utilization of services; and
- (b) some specialized services are centred in one or a few hospitals. Thus the medical staff concerned and patients using these services are also centred in these hospitals.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 615

Question Serial No.

1124

Head : 149 – Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme : (2) Social Welfare
Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With the expected 2.3% increase in Composite Consumer Price Index and further increase in inflation forecasted in the year 2006-07, it is reported that the CSSA, including the special allowance, for our school children is only HK\$1,700 per month. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service has revealed that the monthly expenses for a normal school child should be HK\$2,181. These children can hardly participate in any extra curricular activities or even the school picnics. Our Government encourages balanced development and whole-person education, but these students seemed to be abandoned or even scarified by our Government under the name of “prudent management of our public finance”.

It is announced that there will be an additional \$20 million to improve the Comprehensive Child Development Service, please explain the details of this service and how they will benefit our school children under CSSA.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) is a universal community-based programme which aims at augmenting the existing universal service in our Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) through better alignment of the delivery of health, education and social services. The varied needs of children aged 0 to 5 and their families, including children receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and their families, are identified at an early stage, so that appropriate and timely services could be provided for them. The pilot CCDS was launched in Sham Shui Po in July 2005. It has been extended to Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in January 2006. On top of the existing services in MCHCs, the pilot CCDS model comprises the following components: -

- Early identification and holistic management of at-risk pregnant women;
- Early identification and management of mothers with postnatal depression;
- Early identification of children and families for social service intervention; and

- Early identification and referral of pre-school children with physical, developmental and behavioural problems.

Those who are identified to be in need of further support services are offered appropriate services, including MCHCs and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) services, such as supportive counseling and/or groups/programmes, to help solve their psychosocial problems. Appropriate services, including child-care, financial, employment or accommodation assistance, etc are provided if required.

We are so far encouraged by the progress of the pilot implementation, witnessing enhanced collaboration and interface between the different sectors and increased client accessibility to services. From 2006-07, an additional sum of \$20 million per annum is allocated to improve the pilot service, and subject to a review of the pilot service in the third quarter of 2006, extend the service in the other communities in phases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food _____

Date 8 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB616

Question Serial No.

1977

Head : 149 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning the brief description of Programme (2), has the Admir any resources to help the people with disabilities to obtain concession for public transportation?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Administration is working with the Legislative Council to identify an appropriate approach on fare concession which is compatible with the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, agreeable to the disabled groups and public transport operators, and acceptable to the community at large.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 8.3.06 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB617

Head : 149 Government Secretariat :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1978

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning the brief description of Programme (2), what is the estimated expenditure for the implementation of New Dawn Project in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In order to empower single parents / child carers with the youngest child aged between 12 to 14 under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme to achieve self-reliance and social integration through engagement in employment as early as possible, we will launch the 'New Dawn' Project (the Project) for 18 months commencing April 2006.

The total cost of running the Project for eighteen months from 1 April 2006 to September 2007 would be \$30 million. This would be shared between the Lotteries Fund (\$22.89 million) and the Social Welfare Department (\$7.11 million) including cost for employing 40 additional Employment Assistance Coordinators to implement the Employment Assistance Programme under the Project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

7 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB618

Question Serial No.

1979

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Regarding the Brief Description of Programme (2), please give details on the scope of the review on the Domestic Violence Ordinance.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has been reviewing the Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) to examine whether, and if so, how the existing legislative framework may be further strengthened to render protection to victims of domestic violence. Key issues under study include the scope of the Ordinance, the provision of court-ordered counseling for batterers and the duration of the injunction order, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB619

Question Serial No.

1980

Head : 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07", it is stated that the Bureau will "collaborate with the Central Policy Unit in conducting studies on financial security for the elderly to meet challenges posed by population ageing". What are the details of the studies, resources involved and timetable of the studies respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The Central Policy Unit is now conducting two research projects on the sustainability of the three pillars of retirement protection¹ and the financial disposition and retirement planning of current and future generations of older persons. The studies are staffed by existing CPU research personnel and will not require the creation of additional posts. The total estimated budget of the studies is about \$1.3 million. The studies are in progress and are expected to be completed within 2006-07.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs. Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 March 2006

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB620

Question Serial No.

1981

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the newly introduced pilot batterers intervention programme and the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : From March 2006 to March 2008, the two pilot projects of batterers' intervention programme (BIP) are launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Hong Kong Family Welfare Society (HKFWS) respectively. The objective is to develop effective modalities of group counselling and treatment programmes for spouse batterers.

The BIP run by the SWD is targeted at batterers of battered spouse cases being handled by the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and batterers ordered by the court to receive counselling service as one of the conditions under a probation order. The target participants of the BIP run by the HKFWS are batterers of battered spouse cases and marital conflict cases with spouse battering elements being served by the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and customers with spouse battering problem recruited from the community but not known to any IFSCs.

The BIP consists of various components which aim at (i) helping and promoting participants' successful control of violence; (ii) providing treatment to participants' individual cum relationship problems underlying the spousal violence; and (iii) eliminating risk of reoccurrence of spousal violence and enhancing the safety of participants, their spouses and families as a whole.

To facilitate the launching of the programme, an annual provision of \$1.0m is allocated to the HKFWS. In SWD, apart from the employment of one additional clinical psychologist for this programme, existing staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and FCPSUs are also involved in the development and implementation of the programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB621

Question Serial No.

1982

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

What is the timetable for reviewing the Domestic Violence Ordinance?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) has been reviewing the Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) to examine whether, and if so, how the existing legislative framework may be further strengthened to render protection to victims of domestic violence. Key issues under study include the scope of the Ordinance, the provision of court-ordered counseling for batterers and the duration of the injunction order, etc. We aim to complete the review within this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB622

Question Serial

1983

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The approved commitment of Item 484 Grant to the Samaritan Fund under Subhead 700 is \$200,000. However, the revised estimated expenditure for 2005-06 alone is \$150,000, which means that not much is left behind. As such, is there any plan to increase the grant to the Fund so that reasonable assistance could be rendered to those in need?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

Item 484 under Subhead 700 for general non-recurrent funding refers to the creation of a commitment of \$200 million for a grant to the Samaritan Fund (the Fund) that was approved in 2005-06. The grant is to be injected into the Fund by two instalments, with the first of \$150 million already made in 2005-06 and the second of \$50 million to follow in 2006-07. Apart from the said grant, the Fund has other sources of income, which include donations from the community and various charitable organisations and Government reimbursements for assistance given under the Fund to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. The Government and the Hospital Authority (HA) will monitor closely the income and expenditure of the Fund and will also review the long-term funding arrangement for the Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB623

Question Serial No.

1984

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Subhead (No. & title)

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the specific work and the resources involved for the setting up of more Chinese medicine clinics in the public sector in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

There are three existing Chinese medicine clinics (CMCs). The Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved \$35.1 million in December 2005 for capital projects required for the establishment of six additional CMCs. We expect to open three CMCs by April 2006 and the remaining three by late 2006.

The service has been provided on a tripartite model in which the Hospital Authority (HA) collaborates with a non-governmental organization (NGO) and a university in each of the clinics. The NGO partner is responsible for the day to day operation of the clinic and is required to provide herbal Chinese medicine service at a fee of \$120 per attendance (includes consultation and two doses of medicine) with fee waiver for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. It may also provide other Chinese medicine services at the clinic at market fee. The fees collected from herbal and non-herbal medicine services are used by the NGO on the running of the clinic. Any surpluses must be ploughed back to the clinic for service development particularly in promoting Chinese medicine/western medicine interface activities. In addition, the NGO may deploy its own resources to maintain the operation of the clinic.

The recurrent provision for Chinese medicine service mainly covers the maintenance of the Toxicology Reference Laboratory, quality assurance and central procurement of Chinese medicine herbs, the development of and provision of training in “evidence-based” Chinese medicine, maintenance of the Chinese Medicine Information System, and part of the expenses for the operation of the clinic. The recurrent provision earmarked in 2006-07 is about \$55 million.

To provide better training opportunities for graduates of local Chinese medicine degree programmes, each clinic will be required to employ and provide training for at least five graduates. Experience with NGOs running CMC has been encouraging in that they need to employ more graduates to support their additional services and/or research. A tailor-made training program has been developed for the new graduates working in the CMC. The HA will launch more centrally coordinated research projects such as drug-herb interaction, influenza prophylaxis and treatment to enhance the development of Chinese medicine. Furthermore, HA will continue to promote interface activities between western medicine and Chinese medicine under shared care model, and provide training in Chinese medicine theories and practices for western medicine health care professionals to equip them with the required expertise to promote interaction with Chinese medicine.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	:	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	:	_____ 9 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB624

Question

Serial No.

1985

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please advise the specific work involved in the review of market policy and the resources required.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

The review covers the future role of the government in the provision and management of wet markets and cooked food centres and market rental policy. The objective is to enhance the cost effectiveness of the provision and management of wet markets and cooked food centres. We have been conducting the review internally by deploying existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB625

Question Serial No.

1997

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

When will the Administration start amending the Domestic Violence Ordinance? To raise the awareness of frontline professionals and the public of the Ordinance so that the victims will be under its protection, how much will be spent on publicising the Ordinance?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has been reviewing the Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) to examine whether, and if so, how the existing legislative framework may be further strengthened to render protection to victims of domestic violence. Key issues under study include the scope of the Ordinance, the provision of court-ordered counseling for batterers and the duration of the injunction order, etc. We aim to complete the review within this year. Separately, the Social Welfare Department is developing a work plan with a view to helping victims of domestic violence to understand their rights, the protection offered by the law, including the Domestic Violence Ordinance, and the support services rendered by the Government, as well as encouraging them to seek help as early as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB626

Question

Serial No.

2136

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

With regard to the measures or plans introduced to promote the sustainable development of local agriculture and fisheries industry, please advise:

- (a) details of the measures or programmes;
- (b) their projected expenditures;
- (c) whether a fund would be set up to provide subsidies or loans to the trade for development.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department promotes the sustainable development of local agriculture through the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training. In 2006-07, we will assist farmers to capture high-value market niches by promoting the development of organic farming and intensive greenhouse production. We will also seek to further extend the distribution of local agricultural produce to hotels, health institutions, supermarket chains and specialty food stores.

As regards fisheries, we will assist fish farmers to raise production and quality control standards as well as competitiveness of their products through implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme and introducing new fish species such as Jade Perch for culture. We will also help fishermen and fish farmers promote their products through development of local brand names and marketing network. Efforts will also be made to help fishermen to develop sustainable fisheries operations. Moreover, we will continue to pursue the formulation of a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters with a view to conserving local fisheries resources.

- (e) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked a total of \$21.2 million (\$13.2 million for agriculture and \$8 million for fisheries) for these tasks in 2006-07 under Head 22.
- (f) Low interest loans under various loan funds administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department are made available to local farmers and fishermen for the development of sustainable operations. Moreover, fishermen may also apply to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund for sponsorships to attend relevant training courses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.3.2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB627

Question Serial No.

2137

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title)
Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (10) Subvention : Prince Philip Dental Hospital

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding “No. of training places/postgraduate” under the “Target”, what are the grounds on which the Government has relied to forecast that the number will increase from 140 in the revised estimate for 2005-06 to 175 in the estimate for 2006-07. What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The postgraduate training courses are organized by the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). The role of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital (PPDH) as set out in paragraph 38 under Programme Area 10 is to provide facilities for the training of dentists and dental ancillary personnel. According to HKU, the projected increase in the number of training places for postgraduate students in 2006/07 academic year is on the basis of (a) the increase demand for postgraduate studies from professionals; and (b) the need for some postgraduate students admitted before 2006/07 to continue their studies in 2006/07. Since the PPDH mainly provides facilities for the concerned courses, it is not expected that the increase in student number would have significant effect on the recurrent expenditure of PPDH in providing such facilities.

Signature	:	_____
Name in block letters	:	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	:	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	:	_____ 9 March 2006 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB628

Question Serial No.

1125

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In response to my written enquiry made on 21 October 2005 concerning the services provided by the Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) and mentioning the inadequate exchange of information between the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Department of Health (DH) on women and babies visiting MCHCs, the Administration replied that DH was now working closely with HA in exploring the feasibility of exchanging information through the use of information technology so as to strengthen their mutual exchange of information. In this regard, what are the specific items of work conducted by the Administration in this area for strengthening the exchange of information between HA and DH and what are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Capital funding of about \$9M has been earmarked for the Department of Health (DH) to develop an information system for Maternal and Child Health Centres. DH is in discussion with the Hospital Authority on the feasibility of electronic data exchange. Issues being discussed include the set of data to be exchanged and the seeking of data owners' consent. Project planning, coordination and management are mainly undertaken by officers from the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) and the Family Health Service. Since such activity is an integral part of the work of the ITMU, the resources designated for the specific purpose of developing the information system cannot be separately identifiable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB629

Question Serial No.

1197

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title): 000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme (9) Subvention: Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please explain clearly and in detail:

- (a) the basis for the decision to provide additional recurrent funds to the Hospital Authority by some HK\$300 million per annum over the next three years? Is there a formula which reflects the increase in the total population as well as the elderly population? If so, please provide the formula and explain in detail how the amount of HK\$300 million is obtained. If not, please also explain in detail how such an amount is arrived at; and
- (b) how the factors of (i) efficiency saving; (ii) budget cut measures; (iii) increase in population; (iv) increase in elderly population and (v) others have affected the allocation to the Hospital Authority from 2000-01 to 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

- (a) In general, the Government's subvention for the Hospital Authority (HA) is largely worked out on the basis of the population-based funding model which takes into account factors like population growth and aging effect. Notwithstanding the Government's tight budgetary situation in the past years, from 2003-04 onwards, a 1% annual growth rate had been applied to cater for general increase in public demand for various hospital services. In addition, we have injected funds targeted at specific programmes to meet increasing demand.

As mentioned in the 2006-07 Budget Speech, in addition to converting the HA's one-off grant of \$650 million last year to recurrent funding, Government will provide HA with an additional recurrent funds rising by around \$300 million per annum over the next three years to strengthen HA's financial position and allow it to cope better with service requirements. This arrangement provides HA with certainty in respect of funding growth and enables it to conduct longer term planning for its services.

- (b) The Government subvention to the HA for the years from 2000-01 to 2005-06 were mainly

affected by growth rate under population-based funding, efficiency savings and civil service pay cuts, with their respective cumulative effect as at 2005-06 amounting to \$2,272 million¹, -\$3,517 million and -\$2,084 million. The total sum of one-off funding injected by the Government to the HA targeted at specific programmes to meet increasing demand within the same period amounted to \$2,841 million.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 10 March 2006

1. The amount does not include growth in recurrent funding in 2000-01, which was facility-based.

Reply Serial No.

HWFB630

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

2021

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3031NM General improvement
to Ngau Chi Wan Market and
Cooked Food Centre

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the improvement works, please advise the Committee of :

- (a) the progress of the works in 2005-06 and the percentage of works completed;
- (b) the progress and estimates of expenditure of the works in 2006-07;
- (c) the expected completion date of the works.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The project was completed in early January 2006. The estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$5 million, mainly for the settlement of final account.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 631

Question Serial No.

2074

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Advisory and Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the targets under the key performance measures in respect of investigative services (i.e. testing of air monitoring samples, other field investigation samples, air samples for litigation purposes, water monitoring samples, waste monitoring samples, waste samples for litigation purposes, radioactivity monitoring samples, pesticides formulation samples, seepage swimming pool water samples and other samples), there is a decrease in all the figures in respect of these targets for 2006 in comparison with those for 2005. What are the reasons? Is the decrease in the figures in respect of these targets due to a shortage of manpower?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

Paragraph 11 under Programme (2) in Head 48 provides information on the existing targets, planned targets for 2006, and the actual performance in 2004 and 2005 in respect of advisory and investigative services rendered by the Government Laboratory. The existing targets range from 90 – 97% within target reporting time. All the planned targets for 2006 are either within or above the existing targets. The planned targets for 2006 are below the actual performance in 2005. Given the fluctuating workload, there might be instances where the actual performance is above the existing benchmark, as in the case of 2005. This notwithstanding, the existing targets remain the Government Laboratory's benchmarks.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : Dr T L TING

Post Title : Government Chemist

Date : 8 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB632

Question Serial No

1622

Head : 149 Government Secretariat:
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Will the Government allocate any resources for studying the community-wide retirement protection scheme?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : To meet the challenges posed by an ageing population, the Administration recognizes the need to ensure that the existing three pillars of retirement protection¹ are financially sustainable in the long run, and to strengthen these pillars. The Administration has engaged consultant teams to research into the sustainability of the existing pillars of retirement protection and to explore ways to strengthen them. The total estimated budget of the studies is about \$1.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

10 March 2006

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB633

Question Serial No.

1620

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (2), what are the estimates in 2006-07 for rendering assistance to those who are suffering from poverty in work?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In relation to Head 170 Programme (2), the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides income supplement for families with low earnings. The estimated expenditure on CSSA low earnings cases for 2006-07 is \$1,536m.

We would like to emphasise that the CSSA low-earnings category is not the only programme which assists low income employees and their families. Various government services relating to housing, education, health, employment, training/retraining and various welfare services are also available to this group.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB634

Question Serial No.

2415

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Will more resources be allocated by the Administration to assist the street sleepers, ex-mentally ill persons and ex-offenders in 2006-07? If yes, what are the details and estimates for the programmes? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Social Welfare Department will strengthen the rehabilitation services for ex-mentally ill persons in 2006-07 by adding 60 supported hostel places and a community rehabilitation day centre to facilitate these persons to live continuously in the community. The annual provision involved is \$7.5m.

Two grants from the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged have been provided for two non-governmental organisations to implement time-limited projects for ex-offenders. The first one is a grant of \$0.5m on volunteer services to ex-offenders and their families from October 2005 to September 2007. The second being a one-year vocational training and counselling project for young ex-offenders at \$0.3m will be effective from April 2006 onwards.

The estimated total recurrent provision specifically for services for street sleepers through three Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers and three Urban Hostels for Single Persons in 2006-07 is \$9.2m. There are also 61 Integrated Family Service Centres and one Care and Support Networking Team which also serve the street sleepers, as well as other clients. We do not see a need to increase provision for services for street sleepers.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB635

Question Serial No.

0493

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Does the Tobacco Control Office under the Department of Health employ staff on non-civil service contract terms? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) will have an establishment of 66 staff members, among which 10 are civil servants and the remaining 56 are non-civil service contract (NCSC) employees, with the latter comprising 34 newly created tobacco control inspectors and 22 administrative and supporting staff.

The ranking structure of tobacco control inspectors is as follows -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>	Monthly Salary	<u>Contract Gratuity</u>
Senior Tobacco Control Inspectors (STCIs)	2	\$26,000)	
Tobacco Control Inspectors (TCIs)	8	\$17,000)	15% of gross salary
Assistant Tobacco Control Inspectors (ATCIs)	24	\$11,000)	

Since talents experienced in both tobacco control and law enforcement are not readily available in the current manpower market, the Department of Health (DH) will provide new recruits with in-service training covering communication skills and law enforcement so as to equip them with the competencies required by future duties. The monthly salaries for newly recruited SCTIs, TCIs and ATCIs are \$21,000, \$14,000 and \$9,000 respectively. Having received appropriate training and accumulated practical experience through actual work, officers with satisfactory performance upon internal appraisal could become substantively appointed within one year. The contract period for substantive appointment is three years, and the salary and contract gratuity are as above.

As DH's TCO is still preparing and planning for the initiatives arising from the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005, newly created tobacco control inspectors as well as administrative and supporting staff will be employed on NCSC terms. Subsequent to the implementation of the amended Ordinance, DH will conduct a review on the ranking and establishment of TCO staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB636

Question Serial No.

0523

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Has provision been earmarked for increasing the manpower of tobacco control with a view to enhancing enforcement of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance? If yes, please list the amount of provision earmarked as well as the number and ranks of additional staff.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Department of Health (DH) will have a provision of \$35.7M for tobacco control activities. Out of this, the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) will have an allocation of \$17.9M for health promotion and \$6.6M for salaries of officers to carry out enforcement activities. The remaining sum of \$11.2M will be allocated to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for health promotion.

TCO in DH will increase its staff complement to 66, from the current strength of 36. There will be 34 tobacco control inspectors in place of the current 14 tobacco control officers. In addition, there will be four posts of police officers to train and assist tobacco control inspectors to carry out their enforcement function.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB637

Question Serial No.

0542

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 that the Department of Health will, upon enactment of the bill on the provision of enforcement power to Tobacco Control Office (TCO) staff, carry out enforcement duties as required under the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance. Please set out the estimated number of TCO staff and the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Department of Health (DH) will have a provision of \$35.7M for tobacco control activities. Out of this, the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) will have an allocation of \$17.9M for health promotion and \$6.6M for salaries of officers to carry out enforcement activities. The remaining sum of \$11.2M will be allocated to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for health promotion.

TCO in DH will increase its staff complement to 66, from the current strength of 36. There will be 34 tobacco control inspectors in place of the current 14 tobacco control officers. In addition, there will be four posts of police officers to train and assist tobacco control inspectors to carry out their enforcement function.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB638

Question Serial No.

0588

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the strengthening of the publicity and education programme on smoking prevention, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the estimated expenditure involved;
- (b) the details of the publicity and education programme;
- (c) whether the Administration has set any indicators to review the effectiveness of the publicity and education programme.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) The Department of Health (DH) will have a provision of \$29.1M in 2006-07 to carry out publicity and education programmes on tobacco control, representing an increase of \$2.5M over 2005-06. Of this, \$17.9M will be allocated to the Tobacco Control Office in DH and the remaining sum of \$11.2M to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH).
- (b) DH adopts an integrated approach to promoting a smoke-free culture in Hong Kong including anti-smoking activities to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, and a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service. In 2006-07, DH will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

- (c) COSH will conduct pre- and post-activity evaluation on the knowledge, attitude and practice of participants on tobacco control related activities. Public opinion surveys on tobacco control and youth smoking prevalence surveys will also be conducted to show the level of public's support towards anti-smoking measures and to assess the effectiveness of the strategies adopted in our health education about the hazards of smoking and passive smoking.

DH will also keep in view the compliance of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance and the prevalence of smoking in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB639

Question Serial No.

0611

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention; (4) Curative Care

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Despite the increasing public demand for healthcare service and the persistent threat of avian influenza, the Administration is going to cut the manpower on disease prevention and curative care. In this regard, please set out the specific details of the manpower cut and advise whether the relevant services will be affected by the deletion of the posts concerned.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Department of Health will delete 24 posts under Programmes (2) and (4) which will fall vacant through natural wastage. Details of the posts to be deleted are at Annex. The level of the relevant services will be maintained through re-engineering of operations, staff redeployment and outsourcing of services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

Posts to be deleted in Programmes (2) and (4) in 2006-07

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Programme (2)</u>	
Inoculator	1
Workman II	13
Property Attendant	3
Total	<hr/> 17 <hr/>
<u>Programme (4)</u>	
Chief Dispenser	1
Clerical Assistant	1
Workman II	4
Property Attendant	1
Total	<hr/> 7 <hr/>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB640

Question Serial No.

1302

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise on the following –

1. The Administration estimates that in 2006, the number of enrolment in elderly health centres (EHCs) will increase to 38 000 from 37 400 in 2005 while the number of attendances at health education activities organised by EHCs and visiting health teams will decrease to 450 000 from 460 000 in 2005. What is/are the reason(s)? Is this related to insufficient resources from the Administration for publicity?
2. The Administration estimates an increase in the number of enrolment in EHCs in 2006 but a zero change in the number of attendances for health assessment and medical consultation at EHCs in 2006. What is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

1. We have lowered our projection on the number of attendances at health education activities for 2006 because we have been changing our mode of delivery of health education activities from general health talks to more focused in-depth small group learning, which may result in a slight decrease in the total number of attendances.
2. The staffing situation and the complexity of the cases being handled may affect the total number of enrolments of the Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) and the total number of attendances for health assessment and medical consultation conducted by the EHCs in a particular year.

We project that the EHCs will increase their enrolment from the current 37 400 in 2005 to 38 000 in 2006, although this is lower than the number in 2004 because of difficulties in recruiting nurses in EHCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB641

Question Serial No.

1303

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration has increased the estimate for disease prevention. Given the global spread of avian influenza, could the Administration provide exact figures on provision earmarked for prevention and treatment of avian influenza?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

Enhancing preparedness for outbreaks of human avian influenza is part and parcel of the Department of Health's work on prevention and control of infectious diseases, which is mainly undertaken by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and the Port Health Office. In 2006-07, \$956M has been earmarked for the CHP and port health services for their overall functions, which include prevention and control of infectious diseases. Moreover, a commitment of \$254M has been approved for increasing the stockpile of antivirals to enhance our preparedness against influenza pandemic.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB642

Question Serial No.

1304

Head : 149 HWFB Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Hundreds of millions of dollars have to be spent every year by the Department of Health on the provision of healthcare services. In this regard, has the Administration considered handing over such services to the Hospital Authority so as to save administrative expenses and improve operational efficiency?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) has overall responsibility for public health and the prevention and control of diseases. The Hospital Authority (HA) is primarily responsible for hospital based medical treatment and patient care. The work of DH and HA complements each other, and DH works closely with HA at all levels to ensure coordination of work to minimize overlapping of efforts.

Specialised outpatient services provided by DH include treatment for tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and human immunodeficiency virus infection, and services on clinical genetics and child assessment. All these services have considerable public health importance and are an integral part of DH's public health responsibilities. There is no plan to transfer these services to HA. We will review the roles of DH and HA from time to time to ensure the most efficient use of resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS. CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB643

Question Serial No.

1305

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the estimated total expenditure on tobacco control and the specific uses after the implementation of Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill in 2006-07? What is the subvention granted to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for anti-smoking initiatives? What are the specific items of expenditure? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in law enforcement? Please give a breakdown of the uses of the expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Department of Health (DH) will have a provision of \$35.7M for tobacco control activities. Out of this, the Tobacco Control Office will have an allocation of \$17.9M for health promotion and \$6.6M for salaries of officers to carry out enforcement activities. The remaining sum of \$11.2M will be allocated to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for health promotion.

DH adopts an integrated approach to promoting a smoke-free culture in Hong Kong including anti-smoking activities to educate the public about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, and a 24-hour smoking cessation telephone hotline service. In 2006-07, DH will strengthen publicity through TV and radio announcements of public interests as well as posters and pamphlets, particularly on the new legislative requirements.

Specifically for employees of the catering and entertainment industries, DH will provide implementation guidelines and conduct capacity building workshops to assist them to understand and comply with the new legislative requirements.

In 2006-07, DH will have a total of 34 tobacco control inspectors in place of the current 14 tobacco control officers. In addition, there will be four posts of police officers to train and assist tobacco control inspectors to carry out their enforcement function.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 11 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB644

Question Serial No.

1306

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

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants Working in
Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA), could the Administration advise on the following:

1. What are the reason(s) for the estimated decrease in the number of civil servants working in HA in 2006? What are the provision and establishment required for this Programme?
2. From 2004-05 to 2005-06, what were the number of civil servants working in HA; the breakdown in terms of their respective departments, grades and posts; and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (1) The reduction of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) is mainly due to retirement and redeployment back to the civil service. The staff establishment directly supporting the activities under this programme is 31. There are other general administration staff at the Headquarters of the Department also indirectly providing support to this Programme. The financial provision in 2006-07 is \$10.1M.
- (2) Breakdowns of the number of civil servants working in HA by ranks and by hospitals are at Annexes I and II respectively. The provision of \$1,157M in 2006-07 (under Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowance) is in respect of salaries and allowances for civil servants working in HA, which is fully reimbursed by HA.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Civil Servants Working in Hospital Authority by Ranks

GRADE/RANK	1.4.2004	1.4.2005	1.4.2006
MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICER GRADES			
General Manager (Clinical Services)	1	1	1
Consultant D3	3	3	3
Consultant D2	8	7	7
Senior Medical & Health Officer	48	43	42
Medical & Health Officer	118	95	90
Sub-total	178	149	143
NURSING & ALLIED GRADES			
General Manager (Nursing)	3	3	3
Senior Nursing Officer	17	11	8
Departmental Operations Manager	22	17	19
Ward Manager	146	108	101
Nurse Specialist	27	27	27
Nursing Officer	450	359	355
Nursing Officer (Education)	12	10	10
Registered Nurse	366	328	319
Enrolled Nurse	217	165	151
Student Nurse	7	2	-
Senior Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	6	4	4
Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	84	74	72
Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)	127	115	113
Enrolled Nurse (Psychiatric)	160	133	128
Student Nurse (Psychiatric)	-	-	1
Midwife	5	3	3
Sub-total	1 649	1 359	1 314

MENTARY MEDICAL GRADES			
Department Manager	22	16	15
General Manager (Allied Health Services)	1	1	1
Audiology Technician I	1	1	1
Senior Dietitian	-	1	1
Chief Dispenser	6	3	3
Senior Dispenser	100	94	92
Dispenser	196	194	190
Senior Medical Technologist	11	11	7
Medical Technologist	45	43	42
Medical Laboratory Technician I	7	6	6
Medical Laboratory Technician II	1	1	1
Mould Laboratory Technologist	1	1	1
Senior Mould Laboratory Technician	1	1	1
Mould Laboratory Technician	3	3	3
Occupational Therapy Assistant	87	80	78
Orthoptist I	1	1	1
Pharmacist	6	6	6
Physicist	3	3	3
Senior Physiotherapist	5	5	5
Physiotherapist I	5	5	5
Prosthetist-Orthotist I	3	3	3
Senior Radiographer	16	11	12
Radiographer I	66	63	62
Scientific Officer (Med)	3	3	3
Sub-total	590	556	542

GRADE/RANK	1.4.2004	1.4.2005	1.4.2006
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR GRADE			
Chief Hospital Administrator	1	1	1
Senior Hospital Administrator	6	5	5
Hospital Administrator I	10	10	9
General Manager (Administrative Services)	3	3	3
Sub-total	20	19	18
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL GRADES			
Senior Artisan	5	5	5
Artisan	104	94	89
Cook	58	47	46
Darkroom Technician	36	32	28
Chief Electrical Technician	2	2	5
Senior Electrical Technician	7	7	4
Electrical Technician	8	7	8
Senior Foreman	3	3	3
Foreman	11	8	7
Head Property Attendant	6	3	3
Chief Hospital Foreman	8	7	6
Senior Hospital Foreman	12	11	11
Hospital Foreman	34	32	32
Senior Hostel Manager/Manageress	1	-	-
Hostel Manager/Manageress	1	1	1
Laboratory Attendant	70	67	63
Laundry Manager	1	1	1
Laundry Worker	62	54	48
Linen Production Unit Supervisor	1	1	1
Machinist	11	10	10
Mortuary Attendant	10	8	6
Mortuary Officer	1	1	1
Mortuary Technician	5	2	1

GRADE/RANK	1.4.2004	1.4.2005	1.4.2006
Operating Theatre Assistant	68	55	50
Photographer I	1	1	1
X-Ray Mechanic	6	5	4
Health Care Assistant	242	210	191
Sub-total	774	674	625
MODEL SCALE I GRADES			
Barber	5	5	5
Ganger	15	12	11
Gardener	1	-	-
Ward Attendant	321	279	246
Property Attendant	40	32	27
Workman I	41	34	32
Workman II	594	545	512
Sub-total	1 017	907	833
GENERAL GRADES			
Assistant Clerical Officer	34	3	2
Clerical Assistant	39	38	22
Office Assistant	55	55	53
Personal Secretary II	1	1	1
Telephone Operator	6	6	5
Motor Driver	1	1	1
Sub-total	136	104	84
TOTAL	4 364	3 768	3 559

Civil Servants working in Hospital Authority by Hospitals

Hospital	1.4.2004	1.4.2005	1.4.2006
Alice HML Nethersole Hospital	75	71	66
Cheshire Home, Chung Hom Kok	4	4	4
Cheshire Home, Sha Tin	4	4	4
Caritas Medical Centre	37	33	31
Castle Peak Hospital / Siu Lam Hospital	252	223	212
Tung Wah Fung Yiu King Hospital	2	2	2
Grantham Hospital	4	4	3
HA Head Office (including CPO)	11	11	9
Haven of Hope Hospital	3	3	3
Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	2	2	2
Hong Kong Eye Hospital	27	18	18
Kwai Chung Hospital / LCKH HACare Home	327	290	265
Kowloon Hospital	203	171	162
Kwong Wah Hospital/Wong Tai Sin Hospital	32	32	32
Maclehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre	1	2	2
North District Hospital	90	86	85
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	39	34	30
Princess Margaret Hospital	430	361	337
Pok Oi Hospital	4	3	4
Prince of Wales Hospital	477	419	387
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	267	236	218
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	655	572	547
Queen Mary Hospital/Tsan Yuk Hospital	560	471	448
Ruttonjee Hospital / Tang Shiu Kin Hospital	68	54	49
St John Hospital	11	6	5
Shatin Hospital	107	62	58
Tseung Kwan O Hospital	62	65	60
Tuen Mun Hospital	385	323	315
Tai Po Hospital	22	22	23

Hospital	1.4.2004	1.4.2005	1.4.2006
Tung Wah Eastern Hospital	5	6	4
Tung Wah Hospital	2	3	3
United Christian Hospital	118	105	99
Wong Chuk Hang Hospital	1	1	1
Yan Chai Hospital	77	69	71
TOTAL	4 364	3 768	3 559

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB645

Question Serial No.

1309

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration will review the childhood immunisation programme in 2006-07. What are the specific details and the expenditure? What is the current expenditure on immunisation and what types of vaccines are used?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In line with international development in childhood immunisation practice, the Department of Health is actively considering replacing oral poliovirus vaccine with inactivated poliovirus vaccine and whole-cell pertussis vaccine with acellular pertussis vaccine. It is estimated that this change will require an additional annual recurrent cost of \$29.4M.

The current childhood immunisation programme include BCG, oral poliovirus vaccine, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine, hepatitis B vaccine and measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. The expenditure is about \$6M in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB646

Question Serial No.

1330

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, four posts will be created for carrying out enforcement duties as required under the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance upon enactment of the bill on the provision of the enforcement power to Tobacco Control Office staff. In this regard,

- (a) what is the additional provision required for the creation of these four posts in 2006-07?
- (b) what are the respective ranks, post titles, scopes of duties and annual salaries of the four posts? When will these posts be filled?
- (c) what factor(s) have been taken into consideration by the Administration in making the projection that four additional posts are required after the commencement of the Ordinance?
- (d) since the Administration initially plans to implement the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance by phases, apart from these four posts, will the Administration create relevant posts by phases to tie in with the implementation and enforcement of the Ordinance concerned? If yes, please set out the details.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) In 2006-07, a further provision of \$1.1M has been made for four posts of police officers to train and assist tobacco control inspectors to carry out their enforcement function.
- (b) DH is in discussion with the Hong Kong Police Force on the duties and ranking of these police officers.
- (c) Since talents experienced in both tobacco control and law enforcement are not readily available in the current manpower market, DH will provide new recruits of tobacco control inspectors with in-service training covering communication skills and law enforcement so as to equip them with the competencies required for future duties. After consultation with the Hong Kong Police Force, we believe that the necessary training and assistance could be provided by members of the Force. The provision for four posts of police officers has been made after consultation with the Police Force.
- (d) In 2006-07, DH will have a total of 34 tobacco control inspectors in place of the current 14 tobacco control officers for enforcement duties. The staffing structure and complement will be kept under review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB647

Question Serial No.

1340

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the 17 posts to be deleted under this Programme, what are their respective ranks and scopes of responsibilities?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The 17 posts to be deleted in 2006-07 include one Inoculator, three Property Attendants and 13 Workmen II. They provide inoculation, security and cleansing/manual labour services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB648

Question Serial No.

1341

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the review of childhood immunisation programme, what is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In line with international development in childhood immunisation practice, the Department of Health is actively considering replacing oral poliovirus vaccine with inactivated poliovirus vaccine and whole-cell pertussis vaccine with acellular pertussis vaccine. It is estimated that this change will require an additional annual recurrent cost of \$29.4M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr P Y LAM

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 10 March 2006