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**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2014-15**

**Director of Bureau : Director of Administration**

**Session No. : 10**

**File Name : CSO-2S-e1.docx**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-CSO01**

**(Question Serial No. S0144)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Efficiency Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms. Kitty CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. ):

It is stated in part (4) of the reply no. LWB(WW)0065 that the new system being developed is solely for handling applications and cases of the social security schemes administered by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"). Earlier on, Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, Chief Secretary for Administration, mentioned that a one-stop service would be launched in future for processing various applications for welfare benefits currently under the purview of different departments, such as the Old Age Living Allowance and the rent allowance for public housing tenants. When will such service be available? Does the Administration have any action plan or timetable? Noting that it takes the SWD as long as 6 or 7 years to replace a system, and with repeated delays, it may take an even longer time to develop a system for the provision of such one-stop service. Will the Administration expedite its action in this respect?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

Following the Efficiency Unit's study on the opportunities for systemic improvement in benefits administration, the Chief Executive announced in the 2014 Policy Address that the Government would commission an external consultancy study to examine the feasibility of providing a more user-friendly one-stop service for benefits administration. The study is expected to be completed within 2014. Details of implementation, including plans and time-tables, will be further deliberated upon conclusion of the consultancy study.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-CSO02**

**(Question Serial No. S0095)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms Kitty CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

This question originates from:

Question (Member Question No. ):

Regarding Reply Serial No. CSO025 and the Director of Administration's oral reply given on 2 April at the Special Finance Committee meeting, the Government Records Service plans to spend approximately \$0.29 million in procuring records relating to the Sino-British negotiations and the arrangements for the transfer of sovereignty from the National Archives of the United Kingdom in 2014-15. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The names of these records and the dates of opening and closing their files;
2. Whether these records will be made available for public inspection;
3. Are these records all of the records available on the Sino-British negotiations and the arrangements for the transfer of sovereignty?

Asked by: Hon HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

1. GRS plans to procure copies of 227 archival records relating to Hong Kong from the National Archives of the United Kingdom (TNA) in 2014-2015. They are selected from nine records series of TNA. Apart from records relating to the future of Hong Kong (such as Sino-British negotiations and transfer of sovereignty), these records also cover other subjects like immigration control policy, New Territories development, political intelligence, defence of Hong Kong, political relations between Hong Kong and China, constitutional development, Kowloon Walled City, Vietnamese refugees, British nationality law, immigration from China to Hong Kong, naturalization in Hong Kong etc. Details of these records are as follows:

	Records series	Covering period of the records to be procured
i	Prime Minister Office, Correspondence and paper, 1974-1979	1977-1979
ii	Prime Minister Office, Correspondence and paper, 1979-1997	1979-1983
iii	Colonial Office and predecessors: Confidential General and Confidential Original Correspondence	1946-1951
iv	Colonial Office and Commonwealth Office: Defence Department and successors: Original Correspondence	1952-1959

	Records series	Covering period of the records to be procured
v	Colonial Office and Commonwealth Office: Far Eastern Department and successors: Registered Files	1954-1965
vi	Foreign Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Far Eastern Department: Registered Files	1971-1980
vii	Commonwealth Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Hong Kong Departments: Registered Files, Hong Kong, British Honduras, British Indian Ocean Territories and the Seychelles (HW and HK series)	1967-1980
viii	Foreign and Commonwealth Office and predecessors: Nationality and Treaty Departments: Registered Files	1976-1977
ix	Cabinet Office: Defence and Oversea Policy Committees and Sub-Committees: Minutes and Papers	1963-1984

2. These records will be made available for public inspection.
3. No. As some TNA records relating to the future of Hong Kong and related subjects are available for online access on the website of the Margaret Thatcher Foundation (the Foundation), instead of procuring these records, we have established a hyperlink to the Foundation's website to facilitate public access. We will also closely liaise with TNA and the Foundation on the new release of this subject in future.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-CSO03****(Question Serial No. SV009)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

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

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms Kitty CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 (if applicable)

Question:

Pursuant to the reply CSO025, the Administration is requested to provide details of the selected records it plans to procure copies of, from the National Archives of the United Kingdom in 2014-2015.

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

GRS plans to procure copies of 227 archival records relating to Hong Kong from the National Archives of the United Kingdom (TNA) in 2014-15. They are selected from nine records series of TNA, with details as follows:

	Records series	Covering period of the records to be procured
i	Prime Minister Office, Correspondence and paper, 1974-1979	1977-1979
ii	Prime Minister Office, Correspondence and paper, 1979-1997	1979-1983
iii	Colonial Office and predecessors: Confidential General and Confidential Original Correspondence	1946-1951
iv	Colonial Office and Commonwealth Office: Defence Department and successors: Original Correspondence	1952-1959
v	Colonial Office and Commonwealth Office: Far Eastern Department and successors: Registered Files	1954-1965
vi	Foreign Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Far Eastern Department: Registered Files	1971-1980
vii	Commonwealth Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Hong Kong Departments: Registered Files, Hong Kong, British Honduras, British Indian Ocean Territories and the Seychelles (HW and HK series)	1967-1980
viii	Foreign and Commonwealth Office and predecessors: Nationality and Treaty Departments: Registered Files	1976-1977
ix	Cabinet Office: Defence and Oversea Policy Committees and Sub-Committees: Minutes and Papers	1963-1984

The subjects of these records are related to the future of Hong Kong, immigration control policy, New Territories development, political intelligence, defence of Hong Kong, political relations between Hong Kong and China, constitutional development, Kowloon Walled City, Vietnamese refugees, British nationality law, immigration from China to Hong Kong, naturalization in Hong Kong etc.