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### Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Director of Administration

Session No. : 3

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-CSO001**

**(Question Serial No. S013)**

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

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

Programme: (4) Protocol Division

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms Esther LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the responsibilities mentioned in Programme (4), i.e. (a) handling the day-to-day administration of the Consular Corps; (b) maintaining close liaison with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR); and (c) liaising with and providing host government services to the Consular Corps in the HKSAR, would the Government provide information on:

1. the Protocol Division's manpower establishment and expenditure involved in the above work in 2018-19; and
2. the Protocol Division's manpower establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the above work for 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

At present, there are 3 officers in the Protocol Division whose duties include, but not be limited to, the handling of issues related to the day-to-day administration of the Consular Corps and provision of host government services to the Consular Corps in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Their work involves close liaison with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR as well as the Consular Corps in the HKSAR. In 2019-20, the Protocol Division estimates that there will be an increase of 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer posts to enhance its manpower support for the relevant duties.

The expenditure in 2018-19 on the day-to-day administration of the Consular Corps and provision of host government services to the Consular Corps was about \$0.34 million whereas the estimated expenditure for 2019-20 is about \$0.95 million which is mainly for

liaising with the Consular Corps, including organising events in honour of the Consular Corps and printing of the telephone directory of the Consular Corps.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-CSO002****(Question Serial No. S014)**

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms Esther LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Further to the Reply Serial No.CSO002 about "Hire of services and professional fees", would the Government elaborate on the following:

1. Details in the following format regarding the consultancy studies commissioned by the department in the past 3 years:

Name of the consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/quotation/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Commencement date (month/year)	Progress of the study (under preparation/in progress/completed (completion month and year))	Follow-up action taken by the Government on the study report and its progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, what are the reasons?

2. The breakdown of the expenditure for "hire of services and professional fees" in 2018-19.

3. The estimated expenditure for 2019-20 has been increased to \$214 million (up 36.5%). What are the reasons for such an increase in expenditure; and

4. Plans for the "studies and consultancy services" in 2019-20 (with details)?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

(1) & (4)

Details of the provision for commissioning consultancy firms or research institutions to conduct studies under Head 142 in 2016-17 and 2017-18 are set out in the following table. No provision has been earmarked under Head 142 for commissioning consultancy firms or research institutions to conduct studies in 2018-19.

Year of commissioning the study	Unit*	Consultancy firm/Research Institution	Title of the study	Objective and content of the study	Contract sum (HK\$)	Start date	Completion date
2016-17	Former Central Policy Unit	The University of Hong Kong	Study on Family Impact Assessment in Hong Kong: A Checklist Approach	Develop a checklist for analysing the impact of various policies on families in Hong Kong	1,360,000	June 2016	July 2018
		Hong Kong Productivity Council	Study on Emissions Trading in the Mainland: Options for Hong Kong	Study the role and functions of Hong Kong in the emissions trading of the Mainland	1,309,750	June 2016	June 2017
		One Country Two Systems Research Institute	Study on Current Affairs and Topical Issues (2016-17)	Acquire an understanding of the reports, foci, concerns and discussions of local media, and review and analyse the trends of public opinions	811,440	September 2016	September 2017
	Former Policy and Project Co-ordination Unit	Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention of the University of Hong Kong	Follow-up Study on Movement of Type A and Type B Babies in Hong Kong	With reference to the movement records across borders, derive the return rates of Type A and Type B babies and the rates of them receiving education and other services in Hong Kong, as well as compare the results against related studies done earlier.	246,965	December 2016	March 2017
		Policy 21 Limited and Centre for Civil Society and Governance of the University of Hong Kong	Study on Ethnic Minorities' Awareness and Satisfaction towards Selected Public Services	Gain a comprehensive understanding of ethnic minorities' awareness and satisfaction towards major public services, including the employment support services of the Labour Department, the training services of the Employees Retraining Board, the family and youth services of the Social Welfare Department, the ethnic minorities support services and translation/interpretation services of the Home Affairs Department; and propose improvement measures	610,000	December 2016	March 2018
2017-18	Former Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	Distinctive strengths and future development opportunities of the Hong Kong economy	Analyse the international positioning and strengths of the Hong Kong economy, as well as its comparative advantages over and complementarities with other Mainland cities	1,400,000	August 2017	September 2018

\*As the former Efficiency Unit was transferred to “Head 135 - Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau” on 1 April 2018, the table above does not include the expenses on studies commissioned by the Unit.

The studies tabulated above were assessed and approved according to the quotation/tendering rules, and procedures of the Stores and Procurement Regulations. Upon completion of the studies, relevant units will determine whether to make public the study findings and the channels to do so in the light of the findings.

Furthermore, a sum of \$30 million out of the financial provision for 2019-20 has been earmarked for the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme.

(2) Breakdown of major expenditure items under the Subhead “hire of services and professional fees” and their 2018-19 revised estimates are as follows:

	<b>2018-19 Revised estimate (\$ million)</b>
Public Policy Research Funding Scheme/Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme/Consultancy studies	21.19
Building management related studies	70.39
Other hired services and professional fees	65.62

(3) Under the Subhead “hire of services and professional fees”, the estimated provision for 2019-20 is \$214,675,000, which is \$57,474,000 higher than the revised estimate of \$157,201,000 for 2018-19. This is mainly due to the smaller than expected expenditure on such services as studies and consultancy in 2018-19. In addition, the expenditure of various sections under this Subhead for 2019-20 will be increased. Therefore the relevant estimates are higher than the revised estimates for 2018-19.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-CSO003**

**(Question Serial No. S015)**

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms Esther LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Further to the reply to CSO001 about the expenditures for providing support to former Chief Executives (CEs), would the Government please elaborate on and clarify the following:

1. The numbers and details of the promotional/protocol-related activities attended by each of the 3 former CEs in the past 5 years and the expenditure incurred in the activities. If no such records are available, please give reasons for that;
2. A breakdown of the expenditures involved in providing support for each of the 3 former CEs in the past 5 years. If no such a breakdown is available, please give reasons for that;
3. Whether such support covers the expenditures incurred by former CEs on publicity on the Internet/social media; and
4. The estimated expenditure for the Government to support each of the 3 former CEs in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

In November 2005, the Government submitted to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council the proposal of providing former Chief Executives (CEs) with office accommodation and administrative support. The aim is to support former CEs in discharging promotional and protocol-related activities including receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending public and social events, and taking part in speaking engagements. FC agreed to the proposal. The Government has been providing relevant support to all former CEs in accordance with the proposal agreed by FC.

The numbers of promotional/protocol-related activities attended by the 3 former CEs in the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Former CE</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Mr TUNG Chee-hwa	32	34	38	200	536
Mr Donald TSANG	123	95	130	142	93
Mr C Y LEUNG				134	548
<b>Total number of activities</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>1 177</b>

In the past 5 years, the 3 former CEs attended over 2 000 promotional/protocol-related activities which included receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending public and social events, and taking part in speaking engagements. Given the large number of promotional/protocol-related activities, we cannot detail each of them.

The Government provides the former CEs with office accommodation and administrative support. The administrative support includes scheduling and making arrangements for public and social appointments for the former CEs, handling correspondence and enquiries, receiving guests, transportation and other general administrative duties. We do not have a separate account of the expenditure on individual activities.

In the past 5 years and 2019-20, the breakdown of expenses/estimates on the support services provided to the 3 former CEs by the Government is as follows:

<b>Breakdown of expenses</b>	<b>Actual expenditure for 2014-15 (\$ million)</b>	<b>Actual expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)</b>	<b>Actual expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)</b>	<b>Actual expenditure for 2017-18* (\$ million)</b>	<b>Revised estimates for 2018-19 (\$ million)</b>	<b>Estimates for 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
Staff cost <sup>#</sup>	3.538	3.571	3.935	5.222	6.312	6.350
Hire of services and professional fees	0.823	0.863	0.955	1.247	1.220	1.260
Other general departmental expenses	1.225	1.397	1.539	2.637	3.282	4.088
<b>Total expenditure/ estimates</b>	<b>5.586</b>	<b>5.831</b>	<b>6.429</b>	<b>9.106</b>	<b>10.814</b>	<b>11.698</b>

\* The number of the former CEs has increased from 2 to 3 since July 2017.

<sup>#</sup> Each former CE is supported by 1 Senior Personal Assistant (contract staff), 1 Chauffeur, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 shared-use Office Assistant (before June 2015)/Clerical Assistant (after June 2015). The figures above cover the expenses for the salaries, allowances, Mandatory Provident Fund and Civil Service Provident Fund contributions as well as gratuities (disbursed every 1 or 2 years) of the staff concerned.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-CSO004****(Question Serial No. S011)**

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Ms Esther LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Further to the reply to CSO025, I request the Government to review the expenditures incurred by individual former Chief Executives from 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

From 2014-15 to 2017-18, the breakdown of expenses on the support services provided to the 3 former Chief Executives (CEs) by the Government is as follows:

Breakdown of expenses	2014-15 Actual expenditure (\$ million)		2015-16 Actual expenditure (\$ million)		2016-17 Actual expenditure (\$ million)		2017-18 Actual expenditure (\$ million)		
	Mr TUNG Chee-hwa	Mr Donald TSANG	Mr TUNG Chee-hwa	Mr Donald TSANG	Mr TUNG Chee-hwa	Mr Donald TSANG	Mr TUNG Chee-hwa	Mr Donald TSANG	Mr C Y LEUNG
Staff cost <sup>#</sup>	2.055	1.483	1.797	1.774	2.234	1.701	1.870	1.685	1.667
Hire of services and professional fees *	0.823		0.863		0.955		1.247		
Other general departmental expenses*	1.225		1.397		1.539		2.637		
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5.586</b>		<b>5.831</b>		<b>6.429</b>		<b>9.106</b>		

<sup>#</sup> Each former CE is supported by 1 Senior Personal Assistant (contract staff), 1 Chauffeur, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 shared-use Office Assistant (before June 2015)/Clerical Assistant (after June 2015). The figures above cover the expenses for the salaries, allowances, Mandatory

Provident Fund and Civil Service Provident Fund contributions as well as gratuities (disbursed every 1 or 2 years) of the staff concerned.

\*As such support services are shared in the Office of Former CEs, we do not have the figures of related expenses for individual former CEs.

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