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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Director of Administration

Session No. : 4

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CSO001

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2994)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents set up by the Economic and Trade Office will continue to support the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) and Hong Kong Talent Engage. In this connection, please advise:

1. how many strategic enterprises has OASES reached out to and how many of them have successfully set up their business in Hong Kong in the past year?
2. how many publicity events are expected to be held by OASES in 2024-25 to facilitate establishment of an exchange platform for strategic enterprises and relevant stakeholders, and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has reached out to more than 200 enterprises, among which more than 40 have set up or expanded their operations in Hong Kong, or are planning to do so.
2. For 2024-25, the estimated expenditure of OASES on attracting enterprises and investments is \$12 million, which would cover operational expenses including outreach programmes, Mainland and overseas roundtables, local networking events and public relations activities, online and in-person marketing activities, production of publicity materials, as well as administrative overheads.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2512)

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) administers the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS), and it will also conduct policy research about Hong Kong's domestic challenges. Regarding the PPRFS and the SPPRFS, the amount of grants approved for research projects in the past 2 years were \$9.9 million and \$19.3 million respectively, and it is estimated that the amount for the coming year will be \$26.5 million. Please inform this Committee of:

1. in tabular form, the research topics of the approved projects and the amount of grant involved in the past 2 years; and
2. the policy research concerning Hong Kong's domestic challenges conducted by the CEPU in the past 2 years. Please set out in a table the research projects which have been completed or have yet been completed.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. In the past 2 years, funding were granted to 39 and 2 research projects under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) respectively. The research contents and the funding amounts of the approved projects are set out at the Annex.
2. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national

development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the sentiments of Hong Kong citizens, understand the general direction and focus of their concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and will directly report its research outcomes to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation. Given that in-house research work is part of CEPU's regular duties, we do not keep separate statistics on the number of research projects or the manpower and expenditure involved. Apart from conducting research in-house, we also commission external consultants to carry out studies and opinion polls as and when necessary. Up to end-March 2024, a total of 39 external studies and opinion polls have been completed or are being carried out, involving an estimated contract sum of about \$13.2 million. The findings of the studies and surveys conducted by the CEPU are mainly used for internal deliberation and references for the Government. As they serve as a basis for information and analysis in policy formulation and development, and it is not appropriate to disclose them so as to avoid any undue misinterpretations or speculations. Separately, the CEPU administers the PPRFS and the SPPRFS which aim to support evidence-based public policy research by higher education institutions and think tanks in Hong Kong with a view to facilitating public policy discussion and in turn enhancing policy formulation to meet the needs of society and nurture the talents required. As mentioned above, funding were granted to 41 new projects under the 2 schemes in the past 2 years.

Public Policy Research Funding Scheme
Granted Projects in 2022-23 and 2023-24

No.	Year	Institution / Think Tank#	Project Title	Funding (\$)
1	2022-23	PolyU	Developing Low-Cost Remote Sensing System for Detecting Illegal Dumping of Construction Waste in Hong Kong	281,060.00
2	2022-23	PolyU SPEED	Constructing A System of Interest for A Social Marketing Intervention to Nudge Plate Waste Reduction in Restaurants	545,790.00
3	2022-23	HKBU	Constructing Daily Hong Kong Online Consumer Price Index and Price Dynamics: The Role of E-commerce in the Post-pandemic Era	560,050.00
4	2022-23	CUHK	Promoting Active Ageing and Social Participation with Time Voucher/Bank	586,045.00
5	2022-23	HKUST	Regulating Tourist Coach Parking in Hong Kong: Curbside Management and Carpark Provision	986,718.00
6	2022-23	HKU	Standards-Setting, National Security, and the Responsibility of Technological Platforms in Hong Kong: Understanding Article 139 of the Hong Kong Basic Law	284,573.25
7	2022-23	PolyU SPEED	Motivating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to Adopt Blockchain for Building a Smart Hong Kong: An Investigation of Blockchain Adoption Drivers and Implementation Support	432,579.40
8	2022-23	EdUHK	Poverty Dynamics in Hong Kong: Synthetic Panel Approach	400,775.00
9	2022-23	PolyU	Tackling Ageing Buildings and Facilitating Urban Transformation: Optimization of Floor Area Ratio Regulation in Hong Kong's Urban Renewal Process	598,000.00
10	2022-23	PolyU	Incorporating Spatial Heterogeneity of Rainfall Response to Climate Change into the Design of Slope Drainage Provisions in Hong Kong	470,350.00

No.	Year	Institution / Think Tank#	Project Title	Funding (\$)
11	2022-23	PolyU	Energy Efficiency Retrofitting of Existing Buildings for Carbon Neutrality in Hong Kong: Policy Recommendations and Guidelines for Overcoming the Challenges	359,542.90
12	2022-23	HKU	Establishing a Performance Expectation Framework for STEM Education Among Primary and Secondary School Students in Hong Kong	546,136.56
13	2022-23	HKU	Prefabrication Hub Feasibility for Hong Kong Construction Industry: An Integrated Approach	281,691.35
14	2022-23	CUHK	Study on the Factors for Effective and Sustainable Clinical Waste Management Policy in Hong Kong	708,122.79
15	2022-23	PolyU	Mission Zero: Cost Effective Pathway towards Carbon Neutral Buildings	449,535.00
16	2022-23	PolyU	Housing and Early Childhood Growth and Development in Hong Kong's Low-income Families	583,160.40
17	2022-23	PolyU	Enhancing the Social Participation of Older People with Lived Experiences of Homelessness: A Community Based Participatory Research	460,000.00
18	2022-23	PolyU	Using Carbon Regulation to Promote the Adoption of Modular Integrated Construction in Hong Kong: An Evolutionary Game-based Study	772,225.00
19	2022-23	HKU	School Leaders' Challenges and Responses during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Deriving Recommendations Based on Evidence from A Systematic Review	308,415.00
20	2022-23	Dashun Foundation	Hong Kong 2030+ Eastern Knowledge and Technology Corridor: How to Create High Workability Conditions to Foster the Employment of Industrial Innovation Talents?	825,700.00
21	2023-24	EdUHK	Promoting Retirement Financial Planning Activities and Retirement Savings Outcomes of Working Adults in Hong Kong: A Three-Component Intervention	691,150.00

No.	Year	Institution / Think Tank#	Project Title	Funding (\$)
22	2023-24	EdUHK	Teachers' Uses and Concerns about Online Open Educational Resources: A Territory-wide Study	388,171.20
23	2023-24	PolyU	Developing a Hotel Environmental Sustainability Management Index (HESMI) for Hotels in Hong Kong	569,250.00
24	2023-24	PolyU	Now More Important than Ever: Promoting Healthy Financial Behaviors for Hong Kong Youths from Lower-SES Households	490,291.00
25	2023-24	PolyU	How to Effectively Implement Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in Urban Development and Urban Renewal - A Comparison Study of Policies between Hong Kong and Leading European Cities	775,100.00
26	2023-24	PolyU	Developing a Tourism Cluster in the Greater Bay Area: A Dual Branding Perspective	737,380.00
27	2023-24	HKUST	Mapping Residents' Perception of Safety through Street View Images and Interpretable AI: A Hong Kong Case Study	677,350.00
28	2023-24	CUHK	Fact-Checking as a Means to Combat Misinformation: Evaluating Performance, Effectiveness, and Policy Implications	804,367.50
29	2023-24	PolyU	Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Logistics Development in Hong Kong under the Global ESG Trend and Initiatives	580,750.00
30	2023-24	PolyU	Assessing the Adaptation of New Energy Vehicles in Hong Kong: The Future of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles and Electric Vehicles	995,900.00
31	2023-24	PolyU	Electrifying the Bus System in Hong Kong: Feasibility Analysis and System Optimization	383,640.00
32	2023-24	PolyU	Relationship between Travel Behavior and Built Environment Factors: Impacts on Mobility and Quality of Life of People with Physical Disabilities	658,030.00
33	2023-24	HKBU	What Are the Implications of COVID-19 Restrictions for Ozone Pollution Control in Hong Kong?	648,255.00

No.	Year	Institution / Think Tank#	Project Title	Funding (\$)
34	2023-24	EdUHK	National Security Education in Hong Kong's Universities in the 'New Era'	589,439.40
35	2023-24	PolyU	Multi-method Investigations to Increase Public Acceptance of Upcycled Food	507,000.50
36	2023-24	PolyU	Overweight Prevention in Heavy Lifting Works for Construction Workers with the Smart Lightweight Active Soft Exosuit	553,725.00
37	2023-24	HKUST	Investigating the Effects of Physical Risk Factors on Musculoskeletal Disorders among Older Construction Workers in Hong Kong: A Field Data-driven Approach	815,407.50
38	2023-24	HKU	Towards Adaptive and Resilient Educational Systems: A Network-based Approach to Study STEAM Education Innovation in HK	574,540.00
39	2023-24	Path of Democracy	Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviours of the International Business Community towards Doing Business in Hong Kong	700,000.00

Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS)
Granted Projects in 2023-24 ^{Note}

No.	Year	Institution / Think Tank#	Project Title	Funding (\$)
1	2023-24	PolyU	Policy Framework for Cross-Regional Cooperation Strategies in the Greater Bay Area's Construction Industry	3,966,350.00
2	2023-24	Civic Exchange	Maximising the Use of Hydrogen as a Fuel for the Transport Sector: Developing Holistic Pathways for a Grey-to-Green Hydrogen Economy in Hong Kong and Integrating with Mainland China	3,081,993.00

Note: SPPRFS was not launched in 2022-23.

Explanatory note on abbreviations of institutions:

Abbreviation

PolyU
PolyU SPEED

HKBU
CUHK
HKUST
HKU
EdUHK

Name of Institution

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
School of Professional Education and Executive Development,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong Baptist University
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
The University of Hong Kong
The Education University of Hong Kong

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3254)

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of enterprises on the list of target enterprises for the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in each year since the establishment of the Office, and the number of enterprises that have been successfully brought into Hong Kong;
2. the staff establishment of the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents for reaching out to and attracting enterprises and talents.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The HKSAR Government has 17 Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents (the Dedicated Teams) based in the Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), which support the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) under the Financial Secretary's Office and the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) under the Labour and Welfare Bureau in their facilitation services for attracting enterprises and talents. The Dedicated Teams, together with other staff of the Mainland Offices/overseas ETOs, proactively reach out to high-potential and representative strategic enterprises and talents through various means and channels to attract them to establish their presence in Hong Kong. In addition, the Dedicated Teams join and support Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) in inward investment promotion by reaching out to a wide spectrum of companies in different sectors and industries across regions, so as to promote Hong Kong's opportunities and advantages, and to attract and assist them to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong.

It is mentioned in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address that the Government aims to enhance investment promotion and attract at least 1 130 enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025. OASES has successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises to establish their presence in Hong Kong since its establishment, while InvestHK assisted 382 enterprises to set up and expand their businesses in Hong Kong in 2023. As the Dedicated Teams are part of the Mainland Offices and overseas ETOs, and

work towards the aforesaid Government's aim of attracting enterprises by providing support to OASES, InvestHK and the HKTE, it is not feasible to separately account for the manpower for supporting the work of attracting strategic enterprises.

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CSO004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0399)

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Not Specified

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under the Programme that the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) will, among others, conduct policy research about Hong Kong's domestic challenges to keep up with the global and Mainland development trends with a view to providing informed advices to the Chief Executive. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the respective numbers of research studies and opinion polls conducted in-house and commissioned to outside parties since the establishment of the CEPU, as well as their latest progress individually by research theme or opinion poll?
2. Has the CEPU sent any representatives to participate in site visits and think-tank exchanges in the Mainland and overseas since its establishment? What are the numbers of and the manpower and actual expenditures involved for the activities participated by region? What are the plans for the coming year and the manpower and estimated expenditures involved?
3. As the CEPU plans to conduct research about Hong Kong's domestic challenges, are there any specific priority directions in research? What are the estimated manpower and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the sentiments of Hong Kong citizens, understand the general direction

and focus of their concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and will directly report its research outcome to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation. Given that in-house research work is part of CEPU's regular duties, we do not keep separate statistics on the number of research projects or the manpower and expenditure involved. Apart from conducting research in-house, we also commission external consultants to carry out studies and opinion polls as and when necessary. Up to end-March 2024, a total of 39 external studies and opinion polls have been completed or are being carried out, involving an estimated contract sum of about \$13.2 million. The findings of the studies and surveys conducted by the CEPU are mainly for internal deliberation and references for the Chief Executive and the Government. As they serve as a basis for information and analysis in policy formulation and development, it is hence not appropriate to disclose them so as to avoid any undue misinterpretations or speculations. Separately, the CEPU administers the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) which aim to support evidence-based public policy research by higher education institutions and think tanks in Hong Kong with a view to facilitating public policy discussion and in turn enhancing policy formulation to meet the needs of society and nurture the talents required. In 2023-24, funding were granted to 21 new projects under the two schemes. Brief descriptions of the said projects and those granted funding in the past, as well as research reports of the completed projects are uploaded to the CEPU website for public information.

2. To perform our duties, professionals and researchers of the CEPU need to travel to other regions for site visits and attending conferences or seminars to exchange views with different experts from time to time. This would enrich CEPU's understanding of national development strategies in various aspects and the global development trend, as well as its grasp of multiple issues. As at end-March 2024, there were over 40 such visits and exchanges conducted, involving a total expenditure of about \$700,000. The CEPU will continue to send our staff to different regions for site visits and exchanges according to the actual needs.
3. Currently, the CEPU comprises 3 Divisions with each undertaking policy research with different focuses in addition to shouldering other duties. The CEPU has 47 posts/positions on its permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service (NCS) positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Among the 39 non-directorate civil service posts, 18 are of officer rank of various grades including the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades which will augment the professional support to the policy research function of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. Separately, we have employed 15 NCS staff on contract terms from outside the Government to provide support for research and other duties. In 2024-25, we have earmarked \$81.63 million for staff emoluments and relevant expenses.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1982)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Government mentions that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will “draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises”. According to the 2022 Policy Address, the HKSAR Government aims to attract at least 1 130 enterprises to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025. Will the Bureau inform this Committee of:

1. the number of enterprises that were assisted by OASES in setting up or expanding their operations in Hong Kong in 2023-24?
2. OASES' indicator in respect of attracting enterprises in 2024-25?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong.
2. According to the 2023 Policy Address, the Government will continue its endeavours to attract enterprises, particularly those pertinent to Hong Kong's development as the “eight centres”, including key enterprises in advanced technology. OASES aims to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. Besides, OASES will also continue to work closely with the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, InvestHK and other relevant bureaux/departments to jointly achieve the Government's targets of attracting at least 100 high potential and representative innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises (including 20 top-notch I&T enterprises) by 2027 and, in collaboration with InvestHK, at least 1 130 companies from 2023 to 2025.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3264)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the efforts to tackle hygiene blackspots, please advise on:

- a) the preliminary and revised number of hygiene blackspots to be tackled in each of the 18 districts each year since the launch of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots; and
- b) the manpower and expenditure required for tackling hygiene blackspots in each of the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The information is provided as follows:

- (a) The current-term Government places great emphasis on district-based environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management in order to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for citizens and boost our city's image. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, which has now been revamped as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape and put under the Task Force on District Governance chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling environmental hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different bodies and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots has increased from the initial 663 to 738.

In the 2022 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has set a key performance indicator (KPI) for the Programme, i.e. removing at least 75% of environmental hygiene black spots by end-2023. With the concerted efforts and active facilitation of various

departments, the conditions of most of the hygiene black spots have improved. According to the review results of various departments in mid-March 2024, the hygiene conditions of 90% (or 683) of the 738 black spots have significantly improved to the extent that they could be removed from the list of black spots. Nonetheless, to ensure that the environmental hygiene of these locations will not relapse into their previous conditions, we will not delist any of them at this stage so as to prevent our efforts from going futile.

The number of environmental hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in each district is tabulated below, with a breakdown by District Council district:

District Council district	Number of hygiene black spots	Number of hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in mid-March 2024
Central and Western District	66	62
Eastern District	24	23
Southern District	10	10
Wan Chai District	18	15
Kowloon City District	91	84
Kwun Tong District	26	25
Sham Shui Po District	31	28
Wong Tai Sin District	25	23
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	50
Islands District	60	59
Kwai Tsing District	15	15
North District	62	45
Sai Kung District	10	10
Sha Tin District	22	21
Tai Po District	135	135
Tsuen Wan District	23	22
Tuen Mun District	31	31
Yuen Long District	30	25
Total	738	683

- (b) The work on tackling hygiene black spots is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work. Some departments have used additional earmarked funds to boost their efforts in enhancing environmental hygiene. Take the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department as an example, the Department has made use of the some \$500 million additional funding for a two-year period allocated in the 2022-23 Budget to enhance environmental hygiene services, particularly strengthening the street cleansing and refuse collection services, stepping up measures on rodent control and improving the hygiene of public markets in response to the epidemic.

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CSO007

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0847)

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government has launched the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the utilisation details of the AEF in 2023, and the total number of applications received and approved under the measures;
2. the AEF aims to enhance capability in combating the epidemic and provide support to the affected sectors. Now that the epidemic has subsided, what is the amount currently involved in the implementation of ongoing measures under the AEF; and
3. what is the current progress of the measures under the AEF? Please advise on the timetable for completing all the tasks. As the AEF may have outstanding fund, how does the Government plan to handle or make use of it? Will a complete report be submitted to this Committee, so as to ensure that the whole community is benefited and rightfully informed?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

The Government launched the AEF in 2020 to enhance Hong Kong's capability in combating the epidemic on the one hand, and to provide suitable relief to businesses and individuals hard hit by the pandemic or affected by the Government's anti-epidemic and social-distancing measures on the other.

The Government secured the approval of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to inject a total of \$250.9 billion into the AEF after its establishment to support altogether 232 measures. Since November 2022, no new measures have been approved by the AEF.

As of 22 March 2024, the total financial commitment of the measures approved under the AEF amounted to over \$250 billion. Over \$233.6 billion of funding has been deployed, benefitting over 7 million persons and 1 million applications from enterprises/businesses, etc.

2. As of 1 April 2024, all the measures are completed or largely completed. Therefore, the current expenditure of the AEF is mainly for the administrative and accounting procedures to conclude the measures.
3. As of 1 April 2024, all the measures are completed or largely completed. The AEF provided timely, targeted and temporary support to individuals and businesses in need during the epidemic. Considering the end of the epidemic and the full resumption of all trades, industries and people's life to normal, the Government has no plan to allocate extra provisions to extend the effective periods of the measures or introduce new ones. Nevertheless, the AEF Steering Committee (SC) will continue to optimise the remaining balance of the AEF, having regard to the views from various industry stakeholders and their actual business situation.

The AEF SC will continuously monitor the implementation progress of the measures and regularly invites implementation departments and units to submit progress reports. In addition, the Audit Commission conducts annual audit on the AEF. The progress reports and annual financial statements of the AEF together with the Report of the Director of Audit have been tabled in the LegCo for perusal.

- End -

CSO008

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3080)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech that some 10 strategic enterprises will sign a partnership agreement with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises in March. These companies have either confirmed setting up or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong, or they are planning to do so. Together with the 30 companies from the first batch, they are expected to bring in over \$40 billion investment and create about 13 000 jobs in the next couple of years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. a complete list of the some 40 strategic enterprises from the 2 batches, their corresponding types of operations, and places of registration of their parent companies;
2. the amount of investment to be made and the jobs to be created in Hong Kong by the 36 companies from the first batch; and
3. the estimated amount of investment to be made, and the jobs to be created in Hong Kong by the 16 companies from the second batch.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. More than 40 strategic enterprises have been attracted through the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) so far. A majority of them have officially become OASES partners and their names have been announced earlier on public occasions. The remaining enterprises would like to keep a low profile due to commercial reasons or other considerations and we respect their preference.

The breakdown of these some 40 strategic enterprises according to their type of industry [Note] and declared place of origin is set out below:

(i) Type of industry

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	43%
Artificial intelligence and data science	33%
Financial technology	8%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	16%

(ii) Declared place of origin

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Mainland	82%
Europe and North America	18%

Note: In view that the scope of business of certain strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

2. The first batch of 30 strategic enterprises will invest more than \$30 billion in investment in Hong Kong, and create about 10 000 jobs, the majority of which will be research and development, and management positions.
3. It is expected that over the next few years, the two batches of some 40 strategic enterprises, will bring about over \$40 billion in investment and create about 13 000 jobs in Hong Kong, the majority of which will be research and development, and senior management positions.

- End -

CSO009

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1170)

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

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

Programme: CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government has mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will sign a partnership agreement with 10-plus strategic enterprises next month, assisting them in setting up or expanding business in Hong Kong. These companies, together with the first batch of 30, are expected to bring about a total of over \$40 billion in investment to Hong Kong, creating about 13 000 jobs over the next few years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the list of the new batch of strategic enterprises planning to come to Hong Kong, the expected number of jobs to be created, the number of enterprises planning to set up business in the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park) and the Cyberport; and
2. among the first batch of 30 strategic enterprises, the number of them which have set up business in the Science Park and the Cyberport, the total investment brought about by these enterprises and the number of jobs created?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Government just announced the list of the new batch of some 10 strategic enterprises last month. Over the next few years, the some 40 strategic enterprises attracted by the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises are expected to bring about over \$40 billion in investment and create about 13 000 jobs in Hong Kong. Among the first batch of 30 strategic enterprises, about 65 per cent of them have or will soon set up business in the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park) or the Cyberport. As for the new batch of some 10 strategic enterprises, about 60 per cent of them have or will soon set up business in the Science Park or the Cyberport. The remaining strategic enterprises have chosen to set up business in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park or other commercial premises.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO010

(Question Serial No. 2086)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech that 40 strategic enterprises have either confirmed setting up or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong, or are planning to do so. They are expected to bring about over \$40 billion in investment to Hong Kong, creating about 13 000 jobs over the next few years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- 1) the distribution of the 40 strategic enterprises by industry;
- 2) the list of the 40 strategic enterprises and their respective industry segment, investment scale and creation of jobs in relation to the local manpower situation;
- 3) the number of strategic enterprises that are being approached and their distribution by industry; the estimated investment amount to be brought about and the estimated number of jobs to be created if all of them establish their presence in Hong Kong;
- 4) the Government's measures on attracting strategic enterprises to Hong Kong in the past year, and the expenditure and staffing involved; and
- 5) the specific plans on attracting strategic enterprises to Hong Kong in 2024-25, and the estimated expenditure and staffing?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

According to the 2024-25 Budget, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong. Our reply in respect of these some 40 enterprises and other relevant questions is as follows:

1) Distribution by industry [Note]

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	43%
Artificial intelligence and data science	33%
Financial technology	8%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	16%

Note: In view that the scope of business of certain strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

- 2) A vast majority of these some 40 strategic enterprises successfully attracted to Hong Kong have officially become OASES partners and their names have been announced earlier on public occasions. The remaining enterprises wish to keep a low profile due to commercial reasons or other considerations and we respect their preference. Over the next few years, these strategic enterprises are expected to bring over \$40 billion in investment and create about 13 000 jobs in Hong Kong, most of which are research and development or senior management positions. OASES will continue to follow up and, where necessary, facilitate the matching of enterprises with suitable manpower resources. Relevant industry distribution is tabulated in part 1 of this question.
- 3) OASES has so far reached out to more than 200 enterprises mainly from industries of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, we are unable to disclose the details of the strategic enterprises being approached at this stage. The Government will announce in due course if there is any good news about strategic enterprises setting up their operations in Hong Kong.
- 4) As at 8 March 2024, the total operating expenditure of OASES in 2023-24 is about \$13 million, including about \$6.15 million on staff remuneration. Currently OASES has 13 staff.
- 5) OASES will continue to take forward its efforts in attracting quality strategic enterprises to Hong Kong, with an aim to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. OASES will also continue to provide aftercare services to enterprises that have set up their businesses in Hong Kong, encouraging them to seize the opportunities offered by new initiatives such as the development of the Northern Metropolis, Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint and cross-boundary data flow, thereby progressively increases their investments in Hong Kong. In 2024-25, the operating expenditure of OASES is estimated to be about \$52.15 million, including about \$34.63 million on staff remuneration.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO011

(Question Serial No. 2087)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 177 of the Budget Speech that the Government will continue to take forward a number of sector-specific talent training programmes to enrich the local talent pool. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) in table form, the details, manpower, provision/expenditure and number of beneficiaries involved in each sector-specific talent training programme over the past 5 years (2019-20 to 2023-24);
- (2) in table form by sector, the employment situation of trainees who have completed the aforesaid programmes over the past 5 years (2019-20 to 2023-24);
- (3) in table form, the manpower and estimated expenditure to be involved for each sector-specific talent training programme in 2024-25; and
- (4) whether the Government will consider extending the talent training programmes to cover other sectors; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

(1) and (2):

In consultation with policy bureaux, the details, manpower, provision/expenditure and number of beneficiaries involved in each sector-specific talent training programme as well as the employment situation of the trainees having completed the training by sector over the past 5 years (2019-20 to 2023-24) are set out at **Annex**.

(3):

In consultation with policy bureaux, the manpower and estimated expenditure to be involved in each sector-specific talent training programme in 2024-25 are tabulated below:

Programme/sector	Estimated manpower	Estimated expenditure (\$)	Policy bureau
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Mediator Training Course	Borne by the existing resources of the Department of Justice (DoJ).	100,000	DoJ
GBA Lawyers' Practical Legal Training Course		-	
Talent training programme for the environmental protection industry	Undertaken with the existing staff establishment of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and no relevant breakdown is available.	5 million	Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB)
Technician Trainee Scheme under the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)	Undertaken with the existing staff establishment of the EMSD and no relevant breakdown is available.	40 million	EEB
Work on promotion of intellectual property trading	As the programme is part of the overall work of the Intellectual Property Department (IPD), it is difficult to quantify the resources involved separately.		Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Chinese medicine talent training programmes related to the Chinese Medicine Development Fund (CMDF)	As the programmes are part of the overall work of the Health Bureau (HHB) and the CMDF, a breakdown of the manpower involved cannot be provided, and the amount of expenditure is also subject to supply of courses and applications for reimbursement of subsidy.		HHB
Full-reimbursement of tuition fees for students enrolling in programmes for dental therapists and dental hygienists	As the programmes are part of the overall work of the Department of Health, a breakdown of the manpower involved cannot be provided.	6.65 million	
Maritime and Aviation Training Fund	Borne by the overall resources of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) and a breakdown	24.21 million	TLB
		12.82 million	
		4.75 million	

Programme/sector	Estimated manpower	Estimated expenditure (\$)	Policy bureau
	of the manpower involved is not available.		
3 enhanced training programmes for construction workers	Implemented by the existing internal resources of the Government and the Construction Industry Council (CIC).	212.4 million	Development Bureau
2 training programmes for professionals and technicians respectively	Implemented by the existing internal resources of the Government and CIC.	23.1 million	
Graduate training scheme for training young professionals under the Housing Department	Absorbed by the existing manpower and resources of the Housing Department.		Housing Bureau
STEM Internship Scheme	Undertaken with the existing staff establishment of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and no relevant breakdown is available.	110 millions	Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
Research Talent Hub		360 million	
New Industrialisation and Technology Training Programme		270 million (including the staff cost of the Secretariat)	
Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) Training Courses	380.92 million		Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau
Arts Development Council Talent Training Program	56.855 million		
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority(WKCDA): Graduate Trainee Programme	Implemented by the WKCDA.	855,000	
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)	Borne by existing manpower.	About 6 million	
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and Hong Kong Arts Festival Society (HKAFS)			

Programme/sector	Estimated manpower	Estimated expenditure (\$)	Policy bureau
The 2-year “Arts Tech Trainee Programme” at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre Academy for Arts Tech	Borne by existing manpower.	1.6 million	
Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme	Borne by existing manpower.	2.3 million	
WKCDA Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme and Summer Internship Programme	Implemented by the WKCDA.	About 500,000	
Summer Internship Programme in the LCSD	Borne by existing manpower.	420,000	
Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Asset and Wealth Management Sector	The policy co-ordination work of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) is handled with its existing manpower.	12.79 million	FSTB
Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) Talent Development Activities		1 million	
Fintech Career Accelerator Scheme (FCAS)	Handled by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) with its existing manpower and resources.		
Industry Project Masters Network			
Programme for Private Wealth Management			
Future Banking Bridging Programme			
Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme	The Pilot Scheme is administered by the Centre for Green and Sustainable Finance, a public-private collaboration platform launched under the Green and Sustainable Finance Cross-Agency Steering Group. The policy co-ordination work of the FSTB is handled with its existing manpower and resources.		

Programme/sector	Estimated manpower	Estimated expenditure (\$)	Policy bureau
Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for Insurance Sector	The policy co-ordination work of the FSTB will be handled with its existing manpower.	5.6 million	

Besides, in making good use of Hong Kong’s bilingual common law system and international background, the DoJ will set up a dedicated office and an expert committee within 2024 to take forward the establishment of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (“Academy”) to regularly organise different practical legal courses, seminars and international exchange activities, etc., in order to promote talent exchanges in areas along the “Belt and Road”, provide foreign-related legal talent training for our country (including the Greater Bay Area) and the Belt and Road countries, and cultivate legal talents who are familiar with international law, common law, civil law, and national legal systems. The training targets of the Academy includes (1) Mainland legal professionals, (2) legal professionals and government officials from law-related departments in other jurisdictions and (3) Hong Kong legal professionals (including relevant government officials and legal practitioners).

Moreover, standing arrangements have been put in place for seconding Hong Kong legal professionals (including both solicitors/barrister in private practice and Government Counsel) to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at The Hague, the Netherlands, the Secretariat of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome, Italy, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific at Incheon, Republic of Korea DoJ will also continue to provide local legal talents with sustained training opportunities, and to promote to the legal sector (including young legal professionals) the secondment programmes to international organisations.

(4):

In consultation with policy bureaux, the details of extending the talent training programmes to cover other sectors are set out below:

The DoJ will continue to train talents for the local legal and dispute resolution professions, consolidate Hong Kong’s position as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, dovetail with the development of the National 14th Five-Year Plan, and enhance the building of a legal talent pool and foster talent exchanges within and outside the region. The DoJ has also been actively engaged in the development of legal education in Hong Kong through the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training, and has maintained good communication with the legal sector and the 3 law schools to keep abreast of the latest supply and demand of legal talents.

According to EEB, to cope with the development of electrical and mechanical (E&M) industry, EMSD has planned to include Information Technology as the 7th trade discipline for the Technician Trainee Scheme and to add the position of Technician Trainee (Information

Technology) starting from August 2024.

Regarding the post-secondary education sector, the Education Bureau has been encouraging post-secondary institutions to maintain liaison with community stakeholders and provide diversified and quality programmes in response to the changing manpower needs of different industries in the community, and to nurture the talents required for social and economic development. Under the principle of institutional autonomy, post-secondary institutions have the flexibility to develop programmes that meet market needs, and adjust the contents and intake places of relevant programmes.

As stated by the FSTB, the HKMA upgraded the Fintech Career Accelerator Scheme (FCAS) to FCAS 3.0 in 2022 through partnering with the Insurance Authority to allow a slash working arrangement for students to flexibly work for both banks and insurance companies.

Details, manpower, provision/expenditure and number of beneficiaries involved in each sector-specific talent training programs as well as the employment situation of the trainees having completed the training by sector in the past 5 years (2019-20 to 2023-24)

(1) Department of Justice

The DoJ has been actively participating in the development of legal education in Hong Kong through the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training, and has maintained good communication with the industry and the 3 law schools to keep abreast of the latest supply and demand situation of legal talents. In addition, the DoJ also provides continuous training opportunities for local legal talents and has launched the following talent training programs in the past 5 years to enrich the local legal and dispute resolution talent pool:

Programme	Details	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
1. Understudy Programme (Civil/Prosecution Work)	<p>The programme aims to provide training opportunities for less-experienced barristers and solicitors (i.e. with less than five years' post call/admission experience) to handle civil and prosecution work of the Government in order to broaden their horizon, enrich them with valuable experience and improve their case management skills.</p> <p>The trainings include drafting of legal opinions, conducting legal research, observing lawyers in action in different levels of courts and various hearings, participating in hearing preparation works, acting as assistant or junior counsel for senior counsel or more-experienced counsel, and assisting in handling more complex cases heard in the District Court or the Court of First Instance which involve longer trials or lengthy magistracy cases.</p>	DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.	2020-21: \$621,000 2021-22: \$692,750 2022-23: \$1,189,500 2023-24 (as at end of February): \$1,096,250	2020-21: 75 2021-22: 55 2022-23: 45 2023-24 (as at end of February): 70
2. Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee)	Funded by the Anti-epidemic Fund, the Scheme, by 2 phases, provides a monthly salary subsidy of \$6,800 for a	The Law Society of Hong Kong is responsible	2021-22: \$8,812,800	2021-22: 108 2022-23: 122

Programme	Details	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
Solicitors)	<p>maximum of 12 months to each eligible law firm for one newly created job opening for a trainee solicitor, with up to 130 new job openings for trainee solicitors for each phase. The Scheme will not only create new job opportunities during the time of the pandemic, but will also ensure a steady and sufficient supply of legal talents in alignment with Government's policy objectives to nurture legal talents to advance the rule of law and strengthen Hong Kong's development as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development plan.</p>	<p>for administering the Scheme, including processing and assessing the applications, as well as arranging disbursement of the subsidy.</p> <p>DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.</p>	2022-23: \$9,955,200	
3. Matching Grant Scheme	<p>In order to enhance the professional skills and knowledge of the legal and dispute resolution profession, DoJ provides subsidies to law-related organisations to organise training courses through the "Matching Grant Scheme for Skills Upgrading" launched under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund in 2021 with the matching ratio of the subsidy no more than 3 to 1.</p> <p>Courses include the "Outsourced Prosecution Training Program" organized by the Hong Kong Advocacy Training Institute, and the "International Arbitration and Mediation Course on Intellectual Property Disputes" organized by the Hong Kong Arbitrators Association, etc.</p>	DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.	2021-22: \$224,289	2021-22: The total number of trainees who have completed training courses funded by the Matching Grant Scheme exceeds 180.

Programme	Details	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
4. Professional Exchange Programme	The programme is to facilitate the exchange of best practices between lawyers in the private sector and DoJ	DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.	-	A total of 17 lawyers (7 in the private sector (including 5 barristers and 2 solicitors) and 10 government counsel) have participated in the programme for 2 weeks to 6 months of exchange on a full-time or part-time basis during 2019-20 to 2023-24.
5. Secondment programmes to relevant international organisations	Through the secondment programmes to Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), local legal experts are posted to the Permanent Bureau of HCCH in the Hague, the Netherlands, the Secretariat of the UNIDROIT in Rome, Italy, and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP) in Incheon, Republic of Korea.	DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.	The expenditure for the scheme is borne by existing resources of DoJ	A total of 14 local legal professionals (including solicitors/barristers in private practice and Government Counsel) during 2019-20 to 2023-24.
6. The Hague Academy of International Law's Advanced Course in Hong Kong	The theme of the course is "Current Trends on International Commercial and Investment Dispute Settlement"	DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.	The expenditure for the scheme is borne by existing resources of DoJ	The First Edition of the Hague Academy of International Law's Advanced Course in

Programme	Details	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
				Hong Kong was held successfully, with 40 participants from 20 jurisdictions including academics, judges, government officials and legal professionals.
7. Investment Law & Investor-State Mediator Training	<p>DoJ is co-organising the Investment Law and Investor-State Mediator Training Course together with the Asian Academy of International Law.</p> <p>This Training Course not only facilitates capacity building in the field of dispute resolution in Hong Kong and overseas, but also make good use of Hong Kong's bilingual common law system and international background, and consolidate Hong Kong's strategic position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region under the National 14th Five-Year Plan.</p>	DoJ uses existing resources and manpower to implement the programme.	2019-20: \$716,000 2021-22: \$372,000	Since 2019, the course has provided training on international investment dispute mediation techniques to a total of 136 participants from Hong Kong and 104 participants from other legal jurisdictions.

(2) Environment and Ecology Bureau

Environmental Engineering Graduate Training Scheme

The EPD has been working with the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers to provide four university engineering graduates with three-year environmental engineering-related internship training opportunities every year to assist them in acquiring the qualification of environmental engineer. Since 1997, about 100 university engineering graduates were trained. Most of them will obtain the qualification of professional engineer after completing the training programme and work in the EPD or other environmental protection sector. In the past five years (2019-20 to 2023-24), the expenditure and number of beneficiaries of the Environmental Engineering Graduate Training Scheme are as follows –

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries
2019-20	3.54	12
2020-21	3.64	12
2021-22	3.64	12
2022-23	3.64	12
2023-24	3.79	12

The work of the Environmental Engineering Graduate Training Scheme is an integral part of EPD's work and is undertaken with the existing staff establishment. We do not have a separate breakdown.

Student Summer Internship Programme

The EPD has been organising summer internship programmes over the years. Since 2015, a more systematic and diversified programme has been developed for students. Through the internship training they can learn about the EEB and EPD's policies and work on environmental protection, energy, nature conservation and sustainable development. In the past five years (2019-20 to 2023-24), the expenditure and number of beneficiaries of the Student Summer Internship Programme are as follows

Year	Expenditure (\$)	Number of beneficiaries
2019-20	450,000	46
2020-21	660,000	63
2021-22	890,000	85
2022-23	790,000	75
2023-24	650,000	58

The work of the Student Summer Internship Programme is an integral part of EPD's work and is undertaken with the existing staff establishment. We do not have a separate breakdown.

Graduates Subsidy Programme and GreenPro Training Programme

Through the Anti-epidemic Fund, the EEB and the EPD launched 3 rounds of Graduates Subsidy Programme under the Green Employment Scheme from 2020 to 2022 to subsidise eligible private companies and suitable organisations to employ fresh graduates working in areas related to environmental protection, ecological conservation, green energy and energy conservation, climate change, sustainable development, etc. The programme provides each position with a monthly subsidy of \$5,610 and GreenPro Training Programme for the employed graduates, with a view to better equipping the graduates with different areas of expertise in the field. As the epidemic situation has passed and society and the economy have returned to full normalcy, the Graduates Subsidy Programme and GreenPro Training Programme have ended. In the past four years (2020-21 to 2023-24), the manpower, expenditure, number of beneficiaries and employment status of graduates who completed the training are as follows –

Year	Manpower	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees who have completed the programme
2020-21	2	9.65	The programme has subsidised more than 850 graduates	All trainees are employed in environmental protection-related positions
2021-22	3	22.14		
2022-23	4	24.70		
2023-24	3	11.32		

Technician Training Scheme

EMSD has been running the Technician Training Scheme since 1955. In 2023-24, the Technician Training Scheme covers recruitment of Technician Trainees from 6 trade disciplines, including Electrical, Electronics, Mechanical, Air-Conditioning, Building Services and Vehicles, with provision of 2-year and 3-year programs. Trainees will provide operation, maintenance, repair, alteration, and installation services for various electrical and mechanical system to government departments and public organisations. In the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), the expenditure, number of beneficiaries, and employment status of graduated trainees are as below –

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries (number of graduates/total number of trainee technicians)	Employment situation of trainees who have completed the programme		
			Number of trainees employed by the government	Number of trainees employed by private electrical and mechanical companies	Number of trainees who joined non-electrical and mechanical industry/ pursued further studies
2021-22	48.3	191/695	151	29	11
2022-23	38.7	157/671	118	32	7
2023-24	39.6	249/607	205	20	24

Note:

1. Technician Trainee Scheme is an integral part of the EMSD's work and is undertaken with the existing staff establishment. We do not have a separate breakdown.
2. The expenditure of Technician Training Scheme is paid for by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund.
3. The EMSD does not have the relevant figures in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

(3) Health Bureau

Providing training for doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals has always been one of the main functions and an important part of the daily operations of the Hospital Authority (HA), with the associated expenses being covered by the overall provision of funds. Since 2018-19, the Government has provided HA with an additional budget of approximately \$200 million in recurrent allocation to enhance medical professional training in the areas of service development, professional development, and operational requirements, which has been included in HA's overall provision of funds.

The Government has been committed to promoting the training of Chinese medicine (CM) talents, aiming to establish a high-quality talent pool. Since 2019, the Government has been providing funding through the Chinese Medicine Development Fund (CMDf) to support further studies for practicing Chinese Medicine practitioners (CMPs) and CM drug personnel, as well as funding for eligible organisations to develop and implement training programmes. Besides, starting from 2023-24, the CMDf also subsidises CMPs and CM drug personnel to participate in the "Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Talent Short-term Training Programme" co-organised by the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Health Bureau (HB). As at 10 March 2024, approximately 3 200 CMPs and CM drug personnel have received subsidies to attend CM professional training programmes, while over 32 500 have also been benefited from training programs organised by the funded programme providers. There are a total of 30 participants in the first phase of the "Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Talent Short-term Training Programme". The accumulated expenditure for the aforementioned CM talent training programme is \$69.862 million. The work is part of the overall operations of the HB and the CMDf, and therefore, specific breakdown figures related to manpower cannot be provided.

(4) Transport and Logistics Bureau

The Government established the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund in 2014 to implement training subsidy schemes aimed at cultivating talents in the maritime, aviation, and logistics industries, supporting industry manpower demands, and enhancing overall competitiveness and professional standards. Over the years, the Transport and Logistics Bureau has collaborated and provided support to the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and logistics industry organisations in jointly organising and supporting various training and internship programmes aimed at nurturing talents in the logistics sector.

Details of talent training programmes, manpower, provision/expenditure, number of beneficiaries, and employment situation of trainees who have completed the training programmes in different industries for the past 5 years (as at end of January 2024):

(a) Maritime

Year	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees (number of employed persons)
2019-20	16.82	1 099	874
2020-21	14.35	1 497	1 352
2021-22	15.53	1 440	1 200
2022-23	18.34	1 238	956
2023-24	14.48	1 194	955

(b) Aviation

Year	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees (number of employed persons)
2019-20	9.49	1 090	610
2020-21	8.95	1 084	817
2021-22	7.47	830	624
2022-23	10.09	1 077	743
2023-24	5.93	766	437

(c) Logistic

Year	Provision / expenditure (\$)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees (number of employed persons)
2019-20	320,000	24	Since the participants in the programmes or internships are not required to provide their occupational details or prospects after graduation, information regarding their employment status cannot be provided.
2020-21	350,000	627	
2021-22	410,000	536	
2022-23	870,000	462	
2023-24	116,000	734	

The administrative support for the aforementioned talent training programmes is provided by the overall resources of the TLB, and therefore, specific breakdown figures regarding manpower are not available. The details of talent training programmes in the maritime, aviation, and logistics industries are as follows:

Professional Training and Examination Refund Scheme

To encourage practitioners in both maritime and aviation sectors to pursue continuous career development through taking training courses and obtaining professional qualifications, they can be refunded 80% of the fees after completion of an approved course or passing an approved professional examination, subject to a cap of \$30,000 per practitioner.

Maritime and Aviation Internship Scheme

Through the tripartite collaboration among the Government, industries and academic institutions, industries arranges internship positions for secondary six school-leavers and tertiary students, with the Government covering up to 75% of the intern's monthly honorarium

or \$7,000 (whichever is lower) for an internship period of up to 3 months, aiming to provide early exposure for the students and young people in Hong Kong to the wide spectrum of career opportunities in the maritime and aviation sectors and encourage them to pursue careers in the maritime and aviation industries after graduation.

Local Vessel Trade Training Incentive Scheme

To attract more young people to join the local vessel trade, an allowance of up to \$30,000 per person is provided to those who are newly employed by the local vessel trade, providing incentive to them to acquire their first professional qualification as coxswains or engine operators on local vessels.

Local Vessel Competency Enhancement Scheme

Individuals who pass the examination and successfully obtain Grade 3 and 2 Local Certificate of Competency (CoC) qualification are eligible for a one-off financial incentive of \$12,000 and \$15,000, respectively, aiming to encourage in-service practitioners of the local vessel trade to take examinations for professional qualifications.

Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme

A monthly incentive subsidy of \$10,000 is offered to interns on ocean-going vessels, with a maximum period of 18 months for deck cadets and 12 months for engineer cadets. A monthly subsidy of \$3,000 will be given during the period while the applicants are preparing for the professional examinations ashore after their completion of cadetship for up to 9 months, and a monthly subsidy of \$6,000 will be given during the period after having acquired the required professional qualification but are yet to be promoted to officer rank for a maximum of 6 months. Applicants who have successfully passed the Deck Officer/Marine Engineer Officer Class 2 Examination and obtained a Deck Officer/Marine Engineer Officer Class 1 CoC will receive a one-off \$40,000 and \$80,000 incentive respectively. The scheme aims to entice more local young people to take up sea-going training and to obtain relevant qualifications.

Ship Repair Training Incentive Scheme

Eligible graduates of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) who have enrolled for apprenticeship in the ship repair industry are offered a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 for a maximum period of 36 months, aiming to attract new blood to join the ship repair industry.

Aviation Operations Training Incentive Scheme

To develop the future careers in the aviation industry of young people aspiring to receive training on aviation operations, registered students of the Diploma in Aviation Operations conducted by the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy will receive placement positions provided by the industry with a guaranteed minimum monthly salary of \$7,000 during the study-cum-work period for a maximum of 12 months, and a total amount of study allowance of \$24,000. The Government provides interns with a monthly incentive allowance of \$2,000 for a maximum of 12 months.

Hong Kong Maritime and Logistics Scholarship Scheme

Scholarships are provided to selected local, Mainland or overseas students to study the Master of Science in the International Shipping and Transport Logistics (ISTL) Programme of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Scholarship recipients have to undertake to work in the maritime-related field in Hong Kong for at least 1 year upon successful completion of the programme.

Hong Kong Nautical and Maritime Scholarship Scheme

Scholarships are provided to selected students enrolled in the ISTL Programme of PolyU. Scholarship recipients have to undertake to work on board ocean-going vessels or in the maritime-related field in Hong Kong for at least 1 year upon successful completion of the programme.

The University of Hong Kong – Dalian Maritime University Academic Collaboration Scheme

To nurture more professionals well-versed in the Hong Kong and Mainland legal systems as well as the specialised field of maritime law, the Government provides scholarship to selected students of Dalian Maritime University (DMU) to undertake the Master of Common Law course at the Hong Kong University (HKU). Scholarship recipients have to undertake to work in the maritime-related field in Hong Kong for at least 1 year upon successful completion of the programme. Separately, the scheme offers funding for law students of HKU as well as in-service practitioners in the maritime law field in Hong Kong to undertake summer programmes at DMU and professional seminars conducted by DMU teaching personnel in Hong Kong.

HKU – Shanghai Maritime University Academic Collaboration Scheme

To nurture more professionals well-versed in the Hong Kong and Mainland legal systems as well as the specialised field of maritime law, the Government provides scholarship to selected students of Shanghai Maritime University to undertake the Master of Common Law course at HKU. Scholarship recipients have to undertake to work in the maritime-related field in Hong Kong for at least 1 year upon successful completion of the programme.

Hong Kong Aviation Scholarship Scheme

To provide scholarships, capped at \$100,000, to selected students to complete aviation-related degree or higher degree programmes.

Partial Tuition Refund Scheme for the Specialised Aircraft Maintenance Programme

Graduates of the Higher Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Diploma in Vocational Education (Aircraft Maintenance) offered by the VTC joining the aircraft maintenance industry are eligible to be refunded 50% of the total tuition fee, subject to a cap of \$50,000.

Overseas Exchange Sponsorship Scheme

Undergraduate students of selected maritime-related disciplines in the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology are provided with a financial support of \$30,000 per person to attend one semester of credit-bearing maritime-related courses under overseas exchange programme, aiming to provide them with the opportunity to learn more about the maritime industry so as to attract them to join the maritime sector upon graduation.

Maritime Training Support Scheme

The Hong Kong Sea School is supported in running a school-based curriculum of Maritime Studies aiming to enable the students to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and actual shipboard experience, hence qualify them to sit for the Grade 3 Local CoC examination for coxswain, with a view to providing a steady and sustainable supply of competent new blood to the local vessel trade.

Maritime Services Traineeship Scheme –Legal

To incentivise law firms and barristers with maritime business to provide traineeship for those who aspire to a career in maritime law, with a view to nurturing more home-grown maritime lawyers and enhancing Hong Kong's high value-added maritime services. Successful applicants will be provided with a monthly subsidy of \$20,000 in respect of each trainee, subject to a cap of two trainees per applicant. The maximum period of subsidy is 24 months for trainee solicitors and 12 months for puillages.

Summer Internship Scheme on Supply Chain Management

To provide sponsorship up to 75% of each intern's monthly honorarium, or \$7,500, whichever is lower, for a maximum period of 3 months to logistics companies to offer summer internship placements to university undergraduates with a view to attracting them to join the logistics industry after graduation.

Training Courses Organised by the Hong Kong Logistics Association

To promote the continuous professional development of the logistics industry and encourage young people who are interested in joining the logistics industry to receive training through subsidising participants of the training courses. With the Government's subsidy of \$200 per course and the "buy one get two free" discount package, participants could attend 3 training courses for only \$100.

Training and Certification Course for Cold Chain Logistics Professional

To provide subsidy of 50% to 80% of the course fees to trainees attending the training and certification course, with subsidy amount depending on the level of the courses completed by the trainees.

Professional Training on Smart and Green Logistics Scheme

To provide subsidies up to 80% of the course fees for local training courses on modern, smart and green logistics organised by eligible logistics associations and training/education institutions, subject to a cap of \$6,500 for each participant. As this is a newly launched scheme, where the applications are currently in the vetting stage, relevant figures regarding the funding provided or the number of beneficiaries are not available at this stage.

Logistics Promotion Funding Scheme

To provide sponsorship up to 100% of the total project costs for local promotional campaigns and activities organised by eligible logistics-related organisations and professional bodies. As this is a newly launched scheme, where the applications are currently in the vetting stage, relevant figures regarding the funding provided or the number of beneficiaries are not available at this stage.

(5) Development Bureau

3 enhanced training programmes for construction workers: (i) Enhancements for Training of Construction Workers; (ii) Further Enhancement to Manpower Supply of the Construction Industry; and (iii) Enhancing the Skill Level of Construction Manpower. Another 2 training programmes for professionals and technicians respectively: (i) Pilot Scheme for On-the-job Training Subsidy for Construction-related Part-time Degree Programmes; and (ii) Pilot Scheme for On-the-job Training Subsidy for Construction Safety Officers. The trainings concerned are mainly provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC), while other institutions such as the VTC also involved in providing trainings.

3 enhanced training programmes for construction workers:

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment rate of trainees*
2019-20	The Government and CIC use existing internal resources to implement.	18.9	267	Over 80% in the past five years
2020-21		26.0	1 170	
2021-22		32.1	947	
2022-23		30.0**	5 326	
2023-24		144.0**	12 159	

* The statistic is the overall employment rate of graduates of CIC in each academic year (i.e. from September of each year to August of the following year). Statistic for the 2023-24 academic year is as of February 2024.

**Expenditures related to "Further Enhancement to Manpower Supply of the Construction Industry" started in September 2022, and the relevant expenditure has increased significantly in 2023-2024.

2 training programmes for professionals and technicians respectively:

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment rate of trainees*
2019-2023	The programme has not been launched yet			
2023-24	The Government and CIC use existing internal resources to implement.	5.0	378	Trainees are still on training

(6) Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

The IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in May 2015 with a view to enhancing their IP manpower capacity and boosting their competitiveness through IP management and commercialisation. To meet the development needs of the enterprises, the IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme PLUS in October 2020 to provide more comprehensive and in-depth IP training courses and practical workshops.

The participants were from different sectors, including science and technology, legal services, IP service providers, academia, manufacturing, business services, accounting, financing, insurance, real estate, import and export trading, etc. The IPD will continue to enhance the above Scheme and training courses to provide IP training to different sectors.

In the past 5 years (from 2019-20 to 2023-24):

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries (number of participants)	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	Carrying out the above capacity building programmes to promote IP trading is part of the overall work of the IPD, it is therefore difficult to quantify the expenditures and manpower involved separately.		420	Not applicable
2020-21			879	
2021-22			1 238	
2022-23			1 618	
2023-24			1 551	

(7) Housing Bureau

Housing Department has been running the Graduate Training Schemes to offer training opportunity for young professionals from different disciplines, including architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, surveying and planning, with a training period of 1 to 3 years.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	Absorbed by the existing manpower of Housing Department.	Absorbed by the existing resources of Housing Department.	86	Housing Department did not collect the relevant information.
2020-21			91	
2021-22			125	
2022-23			98	
2023-24			104	

(8) Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau

STEM Internship Scheme was launched in May 2020 to subsidise undergraduates and post-graduates taking full-time STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)-related programmes to enrol in short-term internships, with a view to encouraging STEM students to gain innovation and technology (I&T)-related work experience during their studies and to fostering their interest early in pursuing careers in I&T after graduation, so as to enlarge the local I&T talent pool. As the staff were also involved in several categories of work under Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), we are unable to provide a breakdown for the manpower involved.

Year	Manpower	Commitment (Note)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	Not applicable			
2020-21	No breakdown for figures	\$36 million	1 685	According to the surveys conducted by the participating universities after the end of the student internships, more than 95% of the students expressed upon completion of the internships that they would consider pursuing a career in I&T after graduation. Due to various reasons, such as students participating in the programme in the same year graduating in different years or they may have worked in more than one job after graduation, etc., it is difficult to track whether students participating in the programme join the I&T industry after graduation. The universities have also conducted relevant surveys, but statistics with much reference value are not available due to the unsatisfactory response rate.
2021-22		\$75 million	3 038	
2022-23		\$88 million	3 524	
2023-24 (As at January 2024)		\$101 million	3 843	

Note: The commitment involves the subsidies provided to the students participating in the Internship and disbursement of administrative overheads to the implementation agencies (e.g. the universities).

Research Talent Hub (RTH)

RTH, merging the Researcher Programme launched in July 2004 and Postdoctoral Hub launched in August 2018, was introduced in July 2020 with a view to encouraging university graduates to pursue a career in I&T after graduation for nurturing I&T talent. RTH provides funding for research and development (R&D) projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund as well as start-up and technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong to recruit up to 4 bachelor's/master's/doctoral degree graduates in a STEM-related disciplines awarded by a local university or a well-recognised non-local institution to conduct R&D work, with a maximum funding period of 3 years. As the staff were also involved in several categories of work under ITC, we are unable to provide a breakdown for the manpower involved.

Year	Manpower	Commitment (Note)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	No breakdown for figures	\$625 million	1 458	From the evaluation reports collected in 2019, more than 83% of the respondents expressed their interests in pursuing a career in R&D field in the future. Amongst them, 70% of the research talents had secured R&D related jobs, while another 24% expressed that they were still searching for jobs or decided to further their studies.
2020-21		\$666 million	1 373	From the evaluation reports collected in 2020, more than 95% of the respondents expressed their interests in pursuing a career in R&D field in the future. Amongst them, 63% of the research talents had secured R&D related jobs, while another 26% expressed that they were still searching for jobs or decided to further their studies.
2021-22		\$943 million	1 835	From the evaluation reports collected in 2021, about 91% of the respondents expressed their interests in pursuing a career in R&D field in the future. Amongst them, 63% of the research talents had secured R&D related jobs, while another 26% expressed that they were still searching for jobs or decided to further their studies.
2022-23		\$1.023 billion	1 974	From the evaluation reports collected in 2022, more than 97% of the respondents expressed their interests in pursuing a career in R&D field in the future. Amongst them, 69% of the research talents had secured R&D related jobs, while another 21% expressed that they were still searching for jobs or decided to further their studies.
2023-24 (As at		\$999 million	1 440	From the evaluation reports collected in 2023, more than 96% of the respondents expressed their

Year	Manpower	Commitment (Note)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
January 2024)				interests in pursuing a career in R&D field in the future. Amongst them, 66% of the research talents had secured R&D related jobs, while another 27% expressed that they were still searching for jobs or decided to further their studies.

Note: The amount is the total amount granted for the year. Depending on the tenure of the relevant research talents, the amount may be spread over more than one year.

New industrialization and Technology Training Programme (NITTP)

NITTP provides subsidies to local enterprises on a 2(Government):1(enterprise) matching basis for their staff to receive training in advanced technologies, especially those related to "New Industrialisation". The ITC uses its existing manpower to co-ordinate the programme and, at the same time, has appointed the VTC to manage the programme and to serve as the Secretariat for the programme. The staff cost of the Secretariat has been included in the funding provision for the programme.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	No breakdown for figures	12	About 1 600	To provides subsidies the staff recommended by local enterprises to receive training in advanced technologies.
2020-21		14	About 2 800	
2021-22		62	About 8 000	
2022-23		200	About 16 000	
2023-24 (as at January 2024)		210 (estimated)	About 17 000	

(9) Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau

HKAPA/Performing Arts Industry: HKAPA Training Courses

The HKAPA provides higher education in the performing arts with government funding to train students to pursue full-time careers in various performing arts and related fields. The HKAPA offers a total of 6 courses in different categories, namely Dance, Drama, Music, Theatre and Entertainment Arts, Film and Television, and Chinese Opera. Details are as follows-

Year	Provision / expenditure (including staff expenses) (\$) (Note 1)	Number of beneficiaries (Note 2)	Overall employment situation of trainees (Note 3)
2019-20	360,771,000	949	About 69.2% graduates are employed
2020-21	367,965,000	980	About 77.6% graduates are employed
2021-22	367,965,000	981	About 84.5% graduates are employed
2022-23	371,831,000	993	Not available (Statistics are still being collected)
2023-24	384,639,000	1 055	Not available (Academic year has not yet been completed)

Note 1: Funding of HKAPA to train students for the financial year concerned.

Note 2: The number of full-time students in HKAPA in the academic year concerned.

Note 3: Employment percentage based on the Graduate Employment Survey conducted by HKAPA in the academic year concerned.

Hong Kong Arts Development Council(HKADC)/Culture and Arts: Arts Development Council Talent Training Program

In the past 5 years, the Government subsidised the HKADC to train talents in culture and arts through different programs, including the Arts Administration Talent Training Scheme, Artistic Internship Scheme, Arts Talents Internship Matching Programme and Emerging Artists Development Grant, etc. Details are as follows-

Year	Provision / expenditure (including staff expenses) (\$) (Note 1)	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment situation of trainees (Note 2)
2019-20	15,420,000	63	Not available
2020-21	18,090,000	68	Not available
2021-22	19,030,000	75	Not available
2022-23	23,480,000	159	Not available
2023-24	65,045,000	220	Not available

Note 1: As some projects have not yet been completed, part of the expenditures are estimated expenditures.

Note 2: Not applicable to Arts Administration Talent Training Scheme that provides on-the-job training, and no relevant information is available for other programmes.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme and Summer Internship Programme

To provide heritage restoration and museum internship opportunities for graduates and full-time students in the West Kowloon Cultural District for 6 financial years starting from 2022-23. Details are as follows:

Year	Provision / expenditure (\$)	Number of beneficiaries
2022-23	10,000	1
2023-24	520,000	6

Various talent training programs of the LCSD

Details of various talent training programs of the LCSD are as follows:

Name of Programme	Programme brief
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the LCSD	The Arts Administrator Trainee Programme aims to nurture young arts administrators and museum professionals. The scope covering venue operations, facility management, programming, stage management, cultural exchange, museum management, conservation and etc. The LCSD also provides funding to venue partners and the HKAFS to hire arts administration trainees to learn about the management of performing arts groups and arts festivals.
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and HKAFS	
Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme	The Conservation Office will hire 10 university graduates majoring in designated disciplines every two years in a total of 6 years from 2022-23 to 2027-28 to receive internship training at the Conservation Office under the LCSD, so that more young people can come into contact with conversation work and plan their future careers.
The Two-year “Arts Tech Trainee Programme” at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre Academy for Arts Tech	The programme aims to recruit young people who wish to pursue a career in the art field, to offer them structured trainings with internship opportunities, where they have deepened their knowledge on Arts Tech application and collaborated with artists and technology professionals when participating in Arts Tech productions. Through classroom learning and on-the-job training, it is anticipated that they will be equipped with the experience and skills that are required to meet the strong workforce demand in the industry in order to nurture the software essential for the sustainable development of Arts Tech.

Name of Programme	Programme brief
Summer Internship Programme (Internship Programme)	The Programme in every summer provides internship placement opportunities for students who are permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and enrolled in full-time accredited post-secondary programmes offered by post-secondary institutions in or outside Hong Kong for a 6-week intern programme to experience museum work every summer.

2019-20

Name of Programme	Extra manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment situation of trainees
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the LCSD	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$19.88 million	104	Among the respondents of the survey, more than 30% of the trainees joined the cultural and artistic fields or continued their studies in related academic fields after completing their internship.
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and HKAFS				
Summer Internship Programme (Internship Programme)	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$290,000	17	Interns will continue their studies after completing the programme in the summer.

2020-21

Name of Programme	Extra manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment situation of trainees
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the LCSD	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$17.32 million	84	Among the respondents of the survey, more than 40% of the trainees joined the cultural and artistic fields or continued their studies in related academic fields after completing their internship.
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and HKAFS				
Summer Internship Programme (Internship Programme)	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$540,000	34	Interns will continue their studies after completing the programme in the summer.

2021-22

Name of Programme	Extra manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment situation of trainees
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the LCSD	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$20.40 million	94	Among the respondents of the survey, more than 30% of the trainees joined the cultural and artistic fields or continued their studies in related academic fields after completing their internship.
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and HKAFS				
Summer Internship Programme (Internship Programme)	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$520,000	34	Interns will continue their studies after completing the programme in the summer.

2022-23

Name of Programme	Extra manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment situation of trainees
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the LCSD	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$16.40 million	74	Among the respondents of the survey, more than 40% of the trainees joined the cultural and artistic fields or continued their studies in related academic fields after completing their internship.
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and HKAFS				
Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$220,000		
Summer Internship Programme (Internship Programme)	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$440,000	32	

2023-24

Name of Programme	Extra manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Overall employment situation of trainees
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in the LCSD	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$16.00 million	88	Among the respondents of the survey, more than 50% of the trainees joined the cultural and artistic fields or continued their studies in related academic fields after completing their internship.
Trainings Provided to Interns by the LCSD Venue Partners and HKAFS				
Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$660,000		
The Two-year “Arts Tech Trainee Programme” at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre Academy for Arts Tech	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$50,000 (Includes trainee salaries starting from mid-February 2024 only)	7	
Summer Internship Programme (Internship Programme)	Absorbed by its existing manpower	\$320,000	22	Interns will continue their studies after completing the programme in the summer.

(10) Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB)

Set Sail for GBA - Scheme for Financial Leaders of Tomorrow

(Implementation agency: the FSTB and Shenzhen Municipal Financial Regulatory Bureau (SZFRB))

The FSTB has organised 2 sessions of the “Set Sail for GBA - Scheme for Financial Leaders of Tomorrow” from 2021 to 2023, which helped more than 150 young people to learn about the opportunities in the GBA and prepare them for future career development. The 2023 Set Sail for GBA - Scheme for Financial Leaders of Tomorrow is co-organised by the FSTB and the SZFRB. Local undergraduates studying related subjects undertook a 4-day trip in the GBA and a 1-day pre-employment training as well as a 6-week internship in financial institutions in Shenzhen.

Year	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
2022-23	\$1,000,106.6	120
2023-24	\$918,172.33	33

Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Asset and Wealth Management Sector (Implementation agency: Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute)

The FSTB has implemented the Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Asset and Wealth Management Sector since August 2016 to provide subsidy for tertiary student internships and professional training for practitioners, and promote the employment opportunities and career prospects of the asset and wealth management sectors.

Year	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries
2019-20	6.14	606
2020-21	4.18	418
2021-22	8.23	832
2022-23	3.00	666
2023-24	7.80	381

FSDC Talent Development Activities

(Implementation agency: FSDC)

In the past 5 years, the FSDC has organised a total of 54 activities to cultivate talents, targeting students, practitioners and people who are interested in joining the financial services industry. The latest trends and employment opportunities in the financial services industry were shared by industry professionals.

Year	Provision / expenditure (\$)	Number of beneficiaries
2019-20	185,000	1 500
2020-21	308,000	1 132
2021-22	500,000	689
2022-23	600,000	973
2023-24 (As at end of March 2024)	900,000	948

Fintech Career Accelerator Scheme (FCAS)

(Implementation agency: HKMA)

The HKMA and its strategic partners organise the FCAS to nurture young talents of different career development stages, with a view to expanding the fintech talent pool in Hong Kong. Over 70 students were recruited by the HKMA and 30 participating institutions through the Gap Year Placement Programme of FCAS 2023/24 edition.

Year	Manpower and provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
2019-20	Handled by the HKMA with its existing manpower and resources.	222
2020-21		250
2021-22		184
2022-23		125
2023-24 (As at end of March 2024)		121

Industry Project Masters Network (IPMN)

(Implementation agency: HKMA)

The IPMN scheme was officially launched in September 2022 to groom fintech talent, in which Master's degree students have the opportunity to participate in practical fintech projects, gaining hands-on experience and skills. The 2022/23 edition of the IPMN scheme was successfully concluded, with over 130 students participating in the fintech industry projects.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
2022-23	Handled by the HKMA with its existing manpower and resources.		130
2023-24			No relevant figures yet

Programme for Private Wealth Management

(Implementation agency: HKMA)

Co-organised by the HKMA and the Private Wealth Management Association, by the end of 2023, the Apprenticeship Programme for Private Wealth Management has offered a total of around 350 apprenticeship opportunities in private wealth management since its inception in April 2017. The HKMA handles the work with its existing manpower and resources.

Future Banking Bridging Programme

(Implementation agency: HKMA)

The Future Banking Bridging Programme, implemented by the HKMA and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, has provided practical banking knowledge and work experience to over 720 university students in 3 consecutive sessions since its inception in 2021. The HKMA handles the work with its existing manpower and resources.

Banking Graduate Trainee Programme

(Implementation agency: HKMA)

Launched in 2022 as a sequel to the Banking Talent Programme in 2020 and 2021, the Banking Graduate Trainee Programme was co-organised by the HKMA and the banking industry, providing about 90 entry-level job opportunities in three fast-growing areas, including fintech, green and sustainable finance, and GBA business, for recent university graduates. The HKMA handles the work with its existing manpower and resources.

Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme (the Pilot Scheme)

(Implementation agency: Centre for Green and Sustainable Finance)

The FSTB launched the Pilot Scheme in December 2022 for application by market practitioners and related professionals as well as students and graduates of relevant disciplines. After completing eligible programmes or accomplishing relevant qualifications, applicants can apply for a subsidy of up to \$10,000. The Pilot Scheme will help reduce the cost of personnel training for the local industry, and help them build a professional team and talent pool for green finance. It helps the industry improve its ability to withstand climate risks and actively seize related opportunities in the region.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2022-23 to 2023-24	The Pilot Scheme is administered by the Centre for Green and Sustainable Finance, a public-private collaboration platform launched under the Green and Sustainable Finance Cross-Agency Steering Group (Composed of relevant government policy bureaux, financial regulators and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited). The policy co-ordination work of the FSTB is handled with its existing manpower and resources.	The scheme lasts for 3 years, with a total allocation of \$200 million.	As of early March 2024, approximately 2,200 applications for reimbursement have been successfully approved.	Nearly 70% of the applicants are current or former financial services practitioners or non-financial services practitioners whose responsibilities involve green and sustainable finance. The remainder are students or graduates studying related disciplines.

Anti-epidemic Fund Series: Professional Training Programme for Frontline Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Practitioners

(Implementation agency: Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA))

Under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund, the Government launched the "Matching Grant Scheme for Skills Upgrading " (Scheme) to organise training courses for people affected by the epidemic to enhance their skills and prepare for economic improvement.

The MPFA has successfully applied for funding from the scheme and appointed external training institutions to provide free online training courses to frontline practitioners in the industry (including customer service staff of MPF intermediaries and trustees).

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	Not applicable			
2020-21	Not applicable			
2021-22	A total of 7 staff: - 2 (MPFA staff, responsible for administration) - 2 (tutors, provided by external training institutions) - 3 (supporting staff, provided by external training institutions)	\$1,162,800 (of which \$872,100 is paid by the government Anti-epidemic Fund, and the remaining \$290,700 is paid by the MPFA)	3 214	No relevant information
2022-23	Not applicable			

Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for Insurance Sector
(Implementation agent: VTC)

The Government has implemented the Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Insurance Sector since August 2016 to provide subsidy for tertiary student internships and professional training for practitioners, and promote the employment opportunities and career prospects of the industries.

Year	Manpower*	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees#
2019-20	Not applicable	3.86	A total of 508 tertiary students completed the internships; the professional training courses^ have around 15 740 entries	Not applicable
2020-21		2.75		
2021-22		4.27		
2022-23		1.20		
2023-24		3.40		

* The programme is coordinated by the FSTB, and implemented by the implementation agent

The Government does not maintain statistics on the employment situation of tertiary students having completed the internships. Subsidised professional training courses are provided to insurance practitioners with a view to enhancing their professional knowledge.

^ The number of participants in the relevant courses of each round of the professional training subsidy scheme is not calculated on an annual basis.

FinTech Anti-epidemic Scheme for Talent Development (FAST)
(Implementation agent: Cyberport)

The FSTB launched the FAST in July 2021 to provide subsidy for fintech companies, start-ups and other enterprises with fintech-related businesses to employ local fintech talent.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	Not applicable			
2020-21	The scheme is coordinated by the FSTB, and implemented by the implementation agent	120.00	About 870	Information is not available
2021-22	Not applicable			
2022-23	Not applicable			
2023-24	Not applicable			

Financial Practitioners Fintech Training Programme

(Implementation agent: Cyberport)

The FSTB launched 2 rounds of Financial Practitioners Fintech Training Programme in March 2020 and February 2022, with a view to enhancing financial practitioners' knowledge of the practical fintech application.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2019-20	The programme is coordinated by the FSTB, and implemented by the implementation agent	2.5 (First round of the programme)	About 1 250	Trainees are the Fintech practitioners
2020-21	Not applicable			
2021-22	The scheme is coordinated by the FSTB, and implemented by the implementation agent	2.5 (second round of the programme)	About 5 900	Trainees are the Fintech practitioners
2022-23	Not applicable			
2023-24				

Pilot Scheme on Training Subsidy for Fintech Practitioners

(Implementation agent: HKMA and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers)

The FSTB launched the Pilot Scheme on Training Subsidy for Fintech Practitioners in September 2022 to provide training subsidy to practitioners who have attained fintech professional qualifications.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2022-23	The scheme is coordinated by the FSTB, and implemented by the implementation agent	6.46	About 350 practitioners have enrolled in the related-courses so far.	Trainees are the Fintech practitioners
2023-24		12.80		

GBA Fintech Two-way Internship Scheme for Post-secondary Students
(Implementation agent: Cyberport)

The FSTB launched the GBA Fintech Two-way Internship Scheme for Post-secondary Students in October 2023 to subsidise students in acquiring practical work experience in fintech enterprises in Hong Kong and Mainland cities of GBA.

Year	Manpower	Provision / expenditure (\$ million)	Number of beneficiaries	Employment situation of trainees
2023-24	The scheme is coordinated by the FSTB, and implemented by the implementation agent	7.00	About 150 quotas	The participants are full-time students studying fintech-related subjects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1843)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government established the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) in late 2022 to take forward the work on attracting strategic enterprises to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the annual staff establishment, salary expenses and operating expenses of OASES since its establishment and in the coming year;
- (2) the number of strategic enterprises that OASES has reached out to since its establishment, and the (i) types of operations and (ii) declared places of origin of these enterprises; and
- (3) the number of strategic enterprises having set up or expanded their business in Hong Kong since the establishment of OASES and their respective (i) names, (ii) types of operations, (iii) declared places of origin, and (iv) nature of business set up or expanded in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

- (1) As at 8 March 2024, the total operating expenditure of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) in 2023-24 is about \$13 million, including about \$6.15 million for staff remuneration. Currently OASES has 13 staff. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the creation of three time-limited non-civil service directorate positions under OASES in end-February 2024. Under the new structure, there are a total of 3 time-limited non-civil service directorate positions and 25 non-directorate contract positions. In 2024-25, the operating expenditure of the OASES is estimated to be about \$52.15 million, including about \$34.63 million on staff remuneration.
- (2) Upon its establishment in December 2022, OASES has immediately commenced work to proactively meet with different companies and organisations from industries of

strategic importance. It has so far reached out to more than 200 enterprises. Target enterprises are from around the world, with majority from industries including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, we are unable to disclose the details of the strategic enterprises being approached at this stage. The Government will announce in due course if there is any good news about strategic enterprises setting up their operations in Hong Kong.

- (3) OASES has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises. A majority of them have officially become OASES partners with their names announced earlier on public occasions. The remaining enterprises would like to keep a low profile due to commercial reasons or other considerations and we respect their preference.

The breakdown of the more than 40 strategic enterprises attracted through OASES according to their type of industry [Note], declared place of origin and nature of business set up or expanded in Hong Kong is set out below:

(i) Type of industry

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	43%
Artificial intelligence and data science	33%
Financial technology	8%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	16%

(ii) Declared place of origin

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Mainland	82%
Europe and North America	18%

(iii) Nature of business set up or expanded in Hong Kong

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Setting up business in Hong Kong	61%
Expanding business in Hong Kong	39%

Note: In view that the scope of business of certain strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO013

(Question Serial No. 0601)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) established under the Financial Secretary's Office will continue with its work this year. Please advise this Committee of OASES' plan for this financial year, the annual targets, the number of enterprises drawn in by it so far, the industries concerned and the economic benefit achieved.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises, mainly from strategic industries such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. They have set up or expanded their operations in Hong Kong, or are planning to do so. Over the next few years, these strategic enterprises are expected to bring about over \$40 billion in investment and create about 13 000 jobs in Hong Kong,

According to the 2023 Policy Address, OASES aims to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. OASES is working closely with relevant bureaux and other departments to jointly attract more strategic enterprises to set up their operations in Hong Kong.

- End -

CSO014

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0517)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

At present, Hong Kong's ageing population is rising while fertility rate is declining. Please inform this Committee of whether the Government will, in addition to the Newborn Baby Bonus of \$20,000, further consider the issue of "milk grant for the newborn" to encourage childbearing to a certain extent. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2023 Policy Address an array of measures to encourage childbirth by adopting a "combination punches" approach, including a one-off cash allowance for babies born to eligible parents (Newborn Baby Bonus). On the basis of a one-off cash allowance of \$20,000 for each eligible baby and a 3-year duration of the scheme (i.e. covering eligible babies born in Hong Kong between 25 October 2023 and 24 October 2026), we have created a new non-recurrent commitment of \$2,286 million (under Subhead 700 of Head 141), which represents a policy breakthrough as well as a significant financial commitment. Given the high fiscal deficit, the Government, in considering any other forms of monetary assistance (e.g. milk grant for the newborn), has to examine the impact of the proposal on public finances, and strive to strike a balance between encouraging childbirth and maintaining healthy public finances.

The Newborn Baby Bonus has only been introduced for a few months. We will take note of other suggestions put forward by various parties for reference in future review of the scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO015

(Question Serial No. 0280)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Since early 2023, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has lifted the mask-wearing requirements as well as all social distancing measures, and has fully resumed normal travel with the Mainland and overseas countries. In parallel, principal officials of the HKSAR have started to make overseas duty visits to promote Hong Kong.

- 1) Please provide, in tabular form, the expenditure details of the overseas duty visits made by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS) respectively in 2023-24, including the dates and places of visit, list and number of entourage members, purposes of visit, expenses on hotel accommodation, meals and air tickets, as well as total expenditure for each visit. Please specify the amount of sponsorships received and the names of sponsors (if any).
- 2) What are the respective estimated expenditures on overseas duty visits to be made by the CS and the FS in 2024-25? Which countries and regions are expected to be visited? What are the manpower arrangements? Are the estimated expenditures higher or lower than the revised estimates for 2023-24 in term of amount and percentage?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1) The relevant information on the duty visits of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS) in 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024) is as follows:

	Date of visit	Place of visit	Number of officials [^]	Purpose of visit	Hotel accommodation expenses	Passage expenses [#]	Other expenses [@]	Total expenditure of the trips
CS	From 1 April 2023 to 29 February 2024 (9 trips)	Mainland (Beijing, Chongqing, Hangzhou*, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Huizhou); Geneva, Switzerland	2 to 4 per trip	To attend international and regional meetings, forums, interviews and events (e.g. meeting of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland), to meet with officials and leaders concerned from different regions for exchange of views and experience sharing, to promote Hong Kong, enhance liaison and strengthen mutual relationship.	About \$148,000	About \$340,000	About \$102,000	About \$590,000
FS	From 1 April 2023 to 29 February 2024 (10 trips)	Mainland (Beijing*, Shenzhen, Shanghai*), Paris, France; London, United Kingdom; Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany; Marrakesh, Morocco; San Francisco, United States (US); Davos, Switzerland	4 to 6 per trip	To attend meetings, forums and interviews of international and regional organisations and events promoting Hong Kong (e.g. the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, the 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco, US), to meet with officials concerned and industry leaders from different regions for exchange of views and experience sharing, to attract enterprises and investment, enhance liaison and strengthen mutual relationship.	About \$1,030,000	About \$2,545,000	About \$164,000	About \$3,739,000

Notes:

- ^ Comprising officials of different ranks and led by a senior official or directorate officer.
- # Including charges for all cross-boundary transport (e.g. air tickets/ferry tickets/train tickets).
- @ Including charges for local transport, subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and sundry expenses (if applicable).
- * For some of the visits, hotel accommodation and/or in-town transportation were sponsored by hosting governments/organisations. We do not have the actual amount of sponsorship.
- § Some of the hotel accommodation (about \$27,000) and in-town transportation (about \$58,000) were sponsored by APEC and the US Bureau of Diplomatic Security respectively. The sponsored amount has been deducted from the passage expenses and the total expenditure of the trips.

2) The expenditures on duty visits of the CS and FS for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as follows:

	Revised estimate for 2023-24	Estimate for 2024-25
CS	\$900,000	\$1,200,000 (33.3% higher than the Revised estimate for 2023-24)
FS	\$4,000,000	\$4,600,000 (15% higher than the Revised estimate for 2023-24)

The estimated expenditures on duty visits of the CS and FS for 2024-25 are based on the actual expenditures of the previous year, the countries and regions expected to visit or the manpower arrangements involved, and the adjustments in energy prices.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO016

(Question Serial No. 0281)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Since early 2023, the HKSAR Government has lifted the mask mandate and all social distancing measures, and has fully resumed normal travel with the Mainland and foreign countries. As a result, principal officials of the HKSAR may have to receive more guests to strengthen communication and exchanges. Please set out the details of the expenditures incurred by the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary on reception of guests, entertainment and bestowal of gifts, the total amount of various external donations and the largest amount of donation they received in 2023-24, as well as the estimated expenditure and staffing arrangements for reception of guests in 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

In 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024), the expenses on official entertainment incurred by the Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS) are about \$61,000 and about \$149,000 respectively.

Also, the CS and the FS are eligible for an annual non-accountable entertainment allowance for meeting expenses on official entertainment at their official residences. In 2023-24, the allowances for the CS and the FS were \$500,800 and \$383,900 respectively.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts or souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts or souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, such items should not be extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum, and the exchange should only be made from organisation to organisation. We do not maintain separate accounts for the procurement of gifts and souvenirs for overseas duty visits or official activities, nor do we receive external donations for reception of guests.

In 2024-25, the Offices of the CS and the FS do not have additional staffing arrangements for reception of guests, and the estimated expenditures on entertainment are \$70,000 and \$130,000 respectively.

- End -

CSO017

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0282)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Office of Former Chief Executives (the Office) provides administrative support to former Chief Executives (CEs) to perform promotional, protocol-related and other activities in relation to their former official role. The activities include receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending public and social events, and taking part in speaking engagements. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What were the staff establishment of the Office, the details of support services provided for the 4 Former CEs and the respective expenditures involved in the past 3 financial years?
- 2) What is the estimated expenditure of the Office for providing services to the 4 Former CEs in 2024-25? If the estimated expenditure is higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24, what are the reasons?
- 3) The Office is housed at 28 Kennedy Road, Central and in Suite No. 806, One Pacific Place, Admiralty. What were the respective maintenance and repair costs of the building at Kennedy Road, which is a Grade 1 historic building, in the past 3 financial years?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In April 2005, the Government appointed the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Independent Commission) to consider and make recommendations on the remuneration package and post-office arrangements for the Chief Executive (CE). The Independent Commission completed the study in June 2005 and submitted a report to the Government. The recommendations in the report included the provision of support and other life-long benefits for all former CEs. The Government accepted the recommendations of the report and presented the same to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in November 2005 and obtained its approval of the financial arrangements for implementing the recommendations. Since then, in accordance with the

approval of the FC, the Government has been providing office accommodation and administrative support for all former CEs to support them in performing promotional and protocol-related functions for Hong Kong after leaving office, such as receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending functions and events, and taking part in speaking engagements. The Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) provides administrative support to former CEs including scheduling and making arrangements for functions and events, handling correspondence and enquiries, and dealing with general administrative duties. In addition, all former CEs are also entitled to protocol arrangements, security protection, as well as medical and dental care.

Currently, the support services for each former CE's office are provided by 1 Senior Personal Assistant, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Personal Chauffeur. Additionally, the offices at 28 Kennedy Road and Pacific Place, Admiralty are each provided with 1 staff member to perform daily clerical and reception duties, etc.

The actual expenditure of the Office in 2021-22 and 2022-23 were about \$12.63 million and \$17.85 million respectively, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 was about \$20.99 million. The estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is about \$22.07 million, representing a slight increase of \$1.08 million (5.1%) over the revised estimate for 2023-24, which is mainly due to the increase in staff remuneration and other daily operating expenses.

The Office at 28 Kennedy Road, Central is a government property rated as Grade 1 historic building. As in the case of other government buildings, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) carries out routine facilities upkeep for the building having regard to actual needs. The expenditure for maintenance works is funded under Subhead 000 of Head 25 (ArchSD), while refurbishment and improvement works are funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. The expenditures involved in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 were about \$110,000, \$140,000 and \$240,000 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0283)

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in this Programme that the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) is responsible for conducting in-depth studies and analyses on Mainland policies and developments, as well as global developments and trends, and assessing how Hong Kong can keep up with these developments; and also assessing public opinions for the Chief Executive's reference through various means including web-based data analytics, opinion polls, focus group discussions, as well as networking and dialogue with stakeholders. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) Please set out in detail the title, general contents, expenditure and manpower involved in specific projects including studies, opinion polls and group discussions commenced or completed in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Besides, how many studies, opinion polls and group discussions are expected to be conducted in 2024-25? Will the CEPU conduct forward-looking studies and give advice to the Chief Executive on major issues such as the development of the Northern Metropolis, the integration of Hong Kong into the national development, etc.?
- 2) Please set out in tabular form the details of permanent establishment of the CEPU in 2022-23 and 2023-24 by type of duties, number of directorate posts, number of non-directorate posts and estimated expenditure on emoluments.
- 3) Please set out in tabular form the details of non-civil service contract posts in the CEPU in 2022-23 and 2023-24 by type of duties, number of posts and estimated expenditure on emoluments.
- 4) Provision for 2024-25 is \$25.6 million (23.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies and the anticipated increase in departmental expenses, as well as the increase in the amount of grants to be approved under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme. Please elaborate on the reasons for the increase. Has the CEPU set any performance indicators? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the sentiments of Hong Kong citizens, understand the general direction and focus of their concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and will directly report its research outcome to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation. Given that in-house research work is part of CEPU's regular duties, we do not keep separate statistics on the number of research projects or the manpower and expenditure involved. Apart from conducting research in-house, we also commission external consultants to carry out studies and opinion polls as and when necessary. Up to end-March 2024, a total of 39 external studies and opinion polls have been completed or are being carried out, involving an estimated contract sum of about \$13.2 million. The findings of the studies and surveys conducted by the CEPU are mainly for internal deliberation and references for the Chief Executive and the Government. As they serve as a basis for information and analysis in policy formulation and development, it is hence not appropriate to disclose them so as to avoid any undue misinterpretations or speculations. Separately, the CEPU administers the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) which aim to support evidence-based public policy research by higher education institutions and think tanks in Hong Kong with a view to facilitating public policy discussion and in turn enhancing policy formulation to meet the needs of society and nurture the talents required. In 2023-24, funding were granted to 21 new projects under the two schemes. Brief descriptions of the said projects and those granted funding in the past, as well as research reports of the completed projects, are uploaded to the CEPU website for public information.

- 2-3. Currently, the CEPU comprises 3 Divisions with each undertaking policy research with different focuses in addition to shouldering other duties. The CEPU has 47 posts/positions on its permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service (NCS) positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Among the 39 non-directorate civil service posts, 18 are of officer rank of various grades including the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades which will augment the professional support to the policy research function of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial

grades to provide general administrative support. Separately, we have employed 15 NCS staff on contract terms from outside the Government to provide support for research and other duties. The expenditures on staff emoluments and relevant expenses in 2023-24 were about \$67 million, and the number of relevant posts are as follows:

Table 1

Post	Number	Pay Point
Permanent directorate establishment		
D8-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 post	1	Directorate Pay Scale (DPS) Point 8
D4-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 post	1	DPS Point 4
D3-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade B post	2	DPS Point 3
D2/DL2-equivalent NCS position / Administrative Officer Staff Grade C / Principal Economist/Government Engineer / Deputy Principal Government Counsel / Government Town Planner post	4	DPS/Directorate (Legal) Pay Scale Point 2
Sub-total of permanent directorate establishment	8	
Permanent non-directorate civil service establishment		
Senior Administrative Officer / Senior Statistician / Senior Economist / Senior Town Planner / Chief Executive Officer	10	Master Pay Scale (MPS) Points 45 to 49
Senior Executive Officer / Executive Officer I / Statistical Officer I	8	MPS Points 22 to 44
Clerical and secretarial grade and other supporting staff	21	MPS Points 1 to 33
Sub-total of permanent non-directorate civil service establishment	39	
Total of permanent establishment	47	

Table 2

Non-directorate NCS government staff positions	Number	Pay scale of comparable civil service ranks
Research Director / Senior Researcher / Senior Executive Manager	7	MPS Points. 34 to 45
Researcher / Project Manager (Statistical Analysis) / Project Manager (Public Opinion) / Assistant Project Manager (Public Opinion) / Assistant Researcher	8	MPS Points. 15 to 33
Total	15	

4. Following the establishment of the CEPU on 28 December 2022, we subsequently appointed staff to fill some of the vacancies in accordance with the established procedures. Open recruitment exercises were also carried out to employ NCS staff on contract terms. The relevant staff reported for duty in the second and third quarters of 2023 in batches. This being the case, the actual expenditure on staff emoluments incurred in 2023-24 was lower than the original estimate. We expect the amount of the related expenditure in 2024-25 to be close to the original estimate for 2023-24. In addition, we originally earmarked \$26 million for the PPRFS and the SPPRFS in 2023-24, but the actual number of projects approved and the amount of funding granted were lower than estimated. With the full operation of the CEPU and enhanced publicity efforts, we anticipate that the funding schemes will attract more applications in 2024-25 and accordingly, we have earmarked a total of \$26.5 million for the funding support granted under the two funding schemes, and the provision is similar to the original estimate for 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1924)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

As announced in the 2023 Policy Address, to encourage childbirth, the Government will provide a one-off cash bonus of \$20,000 to eligible parents for each baby born on or after 25 October 2023. The scheme will be implemented for a period of 3 years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of families which have received the cash bonus each month since the implementation of the scheme in table form;
2. whether the Government has plans to regularise the scheme; if so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?
3. whether there are plans to introduce more policy measures to encourage more families to have children; if so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Head 141 Subhead 700 instead of Head 142. Our reply to the three-part question is as follows:

1. After obtaining the funding approval from the Legislative Council Finance Committee on 19 January this year, the Government has expedited the required internal procedures and commenced to disperse the one-off Newborn Baby Bonus of \$20,000 to eligible parents before the Lunar New Year. As at 15 March 2024, we have received a total of 10 271 eligible applications and disbursed the bonus to 9 677 applicants.
2. The Newborn Baby Bonus has only been introduced for less than 5 months since its launch on 25 October last year. We need to observe its implementation for a period of time before conducting a review in due course to decide on the way forward.

3. The disbursement of Newborn Baby Bonus is only one of the measures in the whole package of fertility promotion initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address. Other measures include raising the accommodation-related tax deduction ceiling, priority arrangement for subsidised sale flats, priority arrangement for public rental housing allocation, increasing the public service quota for assisted reproductive services, providing tax deduction for assisted reproductive services, increasing the Working Family Allowance, increasing child care centre places and allowances, extending the After-School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children to cover all districts, strengthening the home-based child care service, and promoting family education. We have created a new non-recurrent commitment of \$2,286 million (under Subhead 700 of Head 141) for the Newborn Baby Bonus. It represents a policy breakthrough as well as a significant financial commitment. Given the high fiscal deficit, the Government, in considering any other forms of monetary assistance, has to examine the impact of the proposal on public finances, and strive to strike a balance between encouraging childbirth and maintaining healthy public finances. The Newborn Baby Bonus has only been introduced for a few months. We will take note of other suggestions put forward by various parties for reference in future review of the scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2567)

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

When the former Chief Executive (CE) Mrs Carrie LAM left the office, due to the reason that the Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) in Central was already fully occupied, another Office was set up at Pacific Place, Admiralty to provide her with administrative support. In addition, all former CEs are also entitled to security protection, as well as medical and dental care. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) the non-recurrent expenditures of the Admiralty Office in each of the past 2 years, and the main details of the expenditures involved;
- (2) the total recurrent expenditures of the Admiralty Office in each of the past 2 years, and the relevant breakdowns of the figures;
- (3) the establishments by rank and the expenditures on the remuneration of the staff members who provided support to Mrs Carrie LAM, as well as the total expenditures in each of the past 2 years;
- (4) the numbers of promotional/protocol-related functions attended by Mrs Carrie LAM in her capacity as the former CE in the past 2 years;
- (5) the expenditures on the security protection, as well as medical and dental care offered to Mrs Carrie LAM in each of the past 2 years, with a breakdown by service type; and
- (6) whether there are records on the respective utilisation rates of the 2 Offices in Central and Admiralty. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

In April 2005, the Government appointed the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Independent Commission) to consider and make recommendations on the remuneration package and post-office arrangements for the Chief Executive (CE). The Independent Commission completed the study in June 2005 and

submitted a report to the Government. The recommendations in the report included the provision of support and other life-long benefits for all former CEs. The Government accepted the recommendations of the report and presented the same to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in November 2005 and obtained its approval of the financial arrangements for implementing the recommendations. Since then, in accordance with the approval of the FC, the Government has been providing office accommodation and administrative support for all former CEs to support them in performing promotional and protocol-related functions for Hong Kong after leaving office, such as receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending functions and events, and taking part in speaking engagements. The Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) provides administrative support to former CEs including scheduling and making arrangements for functions and events, handling correspondence and enquiries, and dealing with general administrative duties. In addition, all former CEs are also entitled to protocol arrangements, security protection, as well as medical and dental care. The provision of security protection for former CEs is undertaken by the Hong Kong Police Force, while the medical and dental care for former CEs on a life-long basis is in line with that provided to civil service pensioners. We do not have relevant expenditure figures.

The 2023-24 revised estimate of recurrent expenditure for the Office at Pacific Place was around \$9.17 million, including (a) staff remuneration and staff-related expenses of \$2.86 million, (b) rent and related expenses of \$5.67 million and (c) other daily operating expenses of \$0.64 million. There was no non-recurrent expenditure for that year. In 2022-23, the recurrent expenditure of that Office was about \$6.95 million, with expenses under items (a) to (c) mentioned above being \$2.04 million, \$4.43 million and \$0.48 million respectively. The non-recurrent expenditure was about \$6.55 million, which was mainly for renovation works (including the procurement of furniture and equipment) funded under Subhead 3101GX of Head 703 – Buildings.

The staff remuneration and staff-related expenses involved 1 Senior Personal Assistant, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer, 1 Personal Chauffeur and 1 staff member who was responsible for daily reception duties and so on.

According to the information provided by the Office, the former CE Mrs Carrie LAM attended more than 700 promotional/protocol-related functions in her capacity as the former CE in the past 2 years. The Offices concerned have been operating as usual and we do not have relevant statistics on their usage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO021

(Question Serial No. 1650)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Chief Secretary for Administration, Financial Secretary

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Head 142 – Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will continue to draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the operating expenditure and number of staff of OASES, as well as the number of enterprises attracted and their average market capitalisation over the past 12 months?
2. What attractive special facilitation measures were provided to attract enterprises to Hong Kong?
3. Will the OASES synergise with the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) to attract companies invested by the HKIC to Hong Kong? If yes, please provide the number and size of the companies attracted. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-wang, Robert (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. As at 8 March 2024, the total operating expenditure of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) in 2023-24 is about \$13 million, including about \$6.15 million for staff remuneration. Currently OASES has 13 staff. OASES has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises, including a number of innovation and technology enterprises with a market capitalisation or valuation of over \$10 billion.
2. Based on the communication of OASES with the industries, enterprises may have various concerns and considerations, covering financing, talent acquisition, immigration facilitation and policy measures, depending on their respective company size, demands of

industry, business plan, etc. OASES has been working with relevant bureaux to explore facilitation measures and tailor-made solutions that would meet the individual needs of strategic enterprises. To facilitate negotiations, the Government must safeguard the confidentiality of relevant process and contents and hence cannot disclose any details at this stage.

3. As announced in the 2024-25 Budget, the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (“HKIC”) will implement the first batch of direct investment and co-investment projects in the first half of this year, covering areas such as life technology, green technology and finance, semi-conductors and chips, as well as the upgrading and transformation of manufacturing industries. The HKIC will keep in close touch with various bureaux of the HKSAR Government and the relevant institutions to jointly facilitate the development of strategic industries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO022

(Question Serial No. 0807)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will continue to draw up a list of target enterprises and provide enterprises with tailor-made plans to facilitate the setting up of their operations in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the details of the manpower and expenditure involved in commencing the above work by OASES in 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

Upon approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in late February 2024 for the creation of 3 time-limited non-civil service directorate positions under the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), there are a total of 3 time-limited non-civil service directorate positions and 25 non-directorate contract positions under the new structure of OASES. Currently OASES has 13 staff. The recruitment for the new positions is underway and is expected to be completed from mid-2024. The estimated expenditure of OASES in 2024-25 is about \$52.15 million.

- End -

CSO023

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1286)

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

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

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. The number of users of the Public Records Office Search Room in 2023.
2. Did the Government procure any archival records relating to the history of Hong Kong from other places in 2023-24? If so, please provide the contents of the records and the expenditure involved. Also, please provide the estimated expenditure of the Government for procuring archival records relating to the history of Hong Kong from other places in 2024-25.
3. What are the specific publicity activities to be organised by the Government in 2024-25 to strengthen public education and publicity on Hong Kong's documentary heritage?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The number of users of the Public Records Office Search Room in 2023 was 6 085.
2. Over the years, the Government Records Service (GRS) has been procuring copies of suitable archival records relating to Hong Kong from other archives (for example, The National Archives of the United Kingdom (TNA) and The First Historical Archives of China) to enrich its holdings. In 2023-24, the GRS procured 46 items of archival records relating to Hong Kong from TNA, incurring about \$68,000. These records are related to the history of Hong Kong from the 1870s to the 1940s, with subjects ranging from Hong Kong's general situation, administrative issues, trade development, etc. These records are subject to quality checking, arrangement and description by the GRS and are expected to be available for public inspection in 2024.

To enrich its holdings, the GRS has earmarked \$100,000 in 2024-25 for the procurement of copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong from the archival institutes of other places.

3. The GRS organises exhibitions, seminars, workshops, group visits and other educational activities regularly to promote the documentary heritage of Hong Kong. Details of the GRS' public education and publicity programmes scheduled for 2024-25 are set out below:
- (a) organise about 30 onsite or online group visits to the GRS with an estimated number of more than 2 000 participants;
 - (b) conduct about 5 onsite or online educational talks or workshops for teachers and students, facilitating them to use the archival records kept by the GRS to conduct researches on Hong Kong's development in different areas. The estimated number of participants in each onsite and online talk or workshop is 40 and 150 respectively;
 - (c) organise an annual thematic exhibition cum roving exhibitions and set up an online Resources Page to help the public better understand, appreciate and utilise the local documentary heritage and archival records kept by the GRS;
 - (d) continue to enrich the online Educational Resources Portal to enable more people to view the archival holdings and information therein. Frequently used and popular holdings will be digitised for more convenient access; and
 - (e) continue to enrich the content of the Public Records Office Facebook page (fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice) to attract more online viewers to like, follow and share the page and posts, so as to strengthen connection and interaction with the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0103)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government has introduced the Newborn Baby Bonus in order to boost the local fertility rate. How many applications have been received by the Government in total since the commencement of the scheme? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in vetting and approving the applications respectively? Will the Government regularise the scheme and increase the amount of the bonus? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons? Will new measures be launched next year to raise the local fertility rate? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2023 Policy Address an array of measures to encourage childbirth by adopting a “combination punches” approach, including a one-off cash allowance of \$20,000 for babies born to eligible parents (Newborn Baby Bonus). As at 15 March 2024, we have received 10 271 eligible applications. To implement the scheme, the Government has employed additional manpower to handle the clerical work and the related administrative cost is about \$800,000 per annum.

The payment of Newborn Baby Bonus is only one of the measures to encourage childbearing in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address. Other measures include: raising the accommodation-related tax deduction ceiling, priority arrangement for subsidised sale flats, priority arrangement for public rental housing allocation, increasing the public service quota for assisted reproductive services, providing tax deduction for assisted reproductive services, increasing the Working Family Allowance, increasing child care centre places and allowances, extending the After-school Care Programme for Pre-primary Children, strengthening the home-based child care service, and promoting family education. We

believe that the package of measures will help boost the fertility rate. The Newborn Baby Bonus will be implemented for a period of 3 years and will be reviewed thereafter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2366)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Chief Executive, Mr John LEE, announced in the 2023 Policy Address the provision of a bonus of HK\$20,000 for each baby born in Hong Kong with immediate effect to promote fertility, and that the measure would last for 3 years. The relevant funding was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 19 January this year. However, in the same meeting, the Government indicated that “Hong Kong drifters”, who have been admitted into Hong Kong through various admission schemes for top talents, talents and professionals, would not benefit from the scheme. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Given that the aforesaid “Hong Kong drifters” have been making tangible contribution to our economy by starting businesses and paying taxes in Hong Kong, and that the Government is using public money to encourage childbearing, what are the specific reasons for excluding their newborn babies from the coverage of the scheme? Will the Government consider including these “Hong Kong drifters” under the coverage of the subsidy scheme in the future?
2. To further promote fertility in Hong Kong, will the Government consider implementing a special loan scheme under which a family, after the birth or adoption of a child, may apply for a loan at an exceptionally low interest rate to be used exclusively for buying or renting a flat?
3. Will the Government consider introducing a measure to provide a monthly living subsidy of \$1,000 to \$2,000 to the parents of a household with children under a certain age (e.g. 1 year old)?
4. There are views suggesting that the Government may draw reference from the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme to provide “healthcare vouchers for children” and “tutorial vouchers for school children”, etc. as financial assistance to children seeking medical treatments from private medical institutions or attending tutorial classes at private education centres, thereby alleviating their families’ financial burden on medical and education expenses, as well as further reducing their costs of raising children. Will the Government adopt this suggestion?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Head 141 Subhead 700 instead of Head 142.

Newborn Baby Bonus mainly aims at encouraging childbearing among those who have become Hong Kong permanent residents, bringing in new blood to Hong Kong. The Government hopes that talents who have come to Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes will choose to stay in Hong Kong and become permanent residents after 7 years. Apart from increasing the number of young people in the labour force, they can also boost the fertility rate.

The Government has created a new non-recurrent commitment of \$2,286 million (under Subhead 700 of Head 141) for the Newborn Baby Bonus. It represents a policy breakthrough as well as a significant financial commitment. Given the high fiscal deficit, the Government, in considering any other forms of monetary assistance (e.g. loan schemes, maintenance grants or subventions), has to examine the impact of the proposal on public finances, and strive to strike a balance between encouraging childbirth and maintaining healthy public finances. The Newborn Baby Bonus has only been introduced for a few months. We will take note of other suggestions put forward by various parties for reference in future review of the scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0180)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited will reach out to enterprises from the Mainland and overseas, and proactively attract and assist high value-added technology enterprises as well as other enterprises to establish a foothold in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the numbers of enterprises approached by the aforesaid authorities, successfully attracted to establish a foothold in Hong Kong, and the jobs created in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the action plan and expenditure estimates of the aforesaid authorities for 2024-25, and whether any key performance indicators (KPIs) have been set; if yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

In respect of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), it has reached out to more than 200 enterprises since its establishment in December 2022, with over 40 of them have set up or expanded their operations in Hong Kong, or are planning to do so. Over the next few years, they are expected to bring about over \$40 billion in investment and create about 13 000 jobs in Hong Kong, the majority of which will be research and development or senior management positions.

For 2024-25, OASES' estimated expenditure on attracting enterprises and investments is \$12 million. According to the 2023 Policy Address, the Government will continue its endeavours to attract enterprises, particularly those pertinent to Hong Kong's development as the "eight centres", including key enterprises in advanced technology. OASES will continue its efforts in attracting quality strategic enterprises to Hong Kong, as well as providing aftercare services to enterprises that have set up their foothold in Hong Kong. It targets to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their

foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. OASES will also continue to work closely with the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, InvestHK and other relevant bureaux/departments to jointly achieve the Government's targets of attracting at least 100 high potential and representative innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises (including 20 top-notch I&T enterprises) by 2027 and, in collaboration with InvestHK, at least 1 130 companies from 2023 to 2025.

In respect of the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC), as mentioned in the 2024-25 Budget Speech, it will perform the role of channelling capital and leveraging market resources, attracting more I&T companies to establish their presence in Hong Kong, and accelerating the development of strategic industries. The first batch of direct investment and co-investment projects will be implemented in the first half of this year, covering areas such as life technology, green technology and finance, semi-conductors and chips, as well as the upgrading and transformation of manufacturing industries. The HKIC is conducting in-depth due diligence work on potential projects and partners. Having regard to the market sensitive information involved, appropriate disclosure will be made in the future after the project reaches a maturity stage.

During the initial stage of the HKIC's operation, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority has rendered investment, logistics and operational support to it. Since October last year, when the HKIC's Chief Executive Officer and members of his team gradually assumed duties, they have taken over the operational and investment-related matters and reported to the Board of Directors (the Board) on a regular basis. In addition to officials from the relevant bureaux, the Board also comprises business, financial and academic leaders from non-official background. The Board will approve the organisation, governance, staffing and administrative arrangements of the company and the related expenditure estimates in accordance with the actual needs of the HKIC's business operation. The Board will also formulate appropriate disclosure arrangements for the company, taking into account the actual needs of HKIC's investment operation and factoring in the nature and development stage of individual projects.

When sourcing and evaluating potential investment projects, in addition to considering the return from a long-term and holistic perspective, the HKIC also focuses on unlocking the potential of capital in guiding the acceleration of support for constructing a more vibrant ecosystem for Hong Kong's strategic industries. Therefore, the deliverables of the HKIC should be evaluated from a long-term and multi-dimensional perspective. The relevant indicators include the HKIC's ability in enhancing Hong Kong's ability to attract enterprises and investment, upgrading industrial structure, strengthening impetus for economic growth, creating more high-quality career development opportunities for the public, and promoting industrial co-operation and development between Hong Kong and cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Board will continue to give guidance on the relevant matters to the HKIC.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1883)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 31 of the Budget Speech that “the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB), Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) actively reach out to enterprises from the Mainland and overseas, and proactively attract and assist high value-added technology industries and enterprises to establish a foothold in Hong Kong”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. According to the section on “CSO - Administration Wing” under Programme (3), the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is 11.4% higher than that for 2023-24. What are the reasons for the increase? Is it related to the work of OASES?
2. What are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of OASES for 2024-25? Will there be plans to further increase the establishment and recruit additional staff to cope with the work of attracting enterprises and investment to Hong Kong?
3. How many strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas has OASES reached out to in 2023-24? How many strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas does OASES target to reach out to in 2024-25? How many strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas does OASES target to bring into Hong Kong to set up their business in 2024-25?
4. What targeted and attractive special facilitation measures, commonly known as “packages”, will be provided by OASES to attract more strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas to set up their business in Hong Kong?
5. While striving to attract strategic enterprises in life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, will OASES also attract from the Mainland and overseas those strategic enterprises in traditional industries such as textile, garment and fashion, which have a competitive edge in and are of strategic importance to Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The 2024-25 estimate for CSO - Administration Wing is 11.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in expenditure for general departmental expenses, hire of services and filling of vacancies, which also covers the additional expenditure for supporting the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) to carry on with and strengthen the efforts in attracting strategic enterprises to Hong Kong.
2. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved in end-February 2024 the creation of 3 time-limited non-civil service directorate positions under OASES to further carry on with the efforts in attracting strategic enterprises. Under the new structure, there are a total of 3 time-limited non-civil service directorate positions and 25 non-directorate contract positions. In 2024-25, the expenditure of OASES is estimated to be about \$52.15 million.
3. OASES has so far reached out to more than 200 enterprises and aimed to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. Besides, OASES will continue to work closely with the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, InvestHK and other relevant bureaux/departments to jointly achieve the Government's targets of attracting at least 100 high potential and representative innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises (including 20 top-notch I&T enterprises) by 2027 and, in collaboration with InvestHK, at least 1 130 companies from 2023 to 2025.
4. OASES would formulate targeted and attractive special facilitation measures covering aspects such as land, investment and financing to meet the needs of individual strategic enterprises. One-stop facilitation services including visa application and information on children's education would also be provided to employees of these target enterprises.
5. Taking into consideration the development directions and strategic planning set out in the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint, as well as Hong Kong's inherent strengths as an international financial centre, OASES currently focuses on attracting strategic enterprises from industries of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. It is believed that the above strategic industries (such as artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing) can all help modernise and add value to traditional industries. OASES will regularly review the need to update the list of strategic industries in the light of the latest government policies and the future development of the industries concerned.

OASES and InvestHK have been working closely with each other in attracting inward investments to Hong Kong. While OASES focuses on strategic enterprises from industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong, InvestHK focuses on enterprises from various other sectors such as business and professional services, creative industries, consumer products (including textiles, garment and fashion), tourism and hospitality, transport and industrial, family offices, etc. InvestHK will provide them with one-stop customised support services, from the planning to implementation stages, and proactively encourage enterprises to expand their businesses in Hong Kong through providing aftercare support.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0506)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 177 to 182 of the Budget Speech that the Government will take forward a number of sector-specific talent training programmes to enrich the local talent pool, which includes innovation and technology talent, healthcare professionals, maritime and aviation talent, patent talent and international legal talent. What criteria has the Government used in selecting the 5 professions/sectors? Will the Government develop similar talent training programmes for other professions or sectors with keen manpower demand and serious manpower shortage, such as the professional sectors related to development and construction?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The Government will keep up the efforts in nurturing local talent and continue to take forward a number of sector-specific talent training programmes to enrich the local talent pool.

In consultation with various bureaux, the sector-specific talent training programmes for 2024-25 are set out as follows:

Programme/sector	Bureau
The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Mediator Training Course	Department of Justice
The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Lawyers' Practical Legal Training Course	
Talent training programmes for the environmental protection industry	Environment and Ecology Bureau
Technician Training Scheme under the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	
Work on promotion of intellectual property trading	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Programme/sector	Bureau	
Chinese medicine talent training programmes related to the Chinese Medicine Development Fund	Health Bureau	
Full-reimbursement of tuition fees for students enrolling in programmes for dental therapists and dental hygienists		
Maritime and Aviation Training Fund	Transport and Logistics Bureau	
3 enhanced training programmes for construction workers	Development Bureau	
2 training programmes for professionals and technicians respectively		
Graduate training scheme for training young professionals under the Housing Department	Housing Bureau	
STEM Internship Scheme	Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau	
Research Talent Hub		
New Industrialisation and Technology Training Programme		
Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Training Courses	Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau	
Arts Development Council Talent Training Program		
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority: Graduate Trainee Programme		
2-year / 1.5-year Internship in Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)		
Trainings Provided to Interns by LCSD Venue Partners and Hong Kong Arts Festival Society		
The Two-year “Arts Tech Trainee Programme” at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre Academy for Arts Tech		
Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme		
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Museum Trainees (Conservation) Programme and Summer Internship Programme		
Summer Internship Programme in LCSD		
Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Asset and Wealth Management Sector		Financial Services and the Treasury bureau
Financial Services Development Council Talent Development Activities		
Fintech Career Accelerator Scheme		
Industry Project Masters Network		
Programme for Private Wealth Management		
Future Banking Bridging Programme		
Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme		
Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for Insurance Sector		

Besides, in making good use of Hong Kong’s bilingual common law system and international background, the Department of Justice (DoJ) will set up a dedicated office and an expert committee within 2024 to take forward the establishment of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (“Academy”) to regularly organise different practical legal

courses, seminars and international exchange activities, etc., in order to promote talent exchanges in areas along the “Belt and Road”, provide foreign-related legal talent training for our country (including the Greater Bay Area) and the Belt and Road countries, and cultivate legal talents who are familiar with international law, common law, civil law, and national legal systems. The training targets of the Academy includes (1) Mainland legal professionals, (2) legal professionals and government officials from law-related departments in other jurisdictions and (3) Hong Kong legal professionals (including relevant government officials and legal practitioners).

Moreover standing arrangements have been put in place for seconding Hong Kong legal professionals (including both solicitors/barrister in private practice and Government Counsel) to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at The Hague, the Netherlands, the Secretariat of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome, Italy, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific at Incheon, Republic of Korea. DoJ will also continue to provide local legal talents with sustained training opportunities, and to promote to the legal sector (including young legal professionals) the secondment programmes to international organisations.

In addition, the Government encourages post-secondary institutions to maintain contact with stakeholders from different sectors of the community to provide diversified and quality programmes in response to the ever-changing manpower needs of various industries in the society, with a view to nurturing talent necessary for socio-economic development. Under the principle of institutional autonomy, post-secondary institutions have the flexibility to develop programmes that meet market needs and adjust the curriculum and student places of the relevant programmes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1229)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. What is the public expenditure earmarked by the HKSAR Government to meet the operating expenses of the offices of 4 former Chief Executives in the 2024-25 financial year?
2. Has the HKSAR Government maintained records on or made enquires about the actual utilisation of the offices of 3 former Chief Executives at 28 Kennedy Road (including the number of days in use or closed)?
3. In the face of a huge budget deficit, has the HKSAR Government examined options to reduce the above expenditures?
4. Have there been studies on ways to use the office space at 28 Kennedy Road more effectively such that it has sufficient space to accommodate 1 more office for former Chief Executives, or ways to better utilise offices which are readily available but seldom in use, with a view to cutting down the expenditure on renting Grade A commercial buildings for use as offices for former Chief Executives?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In April 2005, the Government appointed the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Independent Commission) to consider and make recommendations on the remuneration package and post-office arrangements for the Chief Executive (CE). The Independent Commission completed the study in June 2005 and submitted a report to the Government. The recommendations in the report included the provision of support and other life-long benefits for all former CEs. The Government accepted the recommendations of the report and presented the same to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in November 2005 and obtained its approval of the financial arrangements for implementing the recommendations. Since then, in accordance with the approval of the FC, the Government has been providing office accommodation and administrative support for all former CEs to support them in performing promotional and

protocol-related functions for Hong Kong after leaving office. The estimated expenditure of the Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) for 2024-25 is about \$22.07 million. The Offices concerned have been operating as usual and we do not have relevant statistics on their usage.

The Office at 28 Kennedy Road can only accommodate 3 former CEs at most and no space is available to set up an office for the fourth former CE. We will continue to provide appropriate office accommodation and administrative support for all former CEs taking into account the actual circumstances to support them in performing promotional and protocol-related functions for Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3109)

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

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

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

According to the Government's existing records management system, if members of the public apply to the Government Records Service (GRS) for access to government records of less than 30 years old, the GRS has to deliver the master copies of the relevant government records to the government departments to which the government records originally belonged. The departments concerned will, having regard to the confidentiality, personal privacy, etc., examine and decide whether those records or only part of the records will be disclosed to members of the public who submit the applications.

What are the numbers of applications submitted by members of the public for access to government records of less than 30 years old in 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively? Among those applications, what were the largest number and average number of government records requested? What were the average time and costs (including the costs for the delivery of records between the GRS and the relevant government departments, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in handling the applications) of the GRS and the relevant government departments for handling the applications? Also, what were the numbers of members of the public who had submitted the applications but did not turn up to inspect the records requested at the GRS as scheduled?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

According to the existing requirements of the Government Records Service (GRS), members of the public may apply to access up to 20 archival records of less than 30 years old each time. In 2022-23 and 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024), the GRS received 152 and 115 of such applications respectively, and the average number of archival records requested in each application was 3.3 and 3.2 respectively. Among them, the numbers of applications in which the applicants did not turn up to inspect the archival records approved for access were 13 and 18 respectively.

As the staff of the GRS who handled the relevant applications were also responsible for other duties, the GRS does not have the data on the time or manpower costs involved in handling the applications. The relevant delivery costs were also subsumed under GRS' daily operating costs. Furthermore, the GRS does not have the information regarding the numbers of staff, their ranks and hours of work involved in handling the applications, nor the delivery costs of other bureaux/departments, and thus is unable to provide these data.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO031

(Question Serial No. 2833)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

On attracting strategic enterprises, a total of 36 strategic enterprises have confirmed setting up or expanding their operations in Hong Kong so far.

1. What is the work plan, including the initiative of attracting target enterprises, of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) for this year?
2. Please provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of OASES on attracting enterprises and investments for this year.
3. Has OASES monitored the progress and status of the strategic enterprises that have set up businesses in Hong Kong and provided them with appropriate assistance? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong. Our reply to questions relating to OASES is as follows:

1. OASES will continue to take forward its efforts in attracting quality strategic enterprises to Hong Kong, and providing aftercare services to enterprises that have set up businesses in Hong Kong, with an aim to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong.
2. For 2024-25, the estimated expenditure of OASES on attracting enterprises and investments is \$12 million, which would cover operational expenses including outreach programmes, Mainland and overseas roundtables, local networking events and public relations activities, online and in-person marketing activities, production of publicity materials, as well as administrative overheads.
3. OASES will continue to provide aftercare services to enterprises that have set up their operations in Hong Kong, encouraging them to seize the opportunities offered by new

initiatives such as the development of the Northern Metropolis, Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint and cross-boundary data flow, thereby progressively increase their investments in Hong Kong. OASES would also facilitate the enterprises' connection and collaboration with innovation and technology enterprises or organisations in Hong Kong and the Mainland, with a view to achieving synergy and thus fostering the development of Hong Kong as well as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CSO032

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2857)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that some 10 strategic enterprises will sign a partnership agreement with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises. The companies have either confirmed setting up or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong, or they are planning to do so. Together with the 30 companies from the first batch, they are expected to bring about over \$40 billion in investment to Hong Kong, creating about 13 000 jobs over the next few years.

Please set out the total funding amount for the first batch of 30 strategic enterprises. Will the Government provide funding support for the some 10 strategic enterprises that will soon set up their businesses in Hong Kong? If yes, what is the estimated total funding? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

At present, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has not provided any direct funding support to the some 40 strategic enterprises which have or are planning to set up their businesses in Hong Kong. The role of OASES is mainly to act as the coordinator within the Government, by working with relevant bureaux on exploring facilitation measures and tailor-made plans to meet the individual needs of the strategic enterprises. These include assisting the strategic enterprises in identifying suitable funding schemes and submitting applications to the relevant departments/organisations. Given that whether to apply for Governmental funding support would be subject to the commercial considerations of individual strategic enterprise, OASES is unable to provide the relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO033

(Question Serial No. 1418)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Newborn Baby Bonus, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number, establishment and ranks of staff responsible for the implementation of the Newborn Baby Bonus and the expenditure involved;
2. the number of applications for the Newborn Baby Bonus received by the Government in 2023-24 and the number of applications approved;
3. further to the preceding question, the reasons for rejecting the applications, if any;
4. the number of applications expected to be received in the coming 3 financial years and the administrative costs involved.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The information sought is provided below:

1. As the work relating to the Newborn Baby Bonus is mainly carried out by departments with their existing resources, and the staff concerned have to perform other duties, we are unable to provide a breakdown of the manpower, establishment and related salary expenditure involved in its implementation. However, a department has employed additional manpower to handle the clerical work for the implementation of the scheme, and the related administrative costs amount to about \$800,000 per annum.
2. As at 15 March 2024, we have received a total of 10 271 eligible applications.
3. The application forms for the bonus will only be given out to those who meet the eligibility criteria, hence we have not rejected any application.

4. For the purpose of estimating the resources for implementing the scheme, we have assumed that there will be about 39 000 newborn babies each year starting from 2024-25. However, we are unable to predict with certainty the number of applications for the bonus each year. The number of application does not affect the related administrative costs.

- End -

CSO034

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3198)

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please inform this Committee of:

1. the total number of "forward-looking research on strategic and long-term issues" being conducted currently, the specific areas of research, as well as the manpower and expenditure allocated to each of the research projects; and
2. the number of recommendations adopted from the research funded under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme last year.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the sentiments of Hong Kong citizens, understand the general direction and focus of their concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and will

directly report its research outcome to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation. Given that in-house research work is part of CEPU's regular duties, we do not keep separate statistics on the number of research projects or the manpower and expenditure involved. Apart from conducting research in-house, we also commission external consultants to carry out studies and opinion polls as and when necessary. Up to end-March 2024, a total of 39 external studies and opinion polls have been completed or are being carried out, involving an estimated contract sum of about \$13.2 million. The findings of the studies and surveys conducted by the CEPU are mainly for internal deliberation and references for the Chief Executive and the Government. They serve as a basis for information and analysis in policy formulation and development, and it is hence not appropriate to disclose them so as to avoid any undue misinterpretations or speculations.

2. The CEPU administers the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) which aim to support evidence-based public policy research by higher education institutions and think tanks in Hong Kong with a view to facilitating public policy discussion and in turn enhancing policy formulation to meet the needs of society and nurture the talents required. The 19 PPRFS projects and 2 SPPRFS projects which were granted funding in 2023-24 are ongoing and have yet to be completed. As for the previously funded projects, the relevant reports would be passed to related bureaux/departments after completion for reference in policy formulation and review. Policy research is part of the work for policymaking. The bureaux/departments concerned would have to consider a variety of factors before deciding whether to adopt the recommendation in a particular research report. Therefore, the CEPU has not maintained statistics in this aspect.

- End -

CSO035

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0835)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Support Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Chris YT CHONG)
Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The legal sector often indicated that the Legal Aid Department (LAD) is extremely slow in processing payments to lawyers. But it is mentioned in the Estimates that the percentage of completed payments to lawyers, experts or other parties, whether they be advance payments or balance payments, within 6 weeks was as high as 99% in 2023. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. among the cases which were assigned to private practitioners and monitored by the LAD, how many were concluded between January and June 2023, and what were the costs involved;
2. among the concluded cases mentioned above, how many were disbursed payments in full, and what were the costs involved;
3. the reasons for not completing payments in those cases with payments unsettled.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

As a measure of meeting the customer service standard performance targets, the Legal Aid Department (LAD) has set a performance pledge for effecting advance and balance payments to lawyers, experts or other parties in a legal aid case, and maintains records on its compliance with the pledge. According to the statistics for 2023 maintained by LAD, the percentage of the assigned lawyers, experts or other parties (a) receiving advance payments of interim costs within 6 weeks from the receipt of bills by LAD, and (b) receiving balance payments within 6 weeks from the date of agreement of all costs and disbursements related to the case, or receipt of all monies due to the aided person and LAD, whichever is later, was as high as 99%.

In effecting payments, LAD can only effect advance payments upon its receipt of bills, and balance payments after the amount of costs has been agreed by the relevant parties or all monies due to the aided person and LAD have been received. In the first six months of 2023 up to 30 June, there is a total of 3 976 such cases, and the amount involved is around

HK\$557.2 million. Out of these cases, there are only 7 cases involving around HK\$500,000 where advance or balance payments cannot be effected within 6 weeks in accordance with the abovementioned performance pledge, which are primarily attributed to the time required for seeking clarification from the assigned lawyers on the information submitted by them before payment could be arranged.

To shorten the time required for assessing the fees payable to assigned lawyers and expedite the payment process, LAD has implemented a series of measures, such as making advance payment of interim costs to assigned lawyers upon receipt of their interim bills to LAD before the conclusion of a case. To facilitate assigned lawyers in checking the progress of costs assessment upon receipt of all related documents by LAD, LAD has set up a helpline for assigned lawyers to make direct enquiries with the responsible staff of the Department. In addition, LAD will continue to maintain communication with the two legal professional bodies and take timely follow-up actions on the assessment and payment of costs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO036

(Question Serial No. 3829)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Does the SAR Government have any plan to bring in strategic industries from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states for development in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), established by the Government at the end of 2022, is tasked with attracting representative and high-potential strategic enterprises in industries of strategic importance, including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Regarding the investment promotion work in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, Invest Hong Kong and OASES proactively reach out to strategic enterprises across different regions. To attract enterprises from ASEAN member states to set up their operations in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, Invest Hong Kong and OASES also work closely with the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in Bangkok, Jakarta, Singapore and Guangdong to enhance promotion on Hong Kong's latest policy and facilitation measures on attracting enterprises and investment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3849)

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

What is the estimated provision earmarked by the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises for attracting enterprises to set up their operations in Hong Kong? Is there any detailed plan on the specific measures to attract enterprises and the time schedule?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

For 2024-25, the estimated expenditure of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises on attracting enterprises to set up their operations in Hong Kong is \$12 million, which would cover operational expenses including outreach programmes, Mainland and overseas roundtables, local networking events and public relations activities, online and in-person marketing activities, production of publicity materials, as well as administrative overheads. The actual launch time of different promotional and networking activities would be subject to detailed discussions with relevant stakeholders and will be announced by the Government in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3581)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the elimination of environmental hygiene blackspots, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the follow-up actions taken against the existing 738 environmental hygiene blackspots, with a breakdown showing whether the blackspots have been eliminated, or whether the situation has improved or persists;
- (2) whether there are environmental hygiene blackspots in various districts showing signs of “relapse” after a period of time; whether measures have been taken by the districts concerned to deal with the situation; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) the total number of reports received from members of the public so far through the online platform set up under the programme on tackling hygiene blackspots, and the follow-up actions taken;
- (4) whether the Government has put in place an exit mechanism in respect of the existing 738 environmental hygiene blackspots so as to make better use of resources to tackle new hygiene blackspots; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

The information is provided as follows:

Questions (1), (2) and (4)

The current-term Government places great emphasis on district-based environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management in order to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for citizens and boost our city's image. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, which has now been revamped as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape and put under the Task Force on District Governance chaired by the Deputy Chief

Secretary for Administration, launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling environmental hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different bodies and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots has increased from the initial 663 to 738.

In the 2022 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has set a key performance indicator (KPI) for the Programme, i.e. removing at least 75% of environmental hygiene black spots by end-2023. With the concerted efforts and active facilitation of various departments, the conditions of most of the hygiene black spots have improved. According to the review results of various departments in mid-March 2024, the hygiene conditions of 90% (or 683) of the 738 black spots have significantly improved to the extent that they could be removed from the list of black spots. Nonetheless, to ensure that the environmental hygiene of these locations will not relapse into their previous conditions, we will not delist any of them at this stage so as to prevent our efforts from going futile.

The number of environmental hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in each district is tabulated below, with a breakdown by District Council district:

District Council district	Number of hygiene black spots	Number of hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in mid-March 2024
Central and Western District	66	62
Eastern District	24	23
Southern District	10	10
Wan Chai District	18	15
Kowloon City District	91	84
Kwun Tong District	26	25
Sham Shui Po District	31	28
Wong Tai Sin District	25	23
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	50
Islands District	60	59
Kwai Tsing District	15	15
North District	62	45
Sai Kung District	10	10
Sha Tin District	22	21
Tai Po District	135	135
Tsuen Wan District	23	22
Tuen Mun District	31	31
Yuen Long District	30	25
Total	738	683

Question (3)

In order to provide an additional channel for the public to report environmental hygiene issues on the district level, the Government launched a thematic website of the Programme in January 2023. It facilitates citizens to provide feedback on listed black spots or suggest new black spots for consideration by relevant departments. As at mid-March 2024, the thematic website accumulated nearly 28 700 hits and collected about 1 740 public comments in total. Generally speaking, the environmental hygiene problems found in the majority of newly reported spots have been reviewed and considered by departments concerned as short-term and non-continuous. With the departments' cleansing efforts, follow-up actions and enhanced inspections, these problems have been effectively resolved with no sign of recurrence.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO039

(Question Serial No. 3812)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Hong Kong faces a worrying trend of population ageing. The median age rose to 48.5 years in 2023. According to a study, Hong Kong has the lowest fertility rate in the world. Will the Government consider mobilising the business sector to introduce more child care concessions and complementary measures to encourage childbearing by making reference to overseas experience? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment for the Newborn Baby Bonus is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

All countries and places worldwide are facing a decline in fertility rate. Hong Kong is no exception. In the 2023 Policy Address, the Government has introduced an array of measures to promote fertility, such as giving families with newborns priority on flat allocation, enhancing child care support, increasing tax concessions and providing a newborn baby bonus. By implementing these measures, the Government sets a policy direction to help create and promote an atmosphere of supporting childbirth in our society, giving childbearing families the feeling that raising the next generation will be valued or even commended. The business sector is welcome to explore and put forward feasible proposals for our consideration and reference in future review of the “combination punches” approach to promote fertility.

- End -

CSO040

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3815)

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

A number of academics have pointed out that in the face of successive years of “structural fiscal deficits” exceeding hundreds of billions of dollars, and even with the introduction of a progressive rating system for domestic tenements and a two-tiered standard rates regime for tax under personal assessment, the annual increase in tax revenue for the Treasury is less than \$2 billion, and the policy on raising revenue is just a drop in the ocean. It has been suggested that the Government should be more austere and strictly contain growth of expenditure. Regarding expenditure cut, will the Secretary inform this Committee of the following:

Examine whether there is an “over-abundance” or “surplus” of talents in the Chief Executive's Policy Unit, and whether there is any room for downsizing?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the sentiments of Hong Kong citizens, understand the general direction and focus of their concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and will directly report its research outcome to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation.

Currently, the CEPU comprises 3 Divisions with each undertaking policy research with different focuses in addition to shouldering other duties. The CEPU has 47 posts/positions on its permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service (NCS) positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Among the 39 non-directorate civil service posts, 18 are of officer rank of various grades including the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades which will augment the professional support to the policy research function of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. Separately, we have employed 15 NCS staff on contract terms from outside the Government to provide support for research and other duties, having regard to our operational needs. Apart from conducting research in-house, we also commission external consultants to carry out studies and opinion polls with a view to meeting its operational needs by flexible deployment of resources. The CEPU will continue to review its resources and manpower requirements according to operational needs.

- End -

CSO041

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3882)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

As regards paragraph 31 of the Budget Speech, please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of promotion activities launched in the Mainland and overseas by the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises and the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited in the previous year and the manpower and expenditure incurred;
2. the number of enterprises brought in by the above office/corporation in the past year, their place of origin, the type of business they engage in, the amount of their investment and the jobs they created; and
3. the specific plans for attracting enterprises in the coming year and performance indicators for such work.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

In respect of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), as at 15 March 2024, it has organised/launched a total of 34 Mainland and overseas promotional activities in 2023-24. The manpower involved includes its 18 staff and the expenditure so incurred is about \$4.88 million.

OASES has so far successfully attracted more than 40 strategic enterprises which have set up or expanded their businesses in Hong Kong, or are planning to do so. It is expected that they will bring about over \$40 billion in investment to Hong Kong and create about 13 000 jobs over the next few years. The breakdown of these some 40 strategic enterprises according to their type of industry [Note] and declared place of origin is set out below:

(i) Type of industry

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	43%
Artificial intelligence and data science	33%
Financial technology	8%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	16%

(ii) Declared place of origin

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Mainland	82%
Europe and North America	18%

Note: In view that the scope of business of certain strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

OASES will continue to take forward its efforts in attracting quality strategic enterprises to Hong Kong, with an aim to reach out to no less than 300 strategic enterprises in 2024 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. OASES will also continue to provide aftercare services to enterprises that have set up their businesses in Hong Kong, encouraging them to seize the opportunities offered by new initiatives such as the development of the Northern Metropolis, Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint and cross-boundary data flow, thereby progressively increases their investments in Hong Kong.

In respect of the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC), at the initial stage of the HKIC's operation, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority rendered support in such areas as investment, logistics and operations. Since the formation of its Board of Directors (the Board), the HKIC has reported to the Board on its operations and investment-related matters. Apart from officials of the relevant policy bureaux, the Board also comprises leaders from different sectors with non-official background. When approving the budget for operational expenses and considering such matters as the structure, governance, personnel and administration, the Board takes into account the actual needs of the HKIC's business operations. The Board will formulate disclosure arrangements for the HKIC as appropriate, having regard to factors such as the actual needs of the HKIC's investment operations and the maturity stages of individual projects. The HKIC will make announcement at the appropriate time.

Meanwhile, the HKIC is pressing ahead with the preparatory work for the Roundtable for International Sovereign Wealth Funds and the Summit on Start-up Investment and Development in Hong Kong, including liaising closely with the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and relevant organisations to make appropriate arrangements. The HKIC will announce the details in due course.

Performing its role of channelling capital and leveraging market resources, the HKIC will attract more innovation and technology companies to establish their presence in Hong Kong, accelerating the development of strategic industries. The first batch of direct investment and co-investment projects will be implemented in the first half of this year, covering areas such as life technology, green technology and finance, semi-conductors and chips, as well as the upgrading and transformation of manufacturing industries. Currently, the HKIC is conducting in-depth due diligence work on potential projects and partners. Having regard to the market sensitive information involved, appropriate disclosure will be made in the future after the project reaches a maturity stage.

As mentioned in the 2024-25 Budget Speech, the HKIC will implement the first batch of direct investment and co-investment projects in the first half of this year, covering areas such as life technology, green technology and finance, semi-conductors and chips, as well as the upgrading and transformation of manufacturing industries.

Since the inception of the HKIC, the Board has provided guidance on the investment strategies of the HKIC as well as the procedures and criteria in identifying investment partners or targets, having regard to the objectives of the HKIC, and the respective investment scopes of the Hong Kong Growth Portfolio, the Greater Bay Area Investment Fund, the Strategic Tech Fund, and the Co-Investment Fund.

When sourcing and evaluating investment projects, in addition to striving for reasonable overall returns in the long run, the HKIC also focuses on unlocking the potential of capital to drive and accelerate the development of a more vibrant ecosystem for Hong Kong's strategic industries. Hence, it is appropriate to evaluate the deliverables of the HKIC from a long-term and multi-dimensional perspective, such as whether it can strengthen Hong Kong's ability to attract enterprises and investment, enhance the industrial structure and the impetus for economic growth, create more quality career development opportunities for people, and promote industrial co-operation and development between Hong Kong and cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Board will continue to give guidance on the relevant matters to the HKIC.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3558)

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

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, please inform this Committee of:

1. the manpower and expenditure required for measures like street cleansing and launching a thematic website under the programme on tackling hygiene black spots over last year; the number of inspections conducted at hygiene black spots by the departments; and the estimated manpower and expenditure for 2024-25;
2. the number of hygiene black spots across the territory and those that have been improved or tackled, with a breakdown by District Council district; and
3. the progress made with regard to cityscape enhancement works (including replacement of street name plates, façade beautification for public housing blocks and installation of thematic manhole covers), and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

The information is provided as follows:

1. The current-term Government places great emphasis on district-based environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management in order to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for citizens and boost our city's image. The Government's work on tackling hygiene black spots is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work. That said, some departments have used additional earmarked funds to boost their efforts in enhancing environmental hygiene. Take the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department as an example, the Department has made use of the some \$500 million additional funding for a two-year period allocated in the 2022-23 Budget to enhance environmental hygiene services, particularly strengthening the street cleansing and refuse collection services,

stepping up measures on rodent control and improving the hygiene of public markets in response to the epidemic. As for the thematic website of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme), its daily maintenance cost for 2024-25 is about \$360,000.

2. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, which has now been revamped as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape (the Working Group) and put under the Task Force on District Governance chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, launched the Programme in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling environmental hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different bodies and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots has increased from the initial 663 to 738.

In the 2022 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has set a key performance indicator (KPI) for the Programme, i.e. removing at least 75% of environmental hygiene black spots by end-2023. With the concerted efforts and active facilitation of various departments, the conditions of most of the hygiene black spots have improved. According to the review results of various departments in mid-March 2024, the hygiene conditions of 90% (or 683) of the 738 black spots have significantly improved to the extent that they could be removed from the list of black spots. Nonetheless, to ensure that the environmental hygiene of these locations will not relapse into their previous conditions, we will not delist any of them at this stage so as to prevent our efforts from going futile.

The number of environmental hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in each district is tabulated below, with a breakdown by District Council district:

District Council district	Number of hygiene black spots	Number of hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in mid-March 2024
Central and Western District	66	62
Eastern District	24	23
Southern District	10	10
Wan Chai District	18	15
Kowloon City District	91	84
Kwun Tong District	26	25
Sham Shui Po District	31	28
Wong Tai Sin District	25	23
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	50
Islands District	60	59
Kwai Tsing District	15	15
North District	62	45
Sai Kung District	10	10
Sha Tin District	22	21
Tai Po District	135	135

District Council district	Number of hygiene black spots	Number of hygiene black spots deemed suitable to be removed from the list upon review in mid-March 2024
Tsuen Wan District	23	22
Tuen Mun District	31	31
Yuen Long District	30	25
Total	738	683

3. The work on cityscape enhancement taken up by the Working Group includes beautifying public space, improving street furniture and enhancing streetscapes. The work is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work. The progress of the work on cityscape enhancement is as follows:

In 2023, the Highways Department carried out streetscape enhancement works at 3 locations with heavy pedestrian flow, i.e. the streets in the vicinity of the Outlying Islands Ferry Pier in Central, Tai Wai MTR Station and Lo Tak Court in Tsuen Wan. The works include replacing paving blocks for pavements, installing thematic manhole covers, beautifying covered walkways, footbridges, lifts and lamp posts, as well as replacing street name plates. The works have been completed.

Since the first quarter of 2024, the Housing Department has commenced in phases façade beautification works in 10 public housing estates.

The Drainage Services Department has started installing manhole covers with local characteristics in various districts across the city since 2022. As at end-2023, nearly 180 thematic manhole covers (57 of which are coloured) were installed at 8 locations. It is expected that some 20 new thematic manhole covers will be installed within 2024.

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