

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

[Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food]

[Session No. : 12] [File name : S-HWFB-e.doc]

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Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB001

Question Serial No.

Oral

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Referring to the Controlling Officer's reply to initial written/supplementary question (Reply Serial No. HWFB103, Question Serial No.: 0445) on Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) for elderly persons retiring to Guangdong Province, please provide the following information:

- (a) the respective number of applications and successful applications for burial grants for the year 2002-03 and the average amount of grant for each successful application and the range of the amount of grants; and
- (b) the respective number of applications and successful application for escort services for the year 2002-03 and the number of participants involved.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) In the year 2002-03 (up to February 2003), 206 applications for burial grant under the PCSSA Scheme were received and 150 applications were approved. The average amount of the grant is \$5,090. The range of the amount of the grant is as follows:

Amount of burial grant HK(\$)	No. of applications	%
1,110 to 2,000	2	1%
2,001 to 4,000	33	22%
4,001 to 6,000	115	77%
Total :	150	100%

- (b) In the year 2002-03 (up to February 2003), the Social Welfare Department's agent received requests for escort service from 19 PCSSA recipients or their family members. Nine of these recipients returned from Guangdong to Hong Kong and one left Hong Kong for Guangdong with escort services arranged. The other nine recipients subsequently withdrew their requests as they decided not to return to Hong Kong.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>28 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB002

Question Serial No.

S020

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) In 2002, the Government provided 150 peer counsellors to render support and guidance to Secondary Three school leavers. What is the total number of guidance cases handled by the 150 peer counsellors in 2002 and the amount of actual expenditure incurred by 2002-03?
- (b) What is the estimated amount of provision in 2003-04 and the expected number of peer counsellors to be provided for the implementation of this Peer Counsellor Programme?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply :

- (a) Throughout the year of 2002-03, a total of 10 174 Secondary Three school leavers were served by the peer counsellors. Expenditure for this initiative in 2002-03 was \$15.1 m.
- (b) With the estimated provision of \$15.1 m in 2003-04, similar number of peer counsellors are expected to be engaged as in 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	28 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB003

Question Serial No.

S021

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Of the residential training services to be provided in 2003-04, with regard to the monthly cost per resident of the probation homes, probation hostels, reformatory schools and remand homes/place of refuge, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure breakdown of each of the residential services (including staff, meal and other expenditure);
- (b) the utilisation rate of each of the residential services and the feasibility of adjusting their capacities; and
- (c) room for down-adjustment of each of the expenditure items.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) The breakdown of the estimated unit cost per resident per month (including staff oncost) for the correctional/residential homes in 2003-04 are listed below:

Nature of the Home	Personal Emoluments (including staff oncost) \$	Meal \$	Others \$	Total \$
Probation Homes	36,995	985	4,338	42,318
Probation Hostel	18,404	953	1,278	20,635
Reformatory School	38,860	654	4,140	43,654
Remand home/Place of Refuge	59,172	1,001	5,507	65,680

- (b) The enrolment rate of the correctional/residential homes in 2003-04 is estimated as follows:

Nature of the Homes	2003-04 (Estimate)
Probation Homes	75.5%
Probation Hostel	91.5%
Reformatory School	73.3%
Remand home/Place of refuge	51.3%

Given the nature of the service, the demand for which is dependent upon prosecutions and court orders, these enrolment figures are only estimates based on that for 2002-03.

- (c) The department will closely monitor the utilisation and operation cost of the correctional residential service and continue to explore ways to economize and maximize the use of resources. The department is also in the course of developing an integrated complex for young offenders at the site of the ex-Castle Peak Boys' Home in Tuen Mun with a view to co-locating the six homes so as to enhance service quality and to save resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie LAM</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>28 March 2003</u>

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB004

Question Serial No.

S022

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many people were served by the probation service, residential service, Community Service Orders Scheme, counselling, residential services and community-based programmes for ex-offenders, Community Support Service Scheme and Young Offender Assessment Panel in 2002-03? In average, how many resources were allocated to individual beneficiary of each of the above services during that year?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In the first three quarters of 2002-03, the service statistics of the relevant services and their respective estimated unit cost are as follows:

Service	Average Number per month	Unit Cost per month \$
Probation (supervision cases served)	3 706	1,200
Community Service Orders (supervision cases served)	1 102	1,255
Community Support Service Scheme (attendance in groups and programmes)	1 038	429

Service	Average Number per month	Unit Cost per month \$
Young Offender Assessment Penal (cases assessed)	43	4,279
Correctional/Residential Homes (enrolment):		
• Probation Homes	110	31,066
• Probation Hostel	50	14,888
• Reformatory School	52	32,816
• Remand Home/Places of Refuge	95	47,088
Services for Ex-offenders:		
• Hostel (enrolment)	116	5,161
• Social Therapy Centres (active cases served)	3 655	711
• Community-based Programmes (attendance in groups and programmes)	5 046	142

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	29 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB005

Question Serial No.

S023

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the social therapy centres, hostels and community-based programmes for ex-offenders, what are the names of service providers, nature and background of such services? What was the amount of government subvention provided in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The Society of Rehabilitation And Crime Prevention, Hong Kong is the only government-subvented service provider of those services, for which the amount of subvention allocated in 2002-03 is \$42.6 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	28 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB006

Question Serial No.

S024

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the residential training in probation homes, probation hostels and reformatory schools, please provide separately the present situation of people not having completed the training and relevant figures?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : For the first three quarters in 2002-03, the arrangement for those residents who were unable to complete satisfactorily the residential training in Probation Homes, Probation Hostel, and Reformatory School is listed below:

	Probation Homes	Probation Hostel	Reformatory School	Total
Sentenced to other Social Welfare Department correctional homes	4	0	0	4
Sentenced to Correctional Services Department institutions	8	28*	10*	46
Admitted to non-governmental organisation homes	0	1	0	1
Missing (still at large)	0	2	0	2
Total	12	31	10	53

* The high re-conviction figures are due to multi-charges of some of the residents being sentenced by courts whilst serving their existing orders.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	29 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB007

Question Serial No.

S025

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide the number of people served by the Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) in 2002-03, its success rate and the relevant performance indicators.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In the first three quarters of 2002-03, the CSSS had served 1 460 juvenile offenders and their family members through a series of programmes and groups catering for their needs.

The performance of CSSS is measured against the rate of programmes and groups with goals being achieved with reference to customers' attendance rate, customers' satisfaction rate, feedback from supervising officers and parents. Having taken all these into account, the satisfaction rate of CSSS was 100% for the first three quarters of 2002-03.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie LAM
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	28 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB008

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

S034

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated in Reply Serial No. HWFB131 to Question Serial No. 0650 that in respect of the inspection scheme of Mainland farms started last year, each officer is eligible for a subsistence allowance to cover expenses in travelling and accommodation. The daily rate varies from RMB 1,220 to RMB 1,659. In the light of the above,

- a) on what criteria are the rates determined?
- b) do these rates differ in accordance with the ranks of the officers? If so, please list out the allowance rate for each respective rank.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The rates are laid down in the Civil Service Regulations which set out the payment of subsistence allowance for duty visits outside Hong Kong. The daily rates for different Mainland cities are Beijing : RMB1,659, Guangzhou : RMB1,751, Shanghai RMB1,875, Shenzhen RMB1,178 and other cities in China : RMB1,220. Due to an oversight, the range previously quoted in the answer to Question Serial No. 0650 should have been RMB1,178 to RMB1,875.
- (b) The daily subsistence for all officers in the inspection teams is the same.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

28 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB009

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

S035

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to Reply Serial No. HWFB135 to Question Serial No. 0654, a location is classified as a hawker blackspot if there is an assembly of 10 or more unlicensed hawkers or five or more unlicensed cooked food hawkers. In this connection,

- c) what is the rationale behind this classification?
- d) when a location is classified as a hawker blackspot, will the Department allocate resources for specific measures to address the problem?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The classification helps provide a basis for targeting enforcement efforts at sites with more serious problems (e.g. obstruction, nuisance and health hazard) caused by unlicensed hawkers. The present thresholds have been developed based on operational experience and found effective in controlling local hawker problems.
- (b) The Department will accord priority to patrol and/or raid the blackspots.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date_____ 29 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB010

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

S036

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Reply Serial No. HWFB133 to Question Serial No. 0652, would the Administration provide information on the following:

- a) The number of staff being promoted in the Hawker Control Teams for the past three years. Was the promotion ratio higher than that of other grades?
- b) In December 2001, the Administration presented a paper to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council on the recommendations set out in the Report on the Comprehensive Review of Hawker Control Operations, which included "recommendations to be pursued" and "recommendations not to be pursued for the moment". For recommendations which have already been implemented, did the Administration assess their effectiveness in 2002-03? If so, what is the result of the assessment? If not, will the Administration review them in 2003-04? For "recommendations not to be pursued for the moment", will the Administration review or implement them in 2003-04? Have resources been earmarked for such review or implementation?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) In the past three years from 2000 to 2002, the number of promotees in the Hawker Control Officer (HCO) grade totalled 90. The total number of staff in the grade is about 2 500. The proportion of staff having been promoted is not higher than that of other grades in the Department.
- (b) With regard to the review of hawker control operations, the Department has assessed the effectiveness of the implemented recommendations, which include inter alia, strengthening the human resource management of the HCO grade, and enhancing the operational aspects of hawker management. These recommendations have been smoothly implemented.

The Department has no plans in 2003-04 to implement those “recommendations not to be pursued for the moment”.

Signature_____

Name in block letters_____ GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title_____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date_____ 29 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB011

Question Serial No.

Oral

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 177 Subhead (No. & title) : 514 and 979 Hospital Authority

Programme : Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

To set out by year the number of staff of the Hospital Authority at pay scale equivalent to the non-directorate ranks in the civil service from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in the Hospital Authority at pay scale equivalent to non-directorate ranks in the civil service for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 is set out below :

	2001-02 (Actual)	2002-03 (Estimate)	2003-04 (Estimate)
No. of FTE staff	52 029	52 511	52 552

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 28 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY ORAL QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HWFB012

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

Question Serial No.

Oral

Programme : 1 Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : To provide information on the quarantine and infection control measures taken by the Administration to prevent transmission of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome from persons entering Hong Kong by train or by vessels to the local community.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

As part of our efforts to contain the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, we have stepped up port health measures with effect from 29 March 2003. Health Declaration Posts will be set up at the airport, ports and border control points. All in-coming persons are required to declare their health status by completing health declaration forms. Persons reporting sick will be seen at these posts to ascertain whether they fulfill the criteria for the disease. Suspected cases will be referred to hospital for further investigation. For all in-coming vessels, ship masters are required to notify the Port Health Office of the Department of Health of any suspected cases of infectious diseases on board.

Health education will also be stepped up through distribution of travel alert cards, advisory leaflets, posters and public announcement at entry points. Guidelines and health advice are promulgated to the tourism trade and industry.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Dr Margaret CHAN

Post Title _____ Director of Health

Date _____ 29 March 2003