

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

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HWFB330	1632	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB331	1760	LAW Chi-kwong	170	All
HWFB332	1157	LEUNG Fu-wah	37	
HWFB333	1174	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	37	Statutory Functions
HWFB334	1336	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	37	Health Promotion
HWFB335	1337	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	37	Health Promotion
HWFB336	1338	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	37	Curative Care
HWFB337	1478	LI Fung-ying	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB338	1498	CHAN Yuen-han	37	
HWFB339	1504	CHAN Yuen-han	37	Disease Prevention
HWFB340	1544	LEUNG Yiu-chung	149	(9) Subvention : Hospital Authority
HWFB341	1425	WONG Sing-chi	708	
HWFB342	1747	LAU Chin-shek	186	Transport Services for People with Disabilities
HWFB343	1193	LI Wah-ming, Fred	48	Advisory and Investigative Services
HWFB344	1490	LAW Chi-kwong	186	Transport Services for People with Disabilities
HWFB345	1638	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	48	Statutory Testing
HWFB346	1639	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	48	Statutory Testing
HWFB347	1013	LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB348	1211	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	22	
HWFB349	1555	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
HWFB350	1438	YEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB351	1439	YEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
HWFB352	1440	YEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB353	1470	LI Fung-ying	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB354	1471	LI Fung-ying	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB355	1472	LI Fung-ying	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB356	1473	LI Fung-ying	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB357	1494	CHAN Yuen-han	49	Market Management and Hawker Control
HWFB358	1495	CHAN Yuen-han	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB359	1496	CHAN Yuen-han	49	Food Safety and Public Health
HWFB360	1497	CHAN Yuen-han	49	
HWFB361	1541	YEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Public Education and Community Involvement
HWFB362	1546	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
HWFB363	1755	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Reply Serial No.

HWFB001

Question Serial No.

0001

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department will continue to provide training courses for social workers and professionals on handling child abuse, domestic violence and suicide cases during 2004-05. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) the number of course participants and the expenditure involved in the past three years; and
- (2) is there any mechanism in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the training courses. If so, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In the past three years, a total of 4 260 social workers and related professionals attended our training programmes conducted in the form of induction training courses, seminars and specialised skills training workshops on handling of child abuse, domestic violence and suicide cases. The annual breakdown is as follows:

	Number of Participants	Expenditure (HK\$)
2001-02	1 368	238,300

2002-03	1 721	523,100
2003-04	1 171	251,000

- (2) Multiple evaluation measures are adopted to gauge the effectiveness of the training programmes. They include -
- Pre-course and post-course self-evaluation by the trainees on enhancement of knowledge and skills;
 - Evaluation questionnaires by the trainees on the attainment of course objectives;
 - Collection of supervisors' feedback on the training impact through post-course questionnaires;
 - Feedback on the course effectiveness by other professionals who have participated in our training programmes e.g. police officers, magistrates, medical officers;
 - Pre-course and post-course evaluation meetings with the trainers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB002

Question Serial No.

0002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department secured extra resources to take forward the modernisation programme of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) with a view to addressing the needs of contemporary youth in 2003. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of:

- (1) the details of the modernisation programme; and
- (2) the expenditure involved in the programme?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The modernisation programme of ICYSCs aims at upgrading and modernising the hardware of the ICYSCs with a view to providing up-to-date facilities to attract and meet the changing needs of contemporary youth. It is jointly funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT) and the Lotteries Fund (LF) on a dollar-to-dollar basis. The modernisation programme will benefit a total of 80 ICYSCs spreading over the territory.

The first batch of the programme launched in November 2002 has benefited 34 ICYSCs. The department has just invited

applications for the second batch for the remaining 46 ICYSCs. The overall modernisation works are expected to be completed by 2006-07.

- (2) The total sum earmarked for the modernisation programme is \$400 m which is to be equally contributed by HKJCCT and LF each at \$200 m. The unit cost for modernising a standard ICYSC is \$4.84 m/centre inclusive of costs for renovation works and purchase of suitable furniture and equipment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB003

Question Serial No.

0003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that in 2003, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) hived off its sheltered workshops to non-governmental organisations to achieve more cost-effectiveness in service delivery. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of:

- (1) the details of the hiving off and what measures are in place to safeguard disabled persons employed in sheltered workshops against unfair treatment and exploitation; and
- (2) the amount of savings achieved in the hiving off.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) There was one sheltered workshop, namely the Pak Tin Sheltered Workshop (PTSW) closed in 2003-04. Prior to its closure, a review was conducted on the skills level and place of residence of the 140 trainees of PTSW to ensure that their welfare would be taken into account in any arrangement of alternative placement. As a result, the needs of these trainees were taken care of in their new placement. 135 former PTSW trainees have been placed into 20 subvented sheltered workshops with additional resources provided by SWD. Each trainee now attends a

workshop nearer to his/her home and enjoys similar services and benefits as provided for in PTSW. Of the remaining five former PTSW trainees, two have taken up supported employment in SWD subvented service units, the other three trainees who are aged 60 and above have chosen to receive community support services at home.

All the SWD subvented services are operated by non-profit making welfare organisations and are monitored by a performance management mechanism to ensure that the quality of their services meets the required standard.

- (2) The closure of PTSW has generated an annual savings of \$2.64 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB004

Question Serial No.

0004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the planned number of places to be offered by sheltered workshops (SW) and supported employment (SE) under the employment services will be reduced in 2004-05. Would the Administration inform us of the reasons for the reduction of these places?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : In 2004-05, as an initiative to enhance the effectiveness of services, resources of some existing SW and SE will be pooled together to form new Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs). The objective is to provide people with disabilities with a series of seamless vocational services in the setting of one integrated service centre.

IVRSCs, incorporating the elements of SW and SE, provide centre-based training in the form of simple processing, finishing and assembly work, etc. and non-centre-based training in the form of outdoor contractual services, job finding, matching, coaching and post-placement services, etc. In this re-engineering exercise, resources for a total of 2 538 existing places (i.e. 220 SW places run by SWD, 1 803 SW places and 515 SE places run by non-governmental

organisations) will be pooled to form 16 IVRSCs providing 2 827 places starting 1 April 2004, resulting in a net increase of 289 places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB005

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0012

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been stated under this Programme that the work of the Department of Health in 2004-05 involves treating patients with sexually-transmitted diseases and controlling the spread of such diseases. In this connection, will the department inform us of :

- (1) the details of such work; and
- (2) the establishment and the related expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Department of Health operates nine social hygiene clinics, providing screening, medical treatment and counseling service for patients suspected of or diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). These clinics also carry out tracing of defaulters for treatment and follow up on sex partners of patients for health screening. Other activities include public education on safer sex and STDs prevention, continuing education for healthcare professionals and surveillance and monitoring of disease patterns.

The establishment of the social hygiene clinics in 2004-05 will stand at 163, comprising doctors, nurses and other supporting staff. The provision for this service in 2004-05 is \$93.2M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

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

HWFB006

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0013

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been stated under this Programme that the work of the Department of Health in 2004-05 involves improving the oral health of primary school children. In this connection, will the Department inform us of :

- (1) the details of such work; and
- (2) the establishment and the related expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Department of Health improves the oral health of primary school children through School Dental Care Service. The Service provides dental examinations, preventive dental services and treatment for 436 000 primary school children, and promotes good oral health habits among them.

The establishment of the School Dental Care Service in 2004-05 will stand at 453, comprising Dental Officers, Dental Therapists and other supporting staff. The provision for this service in 2004-05 is \$173.3M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB007

Question Serial No.

0009

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, a food consumption survey on the local population will be carried out in 2004-05. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (1) the details of the survey; and
- (2) the total expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The survey aims to collect information on the food consumption pattern of some 5 200 individuals aged 20 to 84 years and to construct a database of the food commonly consumed by people in Hong Kong. The data collected will significantly enhance the Department's capability in assessing food risks. The survey commences in March 2004 and will take approximately 30 months to complete.
- (2) A commitment of \$3.3 m has been provided for the conduct of the survey.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB008

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0010

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will follow up the regularisation of "private kitchens" in 2004-05. In this connection, please advise on the following :

- (1) the specific measures that will be implemented for carrying out the project; and
- (2) the staff establishment and expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Question (1)

To facilitate the "private kitchen" type of operations, we plan to introduce a new category of licensed food business under section 31 of the Food Business Regulation (Cap 132 sub. leg.). Premises licensed under this new category will have to comply with the following requirements and conditions :-

- (a) The premises must be housed in commercial buildings or composite commercial/ residential buildings;

- (b) The seating capacity would be limited to no more than 24 persons at any one time;
- (c) The operation would be confined to the provision of dinner and the business hours should be no more than three and a half hours per day; and
- (d) Provision of meals for consumption off the premises would not be allowed.

The LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene expressed general support to the regularization proposal at its meeting on 18 December 2003.

We are presently working out the detailed licensing requirements in collaboration with the Buildings Department and Fire Services Department.

Question (2)

Implementation of the “private kitchen” initiative will be undertaken by existing staff. No additional staff resources have been reserved for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and

Post Title Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB009

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0011

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will enhance the facilities and management of public markets, inter alia, by undertaking improvement works and conducting market promotion in 2004-05. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (1) whether such work has been done in the past three years? If so, the details and the expenditure involved; and
- (2) how to assess the effectiveness of the market promotion?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In the past three years, the Department invested a total of \$314 million on refurbishment and improvement works to market facilities, including replacement of plants and systems, improvement to ventilation, lighting and drainage systems, fire services upgrading works, replacement of floor and wall finishes, and provision of new signage.

The Department spent about \$1.3 m in the past three years to undertake promotional activities during festive seasons, and organize clean-stall competitions and lucky draws

in the markets. The Department assesses the effectiveness of these promotional activities by collecting feedback from Market Management Consultative Committees and market customers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG

	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date	25 March 2004

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

HWFB 010

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0014

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is mentioned that the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department includes overseeing the reprovisioning of outdated fresh food wholesale markets. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:-

whether such work was carried out in the past 3 years; if yes, the details of the work and the expenditure involved; and the estimated number of staff and expenditure involved for the implementation of such work in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

During the past 3 years, the Department has been working on the following proposals:

- (a) to reprovision the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) Castle Peak Wholesale Fish Market;
- (b) to explore options to reprovision the Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market;
- (c) to search for a suitable site to reprovision the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market; and
- (d) to refurbish the Aberdeen Live Marine Fish Wholesale Market following its takeover by the FMO in December 2003.

The expenditure for all these market planning efforts in the past three years was on average about \$ 2.8 Million a year, of which about 93% was staff cost. About 2.6 staff-equivalents and an expenditure of \$1.5 Million, of which about 96% is staff cost, would be committed to the related market planning work in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Conservation

26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB011

Question Serial No.

0038

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : With regard to the performance measures in respect of services for young people, would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) for Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs), the number of clients served per worker in 2003-04 has decreased by over 12% when compared with that in 2002-03, and the percentage of core programmes with goals achieved per centre has even dropped by over 23%. What are the reasons for the decrease? In view of the use of resources as stated above, the number of centres will still be increased in 2004-05, so how does the Administration ensure that the percentage of core programmes with goals achieved per centre is attained or increased?
- (2) as for outreaching social work, what is the reason for the almost 70% decline in the number of cases closed per team in 2003-04 when compared with that in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply :

- (1) The decrease in the number of clients served per worker in 2003-04 was due to the fact that 16 newly formed ICYSCs needed time to consolidate their services at the initial stage of establishment. Also, 34 ICYSCs underwent modernisation works in 2003-04. The temporary closure of the centres to facilitate the works had an impact on the intake of clients and programmes.

The subvented non-governmental organisations have to sign a Funding and Service Agreement for individual services with the department, through which service performance standards are set and agreed. The department will closely monitor their performance through the subventions and performance and monitoring system to ensure service standards are achieved.

- (2) The fluctuation in the caseload of outreaching social work service is due to the fact that the service target is youth-at-risk who are mobile and hard to reach. With a view to serving more hardcore clients, the outreaching social work service has been restructured into 16 District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams (YOTs) since September 2002 and more emphasis has been put on high-risk youth and juvenile gangs. Given the more in-depth intervention approach, the number of cases closed is expected to be smaller in 2003-04 when compared to the situation before the restructuring. Nevertheless, the work of the YOTs is now supplemented by ICYSCs which also provide outreaching service. There will be a total of 131 ICYSCs over the territory by end 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB012

Question Serial No.

0081

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conversation Department
 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
 37 Department of Health
 155 Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission
 170 Social Welfare Department
 186 Transport Department

Programme : Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety, Environmental Hygiene,
 Health and Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by your bureau, please provide details in the following format:

(1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2003-04 :

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

(2) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05? If yes, please provide the following details :

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

(1) Details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2003-04 are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
GML Consultancy Limited (Head 149)	Study on the Formulation of a Preliminary Corporate Strategy Plan for HWFB	\$103,650	In progress		
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd (Head 149)	Effectiveness Survey of Publicity and Public Education Campaign of Women's Commission (Third round)	\$189,000	Completed	No follow-up action required.	The findings were announced in a press release issued on 24 December 2003 and uploaded to Women's Commission's website.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Provision of Professional Actuarial Services for the Design of Healthcare Financing Options	\$107,500	Completed	The findings have been used to assess the options of the Health Protection Accounts (HPA).	Healthcare financing studies will be discussed in the LegCo Health Services Panel in mid 2004.
PolyU Technology and Consultancy Co. Limited (Head 149)	Health Financing Focus Group Research – Investigating General Public Views on Medical Savings Account	\$35,425	Completed	The findings have been used to provide the parameters for assessing the options of HPA.	Healthcare financing studies will be discussed in the LegCo Health Services Panel in mid 2004.
ACM Limited, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Professional Services to conduct Economic Analysis for Health and Healthcare Financing Studies	\$200,000	In progress		
Berkeley International Institute for Health Policy (Head 149)	To review and advise the Healthcare Financing Studies	\$454,843 (US\$58,240)	In progress		
Mercer	Analysis of	\$90,000	Completed	The findings	The updated

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Human Resource Consulting (Head 149)	Health and Welfare Surveys HK Series			contribute to the updating of the domestic health account (DHA).	DHA will be released in full to the public.
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Surveys of Chinese Medicine Practitioners, and Medical Laboratories and Diagnostic Imaging Facilities for the Project to Bring Up to Date the HK Domestic Health Account	\$86,290	In progress		
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Report on the Epidemiological and Modelling Study on SARS Epidemic	\$100,000	Completed	The findings quantified the epidemiological parameters that shed light on the progression of the SARS outbreak and provided an assessment on whether the outbreak control measures were effective.	Yes, in the journal science press.
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Project to update the HK Domestic Health Account	\$733,194 (to be paid in 2004-05)	In progress		

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Policy 21 Limited (Head 49)	Study on Meat Consumption in Hong Kong (1980-2010)	\$502,000 (to be paid in 2004-05)	In progress		
To be determined (Head 37)	Feasibility study on establishing an accreditation system for hospitals and other medical institutions in Hong Kong	\$255,000	Under planning		
A joint research team of City University of HK and Chinese University of HK	A Longitudinal Study of the Ending Exclusion Project (EEP)	\$285,000	Completed	It has been concluded that EEP is effective in four out of the five key outcome measures. It has therefore been endorsed to continue with the Project. In view of the rise in the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) single-parent caseload over the recent years, SWD will, in the coming financial year, review the entire issue of single-parents on	Findings were reported to the Social Welfare Advisory Committee and LegCo Welfare Panel in January 2004 and February 2004 respectively.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
(Head 170)				CSSA to understand the present situation better and make recommendations for any suitable improvement measures, taking into account the findings of this consultancy among other things.	
(Head 170)	Survey on the profile of disabled persons using/ waitlisted/not waitlisted for residential home service	\$480,000	Completed	A task group comprising various professionals and parent representatives has been set up with a view to developing a standardized assessment tool to match the needs of disabled persons with the types of rehabilitation services including residential service. A pilot test of the assessment tool is expected to be completed by mid 2004.	Findings were reported to the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee in December 2002 and the LegCo Welfare Panel in February 2003.

(2) Details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2004-05 are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
GML Consultancy Limited (Head 149)	Study on the Formulation of a Preliminary Corporate Strategy Plan for HWFB	\$932,850	In progress	Findings will be publicized. Details will be worked out after the completion of the study.
ACM Limited, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Professional Services to conduct Economic Analysis for Health and Healthcare Financing Studies	\$500,000	In progress	Healthcare financing studies will be discussed in the LegCo Health Services Panel in mid 2004.
Berkeley International Institute for Health Policy (Head 149)	To review and advise the Healthcare Financing Studies	\$113,568 (US\$14,560)	In progress	Healthcare financing studies will be discussed in the LegCo Health Services Panel in mid 2004.
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Surveys of Chinese Medicine Practitioners, and Medical Laboratories and Diagnostic Imaging Facilities for the Project to Bring Up to Date the HK Domestic Health Account	\$130,381	In progress	The updated DHA will be released in full to the public.
University of Hong Kong (Head 149)	Project to update the HK Domestic Health Account	\$733,194	In progress	The updated DHA will be released in full to the public.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning / in progress / completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Policy 21 Limited (Head 49)	Study on Meat Consumption in Hong Kong (1980-2010)	\$502,000	In progress	The relevant LegCo Panel will be informed of the department's assessment results in this regard.
To be determined (Head 37)	Feasibility study on establishing an accreditation system for hospitals and other medical institutions in Hong Kong	\$255,000	Under planning	

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB013

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0056

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under "Indicators", one of the key performance measures, the estimated number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies is 230 000 in 2004, which is lower than the actual figure for last year.

1. Did the Administration take into account the outbreak of avian influenza in Asia this year when working out the estimate?
2. If so, why was it considered not necessary to increase the number of blood samples? If not, will the estimate be adjusted in the light of the outbreak?
3. How much will be spent on the blood tests?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. The estimate was based on the new import requirement introduced since mid-January 2004 under which all imported poultry (except waterfowl and pigeon) will have to be vaccinated against H5 avian flu. The Department has taken note of the avian flu outbreak in Asia at the time of preparing the estimate.
2. As described above, since mid-January 2004, the control programme has been changed from testing for blood antibodies due to infection to the presence of adequate blood antibody levels due to vaccination. The number of blood samples to be taken in 2004 for testing will be adjusted in accordance with any changed circumstances.
3. The expenditure for the blood testing programme is estimated to be \$7 m for 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB014

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0057

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under "Indicators", one of the key performance measures, the estimated number of food samples taken for testing in 2004 is 54 500. What is the distribution of these samples in terms of food type? How many food samples are estimated to be taken from restaurants and what is the number increased/decreased in comparison with that in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The estimated number of food samples to be taken for testing in 2004 is 54 500. The types of food include vegetables and fruits, frozen confections, milk and dairy products, meat and meat products, fish and shellfish, and poultry and poultry products. The number of samples to be taken in 2004 from restaurants for testing is estimated to be 5000, similar to that in 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB015

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0058

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under "Indicators", one of the key performance measures, the estimated number of labels checked in 2004 is 56 000. What is the distribution of food with labels checked in terms of food type? Are there any checks conducted in restaurants? If so, how many are there and what is the number increased/decreased in comparison with that in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The estimated number of labels to be checked in 2004 is 56 000. The types of food to be covered include flour confectionery, sweets, canned food, milk and milk products, sauces, beverages, snacks, meat and meat products. As the vast majority of pre-packaged food are offered for sale in premises like supermarkets and grocery stores, label checks are usually not conducted at restaurants except for investigation of complaints.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB016

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0059

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The "Targets", one of the key performance measures, include "cases where Letters of Requirements for restaurant licences will be issued during Application Vetting Panel meeting". This target was 100% (actual) achieved in both 2002 and 2003. Why is the target be set at only 99% (plan) for 2004?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Department has set the performance target for 2004 at 99%, which is considered appropriate and reasonable, having regard to the performance target of holding the Application Vetting Panel meeting within 20 working days from acceptance of the application, manpower resources available and possible fluctuation in the number of applications received from time to time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB017

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0060

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

After an application for a restaurant licence has been submitted, what is the average number of working days that are currently required before the application is discussed at the Application Vetting Panel meeting? Is there any room for improvement on the relevant performance target in order to reduce the waiting time of applicants?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

For considering the application for restaurant licence, the Department has set a performance target of holding an Application Vetting Panel (AVP) meeting with the applicant within 20 working days from acceptance of the application. In 2003, the average lead time taken was 18.5 working days. As the Department has to seek the views of other Departments, such as Buildings Department and Fire Services Department, on the applications and conduct site inspections before the AVP meeting, the present performance target is considered reasonable and appropriate.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB018

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0061

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The "Targets", one of the key performance measures, include "cases where provisional licences for restaurant and other food premises will be issued within seven working days upon receipt of acceptable Certificate of Compliance". This target was 100% achieved in 2002 and 2003. Why is the target set at only 99% (plan) for 2004?

Is there any room for improvement on the performance target concerning seven working days in order to reduce the waiting time of applicants? If so, how much improvement can be made? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Department has set the performance target for 2004 at 99%, which is considered appropriate and reasonable having regard to the estimated number of applications and manpower resources available.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB019

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0062

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The "Targets", one of the key performance measures, include "cases where liquor licences will be issued to licensed restaurants within five working days of approval by Liquor Licensing Board." This target was 100% (actual) achieved in 2002 and 2003, and is expected to be 100% achieved in 2004 as well.

Is there any room for improvement on the performance target that liquor licences "will be issued to licensed restaurants within five working days" of approval by Liquor Licensing Board in order to reduce the waiting time of applicants? If so, how much improvement can be made? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Having regard to the estimated number of applications and manpower resources available, the present performance target for the issue of liquor licences is considered appropriate and reasonable.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>24 March 2004</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB020

Question Serial No.

0099

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to this Programme, under "Targets", one of the key performance measures, quite a number of performance targets are set at 98%. However, the actual performance of the following services was 100% in 2002 and 2003:

applications for import of game, meat and poultry to be processed within five working days

applications for import of milk and milk products to be processed within 13 working days

applications for import of frozen confections to be processed with 13 working days

applications for export or re-export food health certificates to be processed within 13 working days

issuing veterinary health certificates for exported food containing animal products within three working days

1. Please explain why the "targets" of the above services are still set at 98% instead of 100% in 2004.
2. Apart from the above services, the actual performance in two service areas, namely "initiating pest control measures within 24 hours upon receiving report of vector-borne diseases" and "dealing with complaints on pest control matters within seven working days" was also 100%. Is there further room for betterment? If so, to what extent will these services be enhanced, speeded-up or improved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. The targets of 98% were set taking into consideration special circumstances that may arise from time to time, such as delayed submission of essential information by the applicants.
2. Upon receiving reports of vector-borne diseases and complaints on pest control matters, pest control staff of the Department will initiate pest control work the soonest possible. Having regard to the manpower resources available, the targets set are considered appropriate and reasonable.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 021

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0039

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Provision for 2004-05 is \$1.2 million lower than the revised estimate of the previous year, partly due to a decrease in non-recurrent and capital expenditure. However, part of the savings is offset by increase in operating expenses. What are the expenses referred to in non-recurrent and capital expenditure? What are the operating expenses that will increase?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Non-recurrent expenditure is expenditure of a one-off nature not involving the acquisition or construction of a physical asset whilst capital expenditure is expenditure on assets acquired or constructed and is charged to the Capital Account.

The estimated decrease in non-recurrent expenditure in 2004-05 as compared with the Revised Estimates 2003-04 is mainly due to the decrease in cash flow requirement for the artificial reefs project in 2004-05. The estimated decrease in capital expenditure in 2004-05 is mainly due to the completion of a number of capital projects in 2003-04, e. g. the replacement of floodlight fitting equipment and lamp poles for Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market. Due to the unprecedented outbreak of avian influenza across Asia in 2003-04, operating expenses in 2004-05 are likely to increase due to an overall intensification in control and surveillance of avian influenza. This will include increased visits and checks on local farms to ensure compliance with biosecurity requirements and to verify the health status of birds;

increased inspection and control over live bird importation and more frequent inspection of pig farms.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB022

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0040

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2004-05, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will prepare a new regulatory framework for fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. What is the amount of expenditure involved in this task? How many officers will be specifically deployed to handle this task?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The estimated amount of expenditure involved in preparing a new regulatory framework for fishing activities in Hong Kong waters in 2004-05 is about \$1.5 million. Seven officers will be deployed to handle this task among other duties.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 023

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0041

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2004-05, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will outsource the operation and management of a government fresh food wholesale market. When the outsourcing exercise is completed, what is the amount of savings to AFCD? And how much manpower will be reduced for the department?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The Department plans to outsource the operation and management of a government fresh food wholesale market in 2004-05. If successfully implemented, we estimate that some 22 posts and a saving of \$16.3 million per annum will be achieved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 024

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0043

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the next financial year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will implement measures to prevent the incursions of avian influenza. What are these measures? What manpower and expenses are required?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

In 2004-05, AFCD will intensify the overall control and surveillance for avian influenza which include increased inspections on local chicken farms to ensure compliance with biosecurity requirements and to verify the health status of the chickens, increased inspections and control over live birds importation, and surveillance of the wild birds as well as pet bird shops. The resources allocated is \$18.23 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	27 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB025

Question Serial No.

0143

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(5) Services for Offenders
(6) Community Development
(7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Despite the overall increase of expenditure estimated for the department, the estimates for Programmes (3) to (7) would be reduced by 1.6%, 7.7%, 4.6%, 52.6% and 13.7% respectively. What would be the reasons for the drop, and the impacts on the service recipients?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate, the 2004-05 estimate for Programmes (3) to (7) are reduced mainly due to the effect of efficiency savings, civil service salary adjustments at 3% effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005, the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), the lapse of time-limited projects, the one-off expenditure as contributions for setting up the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome under Programme (4) in 2003-04, and the transfer of activities and provision from Programme (6) to Programme (1) Family and Child Welfare.

The adjustments relating to salary, lapsing of temporary jobs and one-off expenditure are adjustments in provision rather than genuine reduction.

This will also be mitigated by additional provision for further development of elderly services and the implementing new initiatives in 2003-04 and 2004-05 under Programmes (3) to (7).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB026

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

954 Rehabuses for the Hong
Kong Society for Rehabilitation

0178

Programme : 5. Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is noted that an amount of \$3,600,000 have been reserved to provide rehabuses for the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation in 2004-05.

- (a) Why is there no difference in the estimated expenses when compared with the approved expenses in 2003-04? Why no adjustment required?
(b) How will the approved amount be spent?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : (a) An amount of \$3,600,000 was approved for the procurement of six replacement rehabuses for the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation in 2003-04. These six new rehabuses will be delivered in the third quarter of 2004 at a total cost of \$3,596,376, to be incurred in 2004-05. Hence, an estimated expense of \$3,600,000 is included in 2004-05 draft Estimates.

- (b) The approved amount is for the procurement of six replacement rehabuses. It will cover the vehicle cost, modification cost for wheelchair lifter and wheelchair restraint system, first registration tax and licence fee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 027

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0192

Subhead : - 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Why does the figure for the Allowances under Personal Emoluments in the 2004-05 Estimates obviously exceed those for the past few years, given that the number of staff on the payroll of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2004-05 is reduced?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

As compared with the Revised Estimate 2003-04, the 2004-05 estimate for various items under subhead 002 Allowance has actually dropped except for the acting allowance and on-call duty allowance. The 2004-05 estimate for acting allowance increases from \$5.08m to 5.8m whilst the on-call duty allowance increases from \$80,000 to \$102,000 respectively.

The estimated increase for acting allowance is due to the anticipated increase in long term acting arrangements of more established posts being vacated by officers on retirement. As for on-call duty allowance, the increase is largely due to a change in the mode of operation of the Animal Management Division of the Department. In the past, the Division stationed an overnight team comprising 5 staff in the Animal Management Centre from 2300 to 0800 hours the next day to respond to emergency calls. Since December 2003, the overnight

team members were redeployed to attend other duties. An on-call arrangement was made instead and staff were only called upon to perform duties during the overnight period when emergency calls were received. As a result, more officers have become eligible for the payment of on-call duty allowance.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB028

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

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0144

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

During 2004-05, the bureau will 'engage relevant parties, including the third sector and business community, in developing strategies to enhance social capital'. Please elaborate e.g. how much money/resource will be spent on this area? What will be the works?

Asked by : Hon. Bernard CHAN

Reply :

On the social welfare front, one of our focus in the coming year is to examine ways to enhance social capital, develop the tri-partite partnership between the government, the business community and the third sector. In addition to our on-going effort in promoting corporate volunteerism and funding worthwhile projects for enhancing social capital under the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, we would adopt a proactive approach and act as a facilitator to promote a better understanding of the concepts of social capital including the adoption of a social investment approach towards welfare. As a first step, we would initiate and establish a dialogue with the third sector and the business community with a view to getting some consensus on how best to build a more inclusive and participatory society through investing in capacity building of personal and community capabilities. We hope to

formulate a strategy that would help us identify areas for action, set pointers on how to yield social returns, and endorse the principles in developing effective evaluation models.

The Financial Secretary has earmarked an one-off \$200 million in this year's Budget to promote the development of a tripartite social partnership and to encourage corporations to take part in helping the disadvantaged.

The Bureau will work closely with the Social Welfare Department and relevant stakeholders, with a view to developing effective measures to enhance social capital. This would be our priority area of work and the manpower resources and resources for organizing related activities (e.g. conferences) required would be absorbed by the Bureau's existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 029

Question Serial No.

0162

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide information on the expenditure to be incurred, estimated number of participants and details regarding the Capacity Building Mileage Programme. How the Programme will help ease unemployment among middle-aged women?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) is initiated by the Women's Commission as an empowerment programme for women. The Programme aims to encourage women to improve their all round ability as individuals, to develop their potential and learning interest as well as to build up their capacity. The CBMP seeks to equip women with a positive mindset and values and to enhance their inner strength so that they can better cope with different life challenges and live their lives more fully. It does not, however, seek to improve women's vocational skills per se, and participation in the CBMP has no direct relationship with getting employment, or more advanced formal academic learning.

2. The CBMP has been developed with a women focus, and has the following unique features that address the needs of women, especially grassroots women:

- (a) **flexibility** – participants can take up courses at any time (multiple entry points) or to exit the programme at any time (multiple exit points);
- (b) **convenience** – courses will mainly be broadcast through radio and supplemented by optional activities, and classes are minimised;
- (c) **relevance** – courses are related to the daily lives of women;
- (d) **choice of assessment** – different assessment methods (e.g. course work, reflective writing, recording) could be allowed;
- (e) **mileage** – participants could accumulate points from their studies and to advance to the next level of learning when they have accumulated sufficient number of “points”;
- (f) **optional enrolment** – there is no need to enrol in a course unless the participant intends to take an assessment and to obtain “points” for her study;
- (g) **affordable cost** – the cost would be affordable.

3. The CBMP was launched on 8 March 2004. The courses are developed by the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) and the radio programmes are broadcast through Commercial Radio. A Steering Committee has been set up under the Women’s Commission to steer the overall direction of the CBMP.

4. OUHK plans to develop and offer 27 radio courses and nine face-to-face courses over a three-year period. The courses will broadly be divided into four major categories:

- (a) financial management;
- (b) practical issues in daily lives;
- (c) health management; and
- (d) managing interpersonal relationships and communication skills.

5. Women's groups and service organisations have been invited to collaborate by organising supplementary learning activities, face-to-face courses, as well as peer support groups. So far, some 36 non-governmental organisations have joined the Programme as collaborators.

6. Funding support of up to \$12.43 million is provided by the Lotteries Fund to OUHK for implementing the Programme on a three-year pilot basis. At the advice of the Women's Commission, the Administration spent \$856,000 in 2003-04 to undertake publicity activities to complement OUHK's efforts. This covers the cost of design and production of publicity materials (including TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest, posters and pamphlets).

7. As all the radio courses are broadcast through radio free of charge, the CBMP can benefit a wide cross-section of the community. OUHK estimates that about 9,000 participants would register in the supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses over a three-year period.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 030

Question Serial No.

0163

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide a detailed description of the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist". How much resources will be allocated to its implementation and in what way will its implementation by various policy bureaux be monitored?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Gender Mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. The Gender Mainstreaming Checklist is an analytical tool to assist government officials to conduct gender mainstreaming and evaluate the gender impact of public policy, programme and legislation throughout the stages of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

2. The Checklist highlights key issues to be considered, including whether sex-disaggregated data have been compiled and analysed; whether community groups (such as women's groups) have been consulted; whether women's specific needs and impact on women have been assessed; and whether staff have been given sufficient training on gender issues. The Checklist and an accompanying set of guidance notes

have been issued to bureaux and departments. We shall roll out the Checklist to selected policy areas on an incremental basis.

3. All bureaux and departments have already designated a directorate officer as the “Gender Focal Point” within their organisation. These Gender Focal Points will help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, promote gender mainstreaming and the use of the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist, and liaise and coordinate within their organisation, with Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and the Women’s Commission.

4. Costs incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiative will be absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments. At the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau level, the organisation and coordination work is absorbed by existing staff.

5. To facilitate the gender mainstreaming process, gender-related training will be provided to civil servants to raise their awareness and equip them with basic gender analysis techniques. In 2004-05, about \$1 million would be made available to conduct gender-related training, including workshops for Gender Focal Points, and the development of a training kit.

6. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and Women’s Commission will continue to work closely with bureaux and departments in implementing gender mainstreaming, providing advice and assistance throughout the process and ensuring quality. A more formal evaluation mechanism will be developed in 2004-05.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB031

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0201

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the indicator concerning “registration applications from healthcare professionals processed”, what is the basis for projecting a decrease in the number from 4 900 in 2003 to 3 000 in 2004?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The estimated decrease in the number of registration applications from healthcare professionals is mainly accounted for by a projected reduction in the number of applications from Chinese medicine practitioners, the majority of which were processed in 2002 and 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB032

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0202

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), a new body for fighting and preventing communicable diseases,

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?
- (b) It is anticipated that there will be about 1 500 staff working in the CHP. Are these people redeployed from other departments or are they newly recruited? Are their posts permanent or temporary ones? What are their ranks involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure requirements of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) can broadly be grouped under 'one-off expenditure' and 'recurrent expenditure'. A one-off sum of about \$330M is required for developing a communicable disease information system, establishing a CHP control and resources centre, setting up emergency communication facilities, procuring new laboratory equipment, etc. The recurrent expenditure of the CHP upon full establishment will amount to around \$1 billion per year, of which about 70% will be spent on staffing.
- (b) The 1 500 workforce in CHP will comprise about 1 300 existing staff of the Department of Health (DH). In 2004-05, DH will create 23 posts to strengthen disease prevention under Programme 2 and six posts to strengthen health promotion under Programme 3. Furthermore, DH will employ about 170 non-civil service contract staff comprising mainly doctors, nurses and para-medical professionals to carry out enhanced public health functions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB033

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0203

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Healthy Ageing Campaign,

- (1) What is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?
- (2) Who are the target clients? Have any aims been set for the Campaign? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Department of Health supports the Healthy Ageing Campaign launched by the Elderly Commission in 2000-01 to promote physical and psychosocial well-being of elders. It targets at elders, carers and the community as a whole. In 2004, the focus is on psychosocial health.

Healthy Ageing is an integral part of the overall health promotion programme of the Elderly Health Services and the resources required are met from the existing provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB034

Question Serial No.

0263

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will “re-engineer the department’s and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)’ family services centres (FSCs)/ counselling units into Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)”. How would the Administration assess the impacts of this re-engineering exercise on the provision of support services to single parents? What is the amount of financial resources to be set aside for the provision of support services to single parents in 2004-05? What are the details of services to be provided? Does the amount of financial resources earmarked for this purpose represent an increase/decrease over the 2003-04 provision?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The Government attaches importance to the welfare needs of families including single parent families, and seeks continuous service improvements through service re-engineering. Based on the recommendation of the Review of Family Services conducted by the University of Hong Kong (HKU), 15 pilot IFSCs have been implemented since 1 April 2002 for a duration of two years.

HKU has been commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme.

In the interim report on the evaluative study of the pilot IFSCs submitted by HKU in May 2003, IFSC was found to be a more desirable mode of service delivery. SWD will re-engineer all existing FSCs/counselling units into IFSCs in 2004-05 through pooling of resources. It is planned to set up 60 IFSCs covering the whole territory.

Each IFSC with a minimum of 12 social workers will provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services such as outreaching service, enquiry service, family life education, parent-child activities, volunteer training, mutual support groups, counselling and referral service etc. Single parent families are among their core service targets. In fact, it was found that about 30% of the users of the pilot IFSCs were those widowed, divorced or separated. Besides, 194 mutual support groups and programmes were specially organised for single parents by the pilot IFSCs. Such groups and programmes will continue to be organised in future where necessary.

In addition to the services of IFSCs, other support services (e.g. child care service, clinical psychological service, family crisis support centre etc.) are also available for use by single parents. As support to single parents is part and parcel of the services provided by various units, the resources earmarked specifically for activities relating to single parents cannot be separately ascertained. In 2003-04, a total of \$1,701 m was earmarked for Family and Child Welfare services. In 2004-05, the allocation will be \$1,749 m, indicating an increase of 2.8%.

With the set up of IFSCs, support services for single parent families currently provided by five small stand-alone single parent centres (SPCs) will be integrated into the mainstream family services. Assistance has also been rendered to the operating NGOs of these SPCs to apply for other sources of funding to re-engineer their present services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 035

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0282

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Programme (1) in the 2004-05 Estimates is a combination of Programmes (1) and (3) in 2003-04. What is the reason for this?

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

The combination is to streamline the reporting of the two closely related services, one on facilitating agricultural and fisheries production and the other on management of government fresh food wholesale markets.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB036

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0291

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the enhancement of the public health promotion programmes, what is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2004-05, Department of Health (DH) will enhance its public health promotion programmes to instil a healthy lifestyle concept in the community. DH's Central Health Education Unit (CHEU) is responsible for coordinating the Department's efforts on this front. In 2004-05, public health promotion programmes will be enhanced in the areas of communicable disease prevention, promotion of regular exercise, healthy diet and mental health. These programmes will be targeting at all members of the public. Health promotion messages on these areas will be promulgated through production of health education materials, organising health education activities and developing close working relationship with health professionals and other health promotion partners. In addition, the Unit will also produce a wide variety of audio-visual and printed materials to put across the health promotion messages to the community.

The provision for CHEU in 2004-05 is \$37.4M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB037

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants
Working in Hospital Authority

0323

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) has increased as a result of the transfer of 59 general out-patient clinics to HA in July 2003 by the Department of Health. What is the staff increase involved and the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) took over the management of general out-patient clinics in July 2003. A total of 805 staff were transferred to HA, retaining their civil servant status. The transfer is a cost neutral exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB038

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0443

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision for Programme (2) Disease Prevention in 2004-05 is decreased by \$43.1M (3.4%) as compared with the revised estimate in 2003-04, which is mainly attributable to civil service pay cut and net deletion of 105 permanent posts in 2004-05. A new body for fighting and preventing communicable disease, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), will be established within the Department of Health. Please explain :

- (1) the reasons in details for reducing manpower and resources while the CHP is newly established;
- (2) whether the newly established CHP can achieve the targets of fighting and preventing communicable diseases with reduced manpower and resources; and
- (3) if the Administration has any plan to increase its commitment in the manpower and resources for the CHP.

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

With the phased establishment of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) within the Department of Health (DH) from June 2004, there will be enhancement and integration of resources to strengthen Hong Kong's capacity for fighting and preventing communicable diseases.

The CHP will comprise about 1 300 existing staff of the DH. In 2004-05, DH will create 23 posts to strengthen disease prevention under Programme 2 and six posts to strengthen health promotion under Programme 3. Furthermore, DH will employ about 170 non-civil service contract staff comprising mainly doctors, nurses and para-medical professionals to carry out enhanced public health functions.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the operation of the CHP will not be constrained by a lack of resources. The operating expenditure of this new agency upon full establishment will amount to about \$1 billion per year, which will largely be funded by redeployment of existing resources from DH. A special provision of \$40M has been earmarked by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau under Head 149 in 2004-05 for creation of posts in the CHP and engagement of Hospital Authority staff to be posted to the new agency. The Hong Kong Jockey Club has pledged to contribute \$500M for establishment of the CHP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB039

Question Serial No.

0361

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the financial year 2004-05, the provision for the subvented sector will be decreased by 5.3%. What is the net decrease in provision after deducting the pay cut from the allocation to the subvented sector and the one-off donation to the United Nations Children's Fund? What is the percentage of the reduction and what are the services to be affected?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In 2004-05, there is a decrease of \$23.6 m (3.1%) in the provision for the subvented sector under this programme after deducting the pay cut from the allocation to the subvented sector and the one-off donation to the United Nations Children's Fund. The provision is reduced mainly due to efficiency savings, reduction of day nursery and day crèche places due to declining child population, termination of the time-limited single-parent centres and post-migration centres and lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), partly offset by the additional provision for the integrated services for street sleepers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB040

Question Serial No.

0362

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The total number of family and child protection supervision cases served in 2003-04 was 7 312. It is anticipated that the number of such cases will increase in 2004-05. Has the caseload in 2003-04 been categorised according to the service recipients? If so, please provide the breakdown. Please also set out the protection services required by each category and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : As 7 312 is only the estimated number of supervision cases in 2003-04, the exact breakdown of the different categories of cases is not available at this stage. However, it is estimated that about 61% are battered spouse cases, 35% are child abuse or child custody cases, and the rest are cases involving multiple categories (e.g. cases involving both spouse battering and child abuse). These cases are handled by five specialised Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of the Social Welfare Department. Based on the needs of individual families, social workers of FCPSUs provide a range of services including outreaching, social investigation, statutory protection of children, counselling, group work service, probation service and referrals for psychological service, legal aid, residential service, etc. The estimated

expenditure in 2003-04 and 2004-05 is \$94.3 m and \$94.7 m respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB041

Question Serial No.

0363

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Administration will develop a competency-based performance appraisal (CBPA) system and a Training and Development (T&D) Roadmap for the Social Security Officer (SSO) grade in the financial year 2004-05. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of the contents of the programme and the number of social security officers participating in the programme? What is the estimated expenditure and the unit cost involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The CBPA system for the SSO grade was implemented in 2003. It is a system for appraising and managing the performance of different ranks of SSO grade officers (Social Security Officer II, Social Security Officer I, Senior Social Security Officer and Chief Social Security Officer) based on the core competencies, i.e. the knowledge, skills, attitude and abilities required for effective performance of the respective ranks. The system operates on a continuous process which involves performance planning at the beginning of the appraisal year, continuous

review and coaching of the appraisee's performance, annual appraisal, and identification of future training and development needs of the appraisee based on the findings of the annual appraisal.

The purpose of the T&D Roadmap is to provide a systematic approach for developing the required core competencies of SSO grade officers as they progress in the grade. It comprises a range of programmes covering different training areas related to professional knowledge, management, language and communication skills as well as information technology. The compulsory programmes are specially designed to equip newly appointed Social Security Officers II to perform their role during the first three years after appointment, whereas the optional programmes are designed to enrich and expand the knowledge and skills of SSO grade officers to meet operational needs and assist their professional growth and career development.

All SSO grade officers have been using the CBPA system since its implementation in 2003. The T&D Roadmap will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2004. As at 18 March 2004, there are a total of 330 SSO grade officers.

The development of the CBPA system and the T&D Roadmap for the SSO grade are both conducted in-house by the department, without incurring any additional expenditure under this Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB042

Question Serial No.

0364

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : There will be an increase in the number of cases under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme to 630 100 in the financial year 2004-05. Which is the main category of cases expecting an increase? What will be the increase in the total estimated expenditure for the SSA Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The figure of 630 100 refers to the projected number of all cases served under the SSA Scheme in 2004-05. Among the various grant types, we estimate that Higher Old Age Allowance cases will constitute the largest increase in 2004-05.

We estimate that the total SSA expenditure for 2004-05 will be \$5,380 m, which is \$171 m more than the revised estimate for 2003-04, or an increase of 3.3%.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB043

Question Serial No.

0365

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Would the Government state the caseload of all case categories under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, the actual expenditure for each category as well as the difference between the actual and estimated expenditures in the financial year 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The number of cases for various grant types under the SSA Scheme and the expenditure involved in the financial year 2003-04 are as follows:

	<u>2003-04</u>	
	Number of cases as at end February 2004	Actual expenditure April 2003-February 2004
		(\$b)
Higher Old Age Allowance	359 244	2.7

	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	
	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	<u>estimate</u>	<u>estimate</u>	<u>(3)=(1)-(2)</u>
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)
	(\$b)	(\$b)	(\$b)
Higher Old Age Allowance	2.9	2.9	-
Normal Old Age Allowance	0.7	0.8	-0.1
Higher Disability Allowance	0.4	0.4	-
Normal Disability Allowance	1.2	1.3	-0.1
Normal Old Age Allowance	97 876	0.7	
Higher Disability Allowance	14 157	0.3	
Normal Disability Allowance	92 536	1.1	

A comparison between the 2003-04 revised estimate for various grant types under the SSA Scheme and those in the 2003-04 original estimate is provided below:

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB044

Question Serial No.

0366

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Administration has stated in the 2004-05 Estimates that it will maximise the efficiency of the Special Investigation Section (SIS) in safeguarding public expenditure from fraud and abuse. Has the Administration put in place any indicators of enhancing efficiency (eg. a reduction in the number of working days required)? If yes, what are these indicators?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : Maximising the efficiency of the SIS is an ongoing process to which we intend to give particular attention during 2004-05. There are four teams in the SIS with a total of 115 staff. During 2003-04, the Social Welfare Department has strengthened the investigation skills of the SIS teams through various training programmes and has enhanced collaboration with other relevant government departments.

For internal monitoring purposes, we have currently put in place a set of performance indicators covering such items as the amount of overpayment recovered each year from fraudulent claimants, the number of cases investigated and the number of cases with fraud established. During 2004-05, we shall be reviewing the work of SIS

more intensively on the basis of what has already been achieved. This will include a review of performance indicators.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB045

Question Serial No.

0367

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has planned to work on the provision of infirmary care to elders in non-hospital setting. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of the number of infirmary care places to be provided? What is the increase in the number of such infirmary care places over those provided in hospitals? Also, what is the cost required for each place? When compared against the cost of providing infirmary care in hospital setting, what is the difference?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In the endeavor to provide infirmary care to medically stable elders in a non-hospital setting, the Administration plans to start with 50-100 infirmary places of this kind in the initial stage. These places are in addition to infirmary places in hospitals which take care of medically frail elders requiring intensive medical and nursing management. The Social Welfare Department is in the process of working out the unit cost of infirmary places in a non-hospital setting and in so doing, will make reference to the staffing requirement of medical infirmaries under Hospital Authority where appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB046

Question Serial No.

0368

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the pilot programme in the development and establishment of an accreditation system for residential care services for elders, would the Administration inform this Committee of the scope and progress of the pilot programme and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : Pursuant to the 2001 Policy Address, the Social Welfare Department commissioned the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology to conduct a two-year pilot programme on the development and establishment of an accreditation system for residential care services for elders in Hong Kong with the following objectives:

- (a) to set up a system of voluntary accreditation for residential care services for elders in Hong Kong;
- (b) to promote the quality of care through promulgation of the quality process and outcome monitoring for residential care services for elders;
- (c) to define the cost of the accreditation mechanism and the future charging mechanism for voluntary accreditation; and

- (d) to serve as a service quality reference benchmark for the community in the procurement of non-subsidised residential care services for elders from the private or non-profit-making sector.

A grant of \$3,011,000 was allocated from the Lotteries Fund to support the programme. The pilot programme started in July 2002 and has to complete major tasks in four phases as follows:

- (a) Phase 1 - data collection from overseas accreditation systems and proposal of a preliminary accreditation instrument;
- (b) Phase 2 - pilot testing of the preliminary accreditation in about six to eight residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs);
- (c) Phase 3 - promotion of the accreditation system to the sector and extension of the pilot testing to 20 to 30 RCHEs; and
- (d) Phase 4 - consultation with the sector and stakeholders with a view to recommending an accreditation system taking into account factors like cost, acceptability, credibility, sustainability, etc.

Two batches of pilot accreditation assessments were conducted for over 30 RCHEs run by non-governmental organisations and the private sector in Phases 2 and 3. The pilot programme is progressing on schedule and is now in Phase 4. A full report with recommendations on the way forward will be finalised by June 2004.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB047

Question Serial No.

0369

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Government stated in the 2003-04 Estimates that it would extend the service hours of medical social services in six major hospitals. How effective is this plan and what is the expenditure incurred? Has the Government any plan to further extend the service hours and coverage of the extended services to include some other hospitals?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The implementation of extended hours service (extended from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday) has made it more convenient for patients and their families to approach medical social workers (MSWs) for timely assistance. During the past eleven months, the total number of interviews conducted and the total number of enquires received during extended hours were 1 250 and 1 800 respectively.

Two MSWs are arranged to work according to a duty roster to provide extended hours service at each of the six major acute hospitals. No additional expenditure has been incurred. In view

of the stringent manpower situation, the department has no plan to extend this to other non-acute or smaller hospitals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB048

Question Serial No.

0370

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 state the respective financial provision required for probation services, probation homes, probation hostel and reformatory school for 2002-03 and 2003-04. What is the recidivism rate of persons receiving these services?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The allocation for probation services, probation homes/hostel, and reformatory school for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is listed below:

Service	2002-03 Actual (\$m)	2003-04 Revised Estimate (\$m)
Probation Services	91.3	88.8
Probation Homes/Hostel	47.6	46.7
Reformatory School	17.7	17.6

The recidivism rate for 2003-04 is not yet available. A summary of recidivism rates for the past three years is given below:

Service	Recidivism rate [#] (%)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Probation Services	23	21	19
Probation Homes/Hostel	28	25	26
Reformatory School	39	54	17

Recidivism rate refers to the percentage of cases with conviction of further offence within order period against total number of expired/discharged cases in the respective years as stated above.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB049

Question Serial No.

0371

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Would the Government inform this Committee of the progress of the project for co-locating six correctional/residential homes?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : A design and construction contract for the Residential Training Complex for Juveniles in Tuen Mun was awarded to the successful bidder on 24 February 2004. Construction of the Complex is planned to begin in March 2004 for completion by end 2006.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB050

Question Serial No.

0372

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department Subhead: 187- Agent's
Commission
and Expenses

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The estimated provision under agents' commission for the payment of bank charges on autopay transactions in the financial year 2004-05 is over \$4 m. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the average fee per autopay transaction? Has the Administration negotiated with the banks for reducing the charges in view of the substantial use of the autopay service?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The average fee payable to the service provider per autopay transaction is commercially sensitive and we are unable to disclose it. The estimated provision for 2004-05 is based on a special concessionary fee structure made available to the Government for the substantial use of autopay services by the Social Welfare Department and other departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB051

Question Serial No.

0373

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department Subhead: 000 - Operational expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The financial provision for job-related allowances in 2004-05 is estimated at some \$3.6 m. What are the expenditure components and the respective amounts of expenditure involved? There will be a reduction of more than \$300,000 in the relevant provision when compared against the figure in the financial year 2003. What is the reason for this?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The provision of \$3.7 m is for the following job-related allowances:

			2004-05
			(Estimate)
			(\$m)
Typhoon/Rainstorm	Black	Warning	0.1
Allowances			
Shift Duty Allowance			2.8
Extraneous Duties Allowance*			0.8
Total			3.7

* for eligible teachers and Workshop Instructors working in correctional homes and rehabilitation centres.

The decrease of \$0.4 m against the revised estimate for 2003-04 is mainly due to the full-year savings arising from the cessation of Hardship Allowances for staff following the service-wide review of job-related allowances for civilian grades in 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>31 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB052

Question Serial No.

0427

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Government estimated that the caseload of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme will increase to 395 400 in the financial year 2004-05. Which is the main category of cases expecting an increase? Please also provide a breakdown of the caseload and expenditure incurred in 2003-04 for each category of the CSSA cases.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : The figure of 395 400 refers to the projected number of all cases served under the CSSA Scheme in 2004-05. We estimate that the old age and single parent family cases will constitute the largest increase in 2004-05.

The number of CSSA cases and the estimated expenditure by nature of case for the financial year 2003-04 (up to February 2004) are as follows:

<u>Nature of case</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	
	<u>Number of CSSA cases as at end February 2004</u>	<u>Estimated expenditure April 2003-February 2004</u> (\$b)

Old age	147 267	7.4
Permanent disability	15 848	0.8
Temporary disability/Ill health	22 182	1.4
Single parent family	37 746	2.8
Low earnings	13 897	0.9
Unemployment	48 891	2.5
Others	<u>4 358</u>	<u>0.2</u>
Total	<u><u>290 189</u></u>	<u><u>16.0</u></u>

Signature	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Name in block letters	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Post Title	<u>26 March 2004</u>
Date	

Reply Serial No.

HWFB053

Question Serial No.

0428

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : What is the estimated increase in the total expenditure for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in the financial year 2004-05? Is there any plan for the Government to further adjust the CSSA rate in the coming year? If so, please state the details.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : We estimate that the total CSSA expenditure for 2004-05 will be \$17,889 m, which is \$614 m more than the revised estimate for 2003-04, or an increase of 3.6% .

Apart from the deflationary adjustments to CSSA rates approved in April 2003, we do not have any plan at present to further revise the rates.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB054

Question Serial No.

0429

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Please provide a breakdown of the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients with less than seven years' residence in Hong Kong by their years of residence for the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively, and the CSSA expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : Statistics on the number of CSSA recipients who were new arrivals (having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years) by length of their residence in Hong Kong are as follows:

Length of residence in Hong Kong	February 2003	February 2004
< 1 year	844	1 159
1 - < 2 years	5 802	5 615
2 - < 3 years	10 609	8 792
3 - < 4 years	11 515	12 863
4 - < 5 years	16 472	13 619
5 - < 6 years	12 254	18 205
6 - < 7 years	12 716	13 237

Total	70 212	73 490
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The total expenditure involved was \$2.0 b in 2002-03. The estimated expenditure in the first 11 months in 2003-04 (up to February 2004) was \$1.9 b.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB055

Question Serial No.

0430

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (1) Would the Administration inform this Committee of the respective waiting time for various types of residential services? Is the waiting time for certain types of residential facilities (halfway houses and long stay care homes for ex-mentally ill persons, hostels for moderately and severely mentally handicapped persons, day activity centres, early education and training centres, special child care centres) expected to be shortened with the additional provision of such places?
 - (2) The Social Welfare Department plans to introduce self-financing hostel services in 2004-05. In this respect, please give details of the types of hostel services to be provided, the estimated number and unit cost of places to be offered. Please also provide information on the unit cost of and amount of subvention for existing subsidised hostel places.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : (1) The average waiting time for various types of residential rehabilitation service in 2003 was as follows:

Residential Service	Average* Waiting Time (Months) in 2003
Long Stay Care Home	96.0
Halfway House	5.4
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	36.0
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	44.1
Care-and-Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	24.6
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	21.6
Supported Hostel	14.4

* The waiting time was computed from the date of application to the date of admission to homes. The average waiting time is calculated from all the applicants admitted to the service in the year.

The waiting time for each service would be determined not only by the provision of new places, but also by other factors, such as the number of new applications received, the turnover rate of residential units and the choice of location by parents, etc. If the growth in demand for a particular service exceeds new provision, the average waiting time for the service will unavoidably be lengthened.

- (2) The proposed self-financing hostels for people with disabilities, to be run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), provide alternative residential and respite services in the form of small group homes, hostels or satellite housing to meet the temporary and permanent housing needs of people with various types of disabilities, including the

ex-mentally ill, mentally handicapped and visually impaired, etc. In 2004-05, the proposed hostel at Ko Shing Street in Sheung Wan will provide 20 places for mentally handicapped persons while the eight proposed hostels at the ex-staff and ex-doctors quarter sites of Castle Peak Hospital in Tuen Mun will provide about 200 residential places for people with various types of disabilities. An amount of \$38.4 m from the Lotteries Fund was granted to meet the construction/fitting-out cost of the projects. NGOs are required to meet any additional recurrent expenses from their own resources, including that arises from the day-to-day maintenance of the premises. Since these projects are self-financing, no recurrent commitment from the Government is needed.

For the subvented residential services, they are fully subsidised by the Government and the respective unit cost per place per month of the subvented residential services in 2004-05 is as follows:

Residential Service	Cost per place per month in 2004-05 (\$)
Long Stay Care Home	9,118
Halfway House	8,041
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	4,889
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	10,471
Care-and-Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	12,044
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	11,242
Supported Hostel	5,495

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB056

Question Serial No.

0431

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Does the Government have any programmes or plans to prevent elder abuse in 2004-05? If yes, what are the details and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : With the implementation of a multi-disciplinary protocol to facilitate related professionals in identifying and handling elder abuse cases and a computerised central information system to capture information on elder abuse cases since March 2004, the work on elder abuse has been taken one step forward.

In 2004-05, the department will continue to launch the publicity campaign on 'Strengthening Families and Combating Violence'. Prevention of elder abuse will be one of the themes to be addressed in this campaign. \$0.6 m has been earmarked for this campaign. Besides, publicity and community education programmes (e.g. talks, exhibition, drama, etc.) on the prevention of elder abuse will also be provided by District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) as part and parcel of their services. As such, the resources earmarked specifically for publicity

activities on the prevention of elder abuse cannot be separately ascertained.

Furthermore, the two three-year Pilot Projects on Prevention and Handling of Elder Abuse launched by the Haven of Hope Christian Service and Caritas - Hong Kong from April 2001 to March 2004 with the support from Lotteries Fund (LF) will be extended for one more year, with additional LF grant of \$1.821 m. In 2004-05, the two non-governmental organisations will focus more on transferring their experience in combating elder abuse to related service units through providing training, producing a casebook and VCDs, and developing an operational model for reference by DECCs etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB057

Question Serial No.

0432

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Government estimated in the 2003-04 Estimates that care-and-attention home places and enhanced bought places would be increased to 11 490 and 6 735 respectively. However, the revised estimate in the 2004-05 Estimates shows that there were only 11 136 and 6 041 care-and-attention home places and enhanced bought places respectively in 2003-04. The estimated numbers of places under the two categories will only be 11 336 and 6 278 respectively in 2004-05. Why has the Government reduced the number of places under these two categories?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : The Social Welfare Department originally planned to increase care-and-attention home places in 2003-04 by in-situ expansion of 154 places in the existing care-and-attention homes and converting 200 existing home for the aged places into care-and-attention home places. However, on further review, we found that the in-situ expansion programmes in previous years had already optimised the space available in most of the homes. Furthermore, we decided to allow more space between beds to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Therefore, the in-situ expansion programme planned for 2003-04 was shelved. For the

conversion programme, it will be rescheduled to 2004-05 to tie in with the scheme to phase out home for the aged places.

As regards the places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS), the total number of new places purchased in 2003-04 and to be purchased in 2004-05 has been reduced to take into account the actual situations regarding enrolment, vacancy and demand for EBPS places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB058

Question Serial No.

0292

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

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
1. The total provision for 2003-04 has been revised from the original estimate of \$43.5 (million) to \$844.5 (million). Could the Administration set out in detail the items the additional provision is for?
 2. Compared with the original estimate of \$43.5 (million) for 2003-04, the total provision for 2004-05 has increased by 210.8% to \$135.2 (million). What are the items the proposed additional provision earmarked for?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
1. The increase of \$801 million in the 2003-04 revised estimate, as compared with the 2003-04 original estimate, is mainly due to the provision of additional funds for expenditure relating to the fight against SARS and for funding research relating to infectious diseases.
 2. The increased provision of \$91.7 million for 2004-05 is mainly due to the provision for the research fund to encourage, facilitate and support research on prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB059

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Question Serial No.

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

0293

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

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to reviving discussion on the long-term health care financing options,

1. When will the relevant work be initiated? What are the details?
2. Is there any plan to appoint a consultant to conduct the study and submit a report?
If so, what is the estimated cost required?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

To strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of our health care system, we have in the Health Care Reform Consultation Document published in Dec 2000 floated the idea of a Health Protection Account (HPA) scheme. Following that consultation exercise, a study group involving medical doctors, epidemiologists, actuaries, economists, statisticians and social scientists from various universities, the Hospital Authority and Department of Health was formed to examine in greater depth the feasibility and implications of introducing the HPA scheme in Hong Kong. Several studies have been conducted and the group is in the process of finalizing its studies. We plan to present the group's findings to the LegCo Panel on Health Services in mid-2004. These studies, conducted over 2002/03 to 2004/05, will incur a total cost of about \$2 million. These costs will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 23 March 2004 _____

Reply Serial No.

HWFB060

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Question Serial No.

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

0294

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

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the estimated expenditure for the setting up of a Centre for Health Protection under Head 149? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will be established within the Department of Health (DH). The recurrent expenditure of this new agency upon full establishment will amount to about \$1 billion per year, which will largely be funded by redeployment of existing resources from DH. A special provision of \$40 million has been earmarked under Head 149 in 2004-05 for creation of civil service posts in the CHP and engagement of Hospital Authority staff to be posted to the new agency.

The policy steering and inter-agency coordination work arising from the CHP's creation will be absorbed by existing staff responsible for the health portfolio in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. The financial provision for such steering and coordination work cannot be separately identified.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	20 March 2004

Reply Serial No.
HWFB061

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0295

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
000

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the phased introduction of Chinese medicine outpatient services in the public healthcare sector, please provide details on the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Hospital Authority set up three clinics in 2003 to provide Chinese medicine outpatient service. The recurrent subvention for providing this service will be about \$13.3M in 2004-05. The expansion of the service will be reviewed in light of the operating experience of the three clinics.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB062

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Question Serial No.

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

0319

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

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that the Administration will revive discussion on the long term health care financing options including the Health Protection Account. Please provide details on this. What will the expenditure involved amount to?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

To strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of our health care system, we have in the Health Care Reform Consultation Document published in Dec 2000 floated the idea of a Health Protection Account (HPA) scheme. Following that consultation exercise, a study group involving medical doctors, epidemiologists, actuaries, economists, statisticians and social scientists from various universities, the Hospital Authority and Department of Health was formed to examine in greater depth the feasibility and implications of introducing the HPA scheme in Hong Kong. Several studies have been conducted and the group is in the process of finalizing its studies. We plan to present the group's findings to the LegCo Panel on Health Services in mid-2004. These studies, conducted over 2002/03 to 2004/05, will incur a total cost of about \$2 million. These costs will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	23 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB063

Question Serial No.

0435

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

Programme: (6) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question: Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004–05, it stated that the Bureau would “revamp the existing regulatory framework for licensed food premises”. Please advise on the details and timetable for implementation as well as the expenditure and staff involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply: As recommended by Team Clean in its final report published in August 2003, we have in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) embarked on a comprehensive review and revamp of the existing demerit points system (DPS) for licensed food premises, taking into account different nature of food premises and their mode of operations. The revamp exercise aims to ensure the fairness of the DPS while serving the ultimate objectives of safeguarding public health and maintaining environmental hygiene. In the process, FEHD will maintain close dialogue with the trade and consult them on the proposals. It is our objective to put in place the new DPS mechanism within the second half of 2004.

The work will be taken up by existing staff. No additional resources have been reserved for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food
Date	_____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB064

Question Serial No.

0436

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

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question: Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004–05, it stated that the Bureau would “put forward proposals on the nutritional labelling scheme for Hong Kong”.

1. Please advise on the expenditure and a breakdown of the uses allocated and whether it would cover on-going public consultation.
2. Please provide a detailed timetable for putting forward the proposal.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

- Reply:
1. Work relating to the proposed nutrition labelling scheme will be taken up by existing staff. No additional resources have been earmarked for this item under Head 149.
 2. We are consolidating the views collected during the public consultation exercise on the proposed nutrition labelling scheme. We will conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to evaluate the overall costs and benefits of introducing a nutrition labelling scheme in Hong Kong. We will then take into account the results of the RIA before we finalize our proposals on the way forward for further consultation with the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB065

Question Serial No.

0437

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

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question: Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004–05, it stated that the Bureau would “develop proposals to address the avian influenza problem”.

1. Please advise on the scope of the proposals and whether relief measures for the poultry and related trades are included. If such measures are included, please advise on the expenditure required. If such measures are not included, please state the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply: On 25 February 2004, the Government announced a package of relief measures with a total financial implication of about \$8.443 million (comprising revenue loss to Government of about \$6.973 million and ex-gratia payment of about \$1.47 million) to help live poultry wholesalers, retailers and transporters affected by the suspension of importation of live poultry from the Mainland due to the recent avian influenza outbreak in the region. The relief measures include a three-month rental waiver (inclusive of rates and air-conditioning charges, if applicable) to the live poultry wholesalers and retailers operating in the wholesale and retail markets under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) respectively, waiver of 3-month parking fees (inclusive of rates) for lorries parked at designated spaces on a monthly basis for the transportation of live poultry in AFCD's wholesale poultry markets, and ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers operating in

private premises. The ex-gratia payment of about \$1.47 million is to be paid out from Head 49 FEHD.

In addition, the Finance Committee has, on 26 March 2004, approved the creation of a new commitment of \$42 million under Head 22 AFCD Subhead 700 to provide one-off ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators to assist them tide over the difficult period. Moreover, three-month rental waiver (resulting in revenue loss of about \$18,000 to the Government) will also be provided to the operators of the two crate washers at the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market.

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will continue to devise appropriate preventive measures to address the avian influenza problem. We will soon consult the public on the various options for reducing contacts between humans and live poultry, including central and regional slaughtering. We will take full account of the views received during the consultation period before finalizing our policy decision on the matter. We will then develop the implementation details and operational requirements, including the financial commitments required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB066

Question Serial No.

0444

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
000

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

: Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As regards geriatric services, the number of Visiting Medical Officer attendances increases from the revised estimate of 35 000 for 2003-04 to the estimate of 84 000 for 2004-05. In respect of 2003-04 and 2004-05:

- (a) How many doctors are involved in providing the Visiting Medical Officers services, and what are their respective numbers from the public and private medical sectors?
- (b) How many Residential Care Homes for the Elderly are served by Visiting Medical Officers?
- (c) What is the total estimated expenditure for the Visiting Medical Officers services?

Asked by : Hon. Lo Wing Lok

Reply :

- (a) The Hospital Authority (HA) plans to recruit 100 private doctors to serve as Visiting Medical Officers (VMO) under the VMO/ Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT) Collaborative Scheme (the Scheme), which was launched in October 2003. As at February 2004, 78 VMOs were recruited. Apart from VMOs, HA's geriatric specialists are also involved in the Scheme, providing supervision and training to the VMOs on community geriatrics.

- (b) At present, 178 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) are under the care of the VMOs. The majority of the remaining RCHEs are receiving outreach services from CGATs. Together, the services of the VMOs and CGATs will cover almost all the 750 RCHEs in Hong Kong, involving about 54 000 elders.
- (c) Expenditures on the VMO programme are estimated to be \$4.5 million for 2003-04 (covering the period from October 2003 to March 2004), and \$16 million for 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB067

Question Serial No.

0445

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9)Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As compared with 2003-04, the number of staff in 2004-05 will be reduced by 127 for qualified nursing staff, 135 for allied health staff and 706 for other staff. Will the Government inform us of :

- (a) the breakdown of the manpower reduction by posts, and the units and institutions to which these posts belong;
- (b) the effect on the quality of public health services as a result of the manpower reduction.

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

In 2004-05, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue its efforts in achieving efficiency and exercising tight control on the replacement and recruitment of staff. The reduction in the number of staff in 2004-05 for qualified nursing staff, allied health staff and other staff is an estimation based on natural wastage rate and the anticipated wastage under the voluntary early retirement schemes.

The reduction of 127 nursing staff will involve almost all nursing ranks from Enrolled Nurse, Nursing Officer to Senior Nursing Officer/Departmental Operations Manager. The reduction of

135 allied health posts will involve 100 trainees who will complete the one-year on-the-job training programme funded by the Government under its Job Creation Programme and 35 allied health staff from a variety of grades and ranks, e.g. Senior Dispenser, Radiographer, Medical Technologist and Scientific Officer (Medical). The remaining 706 staff will come from a variety of grades and ranks, e.g. Health Care Assistant, Ward Attendant, Workman, Artisan and Cook.

These staff will be widely distributed among HA's 43 hospitals, cluster offices and Head Office. It is expected that detailed manpower situation will become clearer by mid of 2004-05 financial year.

Despite the anticipated drop in staff numbers, the Hospital Authority will ensure that the quality of public health services will be maintained through initiatives including strengthening the ambulatory care services to reduce the reliance on in-patient services, rationalisation of existing services and appropriate use of new technology.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB068

Question Serial No.

0446

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Programme (9) contains various performance measures in respect of the Hospital Authority. Will the Government explain on what grounds does it anticipate that the Hospital Authority can achieve its performance targets, and whether the Government will make additional provisions if the demand for services exceeds its estimates?

Asked by : Hon. LO Wing-lok

Reply :

When setting the performance targets and indicators for 2004-05, the Hospital Authority (HA) has taken into account relevant factors, including past data and statistics, the latest trend in service demand, Hong Kong's population profile, trend of chronic and infectious disease burden and the various initiatives to be implemented in 2004-05 for strengthening the community mode of health care delivery. Apart from the year 2003-04 where the actual volume of activities fell well short of the performance indicators due to the SARS outbreak, the HA was in general able to meet its performance targets and indicators in the past years. We have an established and effective monitoring mechanism for reviewing the performance standards of the HA

which has given us the assurance that the HA will be able to achieve similar results in 2004-05.

If the actual demand for particular services in 2004-05 exceeds the performance indicators, the HA will flexibly deploy resources and adjust priorities to meet the service needs. In the event there are exceptional circumstances where the HA is not able to meet the service demand with the Government subvention such as in the case of the SARS outbreak last year, the Government may provide supplementary provision having regard to the actual situation and the financial position of the Government.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	27 March 2004

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for personal emoluments in 2004-05 is about \$0.6 million higher than that in 2003-04. The increase mainly results from the difference between the provision for filling vacant posts (\$3.4M) and the reduced provisions for filled posts taken into account the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut (-\$2.8M). The posts which were left vacant in 2003/04 may be filled in 2004/05 depending on operational needs.

The details of the change in the number of staff and the expenditure in personal emoluments in different grades and ranks (including administrative staff) are set out in Appendix.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS. CARRIE YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

Rank	Increase/(Decrease) in the number of staff in 2004-05	Increase/(Decrease) of Expenditure in Personal Emoluments in 2004-05
		\$ ('000)
<u>Administrative Staff</u>		
Comptroller	-	(0.4)
Executive Officer I	-	(19.8)
Executive Officer II	-	(9.2)
Subtotal		0(29.4)
<u>Other Staff</u>		-
Assistant Supplies Officer	-	(14.4)
Personal Secretary I	-	(11.4)
Fire Safety and Security Officer	-	(8.1)
Clerical Officer I	-	(45.7)
Clerical Officer II	(1)	(109.3)
Clerical Assistant	-	(34.1)
Office Assistant	-	(41.1)
Nursing Officer	-	(20.0)
Registered Nurse	-	(68.5)
Radiographer II	-	0.7
Senior Dental Technician Instructor	-	(25.1)
Dental Technician Instructor	-	(79.2)
Dental Technician I	-	(566.4)

Dental Hygienist	-	(19.0)
Senior Certificated Dental Surgery Assistant	-	(87.9)
Certificated Dental Surgery Assistant	(1)	(766.1)
Hospital Foreman	-	(6.9)
Darkroom Technician	-	(5.8)
Artisan	-	(5.8)
Head Watchman	-	(5.8)
Operating Theatre Assistant	-	(26.4)
Watchman	-	(49.8)
Workman I	(1)	(178.3)
Workman II	(3)	(666.5)
Subtotal	(6)	(2,840.8)
Total :	(6)	(2,870.2)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 070

Question Serial No.

0468

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The revised financial provision for 2003-04 is 18.1 million, which is 4.9 million less than the original provision. Why?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The revised estimate for 2003-04 in respect of Programme (4), "Women's Interests" is \$18.1 million as compared to the approved estimate of \$23.0 million.

2. The provision under Programme (4) is used to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong and to support the work of the Women's Commission, which is established as a central mechanism tasked to develop a long-term vision and strategy for the development and advancement of women in Hong Kong. The Women's Commission has played a strategic role in championing women causes, inspiring and catalysing changes, as well as mobilising community resources. In pursuing this strategic role, the Commission has adopted a three-pronged approach of gender mainstreaming, empowerment and public education. It gives advice on

women-related policies from gender perspectives and reviews women-related services to ensure appropriateness and adequacy. Costs incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiative will be absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments, and the cost involved in reviewing services for women, promoting development of new or improved service models, enhancing women participation in advisory and statutory bodies, and developing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme are absorbed by the Women's Division of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

3. The Commission is not a funding body, nor does it provide direct services to end users. Many activities and initiatives of the Women's Commission have been conducted through collaboration and mobilising resources in the community. For example, the implementation of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme is supported by the Lotteries Fund, and collaborating parties (i.e. Open University of Hong Kong, Commercial Radio and non-governmental organisations) also contributed resources towards the Programme. The revision in the estimate therefore reflects the expenditure required to carry out the work of the Women's Commission in this approach.

Signature:

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 071

Question Serial No.

0469

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please give details on the studies, surveys and research on women issues to be commissioned or completed in 2004-05, including the purpose, scope and cost of these projects.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The surveys and research commissioned with the advice of the Women's Commission have been completed within the Commission's first term of office (January 2001-January 2004). There are no outstanding surveys or research to be completed in 2004-05. In 2004-05, \$18.0 million is provided to support the work of the Women's Commission, of which about \$2.6 million could be made available for conducting surveys and research on women-related issues. The Administration will work closely with the Women's Commission in collaborating with academics and interested parties in the community to identify research topics, initiate and conduct research and surveys on specific topics that would support the work of the Commission in 2004-05.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 072

Question Serial No.

0470

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. Would the Government inform us of the number of people it expects to participate in the Capacity Building Mileage Programme in 2004-05? What are the target groups of this Programme? How is the response to the Programme? What is the expenditure involved?
2. Please briefly tell us about the course structure of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) is initiated by the Women's Commission as an empowerment programme for women. The Programme aims to encourage women to improve their all round ability as individuals, to develop their potential and learning interest as well as to build up their capacity. The CBMP seeks to equip women with a positive mindset and values and to enhance their inner strength so that they can better cope with different life challenges and live their lives more fully.

2. The CBMP has been developed with a women focus, and has the following unique features that address the needs of women, especially grassroot women:

- (a) **flexibility** – participants can take up courses at any time (multiple entry points) or to exit the programme at any time (multiple exit points);
- (b) **convenience** – courses will mainly be broadcast through radio and supplemented by optional activities, and classes are minimised;
- (c) **relevance** – courses are related to the daily lives of women;
- (d) **choice of assessment** – different assessment methods (e.g. course work, reflective writing, recording) could be allowed;
- (e) **mileage** – participants could accumulate points from their studies and to advance to the next level of learning when they have accumulated sufficient number of “points”;
- (f) **optional enrolment** – there is no need to enrol in a course unless the participant intends to take an assessment and to obtain “points” for her study; and
- (g) **affordable cost** – the cost would be affordable.

3. The CBMP courses are developed by the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) and the radio programmes are broadcast through Commercial Radio. A Steering Committee has been set up under the Women’s Commission to steer the overall direction of the CBMP.

4. OUHK plans to develop and offer 27 radio courses and nine face-to-face courses over a three-year period. The courses will broadly be divided into four major categories:

- (a) financial management;
- (b) practical issues in daily lives;
- (c) health management; and
- (d) managing interpersonal relationships and communication skills.

5. Women's groups and service organisations have been invited to collaborate by organising supplementary learning activities, face-to-face courses, as well as peer support groups. So far, some 36 non-governmental organisations have joined the Programme as collaborators.

6. While the CBMP is primarily targeted at women, especially grassroots women, all members in the community are encouraged to participate in the Programme.

7. Funding support of up to \$12.43 million is provided by the Lotteries Fund to OUHK for implementing the Programme on a three-year pilot basis. On the advice of the Women's Commission, the Administration spent \$856,000 in 2003-04 to undertake publicity activities to complement OUHK's efforts. This covers the cost of design and production of publicity materials (including TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest, posters and pamphlets).

8. The Programme was launched on 8 March 2004. As all the radio courses are broadcast through radio free of charge, the CBMP can benefit a wide cross-section of the community. OUHK anticipates that about 9,000 participants would register in the supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses over a three-year period (i.e. an average of 3,000 participants each year).

9. The community response to the Programme is very enthusiastic. More than 8,600 enquiries have been received and over 1,000 enrolments have been registered in the courses as at 23 March 2004. Feedback from some of the participants has indicated that the courses are useful and educational, and the materials covered are relevant to daily lives. Participants have also indicated the CBMP provides a more relaxed mode of learning.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

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

HWFB073

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No

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

0329

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Please give details on the special measures as specified under Item 013 "Special improvement in environmental hygiene". What is the estimated expenditure for each measure? Which of these measures will become long-term ones? Will the balance of \$125,631,000 be carried forward for use in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The special measures and their respective budgets are as follows:

Description	\$ million
Public cleansing services (e.g. enhanced cleansing and washing of streets and rear lanes, cleansing of common parts of old tenement buildings, lime washing and minor improvement works, removal of unauthorized bills and posters)	250
Mosquito and rodent control	95
Enhanced market cleansing	20
Total	365

The balance of the approved commitment will be carried forward for use in 2004-05. The Department will review its operational needs later in 2004-05 to determine whether and, if so, which measures need to be implemented on a long term basis.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB074

Question Serial No.

0330

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What types and grades are the 803 posts to be deleted in 2004-05? Of which, how many are permanent posts and how many are vacant?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Among the 803 net posts to be deleted in 2004-05, 465 are for market management and hawker control, 328 are for environmental hygiene and related services, and 10 are for food safety and public health. These posts include grades of Artisan, Calligraphist, Clerical Assistant, Clerical Officer, Executive Officer, Field Assistant, Foreman, Ganger, Hawker Control Officer, Information Officer, Laboratory Attendant, Management Services Officer, Official Languages Officer, Personal Secretary, Registered Nurse, Special Driver, Supplies Assistant, Supplies Supervisor, Transport Services Officer, Workman I, Workman II and Works Supervisor. All the 803 posts are on the permanent establishment. 279 are vacant posts while the remaining posts will become vacant later in the year when the incumbents retire from the service or are transferred to other departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB075

Question Serial No.

0331

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead(No.& title):

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

1. How much resource will be allocated for promoting environmental hygiene and health education respectively? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

A total of \$38.9 million has been designated in the 2004-05 Estimates for promoting health education, in particular food safety, and the importance of environmental hygiene. The Department will organize outreaching programmes, such as seminars for traders, community activities, school talks, and public functions, to mobilize public involvement in the dissemination of public health messages and educate them on the importance of environmental hygiene and food safety. Major campaigns would be organized on topical themes, like anti-dengue and anti-rodent programmes, to promote keep-clean and food safety messages. Publicity materials like posters, banners, leaflets, television and radio programmes would be produced to raise public awareness.

Most of the publicity/promotion work would cover both environmental hygiene and public health at the same time as they are inter-related subjects. There is no breakdown on their respective allocations.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB076

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0332

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide details on the public market improvement works and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The Department plans to commence the installation of air-conditioning and the construction of general improvement works in 5 markets/cooked food centres (CFCs), at total estimated cost of about \$370 m, before summer of 2005. Subject to the agreement of stallholders, the Department also plans to carry out general improvement works in another 12 markets/CFCs, at total estimated cost of \$320 m, before end of 2005. These general improvement works include items such as fire services upgrading, provision of barrier free access, upgrading of lighting, signage and drainage, ventilation improvement, replacement of floor and wall finishes in common areas.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB077

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0333

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide details on the market promotion and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The Department has on a trial basis set up a dedicated team to draw up promotion plans for a few selected public markets. Initiatives being explored include enhancement of customer-oriented facilities (e.g. provision of service counter, rest area, storage lockers), increased publicity efforts (e.g. setting up website, posters, and newsletters for market patrons), organization of promotional events (e.g. lucky draw) during festival seasons, and expanding the range of products/services available in markets. The Department will consult the relevant Market Management Consultative Committees on these initiatives before their implementation. The amount of resources required could only be ascertained after the firming up of the promotion plans but would be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB078

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0334

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 :

Is Government subsidy required for the recurrent expenditure of public market management in 2003-04 and 2004-05? If so, what is the amount?

Asked by: Hon. Wong Yung-kan

Reply:

The Department provided a subsidy of \$210 m on the management of public markets in 2003-04. The subsidy to be provided in 2004-05 is estimated to be about \$209 m.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB079

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0335

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much resources will be allocated to strengthen the control of sale of live and chilled poultry, food eaten raw and chilled meat for food safety purpose? How many inspections in respect of the sale of chilled meat have been conducted in 2003-04 and how many such inspections will be conducted in 2004-05? What are the staff establishment and expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The resources required to strengthen the control over the sale of live and chilled poultry, food to be eaten raw and chilled meat will be absorbed within existing allocations. For control over the sale of chilled meat, the Department conducted about 16 000 inspections to premises selling frozen and chilled meat in 2003-04. It is estimated that the number of inspections will be at the same level in 2004-05. There is no specific provision dedicated to the inspection of the sale of chilled meat. The work is undertaken as part of the Department's work relating to the inspection of food premises and management of public markets.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB080

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0336

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much resources will be allocated to strengthen the control of unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards respectively?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The resources required to strengthen control on unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards will be absorbed within the existing allocations.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB081

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0337

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much resources will be allocated to conduct raids against illegal slaughtering and smuggling of fresh and chilled meat respectively? Is there any plan in 2004-05 to further combat the smuggling of meat? What is the expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A team of staff has been set up since 2003 mainly to combat illegal slaughtering activities and smuggling of fresh and chilled meat. The respective estimated expenditures in 2004-05 are \$1.3m and \$4.8m. District staff will assist in the task as part of their daily duties.

In 2004-05, the Department will step up its control measures against smuggling of meat both at the border and at retail outlets. At the border, a strengthened communication system has been set up between the Department and Customs and Excise Department at senior management and working levels to tackle smuggling activities. Measures adopted include intelligence collection, sharing of information and regular review of operation strategies. At retail level, district staff will mount blitz operations, as and when necessary, against food premises to identify problem areas. During regular inspections, district staff will increase the frequency of checking on purchase

documents to ensure that meat on sale is from approved sources. These control measures will be undertaken by existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG
Director of Food and

Post Title Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB082

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0338

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Since the outbreak of SARS last year, has the expenditure on public cleansing services been increased compared with the original provision? If so, what is the increase? In 2004-05, how much provision will be allocated for public cleansing services? Will less efforts be put to public cleansing services as compared with that during the SARS outbreak in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department was allocated additional resources in 2003 as a result of the SARS outbreak. \$164 million of the additional resources is estimated to be spent in 2003-04 for providing public cleansing services. For 2003-04, the revised estimated expenditure on public cleansing services is \$2.0 billion which is about the same amount as that reserved in the original estimate.

A provision of \$1.7 billion has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for providing public cleansing services in 2004-05. Some of the special cleansing services provided during the SARS outbreak in 2003 will not be continued in 2004-05. The Department will monitor the services provided closely to ensure that the overall level of cleanliness is maintained.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB083

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0339

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The performance target for inspecting vehicles carrying poultry at Man Kam To is set at only 98% instead of blanket inspection of all vehicles? What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department inspects all vehicles carrying poultry which pass through Man Kam To. The performance target will be revised next year.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB084

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0340

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 :

To ensure food safety, the concept of "from feed to table" was mentioned in the Policy Agenda. In this regard, what action will be taken in 2004-05 to implement the concept and what is the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The adoption of the "from feed to table" approach will help ensure food safety by implementing control measures at various points starting from food production all the way to food consumption. The Administration will explore the introduction of various food safety control practices to achieve this target. Since the implementation of this concept is part and parcel of the Administration's effort in enhancing food safety, there is no specific financial provision for this particular purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB085

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0438

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 :

Matters requiring special attention in 2004 –05 include “enhancing the facilities and management of public markets, inter alia, by undertaking improvement works and conducting market promotion.” In this connection:

- (a) What is the schedule for enhancing the facilities or undertaking the improvement works?
- (b) In what way will the proposed enhancement of facilities and the improvement works lower the density of live poultry stalls, centralize the poultry stalls and improve the ventilation system of the market?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

- (a) The Department plans to commence the air-conditioning retro-fitting and general improvement works projects in selected markets in 2004/05 for completion within the next two years.
- (b) As part of the air-conditioning retro-fitting projects, the live poultry stalls will be physically segregated from the rest of the market proper and separate ventilation

system will be provided for the live poultry zone. Where site condition permits, active consideration will be given to enlarging the size of individual live poultry stalls.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB086

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0439

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the expenditure and manpower required in providing free training to “Hygiene Supervisors” and implementing the Hygiene Manager/Supervisor Scheme respectively in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The estimated total expenditure to be incurred in 2004-05 for providing free Hygiene Supervisor Training Courses and implementing the Hygiene Manager / Supervisor Scheme is \$2 m, involving a total of four staff. Given their close relationship, it is not possible to identify the resources required for each item.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB087

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0440

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration expects that the number of inspections to food premises to reach 300 000 for 2004-05, close to the actual number of inspections made in 2003. As there are about 23 500 restaurant and food-related licences in Hong Kong, each restaurant will in average be inspected more than 12 times during the year. The frequency is higher than the average inspection rate in most developed countries.

- (a) What is the reason for maintaining such a high frequency of inspection? Can the number of inspections be reduced?
- (b) Of the 300 000 inspections, how many will be related to the "control of sale of live and chilled poultry, food eaten raw and chilled meat"? What is the number increased/decreased in comparison with that in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) In the past, regular inspection of licensed food premises was made at intervals of once every 2 weeks, 4 weeks or 8 weeks. To enhance the effectiveness of the

inspections, the Department has since early 2003 adopted a risk-based inspection system. Under the new system, licensed food premises are inspected at intervals of 4 weeks, 8 weeks, or 12 weeks according to their risk categories. The estimated 300 000 inspections to be made in 2004 will include both blitz operations and routine inspections to licensed food premises as well as food premises in public markets of the Department. In the interest of ensuring food safety, it will not be advisable to reduce the number of inspections.

- (b) The Department estimates that about 53 000 inspections among the 300 000 inspections to be conducted in 2004 will be related to the control of sale of live and chilled poultry, food to be eaten raw and chilled meat. This number is similar to that in 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>24 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB088

Question Serial No.

0441

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2004-05, the number of non-directorate posts of the FEHD will be reduced by 803, being 6.5% less than the original establishment. However, the estimated total expenditure of the Department is only reduced by 2.1%, and even increased by 8.7% as compared with the original estimate for 2003-04. According to the analysis of each Programme, the savings achieved will be offset by the following factors:

Cleansing and pest control work (Programme (1))

Provision of cleansing services to newly developed areas and for new facilities (Programme(2))

Management of new public markets (Programme(3))

Please explain the details on the increase/decrease in posts and expenditure under these Programmes.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The total estimated expenditure for 2004-05 is \$3,959 million which is \$360 million or 8.3% below the 2003-04 revised estimate of \$4,319 million (or \$446 million or 10.1% below the 2003-04 original estimate of \$4,405M). The change in establishment and provision under the three programme areas are as follows:

Programme Areas	No. of Posts	Provision Reduced from 2003-04 Revised Estimate
(1) Food Safety and Public Health	-10	-\$9.6m (-2.1%)
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services	-328	-\$298.5m (-12.5%)
(3) Market Management and Hawker Control	-465	-\$51.5m (-3.6%)

Under Programme (1), some savings will be offset by an increase in operating expenses because it is necessary to strengthen mosquito and pest control measures in light of the SARS outbreak in 2003 and prevention of dengue fever. The 10 posts to be deleted cover a number of grades including the Clerical Officer, Executive Officer, Laboratory Attendant and other grades.

Under Programme (2), some savings will be offset by the provision required for meeting the full year operation of facilities opened in 2003-04 and for operating new facilities to be opened in 2004-05 (e.g. new facilities at Fu Shan Crematorium and Kwai Chung Crematorium, new public toilets and refuse collection points). In addition to the above, cleansing and waste collection services have to be provided to new development areas in South-West Kowloon, Tseung Kwan O, Yuen Long (West Rail Project), Ma On Shan, etc.. The 328 posts to be deleted mainly involve Foreman, Workman and Ganger grades.

Under Programme (3), some savings will be offset by the provision required for meeting the full year operation of facilities opened in 2003-04 and for operating new facilities to be opened in 2004-05 e.g. the new Tai Po Hui Market. The 465 posts to be deleted mainly involve Hawker Control Officer, Foreman and Workman grades.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 089

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0341

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) How many inspections did the Department make annually to premises and establishments where animals were kept for exhibition or trading purposes in 2002-03 and 2003-04? How many complaints were received against law-breaking establishments in the past 2 years? What was the prosecution figure? Among these complaints and prosecutions, what legislation and licensing requirements did the offences mainly involve?
 - (b) How much manpower and resources were put into this work area in 2002-03 and 2003-04? What is the estimated expenditure for such work in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) In 2002-03, AFCD conducted 13,552 inspections to animal trading premises, and 26 inspections to animal exhibition premises. In relation to these premises, 197 complaints were received, with 12 successful prosecutions made. In 2003-04, AFCD conducted 13,845 inspections to animal trading premises, and 35 inspections to animal exhibition premises. In relation to these premises, 226 complaints were received, with 10 successful prosecutions made.

Most of the complaints were related to illegal trading of animals, illegal boarding of animals, selling of sick animals, sanitary problem of the premises, cruelty and overcrowding of animals. Most of the prosecutions made were trading of animals without a licence, hawking an animal or bird, boarding an animal without a licence and breaching of license condition such as selling of dogs and cats without vaccination certificate under Public Health (Animals & Birds) Ordinance, Cap. 139.

- (b) There were some 10 staff deployed for the above inspections. Total expenses incurred for the above work in 2002-03 was \$2,680,000 and \$2,600,000 in 2003-04. Our estimation for 2004-05 is \$2,530,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 090

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0342

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this subhead, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will delete 45 non-directorate posts. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council what posts will be deleted and the job duties of each post?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The breakdown of the posts to be deleted/created in 2004-05 and the responsibilities of the job posts are set out below.

Rank of the post

No.

Activity

Divison : Administration

Typist

-1

Senior Clerical Officer

-1

} Administration support work in headquarters. Their duties will be taken up by other staff in the division

S/T :

-2

Division : Wholesale Market Management Division

Agricultural Officer	-1	} Provision of management services to the wholesale fresh food markets. The services are to be outsourced to the contractors.
Field Officer I	-2	
Senior Field Assistant	-2	
Field Assistant	-2	
Assistant Clerical Officer	-2	
S/T :	-9	

Division : Wholesale Market Development Division

Agricultural Officer	-1	Planning of the development of new wholesale markets. The duties are to be taken up by other staff in the division.
S/T :	-1	

Division : Country Parks Division/North-west & South-east

Field Assistant	-4	} Provision of management services to the country parks. Their duties will be taken up by the staff in other management centres.
Artisan	-5	
Workman I	-6	
Workman II	-3	
S/T :	-18	

Division : Country Parks Ranger Services

Senior Field Assistant	-2	} Provision of ranger and visitor services to the country parks. Their duties will be taken up by other staff in the division. Moreover, the services provided to individual visitor centre will be outsourced to the contractor.
Forest Guard	-6	
S/T :	-8	

Division : Engineering

Works Supervisor I	-1	} Provision of maintenance and improvement services to the country parks roads. Their duties will be taken up by other staff in the division.
Works Supervisor II	-1	
Workman II	-1	
	<hr/>	
S/T :	-3	
	<hr/> <hr/>	

Division : Livestock Farm

Senior Field Assistant	-1	} Operational support to the pig breeding and poultry farms. The farms were already closed.
Field Officer I	-1	
Field Assistant	-1	
Artisan	-1	
Workman II	-1	
	<hr/>	
S/T :	-5	
	<hr/> <hr/>	

Division : Animal Management

Workman I	-1	Operational work related to services provided by the animal management centre. The duties will be taken up by other staff in the centre.
	<hr/>	
S/T :	-1	
	<hr/> <hr/>	

Division : Aquaculture Fisheries

Senior Fisheries Officer	-1	Overseeing the development of the aquaculture sector and providing technical support to it. The responsibilities will be taken up by another division.
	<hr/>	
S/T :	-1	
	<hr/> <hr/>	

Division : Information Technology Management

Senior Systems Manager	+	1	} Creation of posts to cater for the information technology enhancement needs of the department.
Systems Manager	+	1	
Analyst Programmer I	+	1	

S/T : 3

Grand Total : -45

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 091

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0345

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, what are the amount of expenditure and manpower used by the department in monitoring avian influenza in 2002-03 and 2003-04? In 2004-05, what are the amount of expenditure and staffing arrangement in this area?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2002-03 and 2003-04, AFCD deployed 2 Senior Veterinary Officers and 4 Veterinary Officers supported by 29 technical staff and 20 field officers to undertake monitoring and testing for avian influenza as well as preventing and control of other diseases of livestock. In 2002-03 and 2003-04, AFCD spent \$13.7 million and \$18.52 million respectively in the monitoring and control of avian influenza which included expenditure in employing temporary contract staff.

In 2004-05, \$18.23 million has been allocated for this activity. There is no increase in permanent staff involved in this area of work.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<hr/> 29 March 2004 <hr/>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 092

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0346

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for the inspection of animals and plants imported into the territory, the inspection of local farms and fish farms, the monitoring of drug residues in food animals, and the regulation of feeding food animals with chemicals?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2004-05, AFCD has allocated \$16.4 million for the inspection of animals and plants imported to Hong Kong, \$7.79 million for inspection of local livestock farms, \$2.92 million for inspection of marine fish farms, \$12.58 million for the monitoring of drug residues in food animals. The regulation of feeding food animals with chemicals is part of the duties when staff inspect the farms.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 093

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0347

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Will the authorities allocate resources for in-house research and development of vaccines suitable for local farms or subsidizing the local education sector to carry out such work?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

AFCD has under its purview agricultural research funds which could support research in vaccines. AFCD remains open to assisting in vaccine research for animal diseases and is willing to consider applications from tertiary institutions.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 094

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0348

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, how many cases were there for illegal importation of animals under control or without quarantine? In 2004-05, what special measures will be taken by the Government to crack down on these illegal activities? What manpower and expenditure are involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, there were 177, 137 and 107 cases of illegal importation of animal respectively.

In 2004-05, AFCD has implemented a referral system with the integrated call center to ensure those who enquire are given accurate information on the requirements for the importation of live animals to Hong Kong and the Department's website has been updated, with a view to being more user friendly and prevent "accidental" illegal imports. AFCD will closely liaise with the Police and Customs and Excise Departments to address this problem.

AFCD has 54 officers stationed on shift basis at all the major entry points to Hong Kong who spend 50% of their time on this activity and who work closely with the Police and Customs and Excise staff at entry points which are not manned by our staff, such as the docks. The budget for these activities is \$6,200,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 095

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0349

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What savings are expected from the outsourcing of the operation and management of a government fresh food wholesale market?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department plans to outsource the operation and management of a government fresh food wholesale market in 2004-05. If successfully implemented, we estimate that some 22 posts and a saving of \$16.3 million per annum will be achieved.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 096

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0350

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What plans does the Government have to promote local agricultural and fisheries products in 2004-05? How much expenditure is involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Government in 2004-05 plans to promote local agricultural and fisheries products through a two-pronged approach. On one hand, we will continue improving their qualities through raising production and quality control standards, and introducing new species/varieties. On the other, we will develop local brand names and product packaging to capture high-value market niches. A total of \$15.9 million has been earmarked for these tasks in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 097

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0351

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources has the Government put into the artificial reef project and fish restocking trials since their implementation? How effective are they? What new plans does the Government have to further conserve coastal fisheries resources in 2004-05? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Since the implementation of the Artificial Reef Project in 1996, we have deployed some 159,500 m³ of artificial reefs in Hong Kong waters with a total capital expenditure of \$65.8 million. In addition, we have conducted 3 restocking trials with the release of 41,000 fish fingerlings and 1 million shrimp fry in Hong Kong waters with a total cost of \$0.73 million.

Artificial reefs are effective in enhancing marine habitats and fisheries resources. Over 220 species of fish, including many high-valued species such as groupers and snappers, have been found using the reefs for feeding, shelter and as spawning and nursery grounds. Monitoring results from the previous restocking trials also reflected that restocking of less mobile fish species is effective in enhancing the fisheries resources in artificial reef areas.

In 2004-05, we shall continue our existing efforts to conserve and manage coastal fisheries resources through conducting regular patrols in Hong Kong waters, taking enforcement actions to combat destructive fishing practices, monitoring artificial reefs and coastal fisheries resources, undertaking a further fish restocking trial, and organizing educational and publicity activities. In addition, we are pursuing a new framework to regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. The proposed framework will include the establishment of a fishing licence programme, designation of fisheries protection areas and introduction of a mechanism to implement an annual territory-wide “closed season” in Hong Kong waters. A recurrent provision of \$1.5 million has been allocated in 2004-05 for the preparation of the regulatory framework.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 098

Head : 22 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0352

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The import of day-old chicks has been banned because of avian influenza outbreak. How much resources have been earmarked for helping chicken farmers develop chicken hatcheries and breeding farms in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

AFCD is currently discussing with the local chicken farming industry the issue of low interest loans for the purchase and establishment of hatcheries. Subject to the outcome of the discussion, the department will consider providing appropriate means to help farmers develop hatcheries and breeding farms.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB099

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0353

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for helping fishermen develop offshore fishing? When do the authorities expect that the first local offshore fishing vessel will start operation?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A provision of \$0.34 million has been allocated in 2004-05 for providing technical support and training to help local fishermen develop offshore fishing. Low interest loans under the Fisheries Development Loan Fund and Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund administered by the department are made available to local fishermen for building or modifying fishing vessels and installing equipment for offshore fishing. Moreover, fishermen may also apply to the Marine Fish Scholarship Fund for sponsorships to attend training courses on offshore fishing.

We understand that some local fishermen are actively considering offshore fishing proposals and a few have already started their businesses. However, whether and when they will pursue offshore fishing is a business decision of their own. This department will continue to assist them in developing offshore fishing through provision of the above services.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB100

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0354

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A recurrent provision of \$2.65 million has been allocated in 2004-05 for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. It includes regular patrols by enforcement staff to combat destructive fishing practices and taking follow up investigations and prosecutions as appropriate. 25 staff are involved in the enforcement activities among other duties.

In addition, a provision of \$1.5 million has been allocated in 2004-05 for the preparation of a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB101

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0355

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources have been earmarked for helping farmers develop organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A total of \$7.1 million has been earmarked for the promotion of organic farming and intensive greenhouse production in Hong Kong in 2004-05. (\$4.1 million for organic farming and \$3 million for intensive greenhouse production)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB102

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

0343

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Are there any management and operation outsourcing projects in 2004-05? If yes, what is the estimated reduction in manpower for the Department? What is the amount of savings?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department plans to outsource the operation and management of a government fresh food wholesale market in 2004-05. If successfully implemented, we estimate that some 22 posts and a saving of \$16.3 million per annum will be achieved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB103

Question Serial No.

0584

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : With regard to the Peer Counsellor Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) in 2003-04, how many peer counsellors were provided by the Government to render support and guidance to Secondary Three school leavers? What is the total number of guidance cases handled by these peer counsellors in 2003-04 and the amount of actual expenditure involved in 2003-04?
- (b) What is the estimated amount of the Government provision in 2004-05 and the expected number of peer counsellors to be provided for continuing to implement this Peer Counsellor Programme?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) In 2003-04, a total of 150 peer counsellors were employed and 6 946 Secondary Three school leavers were served by them in the period April to December 2003. Allocation for these 150 peer counsellors in 2003-04 is \$ 14.85 m.

- (b) The estimated provision for 150 peer counsellors in 2004-05 is \$ 15.48 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 104

Head :

149 Government Secretariat:

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0493

Programme :

(4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2004-05 for the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is to work with relevant parties to enhance woman's participation in advisory and statutory bodies. Is the target for this area of work set at a women participation rate of 25%? What are the details of the work concerned? What are the numbers and ranks of staff involved in this area of work? What is the expenditure involved? How to assess whether their work has achieved the expected target?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) have an important role to play in Hong Kong's public policy-making structure and decision-making process. The Administration has accepted the Women's Commission's advice to enhance women's participation in ASBs. Gender composition is now taken into account when making appointments to ASBs. Bureaux and departments are requested to take more proactive efforts to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs. They are also requested to contribute data on potential women candidates for input into the Central Personality Index (CPI), the database from which nominations are often drawn. Appeals are also made by the Administration and the Women's Commission to women's groups, employers' groups, professional

associations and non-Governmental organisations to encourage their women members to offer their service to the ASBs.

2. Having regard to the present level of participation of women in ASBs (i.e. about 21% of total ASB membership), an initial working target of 25% has been set as a benchmark.

3. Costs incurred in enhancing women's participation in ASBs, if any, will be absorbed by the concerned bureaux and departments. Within the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the work is absorbed by existing staff.

4. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and Women's Commission will continue to work closely with bureaux and departments in enhancing women's participation in ASBs, providing advice and assistance where necessary. Periodic reviews will be conducted to assess whether the working target has been achieved.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 105

Question Serial No.

0494

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Another matter requiring special attention is to provide gender-related training to civil servants to facilitate the taking into account women's perspectives during policy formulation, legislation and implementation. What are the details of the matter? How to assess whether the plan can achieve the expected target?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Since 2001, gender-related training workshops have been organised to enhance civil servants' sensitivity towards gender issues and women's concerns, so as to facilitate their taking into consideration gender perspectives in daily work, including policy making and providing services to the community. These workshops are tailor-made for the needs of different departments and grades. So far, 22 workshops have been provided to staff of Social Welfare Department, Police, the then Education Department, Information Services Department, and Leisure and Cultural Services Department, newly recruited Administrative Officers and Gender Focal Points of all bureaux and departments. Some 600 civil servants have participated in such training in

the past three years. We will consider extending gender-related training to staff in other grades in the coming year.

2. The workshops have been organised in collaboration with a local tertiary institution. Contents include fundamental gender concepts, principles and practice of gender mainstreaming, collection and use of sex-disaggregated data as well as other materials tailored to meet the specific operational needs of participating officers. NGOs are involved in sharing their experience in some of the workshops.

3. Course evaluation is integrated as part of the workshop. Feedback from participants on the training courses has, on the whole, been positive. Many of them considered that the workshops were useful in raising their awareness of gender issues in their daily work, and increasing their sensitivity towards the specific needs and feelings of clients of different genders. Some participants reflected that the workshops provided them with skills in handling special clients (e.g. victims of sexual abuse); while some indicated that the workshops raised their consciousness in avoiding gender stereotyping in publicity materials (e.g. announcement of public interest).

4. Course contents are revised and improved in the light of suggestions and comments from participants. The Administration will continue to organise gender-related training courses as well as develop a training kit in 2004-05. About \$1 million would be made available for this purpose.

Signature:

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date: _____

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

HWFB 106

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

0496

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) One of the matters requiring special attention in 2004-05 is the implementation of measures to prevent the incursions of avian influenza. What specific measures will be taken? What is the amount of public funds involved?
 - (b) The estimated provision for 2004-05 will be reduced by \$11.7 million (7.1%), mainly due to reduced operating expenses. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) In 2004-05, AFCD will intensify the overall control and surveillance of avian influenza. The measures include increased inspections on local chicken farms to ensure compliance with biosecurity requirements and to verify the health status of chickens, increased inspections and control over live birds importation, and surveillance of wild birds as well as pet bird shops. The total resources allocation is \$18.23 million.
- (b) The estimated decrease in operating expenses in 2004-05 as compared with the Revised Estimate 2003-04 is mainly due to the effect of 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut and the completion of a number of one-off projects in 2003-04. Some of these expenses are listed below –

- Upgrading of computer hardware and software (about \$1M);
- Purchases of emergency stock and other expenses for handling unexpected outbreak of animal diseases (about \$6M); and
- Special projects relating to the control of avian influenza, e.g. conducting audit testing of avian influenza virological surveillance on vaccinated chickens, conducting a risk assessment study and providing resources for genetic and antigenic characterization of H5 avian influenza viruses (about \$2M).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	27 March 2004

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

HWFB107

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0506

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the estimated expenditure, manpower arrangement and establishment in respect of the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines in 2004-05? What is the estimated number of registrations for proprietary Chinese medicines processed per year? When will the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines currently on sale be completed?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The provision in 2004-05 for registration of proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm) is \$8.7M. The number and rank of staff deployed to handle registration of pCm in 2004-05 are as follows:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Full-time Equivalent</u>
Senior Pharmacist	1
Pharmacist	5
Chinese Medicines Officer	3
Assistant Chinese Medicines Officer	8.5
Dispenser	3
Clerical Staff	14
Total	<hr/> 34.5

The registration system for pCm was launched on 19 December 2003. Applicants are required to submit their applications for registration before 30 June 2004. In the first year, it is estimated that about 6 000 applications will be processed. We expect to complete the registration in about two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB108

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0507

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (a) How many people were vaccinated against influenza by the Department of Health in 2003? What was the expenditure involved? Has assessment been made on the effectiveness of vaccination in reducing the chances of having influenza? If yes, what were the findings of the assessment?

(b) Will the Department implement a free influenza vaccination programme on a large scale in 2004? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? What is the major targeted group?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

Under the regular influenza vaccination programme of the Department of Health (DH), influenza vaccination is provided annually for elderly residents of residential care homes and long-stay residents of institutions for the mentally and physically disabled free of charge. For the influenza season in 2003-04, the Advisory Committee on Immunisation further recommended that influenza vaccination be extended to cover, among others, healthcare workers and poultry workers. A total of 100 000 people received influenza vaccination in 2003-04, and the total expenditure on vaccines incurred was \$2.4M. We will closely monitor the situation and consider whether the extended programme needs to continue in 2004-05.

Overseas studies have found that influenza vaccine is 50-60% effective in preventing hospitalisations and 30-40% effective in preventing influenza illness among elderly people living in institutions. DH conducted a study after the local vaccination programme was introduced in 2000. The findings on the effectiveness of the programme on the reduction of influenza-like illness and hospitalisation among elderly residents of old aged homes were broadly in line with those of overseas studies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

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

HWFB109

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0508

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Amongst the attendances at social hygiene clinics in 2003, how many were new cases? How many cases have sought repeated consultations? What were the age distribution and sex of the attendances? What was the average unit cost of handling a case?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

In the year 2003, there were a total of 144 000 attendances for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Social Hygiene Clinics (SHCs). Of these, about 18 000 were new attendances¹ and 126 000 were revisits².

There is no readily available information about the age and sex distribution of all attendances. Nonetheless, we collate statistics relating patients of the five most common STDs, which account for over 85% of the total client base. Based on these statistics, the ratio of male to female patients is 1.7:1. The age profile of these patients is as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Below 20	4%
20 – 29	24%
30 – 39	30%
40 and above	42%

¹ "New attendances" refer to attendances of clients who have not been registered with the SHCs before.

² "Revisits" refer to attendances of clients who have been registered with the SHCs in the past seven years.

The average unit cost of handling a case is about \$630.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB110

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0509

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Disease prevention services are currently provided by the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority. Regarding this, has the Administration established a mechanism to co-ordinate the work on disease prevention amongst the two organisations so as to ensure effective distribution of work and avoid overlapping of resources? If yes, please explain the mechanism.

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) has the overall responsibility for public health, and the prevention and control of diseases. In fulfilling this role, DH works closely with various sectors, teaching institutions and agencies including the Hospital Authority (HA).

HA is primarily responsible for patient care and medical treatment. In respect of the prevention of diseases, HA is mainly responsible for (i) collation and analysis of disease-related data, (ii) disease surveillance in the hospital and clinical setting, (iii) adopting effective strategies to prevent disease progression and complications, and other possible concomitant diseases in patients, and (iv) contributing to the overall strategy and priorities for disease prevention.

DH and HA work closely together at all levels to ensure that there is co-ordination between the work of the two and no overlapping of efforts. In addition, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, in formulating public health policies and managing the use of resources amongst the departments and agencies under its purview, also ensures that resources are used by DH and HA in targeted areas with no overlapping. For specific matters of public health concern, ad hoc working groups or

meetings are formed or convened with the participation of DH, HA and relevant parties. Furthermore, the Director of Health serves as one of the members of the HA Board and contributes towards the direction-setting of HA's disease prevention work.

Specifically, for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) to be established will adopt an integrated approach in carrying out many of its health protection functions. The CHP will be set up within DH in June 2004. Apart from collaborating closely with HA in the development of health protection programmes, the CHP will engage a team of professional staff from HA for stronger partnerships in the areas of infection control and epidemiological investigations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB111

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0510

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out the estimated subventions allocated to individual subvented organisations by the Government under this Programme in 2004-05 and compare them with the actual subventions granted in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The estimated subventions to each of the subvented organisations in 2004-05 together with comparative figures in 2003-04 are as follows :

<u>Subvented organisation</u>	2003-04 <u>Revised Estimate</u> \$M	2004-05 <u>Estimate</u> \$M
Hong Kong St. John Ambulance	12.8	11.9
Hong Kong Red Cross	0.9	0.8
Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health	<u>10.9</u>	<u>9.7</u>
Total	<u>24.6</u>	<u>22.4</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB112

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0511

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (a) What are the respective subventions granted to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05? What is the total number of smokers and the breakdown by age and sex in 2003-04?

(b) What key project(s) does COSH have in 2004-05 and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

(a) The total subventions to COSH in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are \$10.9M and \$9.7M respectively.

The subject of smokers pattern was covered in the last Thematic Household Survey commissioned by the Census and Statistics Department during the period from November 2002 to February 2003. Results of the Survey show that there were some 867 000 smokers in Hong Kong at the time of survey. The age and sex breakdown of these smokers were as follows-

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
15-19	13 700	6 300	20 000
20-29	109 900	32 700	142 500
30-39	161 000	34 600	195 600
40-49	194 400	21 500	216 000
50-59	135 700	8 000	143 700
60 and over	126 900	22 400	149 200
Total	741 600	125 400	867 000

Note: Owing to rounding, the total may not equal to the sum of individual items.

- (b) The main publicity campaign for the year 2004-05 is the “Best Employers in Implementing a Smoke-free Workplace Award”. The plan is to launch the award scheme on the “World No Tobacco Day” on 31 May 2004. The total cost is estimated to be \$1.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB113

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0513

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : At present, each of the Hong Kong St. John Ambulance, Hong Kong Red Cross and Auxiliary Medical Service receives government subvention to provide first aid training to volunteers. In this respect, how many people are provided with the first aid training courses by each of these three organisations every year? Are there any differences in the training courses provided by each of the three organisations? If yes, what are the differences? If not, how can the Administration co-ordinate the training courses offered by the organisations so as to achieve greater diversification of training programmes and to avoid duplication of resources?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) and Hong Kong St. John Ambulance (HKSJ) are subvented by the Department of Health, whereas the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is a government department under the purview of the Security Bureau.

The total number of HKRC and HKSJ members provided with first aid training are about 19 000 and 42 000 each year respectively. For AMS, the total annual number is about 600.

The three organisations provide first aid training to different target groups. HKRC mainly provides basic first aid training sponsored for private companies, schools and other institutions. HKSJ provides basic as well as advanced first aid training mainly to individual members of the public and its brigade members.

As for AMS, it provides specialised training on pre-hospital and emergency medicine to members of the service. The training provided varies with the background of the members. For members who are medical and nursing professionals, the training will focus on disaster medicine and nursing care whereas other members will receive training on disaster medicine assistance. To enable newly recruited members to develop their medical skill, basic first aid training is included in the initial training programme for recruits without a valid first aid certificate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

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

HWFB114

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General non-Recurrent
Programme :

Question Serial No.

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

0514

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Items 727, 733, 813, 814 and 815 under this Subhead are all associated with the promotion of anti-smoking. Should the related expenditures be included in the subventions to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) under Programme (3)? If not, what are the main purposes of the subventions provided to the COSH apart from promotion of anti-smoking?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

Provisions under items 727 and 733 are for Department of Health to carry out anti-tobacco activities and to promote compliance with the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance.

The Department of Health also subvented the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) to carry out anti-tobacco activities. Provisions under items 813, 814 and 815 are general non-recurrent subventions for COSH projects which form part of the total subventions to COSH.

Apart from publicity and promotional activities through the mass media and in public venues, the subventions given to COSH are also for conducting research on issues related to smoking and health.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB115

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0516

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Provision for 2004-05 under this Programme is more than \$20M lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04, which is mainly due to decrease in provision for enhanced port health measures. In this regard, please provide the following information :

- (a) What are the respective provisions for 2003-04 (Revised Estimate) and 2004-05 (Estimate) for enhanced port health measures?
- (b) Will the existing port health measures be affected by the decrease in provision? If yes, what measures will be affected? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

- (a) The provision for enhanced port health measures for 2003-04 (Revised Estimate) was \$46M. A provision of \$18M is earmarked to sustain the measures in 2004-05 up to June 2004.
- (b) In view of the continued threat of SARS and other infectious diseases, the Administration has earmarked \$55M, under the commitment for the fight against SARS, for the purpose of implementing appropriate enhanced port health measures in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB116

Question Serial No.

0637

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department will see a reduction of 5.2% in the estimated financial provision for services of elders in 2004-05 when compared with the original financial provision in the previous year. What are the items of reduced expenditure and please provide details on them.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 original estimate for this programme, the decrease of 5.2% in the 2004-05 estimate is mainly due to efficiency savings, the two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005, the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), partly offset by the additional provision of \$100 m for further development of elderly services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB117

Question Serial No.

0638

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many day care places were provided in residential care homes by the Social Welfare Department in 2003-04 and what is the estimated number of such places to be provided in 2004-05? What is the estimated number of additional subsidised residential care places provided through competitive bidding and the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2003-04, there were a total of 44 day care places to be provided in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). In 2004-05, we plan to provide 40 additional day care places in RCHEs.

In 2003-04, an additional 354 subsidised places in four contract homes was provided at an annual expenditure of \$32 m. For 2004-05, we plan to provide 98 additional subsidised places in three contract homes at an estimated annual expenditure of \$7.731 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB118

Question Serial No.

0639

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS) to frail elders by the Social Welfare Department, what is the amount of expenditure involved and details of providing such service in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively? Will additional expenditure be incurred by extending the contracts for one year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The estimated expenditure on EHCCS is \$118.8 m for 2003-04 and \$158.5 m for 2004-05. The three-year contract of the existing 18 EHCCS teams will expire on 31 March 2004. All the 18 service teams have agreed to the contract extension till 31 March 2005 to continue with the service provision to frail elders. The total maximum caseload of these 18 teams will remain unchanged at 2 189 and there will be no additional expenditure incurred arising from contract extension.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB119

Question Serial No.

0640

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the additional expenditure incurred by the Social Welfare Department in incorporating carer support into various types of care services for elders in 2004-05? How will it be implemented?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : To provide holistic and integrated services for the elders and their carers, carer support services have already become part and parcel of the service components of both residential care services and community support services so as to promote mutual help and support among carers and alleviate their stress. Various educational and support programmes, carer resource corners and training on caring skills are provided for the carers. No additional expenditure will be incurred by the department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB120

Question Serial No.

0641

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the expenditure incurred in providing training to non-professional and professional staff serving demented elders in 2004-05? How many training places will be provided?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2004-05, a total of 420 training places will be offered to 240 care workers/home helpers and 180 professional staff who provide residential care and community support services to the demented elders. The estimated expenditure for the training programmes is \$152,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB121

Question Serial No.

0642

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the expenditure incurred in the provision of infirmary care to elders in non-hospital setting? What is the number of the places available in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Provision of infirmary care to elders in a non-hospital setting is a new initiative to be implemented in 2004-05. We plan to provide 50-100 infirmary places of this kind for medically stable elders in the initial stage. The Social Welfare Department is in the process of working out the unit cost of infirmary places in non-hospital setting and in so doing, will make reference to the staffing requirement of medical infirmaries under Hospital Authority where appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB122

Question Serial No.

0647

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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 : Under this programme area, it is stated that in 2003 the Social Welfare Department stepped up minor improvement works in Pui Chi Boys' Home (PCBH) to ensure a safe and secure environment of the Home. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of:
(1) details of the improvement works and its urgency; and
(2) the expenditure involved in the improvement works?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Minor improvement works in PCBH was urgently required to improve its safety and hygienic conditions. All the improvement works were carried out in 2003-04 with the detailed expenditure breakdown as follows:

Items	Expenditure (\$)
1. Repairing the wires and basketball court of the home and replacing the main gate to enhance safety.	86,000
2. Installing bars at balustrades of the staircases in the main building to prevent the falling of residents from height.	16,000
3. Improving the drainage facilities and repairing the roof of the building to address the leakage problems.	128,100
4. Installing cat ladders at the pump station and roof of the building to ensure the safety of the cleaning and maintenance workers.	8,500

Items	Expenditure (\$)
5. Installing wash basins and floor drains in the dormitories to improve the standard of hygiene.	20,000
Total:	258,600

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB123

Question Serial No.

0648

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will re-engineer family services centres (FCSs)/counselling units into integrated family service centres (IFSCs) in 2004-05. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) details of the re-engineering; and
- (2) savings over the current expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) Based on the recommendation of the Review of Family Services conducted by the University of Hong Kong (HKU), 15 pilot IFSCs have been implemented since 1 April 2002 for a duration of two years. HKU has also been commissioned to conduct an evaluative study on the effectiveness of the IFSCs. In the interim report on the evaluative study submitted in May 2003, IFSC was found to be a more desirable mode of service delivery. With the support of the welfare sector, SWD will re-engineer all existing FCSs/counselling units into IFSCs in 2004-05 by phases through pooling of resources. It is planned to set up 60 IFSCs covering the whole territory.

Adopting the principles of “accessibility”, “early identification”, “integration” and “partnership”, IFSCs provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services such as outreaching service, enquiry service, family life education, parent-child activities, volunteer training, mutual support groups, counselling and referral service etc.

- (2) The future IFSCs will be formed by pooling of existing resources. The whole re-engineering exercise is expected to be cost-neutral.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB124

Question Serial No.

0649

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will hive off its three street sleepers outreaching teams to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide an integrated package of services for street sleepers and homeless persons in 2004-05. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) details of this integrated package of services; and
- (2) savings over the current expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) A continuum of services will be provided by the three new Integrated Teams operated by NGOs covering outreaching visits (including mid-night outreaching), counselling, emergency fund, emergency placements, short-term/temporary accommodation, employment guidance, social skill training, tangible assistance (e.g. personal care and escort service), referrals for other services (e.g. drug treatment, psychiatric treatment), aftercare service for accommodated street sleepers, participation in joint departmental clearance operations, handling referrals from

the public and other organisations, and community education relating to street sleepers/homelessness prevention etc.

- (2) The three Integrated Teams are to be formed by pooling of resources from individual subvented service programmes for street sleepers and SWD's three street sleepers outreaching teams. The revamping exercise is expected to be cost-neutral.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB125

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (8) Personnel Management of Civil Servants working in
Hospital Authority

0620

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the number of staff in the Hospital Authority (HA), will the Administration elaborate:

- by providing the number of civil servants working in HA from 1999-2000 to 2003-04 and the detailed breakdown by department, grade and post as well as drawing a comparison with the year 2004-05?
- by listing the number of healthcare workers retaining their civil servant status subsequent to the transfer of general outpatient clinics to HA and their respective grades and posts?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Breakdowns of the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) by ranks and by hospitals are at Appendices I and II respectively.

The HA took over the management of general out-patient clinics in July 2003. A total of 451 healthcare workers were transferred to work in HA retaining their civil servant status as follows:

Senior Medical & Health Officer	38
Medical & Health Officer	109
Enrolled Nurse	88
Senior Dispenser	58
Dispenser	158

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

**Civil Servants Working in HA
from 1999 to 2004**

GRADE/RANK	1.4.1999	1.4.2000	1.4.2001	1.4.2002	1.4.2003	1.4.2004
MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICER GRADES						
General Manager (Clinical Services)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Consultant D4	3	3	3	2	1	-
Consultant D3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Consultant D2	10	10	9	9	9	8
Principal Medical & Health Officer	1	1	1	1	1	-
Senior Medical & Health Officer	16	16	16	16	15	48
Medical & Health Officer	24	23	23	19	19	118
Sub-total	58	57	56	51	49	178
NURSING & ALLIED GRADES						
General Manager (Nursing)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Senior Nursing Officer	23	23	23	23	20	18
Departmental Operations Manager	26	26	24	25	24	22
Ward Manager	182	180	176	168	159	146
Nurse Specialist	28	28	29	29	30	27
Nursing Officer	547	531	517	504	486	451
Nursing Officer (Education)	13	13	12	12	12	12
Registered Nurse	425	416	417	409	399	369
Student Nurse	-	-	-	-	-	7
Senior Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	8	8	8	7	6	6
Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	102	98	95	92	91	84
Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)	133	131	134	135	134	127
Student Nurse (Psychiatric)	-	-	1	1	1	-
Enrolled Nurse	248	234	215	203	187	226
Enrolled Nurse (Psychiatric)	194	192	186	178	175	160
Midwife	30	27	27	21	5	5
Sub-total	1 961	1 909	1 866	1 809	1 731	1 662

GRADE/RANK	1.4.1999	1.4.2000	1.4.2001	1.4.2002	1.4.2003	1.4.2004
SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL GRADES						
Department Manager	23	22	23	23	22	22
General Manager (Allied Health Services)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Audiology Technician I	2	2	2	2	2	1
Clinical Psychologist	1	1	1	-	-	-
Chief Dispenser	8	8	8	8	8	6
Senior Dispenser	53	53	53	51	48	100
Dispenser	42	42	42	42	42	196
Senior Medical Technologist	12	12	12	12	11	11
Medical Technologist	47	46	46	46	45	45
Medical Laboratory Technician I	10	10	8	8	8	7
Medical Laboratory Technician II	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mould Laboratory Technologist	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Mould Laboratory Technician	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mould Laboratory Technician	3	3	3	3	3	3
Senior Occupational Therapist	1	1	1	1	1	-
Occupational Therapy Assistant	104	103	100	97	95	89
Orthoptist I	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pharmacist	7	7	7	7	6	6
Physicist	3	3	3	3	3	3
Senior Physiotherapist	5	5	5	5	5	5
Physiotherapist I	6	6	6	6	6	5
Prosthetist-Orthotist I	3	3	3	3	3	3
Senior Radiographer	18	18	17	17	16	16
Radiographer I	70	70	70	70	70	66
Scientific Officer (Med)	4	4	4	3	3	3

Sub-total	427	424	419	412	402	592
GRADE/RANK	1.4.1999	1.4.2000	1.4.2001	1.4.2002	1.4.2003	1.4.2004
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR GRADE						
Chief Hospital Administrator	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Hospital Administrator	7	7	7	7	7	6
Hospital Administrator I	13	11	11	11	11	10
General Manager (Administrative Services)	2	3	3	3	3	3
Sub-total	23	22	22	22	22	20
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL GRADES						
Senior Artisan	9	9	9	6	6	5
Artisan	165	159	142	116	113	104
Cook	146	136	115	67	64	58
Darkroom Technician	65	62	51	43	41	36
Chief Electrical Technician	3	3	2	2	2	2
Senior Electrical Technician	6	6	7	7	7	7
Electrical Technician	10	10	9	9	9	8
Senior Foreman	9	9	7	5	4	3
Foreman	18	18	16	13	12	11
Head Property Attendant	12	11	11	7	6	6
Chief Hospital Foreman	12	11	11	11	9	8
Senior Hospital Foreman	17	16	15	15	15	12
Hospital Foreman	43	42	41	38	37	34
Senior Hostel Manager/Manageress	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hostel Manager/Manageress	1	1	1	1	1	1
Laboratory Attendant	110	108	96	79	75	70
Laundry Manager	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Laundry Manager	1	1	1	1	-	-
Laundry Worker	94	88	83	81	75	62

Linen Production Unit Supervisor	2	2	2	2	2	1
Machinist	20	19	18	18	16	11
Tailor	1	1	1	1	1	-
GRADE/RANK	1.4.1999	1.4.2000	1.4.2001	1.4.2002	1.4.2003	1.4.2004
Mortuary Attendant	13	12	12	11	11	10
Mortuary Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mortuary Technician	4	4	4	5	5	5
Operating Theatre Assistant	105	97	92	84	79	69
Photographer I	2	2	1	1	1	1
X-Ray Mechanic	9	9	8	7	7	6
Health Care Assistant	286	305	303	323	306	248
Sub-total	1 166	1 144	1 061	956	907	781
MODEL SCALE I GRADES						
Amah III	1	1	-	-	-	-
Barber	7	7	7	6	6	5
Ganger	24	24	23	20	19	15
Gardener	2	2	1	1	1	1
Ward Attendant	1 005	899	689	398	377	329
Property Attendant	94	86	67	48	46	40
Workman I	88	84	73	48	47	41
Workman II	759	715	614	465	443	606
Sub-total	1 980	1 818	1 474	986	939	1 037
GENERAL GRADES						
Senior Clerical Officer	1	1	1	-	-	-
Assistant Clerical Officer	-	-	-	-	-	34
Clerical Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	39
Office Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	55
Personal Secretary II	1	1	1	1	1	1
Telephone Operator	5	5	5	5	5	6
Motor Driver	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sub-total	7	7	7	6	6	136
TOTAL	5 622	5 381	4 905	4 242	4 056	4 406

A Breakdown of Civil Servants working in Hospital Authority by Hospitals
from 1999 to 2004

Hospital	1.4.1999	1.4.2000	1.4.2001	1.4.2002	1.4.2003	1.4.2004
Alice HML Nethersole Hospital	23	23	25	23	25	75
Cheshire Home, Chung Hom Kok	0	2	3	4	4	4
Cheshire Home, Sha Tin	3	3	3	4	4	4
Caritas Medical Centre	8	9	7	8	8	37
Castle Peak Hospital / Siu Lam Hospital	371	353	332	285	279	252
Fanling Hospital (closed since 2002)	54	50	0	0	-	-
Tung Wah Fung Yiu King Hospital	1	1	1	1	2	2
Grantham Hospital	5	4	6	5	4	4
HA Head Office (including CPO)	133	118	23	27	26	11
Haven of Hope Hospital	2	2	2	3	3	3
Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	1	2	2	2	2	2
Hong Kong Eye Hospital	42	44	42	36	33	27
Kwai Chung Hospital / LCKH HACare Home	620	604	539	416	384	332
Kowloon Hospital	274	262	230	223	221	203
Kwong Wah Hospital/Wong Tai Sin Hospital	20	20	21	20	20	32
Maclehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre	2	2	1	0	1	1
North District Hospital	46	49	84	78	80	90
Nam Long Hospital	1	1	1	1	1	-
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	40
Princess Margaret Hospital	543	513	454	403	388	437
Pok Oi Hospital	4	1	0	3	3	4
Prince of Wales Hospital	745	716	617	532	503	481
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	109	115	188	186	181	270
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	987	911	778	663	639	662
Queen Mary Hospital/Tsan Yuk Hospital	896	850	758	595	561	564
Ruttonjee Hospital / Tang Shiu Kin Hospital	104	94	86	78	78	69
St John Hospital	24	24	23	20	19	12
Shatin Hospital	95	93	91	90	77	107
Tseung Kwan O Hospital	0	6	43	44	44	62
Tuen Mun Hospital	402	392	423	373	347	393
Tai Po Hospital	12	18	22	21	24	22
Tung Wah Eastern Hospital	7	7	6	6	5	5
Tung Wah Hospital	1	1	2	2	2	2
United Christian Hospital	29	30	37	38	37	118
Wong Chuk Hang Hospital	3	3	3	2	2	1
Yan Chai Hospital	55	58	52	50	49	78

Total	5 622	5 381	4 905	4 242	4 056	4 406
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB126

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0628

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The registration applications from healthcare professionals processed by the Department of Health decrease drastically from 6 200 in 2002 (actual) to 3 000 in 2004 (estimate), representing a decrease of 51.6%. Would the Department set out in detail –

- The reasons for the marked decrease in registration applications.
- The distribution and proportion of decrease of respective healthcare professions amongst the estimated registration applications.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The estimated decrease in the number of registration applications from healthcare professionals is mainly accounted for by: (i) a projected reduction in the number of applications from Chinese medicine practitioners, the majority of which were processed in 2002 and 2003; and (ii) an estimated decrease in the number of applications for registration of nurses due to the phasing out of hospital-based nursing training programmes. Details of individual professions are set out below:

	2002 (Actual)	2004 (Estimate)	Increase/ (Decrease)
Chinese medicine practitioners	3,091	500	(2,591)
Medical practitioners	1,188	1,120	(68)
Dentists	75	48	(27)
Pharmacists	57	55	(2)
Nurses	1,053	583	(470)
Midwives	60	28	(32)
Supplementary medical professions	668	610	(58)
Chiropractors	62	6	(56)
Total	6,254	2,950	(3,304)

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB127

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0629

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the net deletion of 105 permanent posts under the Programme: Disease Prevention in 2004-05, would the Department set out in detail:

- the reasons for the deletion of such posts
- the distribution of grades, posts and length of services of such staff

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

As a result of service re-organisation, re-engineering operations and efficiency enhancements, the Department of Health will delete 137 posts under Programme 2 in 2004-05. Separately, 23 posts will be created for strengthening disease prevention and another 9 posts for information technology support. The net deletion is 105 posts. Details of the posts to be created/deleted are as follows –

(a) Posts to be deleted

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Medical and Health Officer	6
Registered Nurse	21
Enrolled Nurse	46
Midwife	2
Inoculator	12
Medical Laboratory Technician	6
Hospital Administrator	1
Executive Officer	1
Statistical Officer	2
Clerical Officer	7
Clerical Assistant	8
Office Assistant	1
Personal Secretary	5
Laboratory Attendant	1
Property Attendant	3
Hospital Foreman	1
Supplies Supervisor	2

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Supplies Assistant	1
Workman II	<u>11</u>
Sub-total:	137

(b) Posts to be created for strengthening disease prevention and control

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Controller, Centre for Health Protection	1
Medical and Health Officer	4
Registered Nurse	13
Administrative Officer	2
Executive Officer	1
Inspector of Police	1
Treasury Accountant	<u>1</u>
Sub-total:	23

(c) Posts to be created for strengthening information technology support

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Analyst/Programmer	7
Computer Operator	<u>2</u>
Sub-total:	9

Net Deletion 105

The average length of service of such staff is 16.9 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

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

HWFB128

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0630

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of attendances at social hygiene clinics under this Programme increases from 144 000 in 2003 (actual) to 178 000 in 2004 (estimate), which represents an increase of 23.61%. Please explain in details:

- What are the reasons for the substantial increase in the expected number of attendances?
- Is it expected that the manpower responsible for the relevant service will be reduced? If yes, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Owing to the SARS outbreak, attendances at social hygiene clinics experienced a sharp fall in 2003. The projected attendances in 2004 are estimated to be similar to the actual number of attendances in 2002.

A total of 27 posts in this service will be deleted in 2004-05 under the voluntary retirement scheme. The current level of service will be maintained through service re-engineering and staff re-deployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB129

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0631

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of attendances at maternal and child health centres for family planning service decreases from 320 000 in 2003 (actual) to 300 000 in 2004 (estimate).

Please explain in details:

- the reasons for the expected decrease in the number of attendances for such service?
- the measures in place to promote family planning service to the public?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The projected attendance at Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) for family planning service in 2004 is estimated on the basis of attendances in the recent years, which saw slight fluctuation around 300 000.

The Department of Health (DH) will continue with its efforts to publicise the family planning service to the public. The service is currently publicised in information leaflets produced by DH targeted at the general public. It is also introduced in the guideline prepared by Home Affairs Department for new arrivals in Hong Kong. DH will also continue to promote the service to potential clients during their attendances for antenatal, postnatal and child health services at MCHCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

0556

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : People with disabilities considered that the existing rebus service is inadequate to cater for their demand. It is noted that the Administration would maintain the deployment of 19 vehicles for the rebus dial-a-ride service. Please advise:

- (a) Whether there is plan to increase vehicle deployment in operating the dial-a-ride service to cater for the demand?
- (b) How is the average monthly queue up situation for dial-a-ride service? What are the expenses incurred in the service?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wahReply :

(a) Of the existing rebus fleet, 59 are deployed to operate scheduled route service and 19 on dial-a-ride booking service respectively. During its non-core hours, the former group of vehicles also provide dial-a-ride service. Our intention is to raise passenger capacity through efficiency improvement of the existing service, for example, enhancement of the computerised booking system, replacement of old vehicles and route rationalisation. There is no plan to increase the number of vehicles deployed on the rebus dial-a-ride service in the coming year.

(b) Booking of the rebus dial-a-ride service is accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. According to the operating statistics from June to December 2003, the average monthly bookings were 4 921. Of these, 95% (4 673) were accepted, with the remaining 5% (248) being declined.

As the rebus's operation is a mixed mode comprising schedule route service and dial-a-ride service, there is no apportioned cost for each of the service types. The annual government subvention for the rebus services was \$26,619,000 in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB131

Question Serial No.

0626

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies is reduced from 235 620 in 2003 (actual) to 230 000 in 2004 (estimate). Please advise in detail on the following:

- the reasons for such reduction;
- whether risk assessment has been conducted in respect of such reduction;
- the resources saved by reducing the number of tests.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies in 2004 is estimated to be at about the same level as that for 2003. For the purpose of the 2004 Estimate, the Department has rounded off the figure. Starting from mid-January 2004, all imported poultry (except waterfowl and pigeon) will have to be vaccinated against avian influenza H5 and the estimate has taken this new requirement into consideration. No resources will be saved.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

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

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is expected that 803 permanent posts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will be deleted in 2004-05. Please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the respective ranks, number and terms of appointment in respect of these posts and how are they deleted?
- (b) Does the deletion of posts have any connection with the outsourcing of work? If so, please advise on the ranks and number of staff involved, their terms of appointment, the nature of work and the time schedule for outsourcing.
- (c) What implication does the deletion of posts have on the environmental hygiene services and hawker control work of the Department?
- (d) How does the Department ensure that staff morale will not be affected by the deletion of posts?
- (e) What effective measures will be taken by the Department to supervise the outsourced work and to ensure that those workers will not be exploited in terms of remuneration?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

- (a) A breakdown of the net 803 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 showing their rank and number is at Appendix. All the posts are on the permanent establishment. Among these posts, 279 are already vacant and may be deleted at any time. The remaining

posts will only be deleted when they become vacant upon the retirement or transfer of the incumbents.

- (b) The Department plans its outsourcing programmes based on the number of vacancies arising from natural wastage or voluntary retirement. Because of the civil service recruitment freeze, these vacant posts can no longer be filled and hence have to be deleted.
- (c) The Department will ensure that all existing key services are properly maintained through streamlining of procedures and/or alternative means of delivery.
- (d) Staff have been fully informed of and consulted on the change. Adequate training will be given to the staff to enhance their efficiency and enable them to adapt to the new working environment.
- (e) Various penalty measures are provided in the contracts to deal with contractors failing to deliver the required services. These include the deduction of service payments and termination of contract in case of very poor performance. For the protection of labour interest, the Department has included, in particular, the following clauses in its new tender documents:
 - (i) requiring the contractors to specify in the tender documents the level of wages payable and the daily maximum working hours for its non-skilled workers;
 - (ii) the use of a marking scheme which takes into account the wage levels and working hours specified in the tenders and past offences under the Employment Ordinance and Immigration Ordinance;
 - (iii) requiring the successful tenderers to comply straightly with the proposed wage levels and working hours throughout the contract period; and
 - (iv) submission of record of payment of wages on a monthly basis to the Department.

In addition to the above, all contracts signed since mid-2003 also require contractors to post notice on the level of wages and daily maximum working hours on the roll call points for the information of their workers. Any aggrieved employees are welcome to contact the Department for assistance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Breakdown of the net 803 posts to be deleted in 2004-05

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>
<i>(a) Posts to be deleted in 2004-05</i>		
Artisan	Artisan	10
Calligraphist	Senior Calligraphist	1
Clerical Assistant	Clerical Assistant	3
Clerical Officer	Senior Clerical Officer	1
	Clerical Officer	2
	Assistant Clerical Officer	6
Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer	3
	Senior Executive Officer	5
	Executive Officer I	2
Field Assistant	Field Assistant	1
Foreman	Senior Overseer	1
	Overseer	8
	Senior Foreman	6
	Foreman	96
Ganger	Ganger	35
Hawker Control Officer	Principal Hawker Control Officer	1
	Chief Hawker Control Officer	3
	Senior Hawker Control Officer	44
	Hawker Control Officer	43
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer	229
Information Officer	Principal Information Officer	1
	Information Officer	1
Laboratory Attendant	Laboratory Attendant	1
Management Services Officer	Management Services Officer II	1
Official Languages Officer	Official Languages Officer I	1
Personal Secretary	Personal Secretary I	1
	Personal Secretary II	4
Registered Nurse	Nursing Officer	1
Special Driver	Special Driver	17
Supplies Assistant	Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Supervisor	Supplies Supervisor II	1
Transport Services Officer	Transport Services Officer II	1
Workman I	Workman I	37
Workman II	Workman II	232
Works Supervisor	Works Supervisor II	2
	<i>Sub-total (a):</i>	<i>804</i>

(b) Post to be created in 2004-05

Police Inspector/Superintendent	Superintendent of Police	1
<i>(Post to be seconded to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau upon creation for providing dedicated expert support in the formulation, operation and maintenance of a comprehensive contingency control system to prevent and prepare for the outbreak of communicable diseases in Hong Kong.)</i>		

Sub-total (b): 1

No. of net posts to be deleted [(a) – (b)]: 803

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

HWFB 133

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0645

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is mentioned that in 2004-05, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will give emphasis to the preparation of a new regulatory framework for fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the details of this task and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

We propose to amend the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to provide a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, including

- (a) the establishment of a fishing licence programme under which all commercial fishing activities conducted in Hong Kong with the use or aid of vessels shall require fishing licences or permits;
- (b) the establishment of fisheries protection areas in selected areas to provide a protected environment for fish fry, juvenile and spawning fish; and
- (c) a mechanism for the implementation of an annual territory-wide "closed seasons" for fishing activities to enhance the sustainability of our fisheries resources.

A provision of \$1.5 million has been allocated in 2004-05 for the preparation of the regulatory framework and seven staff will be deployed to handle this task among other duties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB 134

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

0646

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is mentioned that in 2004-05, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will give emphasis to assisting farmers to capture high-value-market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:-

- (1) of the details of this task and the expenditure involved;
- (2) whether similar work was carried out in the past 3 years; if yes, its effectiveness?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

(1) AFCD will provide technical support to cultivators in the areas of greenhouse designs, selection of suitable crops, pest and disease management, good horticultural practices, soil management and seed saving, through conducting workshops, seminars and on site field visits. It will also assist the organic sector to develop an organic standard and certification system to ensure production standards. A total of \$7.1 million is earmarked in 2004-05 for these tasks.

(2) AFCD has been actively promoting organic farming and intensive greenhouse production since 2001. The result has been encouraging so far. As at 15 March 2004, 38 vegetable farms in Ng Ka Tsuen, Tai Kong Po, Ping Che and Fung Kat Heung covering a total of about 16 ha of land have converted to organic farming. Their produce are sold through some 40 retail outlets, providing in general some 10-30% higher returns for participating cultivators. As regards greenhouse production, 9 farms and 1 research company have so far built greenhouses (with a total area of 9400 m²) for production of high value crops such as

strawberries, mini-cucumber, lingzhi, mushroom, ornamental plants and orchids. The total production of these farms exceeded \$10 million in 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB 135

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0690

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In regard to assisting fishermen to develop offshore fishing, how many fishermen are expected to apply for credit facilities? What are the actual results in this area? How much manpower is deployed by the Department in handling this work? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Through the provision of loan facilities, technical support and vocational training, this department has been assisting local fishermen to develop offshore fishing. Apart from providing loans through the Fisheries Development Loan Fund with an approved commitment of \$100 million, the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) has also injected \$20 million to the FMO Loan Fund to meet the anticipated demand from local fishermen for developing offshore fishing. Some local fishermen are actively considering offshore fishing proposals and a few have already started their businesses. However, whether they will pursue offshore fishing and apply for loans for the purpose is a business decision of their own.

The additional work to assist local fishermen in developing offshore fishing will be absorbed by existing staff resources and an expenditure of \$0.34 million has been allocated for the purpose in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB136

Question Serial No.

0530

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

Programme : 3 Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please assess the progress of work relating to the Health Protection Account and the estimated manpower and expenditure for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

To strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of our health care system, we have in the Health Care Reform Consultation Document published in Dec 2000 floated the idea of a Health Protection Account (HPA) scheme. Following that consultation exercise, a study group involving medical doctors, epidemiologists, actuaries, economists, statisticians and social scientists from various universities, the Hospital Authority and Department of Health was formed to examine in greater depth the feasibility and implications of introducing the HPA scheme in Hong Kong. Several studies have been conducted and the group is in the process of finalizing its studies. We plan to present the group's findings to the LegCo Panel on Health Services in mid-2004. These studies, conducted over 2002/03 to 2004/05, will incur a total cost of about \$2 million. These costs will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB137

Question Serial No.

0531

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Would the Administration please inform us of the amount of estimated commitment reserved for the provision of free public medical services for vulnerable groups and CSSA recipients?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The Administration does not reserve a specific sum of funds for the waiver of public hospital charges for vulnerable groups and CSSA recipients. The Hospital Authority takes into account the estimated amount of charges to be waived when preparing its income budget each year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

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

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What will be the number of staff and provisions allocated by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to the three priority areas of action, i.e. gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women, and public education, respectively in 2004-05? What are the major areas in which the provisions will be used?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

In 2004-05, a provision of \$18 million is made under Head 149 to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong and to support the Women's Commission's work. Expenditure would be made in the following major areas:

- (a) commissioning studies, surveys and researches on women-related issues;
- (b) implementing publicity and public education programmes;
- (c) liaison with local and international organisations;
- (d) collection of sex-disaggregated data;
- (e) conducting gender-related training for civil servants; and
- (f) staff and administrative expenditure in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

2. Executive and secretariat support for the Commission is provided by a dedicated team of six permanent staff and four NCS staff in the Women's Division of Health,

Welfare and Food Bureau led by Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food. In respect of gender mainstreaming, empowerment and public education, one task force was set up for each area of work under the Women's Commission in the first term of office (2001-2003), and one officer served as the secretary to each task force, drawing on the support of other staff of the Division as necessary. In the present term, the internal structure of the Women's Commission is being reviewed. The duties among staff of the Women's Division will be reshuffled to align with the new structure of the Commission.

3. It should be noted that costs incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiative will be absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments, and the cost involved in reviewing services for women, enhancing women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies, and further developing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme will be absorbed by the Women's Division of Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. Moreover, many of the activities conducted by the Women's Commission would be done in collaboration with NGOs and other parties and by mobilising resources in the community.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

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

HWFB 139

0586

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the amount of financial provision for the "Capacity Building Mileage Programme" to be launched in 2004-05? Does it provide for any direct subsidy to women participating in the Programme? Please give a breakdown of the major expenditure items. Other than the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, will there be any other government or non-government organisations involved in the Programme? If yes, what is the provision for these departments or organisations?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) is initiated by the Women's Commission as an empowerment programme for women, and is implemented by the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) and Commercial Radio in collaboration with the Women's Commission. The Programme was launched on 8 March 2004.

2. Funding support of up to \$12.43 million is provided by the Lotteries Fund to OUHK for implementing the Programme on a three-year pilot basis. Major expenditure to be incurred by OUHK includes:-

- (a) course development;
- (b) radio programmes;

- (c) course delivery (payment to instructors, course guides, payment to collaborating organisations), etc;
- (d) promotion, administration and others; and
- (e) course evaluation

3. Most of the courses are broadcast by Commercial Radio and classes are minimised. Enrolment for supplementary learning activities and assessment is optional. For those who wish to join the latter activities, a modest fee is levied. Participants who have difficulties in paying the fee may apply for bursary which is being organised by OUHK.

4. On the advice of the Women's Commission, an amount of \$856,000 was incurred under Head 149 in 2003-04 to undertake publicity activities to complement OUHK's efforts. This covers the cost of design and production of publicity materials (including TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest, posters and pamphlets). Several departments have assisted in distributing publicity materials through their outlets and absorbed the administrative costs in doing so.

5. In addition to the efforts made by the Women's Commission, OUHK and Commercial Radio, women's groups and service organisations have been invited to collaborate by organising supplementary learning activities, face-to-face courses, as well as peer support groups. So far, some 36 non-governmental organisations have joined the Programme as collaborators. Some financial assistance is provided to these organisations by OUHK using the resources from the Lotteries Fund.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 149 Government Secretariat :
000

Subhead (No. & title) :

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Why is the expenditure for personal emoluments in 2004-05 less than that of 2003-04? Please give the breakdown of expenditure for personal emoluments by ranks in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-Kwong

Reply : The decrease in the provision for the Hospital Authority in respect of personal emoluments in 2004-05 is mainly due to reduction in staff numbers and the effect of 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut. The breakdown of expenditure on personal emoluments for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as follows :

	2002-03 Actual (\$M)	2003-04 Projection (\$M)	2004-05 Projection (\$M)
Medical	4,141	4,106	4,076
Nursing	7,207	7,132	6,990
Allied Health	2,060	2,105	2,077
Others	4,165	4,035	3,870
Total	17,573	17,378	17,013

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

27 March 2004

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

Head : 149 Government Secretariat :
000

Subhead (No. & title) :

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Why is the expenditure for staff on-costs in 2004-05 less than that of 2003-04? Please give the breakdown of expenditure for personal emoluments by ranks in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-Kwong

Reply : The decrease in the provision for the Hospital Authority in respect of staff on-costs in 2004-05 is mainly due to reduction in staff numbers and the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut. The breakdown of expenditure on staff on-costs for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as follows :

	2002-03 Actual (\$M)	2003-04 Projection (\$M)	2004-05 Projection (\$M)
Medical	2,482	2,432	2,394
Nursing	2,742	2,667	2,576
Allied Health	832	818	798
Others	1,476	1,400	1,326
Total	7,532	7,317	7,094

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

27 March 2004

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

Head : 149 Government Secretariat :
000

Subhead (No. & title) :

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The amount of Other Charges for 2004-05 is less than that of 2003-04. Why?
Please give a breakdown of its major expenditure items and the respective amounts in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-Kwong

Reply : The decrease in the provision for the Hospital Authority in respect of other charges in 2004-05 is mainly attributed to the cessation of government funding for those time-limited job creation programmes and the achievement of efficiency savings.

The breakdown of the actual expenditure on the major items of other charges in 2002-03 and the projected expenditure in 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as follows:

	2002-03 Actual (\$M)	2003-04 Projection (\$M)	2004-05 Projection (\$M)
Purchase of drugs and medical consumables	2,665	2,507	2,691
Equipment and building maintenance	1,142	1,027	1,054
Others (such as hospital and office supplies, and costs of out-sourcing)	1,770	1,822	2,063
Total	5,577	5,356	5,808

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

27 March 2004

HWFB143

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

Question Serial No.

0590

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the income which came under the recurrent expenditure of the Hospital Authority on page 406 of Volume IA, it is higher in 2004-05 than in 2003-04. Why? Please list the 2003-04 and 2004-05 medical income from various services such as accident and emergency, outpatient and inpatient services for eligible and non-eligible persons. How much of the income is earmarked for the Hospital Authority, and how much will be returned to the Government's account?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The income budget of the Hospital Authority (HA) consists of two parts, viz medical income and non-medical income. The projected increase in the income budget of the HA for 2004-05 as compared to that for 2003-04 is mainly due to the increased income from the increased usage of inpatient services and the full-year effect of the income receivable from the 59 general out-patient clinics transferred from the Department of Health to HA in July 2003.

The medical income budgets of the HA for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

Item	Income Budget for 2003-04 (\$ Million)	Income Budget for 2004-05 (\$ Million)
In-patient services	379	389
Out-patient services	451	496
Accident and emergency (A & E) service*	63	58
Drug Charge*	38	42
Medical reports and others	28	29
Total:	959	1,014

The medical income budget is worked out based on the past income figures, the projected income trend, and in the context of the overall requirements of HA. In working out the budget, the HA does not project separately the income to be received from eligible persons and non-eligible persons.

The whole of the medical income as shown in the above table is kept by the HA in full. In addition, the HA also keeps the whole of the income arising from the increase in various medical fees implemented in 2003, which was estimated to be \$150 million for each of 2003-04 and 2004-05.

* With the introduction of A&E charge and drug charge on 29 November 2002 and 1 May 2003 respectively, the Government agreed with HA the exceptional arrangement that HA would, in addition to the resources allocated having regard to its annual requirement, be able to retain half of the A&E charge and drug charge collected for the provision of health care services.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 27 March 2004

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

HWFB144

Question Serial No.

0591

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the income which came under the Hospital Authority's recurrent expenditure on page 406 of Volume IA, what is the total amount of unpaid medical fees in 2003-04? Please list the outstanding medical fees which should have been paid by entitled and unentitled persons respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

As at 29 February 2004, the amount not yet received by the Hospital Authority for charges incurred during the period from April to December 2003 was \$77.5 million, of which \$25.5 million was attributable to eligible persons and \$52 million non-eligible persons. Information for the period from January to March 2004 is not yet available.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB145

Question Serial No.

0592

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the numbers of people exempted from charges for accident and emergency services, outpatient services, drugs and inpatient services in 2003-04? Please provide a breakdown of the amounts exempted and whether these people are eligible or non-eligible persons.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The information on exemption and waivers for A&E charge, outpatient fees, drug charge, and inpatient fees with breakdown by eligible and non-eligible persons for the period April to September 2003 are stated below. The information from October 2003 to March 2004 is not yet available. Persons exempted from A&E, outpatients, drugs and other service charges include those who are civil servants, their dependents, pensioners, war victims, HA staff and their dependents. Persons exempted from inpatient charges include eligible HA staff and their dependents. Persons who have the fees waived on ground of financial needs are not considered as exempted persons.

					Amount (HK\$'000)		
					Wa		Total
A&E	70,889	159,354	421	159,775	15,929	221	16,150
Out-patient	677,256	920,170	1,256	921,426	52,882	769	53,651
Drugs (5 months) ¹	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ³	-	10,622	Not applicable	10,622
Inpatient	7,205	120,626	994	121,620	111,849	9,504	121,353
Other services	29,673	299,535	52	299,587	22,288	33	22,321

Note 1 – Drug charge was implemented on 1 May 2003.

Note 2 – Only the number of drug items dispensed are available under the existing patient billing system of HA. The number of patients is not readily available.

Note 3 – Drugs are not separately charged for non-eligible persons. Charges for medical attention and treatment has included the costs of prescriptions.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
@INITIAL WRITTEN / SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB146

Question Serial No.

0593

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide information on the operating costs, deficit and reserves in respect of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04. Has the Government assessed whether the subvention to be allocated to the HA in 2004-05 will be sufficient to cover its operating costs and whether any deficit will be incurred?

Asked by : Hon.LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

Based on the latest projection for 2003-04, the Hospital Authority's (HA) total operating deficit will be approximately \$450 Million. HA's General Revenue Reserve had an accumulated balance of \$1,391 Million at 31 March 2003, which will therefore be reduced to fund for the 2003-04 deficit.

For 2004-05, the HA is projecting a deficit of \$601 Million. This amount includes \$54 Million for the ex-gratia payment for those staff joining the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS). It should be noted that the \$54 Million ex-gratia payment for staff joining the VERS is a one-off expenditure while there will be savings from the VERS every year.

With the Government's support, the HA is exploring means to widen revenue and reduce operating cost while maintaining quality service to ensure the sustainability of its operations in the long run.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
@INITIAL WRITTEN / SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB147

Question Serial No.

0594

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
000

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

: Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Since 2001-02, the Government has been using a mechanism dependent on population growth and changes in demographic profiles for the calculation of its funding allocation to the Hospital Authority. Will the same mechanism for funding calculation be used in 2004-05? If yes, please elaborate on the details of calculation.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The growth in Government subvention for the Hospital Authority (HA) in the past few years has largely been worked out based on the Population-Based Funding (PBF) funding model introduced since 2001-02. Under the PBF funding model, the growth rate in the recurrent budget of HA for 2004-05 is calculated to be 2.26%.

In view of Government's tight budgetary situation and the objective of reducing public sector spending, the final growth rate applied is 1%. However, the Government has allocated other additional funds to HA on a focused basis for various themes and programmes to serve the population's needs as follows –

Purpose	Amount (HK\$m)	% of HA's 2003/04 baseline funding
(a) Strengthening infectious disease control;	316	1.04%
(b) Setting-up General Out-Patient Clinic service;	307.8	1.01%
(c) General disease control;	100	0.33%
(d) Creation/extension of operationally-needed posts.	204.7	0.67%

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

25 March 2004

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the number and the ranks of staff, cost of services and the number of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly involved in the Visiting Medical Officers Scheme introduced in 2003-04? Is the number of attendances of other services affected by this Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. Law Chi Kwong

Reply :

Under the Visiting Medical Officer (VMO)/Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT) Collaborative Scheme (the Scheme), the Hospital Authority (HA) plans to recruit 100 private doctors to serve as VMOs. As at February 2004, 78 were recruited. Apart from VMOs, the Scheme also involves the participation of HA's geriatric specialists and nurses. The former provides supervision and training to the VMOs on community geriatrics and the latter provides support to them. Expenditures on the VMO programme are estimated to be \$16 million for 2004-05.

At present, 178 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) are under the care of the VMOs. The majority of the remaining RCHEs are receiving outreach services from CGATs. Together, the services of the VMOs and CGATs will cover almost all the 750 RCHEs in Hong Kong, involving about 54 000 elders.

As the Scheme has been operating for just a few months, we have yet to ascertain its impact on other elderly services, in particular the utilization of hospital services by RCHE residents.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB149

Question Serial No.

0596

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated in paragraph 36 of page 423 of Volume IA that the Hospital Authority will strengthen its ambulatory care services and rehabilitation programmes. Please specify the additional manpower, provisions and number of places assigned for each programme under these two items.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) will enhance ambulatory care services and rehabilitation programs to reduce reliance on inpatient services through the following initiatives:

- (1) closer collaboration between Accident & Emergency Departments and clinical specialties to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and strengthen post-discharge care;
- (2) implementation of an integrated service model between Family Medicine and Community Nursing Service for managing episodic problems for elderly in the community;

- (3) operation of nurse-led clinics under the auspices of general outpatient (GOP) clinics to facilitate continuation of patient care through continuous patient assessment, counseling, monitoring and compliance check;
- (4) training of Community Rehabilitation Practitioners to strengthen allied health services in community centres;
- (5) implementation of early detection, intensive treatment and rehabilitation of patients with psychiatric illnesses (EASY);
- (6) provision of temporary institutional care for early diversion and rehabilitation of chronic long stay psychiatric patients, so as to facilitate smooth integration back into the community (EXITERS);
- (7) implementation of a community-based disease management model for diabetic care;
- (8) greater use of pre-operative assessment and same day admission for elective surgeries; and
- (9) expansion of day and short stay surgery for selective procedures and strengthening post-operative support after discharge.

The above initiatives aim to facilitate the early discharge of inpatients, to strengthen post-discharge support through ambulatory care, rehabilitation and outreach services and to reduce unnecessary admission through day care service. The HA will support these initiatives with existing staff through flexible redeployment of manpower freed up by a reduction in patients' reliance on inpatient care. Since the hospital clusters may target their ambulatory services to different patient groups with varying medical conditions, it is not possible to accurately quantify the places that will be assigned to the above initiatives at the present stage.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB150

Question Serial No.

0597

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Will the reduction of general hospital beds in 2004-05 affect the manning ratio of doctors to hospital beds and the manning ratio of nurses to hospital beds? Please list the manning ratios for general hospital beds and the manning ratios for hospital beds for the mentally ill by doctors, nurses and other grades in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The manpower to bed ratio for general and psychiatric beds are listed below:

	Doctors per bed		Nurses per bed	
	General beds	Psychiatric beds	General beds	Psychiatric beds
2002-03	0.17	0.04	0.74	0.37
2003-04	0.19	0.05	0.77	0.37
2004-05 (estimated)	0.19	0.05	0.76	0.37

A substantial number of staff in other grades (such as allied health professionals and health care assistants) provide services to both types of beds and in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

It is therefore not possible to provide separate manpower to bed ratios for general and psychiatric beds of these staff.

It is expected that there will only be 128 fewer general beds in 2004-05, representing less than 0.7% of the total number of general beds. Given this small reduction, its effect on the manning ratio of doctors and nurses to hospital beds will be insignificant.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	25 March 2004

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****HWFB15**

Question Serial No.

0598

Head : 149 Government Secretariat :
000

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital AuthorityControlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and FoodDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and FoodQuestion :

The number of day patients in 2004-05 will be higher than that in 2003-04. Will the numbers of doctors, nurses and staff of other grades who are responsible for taking care of day patients be increased correspondingly? Please list the manning ratios of doctors, nurses and other grades to patients in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwongReply :

Generally speaking, it is a fairly common practice in Hospital Authority facilities that care for day patients is offered in the same physical settings where inpatients stay. Health care professionals working in these facilities are responsible for rendering service to both patient groups. Since the intensity of care required by the two groups may vary depending on the prevailing patient mix, it is therefore not possible to delineate clearly the respective number of professionals involved in caring for day patients and inpatients.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

26 March 2004

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

HWFB152

Question Serial No.

0599

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list the overall expenditure on medicines of the Hospital Authority and that of each cluster, and give the percentage of such expenditure in the total expenditure. How much was spent on the purchase of new medicines by the Hospital Authority and each cluster respectively? How many kinds of new medicines have been introduced in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The overall projected expenditure on drugs by the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04 is \$1,718 Million, representing 5.7% of HA's total expenditure. A breakdown of this amount by mega-cluster is as follows –

Mega-Cluster	2003/04 Projected Drug Expenditure (\$Mn)	
	HK East & HK West Clusters	197 (HKE)
278 (HKW)		
Kowloon Central and Kowloon East Clusters	255 (KC)	433
	178 (KE)	
KWC	358	
NTEC	277	
NTWC	173	
Central (mainly for flu vaccination)	2	
Total	1,718	

The difference in drug expenditure amongst the mega-clusters can be accounted for by a number of factors, including the size of the population in the catchment area of the clusters, concentration of specialised services (tertiary and quaternary services) in some of the clusters, and the extent of cross-cluster utilisation of services by patients.

In 2003-04, HA has approved a total of nine new drugs and the estimated expenditure on these drugs amounted to around \$1.5 Million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

HWFB153

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

0600

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the respective numbers of the different types of cases of attendance at the accident and emergency (A&E) departments before and after the introduction of charges for A&E services?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

A charge of \$100 per consultation at A&E Department was introduced on 29.11.2002. The attendance statistics during the first year of implementation of charging from Dec 2002 to Nov 2003 as compared to the same period in the year before charging are as follows: -

Triage Category	Dec 2001 – Nov 2002	Dec 2002 – Nov 2003	Changes
1. Critical	15,103	16,325	+1,222 (+8.1%)
2. Emergency	41,069	35,279	-5,790 (-14.1%)
3. Urgent	558,054	467,297	-90,757 (-16.3%)
4. Semi-urgent	1,419,996	1,110,606	-309,390 (-21.8%)
5. Non-urgent	294,655	183,600	-111,055 (-37.7%)
6. Unclassified	14,647	11,827	-2,820 (-19.3%)
Overall	2,343,524	1,824,934	(-22.1%)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ March 2004 _____

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

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the daily costs of provision of general hospital beds and hospital beds for the mentally ill in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

Year	Cost per patient day	
	General (\$)	Psychiatric (\$)
2002-03 Actual	3,060	1,360
2003-04 Estimated	3,810	1,430
2004-05 Estimated	3,260	1,370

Owing to the outbreak of SARS in March 2003, there has been a notable reduction in the volume of activities across HA services. The reduction in activities and the additional funding for SARS have resulted in higher unit costs for 2003-04. With the expected recovery of volume of activities and the effect of the pay cut for 2004-05, the unit costs are expected to decrease from 2003-04 level.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB155

Question Serial No.

0602

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

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide details on the number of doctors, nurses and allied health staff in the various clusters and the medical staff to population ratio in the respective clusters.

Asked by : Hon.LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

In 2004-05, the Hospital Authority (HA) has moved into population-based resource allocation by geographically based mega-clusters. The number of clinical professionals in the mega-clusters of HA and the ratio of clinical professionals per 1000 population by mega-clusters (position as at 29 February 2004) are provided below:

Number of clinical professionals and ratio per 1,000 population
(as at 29 February 2004)

Cluster	Doctors	Ratio	Qualified Nurses	Ratio	Allied Health	Ratio
Hong Kong East & West	1014.5	0.7	4454.5	3.3	1255	0.9
Kowloon Central and East	1128.7	0.8	4442.5	3.2	1214.5	0.9
Kowloon West	1110.0	0.6	4781.5	2.6	1039.5	0.6
New Territories East	806.8	0.6	3164.5	2.4	852.0	0.6
New Territories West	525.8	0.5	2315.0	2.2	497.0	0.5
Total / Average	4585.8	0.7	19158.0	2.7	4858.0	0.7

Whilst primary and secondary medical services are provided in all clusters, tertiary and quaternary services are only available in some cluster hospitals and at different levels. This accounts for the higher ratio of clinical professionals in some clusters.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

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

HWFB156

Question Serial No.

0603

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) Please list the respective median waiting times for the first appointment for consultation at the departments of internal medicine, surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology and oncology in the various clusters and the Hospital Authority as a whole.
- (b) Please list the respective costs of each consultation and each patient at the departments of internal medicine, surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology and oncology in the various clusters and the Hospital Authority as a whole.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

- (a) The HA has a mechanism to ensure that those patients with more urgent medical needs are accorded higher priorities and the target median waiting time for first priority (urgent cases) and second priority (semi-urgent cases) patients are 2 weeks and 8 weeks respectively. For all new out-patients including those routine cases, the median waiting time figures (in weeks) in 2003/04 (up to Feb 04) are listed below:

Cluster	ON	GYN	MED	OBS	OPH	PAE	SUR	Overall
HKEC	<1	10	7	<1	3	<1	8	5
HKWC	<1	2	4	<1	1	1	4	2
KEC		10	7	<1	12	3	9	7
KCC	1	5	25	3	4	1	5	3
KWC	N/A	9	21	1	<1	1	10	6
NTEC	<1	5	24	1	9	8	18	9
NTWC	<1	9	12	<1	1	14	11	6
Overall	<1	6	13	1	1	2	11	5

Legend:

HKEC: Hong Kong East Cluster

HKWC: Hong Kong West Cluster

KEC: Kowloon East Cluster

KCC: Kowloon Central Cluster

KWC: Kowloon West Cluster

NTEC: New Territories East Cluster

NTWC: New Territories West Cluster

ONC: Clinical Oncology

GYN: Gynaecology

MED: Medicine

OBS: Obstetrics

OPH: Ophthalmology

PAE: Paediatrics

SUR: Surgery

(b) The average unit costs of specialist outpatient attendances for 2002-03 by cluster are as follows:

	Average unit cost of SOP attendance (\$)							
	HKW	HKE	KC	KE	KW	NTE	NTW	HA Overall
Medicine	1,380	1,120	1,390	1,210	1,070	1,250	1,080	1,190
Surgery	810	870	710	930	760	920	690	810
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	700	570	600	680	510	560	640	590
Paediatrics	1,130	650	980	670	850	930	770	870
Radiotherapy & Oncology	700	800	980	N/A	N/A	1,450	1,310	1,040
Ophthalmolog	410	420	420	390	270	440	330	390

N/A – There are no radiotherapy & oncology services in KE & KW clusters.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

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

HWFB157

Question Serial

0604

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9)Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please specify the bed occupancy rate and the length of stay of the general wards of each cluster, and provide a breakdown of the bed occupancy rate and the length of stay of each cluster by various specialties, such as Medicine, Surgery and Paediatrics, etc.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The occupancy rate statistics (%)for October - December 2003 are as follows:-

Clusters	ONC	ENT	GYN	MED	OBS	OPH	ORT	PAE	SUR	General
HKEC	75	47	79	82	65	60	81	55	70	77
HKWC	85	58	58	82	51	63	75	61	78	72
KEC	NA	74	66	89	112	55	85	56	78	83
KCC	69	79	74	89	57	50	82	72	73	80
KWC	NA	88	68	81	68	98	72	54	75	75
NTEC	82	75	64	94	62	52	86	59	76	81
NTWC	126	68	99	93	68	63	79	57	90	78
Overall	83	72	68	86	66	62	80	59	76	77

The bed occupancy rate and length of stay figures of the earlier months of 2003 were very much distorted by the SARS outbreak when non-emergency services and admissions in a number of hospitals were minimized and when there was a tendency amongst the public to avoid hospital stays. Therefore these figures are not presented here.

The length of stay statistics (days) for October -December 2003 are as follows:-

	ONC	ENT	GYN	MED	OBS	OPH	ORT	PAE	SUR	General
HKEC	4.7	2.4	2.3	5.2	2.6	3.5	5.9	3.6	3.5	5.4
HKWC	5.3	4.8	2.6	7.2	2.8	2.5	9.3	5.2	7.0	8.4
KEC	NA	2.9	3.2	6.9	3.5	2.6	6.9	3.1	4.0	6.0
KCC	6.2	2.8	3.4	7.0	2.9	5.7	11.1	5.6	4.7	7.7
KWC	NA	2.9	2.7	6.2	3.7	5.8	6.9	3.1	4.1	5.7
NTEC	6.8	3.2	2.9	7.2	3.1	2.5	8.9	5.0	5.9	6.8
NTWC	7.5	4.0	2.4	6.0	2.7	2.6	7.2	4.0	4.0	5.3
Overall	6.2	3.3	2.8	6.5	3.1	3.7	7.9	4.0	4.8	6.4

Legend:

HKEC: Hong Kong East Cluster

HKWC: Hong Kong West Cluster

KEC: Kowloon East Cluster

Surgery

KCC: Kowloon Central Cluster

KWC: Kowloon West Cluster

NTEC: New Territories East Cluster

NTWC: New Territories West Cluster

ONC: Oncology

ENT: Ear, Nose & Throat

GYN: Gynaecology

MED: Medicine

OBS: Obstetrics

OPH: Ophthalmology

ORT: Orthopaedics

PAE: Paediatric

SUR:

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 26 March 2004

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

HWFB158

Question Serial

0605

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As far as specialist out-patient departments and non-acute operations are concerned, which specialty and illness have the longest or the shortest waiting time (by hospital cluster) ?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The longest and shortest waiting time statistics by specialty in each cluster is shown as follows:-

Cluster	Specialty with the longest median waiting time *	Specialty with the shortest median waiting time *
Hong Kong East	Otorhinolaryngology	Paediatrics/ Clinical Oncology / Obstetrics
Hong Kong West	Orthopaedics and Traumatology	Neurosurgery / Clinical Oncology / Obstetrics
Kowloon Central	Medicine	Neurosurgery / Clinical Oncology / Paediatrics
Kowloon East	Otorhinolaryngology	Obstetrics
Kowloon West	Medicine	Clinical Oncology / Ophthalmology
New Territories East	Medicine	Clinical Oncology
New Territories West	Orthopaedics and Traumatology	Clinical Oncology / Obstetrics

* Period covers April 2003 – Feb 2004

The waiting time statistics for non-urgent operations by clusters is not routinely collected and breakdown of waiting time statistics by disease group is not readily available.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

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

Subhead (No. & title) :000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list out the number of beds for general and mentally-ill patients, day hospital places, geriatric day hospital places, community nurses and community psychiatric nurses in each hospital cluster. What is the ratio of these services to the population of the relevant hospital clusters?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

Services

The number of general beds, mentally ill beds, geriatric day hospital places, psychiatric day hospital places, community nurses and community psychiatric nurses in each of the five clusters are as follows:

Cluster	General beds	Mentally ill beds	PDH*	GDH*	CN	CPN
Hong Kong East & Hong Kong West	4,760	702	163	122	87	17
Kowloon Central & Kowloon East	5,357	343	178	125	103	15
Kowloon West	4,544	1,472	209	150	108	30
New Territories East	3,066	598	125	120	39	13
New Territories West	1,727	1,687	44	50	35	22
Total	19,454	4,802	719	567	372	97

* Day hospitals comprise psychiatric day hospitals and geriatric day hospitals.

The ratio of general beds, mentally ill beds, psychiatric day hospital places, geriatric day hospital places, community nurses and community psychiatric nurses to the population in each cluster are shown below:

Cluster	Bed per 1,000 population		PDH per 100,000 population	GDH per 100,000 population*	CN per 100,000 population	CPN per 100,000 population
	General	Mentally-ill				
Hong Kong East & Hong Kong West	3.5	0.51	11.9	68.3	6.3	1.2
Kowloon Central & Kowloon East	3.8	0.24	12.7	66.8	7.3	1.1
Kowloon West	2.5	0.80	11.4	59.2	5.9	1.6
New Territories East	2.3	0.45	9.4	100.3	2.9	1.0
New Territories West	1.6	1.59	4.1	61.5	3.3	2.1
Total	2.8	0.70	10.3	69.1	5.3	1.4

*for patients aged 65 and above

(Note :

Bed and day places status -as at 31.3.2004

PDH Psychiatric day hospital places

GDH Geriatric day hospital places

Manpower status –as at 29.2.2004

CN-Community nurses

CPN-Community Psychiatric nurses)

There are a number of factors attributing to the differences in ratio of these medical services to population among clusters. The factors include patients' historical cross-cluster utilisation of services and concentrated provision of specialised services in some geographically-based clusters. Over the years, the Hospital Authority (HA) has been working towards providing new facilities to clusters with greater need for inpatient beds through its planned hospital redevelopment projects. Moreover, in 2004-05, the HA has moved into population-based resource allocation, through which clusters will assess the health care needs of each cluster and provide the best combination of services to the cluster population with the allocated resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB160

Question Serial No.

0607

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How many beds are deleted in each hospital cluster in 2003-04? Which hospitals and specialties do these beds belong to? Please compare with the corresponding figures in the 2004-05 estimate.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The number of hospital beds and changes by broad service types in 2002-03 – 2004-05 are shown below:-

Care Type	As at 31 March		Net change	Estimate as at 31 March 2005	Net change
	2003	2004			
General	20 579	19 454	-1 125	19 326	-128
Infirmery	2 951	2 951	0	2 951	0
Mentally ill	4 858	4 802	-56	4 802	0
Mentally handicapped	800	800	0	800	0
Total	29 188	28 007	-1181	27 879	-128

The actual breakdown of changes by hospital in 2003-04 could only be consolidated when details relating to the following factors are finalized : -

- latest adjustment of the original plan for the prevailing year having regard to the annual plan for the coming year
- progress of the enhancement of last batch of isolation facilities; and
- plan for use of the isolation facilities upon subsidence of the recent threat of infectious diseases and date of stepping down the yellow alert.

The estimated changes for each cluster are as follows:-

Cluster	Care type				
	General	Infirmary	Mental Ill	Mentally Handicapped	Total
Hong Kong East	-124	0	0	0	-124
Hong Kong West	-330	0	0	0	-330
Kowloon East	0	0	0	0	0
Kowloon Central	-100	0	0	0	-100
Kowloon West	-381	0	-56	0	-437
New Territories East	-190	0	0	0	-190
New Territories West	0	0	0	0	0
Total	-1 125	0	-56	0	-1 181

In 2004-05, the HA plans to reduce 128 general beds, of which 48 beds belong to the Hong Kong West Cluster and 80 beds come from the Kowloon Central Cluster. The detailed plan has yet to be set finalized but only those specialties with smaller bed demand, such as Paediatrics and Obstetrics, will be affected.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

26 March 2004

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

HWFB161

Question Serial No.

0608

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the year 2003-04, how much provision was available for the Samaritan Fund? How many cases of different nature were subvented and how much subvention was given out? From 2001-02 to 2003-04, were there any changes in the number of self-financed purchases? If yes, what are the changes? Among those self-financed purchases, how many were under the categories of equipment and medicine, namely home use equipment, appliances and consumables and medicine?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The Samaritan fund is primarily funded by donations from charitable organisations, the Government and reimbursements from the Government to cover fees for privately purchased medical items (PPMI) provided to the recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). Sources of funding (estimated)[#] in 2003-04 are as follows:

	Million
Reimbursement from government for CSSA recipients	28
Transfer from Government Designated Donation	2

[#] This is an estimate only. The exact funding will be available after the close of the financial year.

Donations

Total 18
48

The estimated number of cases and the related expenditure of the Samaritan Fund in 2003-04 are listed below:

Items	No. of cases	Amount \$Million
Cardiac Pacemakers	262	8.9
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) and other consumables for interventional cardiology	1,024	30.7
Intraocular Lens	831	1.3
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	482	0.8
Drugs	70	3.8
Gamma Knife surgeries in private hospital	43	2.8
Cost for harvesting bone marrow in foreign countries	5	0.6
Myoelectric prosthesis/ custom-made prosthesis/ appliances for prosthetic and orthotic services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.	228	1.0
Total no. of cases and related expenditure	2,945	49.9

At present, drugs which have to be purchased by patients at their own expenses include :

- (i) interferon;
- (ii) growth hormone;
- (iii) drugs developed under pilot scheme supported by charitable trusts, to expedite the introduction of medical items of new technology or technology- based new services into mainstream HA service. In 2003-04, these drugs include taxane, letrozole and anastrozole for treating patients with breast cancer, basiliximab and daclizumab for use as an adjunct to immunosuppressant induction therapy for patients with cadaveric renal transplants, fludarabine for selective haematological cancer, imatinib for second line treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia and liposomal amphotericin B for treatment of fungal infections.

Changes between 2001-2002 and 2003-2004 include addition of imatinib and deletion of colony stimulating factors, which is now a standard treatment in HA.

The expenditure on home use equipment, appliances and consumables, and drugs purchased through the Hospital Authority on behalf of patients in 2001-02 and 2002-03 is as follows –

Items	2002-03	2001-02
	Amount \$Million	Amount \$Million
Home use equipment, appliance and consumables	1.7	2.4
Drugs	3.0	3.0

Note: The above figures include items supported by the Samaritan Fund and items paid by patients.

The information for 2003/04 is not yet available.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB162

Question Serial No.

0614

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of nursing staff will reduce from 19 257 in 2003-04 to 19 130 in 2004-05. Please advise on the following :

- the grade and rank of the posts to be deleted as well as their pay and benefits;
- the reasons for cutting these nursing staff;
- the impact on the workload of various grades as a result of the staff reduction;
- the amount of savings to be achieved through the staff reduction; and
- the reasons for an increase in the number of doctors from 4 371 to 4 518 while the number of nursing staff is to be reduced.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The reduction of 127 nursing staff in 2004-05 will involve almost all nursing ranks from Enrolled Nurse to Senior Nursing Officer/Department Operations Manager. The pay package of the majority of the nursing staff departing the Hospital Authority (HA) will fall within the range of \$19,000 (Enrolled Nurse) to \$64,000 (Nursing Officer).

The estimated reduction in the strength of nursing staff can be mainly attributed to staff departure under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS) and natural wastage. In order to avoid any adverse impact on the workload of other staff, the HA is planning to recruit around 400 nurses in 2004-05. The HA will also re-examine the service mix, the patient care delivery model and the use of other support staff to minimise disruption to the provision of service.

The reduction of 127 nursing staff in 2004-05 will translate into a notional saving in personal emoluments of around \$68 Million.

The increase in the number of doctors can be attributed mainly to a larger intake of new Resident doctors for specialist and family medicine training and an expected increase in the number of Specialist Resident posts in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB163

Question Serial No.

0615

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the 2003-04 revised estimate and the 2004-05 estimate, the number of allied health staff will reduce from 4 881 to 4 746. Could the Administration advise on the following :

- the reasons for the staff reduction;
- the distribution and size of staff reduction in each hospital and clinic;
- the grade and rank of the posts to be deleted as well as their pay and benefits; and
- the evaluation of the impact of the staff reduction on the quality of service?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The reduction in the number of allied health staff in 2004-05 can be attributed mainly to the cessation of funding under Government's Job Creation Programme, staff departure under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS) and natural wastage.

Of the expected reduction of 135 allied health posts in 2004-05, 100 of them can be accounted for by the one-year on-the-job training programme funded by the Government under its Job Creation Programme. Upon completion of the programme by end of August 2004, the graduates are expected to ply their trade in community organisations or in the private sector. The staff grades involved in the training programme include Prosthetics & Orthotics, Laboratory Technician, Diagnostic Radiographer and Therapeutic Radiographer. The salary of these trainees ranges from \$7,900 to \$11,400. The remaining net reduction of 35 allied health posts are expected to involve a wide variety of allied health grades and ranks, with pay packages ranging from \$20,000 (Dispenser) to \$114,000 (Scientific Officer) per month. The reduction of these allied health posts in 2004-05 will be widely distributed among HA's 43 hospitals.

The Hospital Authority will minimise the adverse impact on the quality and efficiency of its services through the clustering of service teams to reduce service overlapping and through the

modification to the service delivery model by putting greater emphasis on prevention programmes and community partnership development.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB164

Question Serial No.

0616

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05, the Hospital Authority will reduce the number of general beds from 19 454 to 19 326, representing a reduction of 128 beds. Could the Administration specify :

- the reasons for the reduction?
- which hospitals and wards do these beds belong to ?
- the average number of nursing staff, wards and patients of public hospitals?
- the savings to be gained from the reduction?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

In line with the strategy in previous years, the Hospital Authority will continue to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes in 2004-05 to replace, where appropriate, in-patient treatment. The reduction in bed number is in line with this development. Each cluster will work out its bed rationalisation plan having regard to its existing number of beds, existing mix of services provided and the assessed need of the population within its geographical boundary.

Of the 128 general beds to be reduced in public hospitals in 2004-05, 48 of them will be from the Hong Kong West Cluster with the remaining 80 from the Kowloon Central

Cluster. Since the detailed bed reduction plan is still being work out, we are not able to provide the number of staff and wards that will be affected at this time. Nevertheless, we expect that the beds to be cut will probably come from specialties with a relatively lower bed demand, such as Paediatrics and Obstetrics.

The HA plans to deploy all resources released from the reduction of beds to strengthen its existing services. These include enhancing the intensity of treatment to shorten the length of stay and strengthening ambulatory care to minimise unnecessary hospital admissions.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB165

Question Serial No.

0617

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of psychiatric day hospital attendances increases from 156 000 in 2003-04 to 179 000 in 2004-05. Please provide:

- the number of people attending psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric day hospitals from 2001-02 to 2003-04 with a breakdown by age and sex;
- the average nurse to patient ratio in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric day hospitals; and
- the average consultation time for each patient.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

(a) The number of in-patients of psychiatric hospitals from 2001-2003 is as follows:

Year	Sex	Female(F)	Male(M)	Total
	Age	No. of patient	No. of patient	No. of patient
2001	Unknown*	1	1	2
	0 - 14	45	75	120
	15 - 64	4 510	4 993	9 503
	65+	774	553	1 327
				10 952
2002	Unknown*	1		1
	0 - 14	69	105	174
	15 - 64	4 543	4 669	9 212
	65+	727	535	1 262
				10 649

2003	0 - 14	116	188	304
	15 - 64	4 448	4 726	9 174
	65+	702	516	1 218
				10 696

* Information about the age was not obtainable from the patient.

The number of patients attending psychiatric day hospitals in 2003 is 3 689. As the computerised system for the psychiatric day hospitals was only introduced in 2003, figures for previous years and the breakdown by age and sex are not readily available.

(b) The Hospital Authority (HA) plans its manpower for psychiatric nurses by making reference to factors such as service type, patients' dependency, unit size and bed occupancy rate, etc. The total number of psychiatric nurses under HA's employment is 2,072. HA adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in the treatment and care of patients with mental illnesses. Multidisciplinary teams comprising doctors, nurses and allied health professionals participate in the care process, both in psychiatric hospitals and in day hospitals.

(c) The consultation time for patients with mental illnesses varies from patient to patient and is dependent on the nature and severity of the patients' illness. Complicated or new cases are generally seen for longer duration whereas follow-up or mild cases would need shorter consultation time. The Hospital Authority does not keep statistics on the average consultation time for each patient with mental illnesses.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food
Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB166

Question Serial No.

0618

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of psychiatric outreach attendances increases from 81 000 in 2003-04 to 84 000 in 2004-05. Please provide :

- the number of first and subsequent psychiatric outreach attendances in each year from 2001-02 to 2003-04;
- the number of psychiatric outreach workers in the past three years and their respective ranks;
- the average number of visits paid by each psychiatric outreach worker per week; and
- the number of cases handled by psychiatric outreach workers in the past three years, and the number of injuries or accidents involved.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

(a) Since 1 April 2003, the Community Psychiatric Teams (CPTs) and Community Psychiatric Nursing Service (CPNS) have been integrated as the Community Psychiatric Service(CPS) to provide outreach services for clients in the community. Statistics on first and follow-up attendances for CPTs from 2001 to 2003 are as follows:

Year	First attendances	Follow-up attendances
2001-2002	3 180	13 908
2002-2003	3 600	19 605

As for CPNS, no breakdown of first and subsequent attendances are available; the total attendances for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are 54 320 and 58 994 respectively.

- (b) The Community Psychiatric Service (CPS) is a multi-disciplinary service delivered by psychiatrists, community psychiatric nurses, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists and medical social workers. The number of community psychiatric nurses and their respective ranks in the past three years are as follows:

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Ward Manager	3	3	3
Nursing Specialist	2	2	2
Nursing Officer	9	10	10
Registered Nurse	59	65	65
Enrolled Nurse	17	17	17
Total	90	97	97

As for the other workers, their deployment is subject to operational needs and the manpower may vary from time to time. Consequently, only the manpower of community psychiatric nurses are available.

- (c) On average, a Community Psychiatric Nurse pays about 16-18 outreach visits per week.
- (d) The level of output of the community outreach services is reflected by the number of outreach attendances. There are no readily available statistics on the number of cases handled by the Community Psychiatric Service. The number of psychiatric outreach attendances from 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 is as follows:

Year	No
2001-2002	71 408
2002-2003	82 199
2003-2004 (estimate)	81 000

The number of injuries on duty involving psychiatric outreach workers is as follows:

Year	No
2001	3
2002	6
2003	7

Signature _____
 Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
 Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
 Food
 Date _____ March 2004

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

HWFB167

Question Serial No.

0621

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The cost of services for 2004-05 covers the cost of nine service items, namely general, infirmary, mentally ill, mentally handicapped, accident and emergency, specialist outpatient, community nurse outreach, psychiatric outreach and geriatric day hospital services (P423 of Volume IA, English edition). What are the reasons for the increase or decrease in the cost of each of these services?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The unit costs presented in the Controlling Officer's Report are calculated by dividing the total cost of each service by the service volume. Owing to the SARS outbreak in March 2003, there have been notable year-on-year reductions in the volume of activities across the entire ranges of services provided by the Hospital Authority (HA). Given the high proportion of fixed costs in HA's cost structure, the unit cost of all service types rose in 2003-04.

In 2004-05, we expect to see a continued pick up in the demand for HA's services. The larger service volume, coupled with the effects of lower staff cost due to a downward adjustment in salary in the HA, should lower the unit cost of HA's services in 2004-05. The only area where we expect to incur a higher unit cost is infirmary services, where the HA is planning to target its resources to patients with more severe medical conditions, while making greater use of community care for those patients who will benefit from a non-institutional setting. As a result, patients of infirmary beds will in general require a higher level of care in the coming year, resulting in higher unit cost.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

26 March 2004

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

HWFB168

Question Serial No.

0622

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of general inpatients and the attendances for accident and emergency, specialist outpatient and general outpatient services continued to rise in 2003-04 and 2004-05 despite the increase in charges for inpatient services and by the accident and emergency departments and clinics.

- How would the Administration assess the causes of the increase in the attendances?
- How is the progress of the public health care sector cooperative programme?
- What is the percentage of the attendance of CSSA recipients?
- What are the numbers of writing-off cases in various departments? How many of these cases involved non Hong Kong residents and people coming to Hong Kong with two-way permits. How these cases were followed up?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Owing to the SARS outbreak in March 2003, there has been a notable reduction in the accident and emergency (A&E) attendances in 2003-04 as compared with the previous year. While we expect a continued pick up in A&E attendances in 2004-05, we do not foresee the number returning to the pre-SARS level, one of the major contributing factors being the introduction of A&E charges.

Similarly, there was a decrease in the number of specialist outpatient (SOP) attendances in 2003-04 due to the SARS outbreak and we expect to see a continued pick-up of attendances in 2004-05. However, with the lingering effects of SARS and HA's plan to rationalise SOP services for better efficiency, the number of SOP attendances is unlikely to return to the

pre-SARS level in the coming year.

As for general outpatient (GOP) services, the reason for the substantial increase in the number of attendances in 2003-04 is the taking over of 59 GOP clinics from the Department of Health in July 2003. The number of attendances will increase further in 2004-05 due to the full year effects of the take over. Compared with previous years when GOP clinics were operated by the Department of Health, there is actually no significant increase in the number of GOP clinic attendances.

The Government is keenly aware of the need to maintain effective interface and collaboration between private and public medical services in Hong Kong. This is important not only for the healthy development of the private medical sector, but also for the long-term sustainability of the public one. In 2004-05, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to implement various measures to enhance public private interface and cooperation, which include –

- development of collaborative service models with a view to enhancing patient choice and encouraging greater use of private sector service by patients who can afford to do so;
- improving communication links between the public and private sectors; and
- enhancing cooperation between the two sectors in staff training and education.

The percentage of CSSA recipients and the number of cases written off for the various hospital services for the period April to September 2003 are as follows:

	% of patients who are CSSA recipients	Total no. of cases written off	No. of NEP cases written off
Inpatient	21%	5,051	841
A&E	18%	1,904	769
Specialist outpatient	17%	110	2
General outpatient	18%	15	9
Total		7,080	1,621

Since the number of NEP cases are not further broken down into two-way permit holders and others, we do not know how many of them are involved in the above written off cases.

Under the current HA policy, non-eligible inpatients (NEPs) are required to pay a deposit upon admission. If a NEP fails to settle an outstanding fee, the patient's next of kin will be contacted for settlement, followed-up by mail reminders, telephone calls and a written final notice. Legal actions will be instituted, as appropriate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB169

Question Serial No.

0623

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of Visiting Medical Officer attendances of the geriatric services is anticipated to increase from 35 000 in 2003-04 (Revised Estimate) to the target of 84 000 in 2004-05 (Estimate), could the Administration please explain in detail:

- the reason for the surge in the attendances of the geriatric services;
- the estimates for this item; and
- the manpower for this item.

Asked by : Hon. Mak Kwok Fung

Reply :

The figures for 2003-04 covers the period from October 2003 (when the Visiting Medical Officer/Community Geriatric Assessment Team Collaborative Scheme was launched) to March 2004 only, whereas those for 2004-05 are full year figures.

Expenditures on the VMO programme are estimated to be \$16 million for 2004-05.

HA plans to recruit 100 private doctors to serve as VMOs. As at February 2004, 78 were recruited. Apart from VMOs, the Scheme also involves the participation of HA's geriatric specialists and nurses. The former provides supervision and training to the VMOs on community geriatrics and the latter provides support to them.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB170

Question Serial No.

0691

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

Programme : (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In its Policy Objective for year 2000, the former Environment and Food Bureau undertook to “set up a framework for mandatory food recall” and to put forward the proposal in 2001. Please advise if the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has studied this issue since its establishment. If affirmative, please advise its annual expenditure and whether the Government has a timetable for putting forward the proposal. In case there is such a timetable, please provide details of it.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has been studying overseas experience and reviewing the need to set up a framework for mandatory food recall in Hong Kong. We will report the way forward to the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in due course. As the work related to this subject is absorbed by existing staff, no additional resources have been earmarked for this item under Head 149.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date

March 2004

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

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

Programme : (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please advise the provision the Administration has earmarked for the following items for the year 2004-05:

- (a) to put forward proposals on the nutritional labelling scheme;
- (b) to regularise the wholesaling of live fish; and
- (c) develop proposals to address the avian influenza problem.

Please advise on the specific work involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Work relating to the proposed nutrition labelling scheme, regularisation of the wholesaling of live fish and the development of proposal to address the avian influenza problem will be taken up by existing staff. No additional resources have been earmarked for these items under Head 149.

For nutrition labelling, we will conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to evaluate the overall costs and benefits of introducing a nutrition labelling scheme in Hong Kong. We will then take into account the results of the RIA before we finalize our proposals on the way forward for further consultation with the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene.

To enable us to monitor the quality of water used for keeping live marine fish at the wholesale level, we have introduced a permit scheme to live fish wholesalers operating at the Aberdeen, Kwun Tong and Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Markets since late 2003. We intend to extend the permit scheme to other identified live fish wholesalers in the territory in 2004-05.

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will continue to devise appropriate preventive measures to address the avian influenza problem. We will consult the public on the

various options for reducing contacts between humans and live poultry, including central and regional slaughtering.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secreary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB172

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0694

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the resources allocated for the following in the Estimates 2004-5:

- (a) detection of beta-agonist in food;
- (b) monitoring of seven prohibited chemicals and ten restricted agricultural and veterinary chemicals; and
- (c) detection of genetically modified constituents in food products; and what are the specific tasks involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) For 2004-05, a total financial provision of about \$0.8M has been reserved for analyzing beta-agonists in food.

(b) For 2004-5, a total financial provision of \$4.0M has been reserved for the analysis of the 7 prohibited and 10 restricted chemicals.

(c) A total financial provision of \$2.0M has been reserved for the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in food products and the associated method development work in 2004/05.

In this respect, the analytical services include the detection of genetically modified (GM) soya and maize in food products. Presently, there are specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests developed for the identification of 5 GM maize types and 1 GM soya type in food. Two quantitative techniques were validated and applied to determine the percentage of GM content in food products with identified GM types. The Government Laboratory (GL) will continue to extend the test scope for the detection of GM food, for instance, GL is currently developing the method for the detection of GM papaya and potato.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB173

Question Serial No.

0627

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of vehicles carrying poultry inspected at Man Kam To is reduced from 12 991 in 2003 (actual) to 12 900 in 2004 (estimate). Please advise in detail on the following:

- the reasons for such reduction;
- whether risk assessment has been conducted in respect of such reduction.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The number of vehicles carrying poultry to be inspected at Man Kam To in 2004 is estimated to be at about the same level as that for 2003. For the purpose of the 2004 Estimate, the Department has rounded down the figure to the nearest hundred.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

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

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for healthy ageing activities in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Approximately \$343,000 has been earmarked for the promotion of healthy ageing in 2004-05. It would be supplemented by funding of about \$7M in the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust grant to the Elderly Commission for the Healthy Ageing Campaign as appropriate. In addition, other concerned departments supporting the Healthy Ageing Campaign will also contribute necessary resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

23 March 2004

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

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2004-05, the bureau will continue reviewing the social security schemes to develop a sustainable financial support system for needy older persons. What are the details? Will consultants be appointed to conduct a study on this issue? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Government's objective in reviewing the existing social security arrangements for elders is to develop a long term sustainable financial support system that better targets resources at needy elders, drawing reference from the "Three Pillar approach" recommended by the World Bank. We have already established the privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF), one of the two mandatory pillars recommended by the World Bank. We are currently reviewing the existing social security schemes for elders under the other mandatory pillar to ensure that it is sustainable in the long run, having regard to our ageing population and simple and low taxation system. Given the complexity of the issues involved, we need to conduct more in-depth studies in considering options. We do not have a plan to engage a consultant to examine the issues at this stage. If and when there are specific proposals to introduce major changes to the system, Government will consult relevant stakeholders, the public and the Legislative Council.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

20 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB176

Question Serial No.

0790

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Hospital Authority had set up elderly suicide prevention teams in 2003-04. Is there any provision for these teams in the Estimates 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Hospital Authority introduced the Elderly Suicide Prevention Programme in October 2002. The programme is operated by seven Elderly Suicide Prevention Teams based at Castle Peak Hospital, Kwai Chung Hospital, North District Hospital, Kowloon Hospital, United Christian Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and Queen Mary Hospital. The estimated financial implication for 2004-05 is around \$23 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB177

Question Serial No.

0791

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2004-05, the Hospital Authority will continue to strengthen the community mode of health care delivery in response to the needs of an ageing population. What are the details of the plan? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2004-05, the Hospital Authority will implement a number of initiatives to enhance community-oriented services for the elderly population. The major initiatives in this regard include –

- (1) fall prevention and hypertension control projects which will be run in cooperation with community partners;
- (2) closer collaboration between General Out-patient Clinics and hospital-based specialists and community nurses to improve primary care services for elders with chronic illness;
- (3) stepping up community outreach services such as Community Nursing Services and Community Allied Health Services;
- (4) engagement of private doctors as Visiting Medical Officers (VMO) to provide regular medical consultations to elders living in residential care homes;

- (5) facilitating the welfare sector to provide residential care service to medically stable infirm persons, e.g. by providing training on how to care for frail elders in the community setting.

Apart from specific funding of \$16 Million which has been earmarked for the VMO scheme, the HA will support the rest of the above programmes through flexible redeployment of internal resources and the estimated expenditure cannot be readily quantified at this stage.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB178

Question Serial No.

0792

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

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of Visiting Medical Officer attendances in respect of elderly persons is estimated to be 84 000 in 2004-05, an increase of 49 000 as compared with the revised estimate for 2003-04. What are the detailed arrangements for this scheme? What is the estimated expenditure for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. Tam Yiu Chung

Reply :

The Visiting Medical Officer (VMO)/Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT) Collaborative Scheme (the Scheme) was launched in October 2003. The figures on the estimated number of VMO attendances in 2003-04 covers the period from October 2003 (when the Scheme was launched) to March 2004 only, whereas those for 2004-05 are full year figures. Under the Scheme, private doctors are recruited to serve as VMOs to conduct regular visits to residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) for providing medical care to RCHE residents. The objective is to enhance the medical care in the RCHEs, with a view to strengthening community health care delivery and reducing RCHE residents' reliance on hospital services.

The Hospital Authority (HA) plans to recruit 100 VMOs. As at February 2004, 78 were recruited. Apart from VMOs, the Scheme also involves the participation of HA's geriatric specialists and nurses. The former provides supervision and training to the VMOs on community geriatrics and the latter provides support to them.

At present, 178 RCHEs are under the care of the VMOs. The majority of the remaining RCHEs are receiving outreach services from CGATs. Together, the services of the VMOs and CGATs will cover almost all the 750 RCHEs in Hong Kong, involving about 54 000 elders.

Expenditures on the VMO programme are estimated to be \$16 million for 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB179

Question Serial No.

0855

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the estimated expenditure of Director of Bureau's Office for 2004-05, please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure by (1) purposes (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions, etc.), and (2) expenditure items (salaries and establishment, allowances, job-related allowances and departmental expenses).

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The estimated provision for the Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF) is for the salaries and allowances of SHWF and staff in his Office. As SHWF and staff in his office are engaged in a wide range of duties, it is difficult to provide a realistic breakdown of estimated salaries and allowances on the basis of purposes. The estimated expenditure for the Office of SHWF in 2004-05 is as follows:

Salary of SHWF	\$3.23 m
Staff in his Office (including Administrative Assistant, Personal Assistant, Personal Secretary I, Chauffeur and Clerical Assistant)	
● Salaries	\$2.54 m
● Allowances	\$0.07 m
Total :	\$5.84 m

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB180

Question Serial No.

0856

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

Subhead (No. & title): -

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please list the revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food and the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, with particulars of : (1) the purposes and details of the visits; (2) the main means of public transport and related expenses for the visits; (3) board and lodging expenses for the visits. What is the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Has the Administration laid down a ceiling on the amount of allowances that can be granted and a set of criteria for approving such allowances?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : (1) The revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food and the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food is \$276,000, which is mainly for attending meetings, seminars and conferences in relation to the work of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

(2) The main means of transportation is by air and the amount of transportation cost is \$237,000.

(3) The revised estimate in 2003-04 for board and lodging expenses is \$39,000.

The corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05 is \$250,000. Under the current service-wide policy, an officer who is on duty outside Hong Kong may be granted a subsistence allowance at specified rates to cover the cost of the appropriate standard of accommodation and meals, laundry charges, casual entertainment, gratuities, travelling expenses within town and all minor incidental out-of-pocket expenses. The rates of the subsistence allowance differ from country to country to take into account the different costs in different countries. The amount of allowance paid is abated in case of sponsorship of hotel accommodation or in cash.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB181

Question Serial No.

0857

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

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the provision for entertainment expenses to be incurred by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food and the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, such as hosting and attending receptions, in the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food and the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food have incurred entertainment expenses in 2003-04 in the region of \$100,000 and \$50,000 respectively. Similar provision has been included in the 2004-05 estimate.

Under the current policy, expenditure on entertainment may be charged to public funds only when it is directly related to the discharge of an officer's duties or is a necessary part of making or maintaining contacts in his official capacity, and is in the public interest. All such expenditure must be approved by the head or deputy head of the bureau or department personally, or by a directorate officer duly authorized by the head of department.

To further enhance the exercise of economy when entertaining guest, the prevailing general guideline issued is that departments should aim to spend not more than \$250 per person for lunch and not more than \$400 per person for dinner, inclusive of tips.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ March 2004

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : 5. Transport Services for People with Disabilities

0802

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportBureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Why was there a decrease in passenger number in using the rehabus scheduled route and dial-a-ride services when compared between the figures in 2002 and 2003? Why is there an estimated increase in passenger number in 2004?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The total number of passenger trips for rehabus scheduled route and dial-a-ride services in 2003 was lower than that in 2002 because of a drop in the demand during the SARS period in the first half of 2003. The estimated increase in patronage in 2004 takes into account recovery of patronage after SARS, introduction of two additional scheduled routes and efficiency enhancement through computerization of the booking system.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMANPost Title Commissioner for TransportDate 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB183

Question Serial No.

0769

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department will “implement the second phase of modernisation programme of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) to address the needs of contemporary youth”. What is the scope of this programme in detail and its estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply : The modernisation programme aims at upgrading and modernising the hardware of ICYSCs with a view to providing up-to-date facilities to attract and meet the changing needs of contemporary youth. The total sum earmarked for the programme is \$400 m which are to be equally contributed by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and the Lotteries Fund on a dollar-to-dollar basis, i.e. \$200 m each. The unit cost for modernising a standard ICYSC is \$4.84 m/centre inclusive of costs for renovation works and purchase of trendy furniture and equipment.

The modernisation programme will benefit a total of 80 ICYSCs spreading over the territory. The first batch of the programme launched in November 2002 has benefited 34 ICYSCs. The department has just invited applications for the second batch for the remaining 46 ICYSCs. The overall modernisation works are expected to be completed by 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB184

Question Serial No.

0782

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2003, the Social Welfare Department has extended the Infirmary Care Supplement (ICS) to cover private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). What is the estimated expenditure involved in 2004-05? How many elders in need may benefit from it?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The allocation of ICS has been extended to frail elders receiving subsidised service in private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the EBPS since 2003-04. The total sum available for ICS allocation for 2004-05 is \$27.151 m, covering 737 elders residing in EBPS homes and subvented RCHEs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB185

Question Serial No.

0783

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, please provide a breakdown of the caseload and the expenditure incurred under various categories (including old age, disability, ill health, single parent family, low earnings, unemployment and others) in 2002-03 and 2003-04, and the estimated caseload and expenditure in 2004-05 as well.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of CSSA cases and the estimated expenditure by nature of case for the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04 (up to February 2004) are as follows:

Nature of case	2002-03	
	Number of CSSA cases as at end March 2003	Expenditure April 2002-March 2003 (\$b)
Old age	143 585	7.9
Permanent disability	14 976	0.8
Temporary disability/ Ill health	20 852	1.5
Single parent family	34 249	2.8
Low earnings	10 982	0.8
Unemployment	43 237	2.2

Others	4 012	0.2
Total	271 893	16.1*

* Amounts may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Nature of case	2003-04	
	Number of CSSA cases as at end February 2004	Estimated expenditure April 2003-February 2004
		(\$b)
Old age	147 267	7.4
Permanent disability	15 848	0.8
Temporary disability/ Ill health	22 182	1.4
Single parent family	37 746	2.8
Low earnings	13 897	0.9
Unemployment	48 891	2.5
Others	4 358	0.2
Total	290 189	16.0

The projected average number of cases and expenditure for 2004-05 are as follows:

Nature of case	2004-05	
	Projected average number of CSSA cases for the year	Projected expenditure for the year
		(\$b)
Old age	150 954	7.8
Permanent disability	16 817	0.9
Temporary disability/ Ill health	23 363	1.6
Single parent family	41 412	3.4
Low earnings	17 039	1.2
Unemployment	50 555	2.8
Others	4 682	0.2
Total	304 822	17.9

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB186

Question Serial No.

0784

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The number of Social Security Allowance (SSA) cases in 2003-04 has decreased by 2 244 as compared with the 2002-03 figure. However, the number of SSA cases is estimated to increase by 13 800 in 2004-05. What is/are the reason(s) for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The small decrease in the number of cases served in the 2003-04 revised estimate (2 244 cases representing 0.4% of all cases) was mainly due to the greater than usual drop in the number of new applications during the year. However, in the past five years, there has been an average of about 2% annual increase in the overall SSA caseload. We therefore project that the total number of cases served will increase by 13 800 (representing about 2% increase over the 2003-04 revised estimate) in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB187

Question Serial No.

0785

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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 : What was the number of applications received and the expenditure incurred on Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) and Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) payments respectively in 2002-03 and 2003-04? What is the estimated number of applications and expenditure under these two categories for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of HOAA and NOAA cases and the expenditure incurred in the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04 are as follows:

	<u>2002-03</u>	
	<u>Number of cases as at</u>	<u>Actual expenditure</u>
	<u>end March 2003</u>	<u>April 2002-March 2003</u>
		(\$b)
HOAA	348 012	2.8
NOAA	106 921	0.8

	<u>2003-04</u>	
	<u>Number of cases as at</u>	<u>Actual expenditure</u>
	<u>end February 2004</u>	<u>April 2003-February 2004</u>
		(\$b)
HOAA	359 244	2.7
NOAA	97 876	0.7

The projected average number of cases and expenditure for 2004-05 are provided below:

	<u>2004-05</u>	
	<u>Projected average</u>	<u>Projected expenditure</u>
	<u>number of cases</u>	<u>April 2004-March 2005</u>
	<u>April 2004-March 2005</u>	<u>April 2004-March 2005</u>
		(\$b)
HOAA	377 174	3.1
NOAA	99 788	0.7

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB188

Question Serial No.

0786

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : What is the estimated number of recipients and estimated expenditure for implementing Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) for Elderly Persons Retiring to Guangdong Province in 2004-05? What is the financial commitment involved in providing burial grants and better escort service to the participants?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated number of recipients as at the end of 2004-05 is 3 050 and the estimated total expenditure on PCSSA payments for the year 2004-05 is \$95 m, including burial grants of \$0.7 m. A non-governmental organisation has been commissioned as the Social Welfare Department's agent to provide escort and other services for the participants and help with processing applications for burial grant. The contract fee for the year 2004-05 is \$1.9 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB189

Question Serial No.

0787

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Please provide a breakdown of the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients with up to seven years' residence in Hong Kong by their years of residence, and the CSSA expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Statistics on the number of CSSA recipients who were new arrivals (having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years) by length of their residence in Hong Kong are as follows:

Length of residence in Hong Kong	Number of CSSA recipients as at February 2004
< 1 year	1 159
1 - < 2 years	5 615
2 - < 3 years	8 792
3 - < 4 years	12 863
4 - < 5 years	13 619
5 - < 6 years	18 205
6 - < 7 years	13 237
Total	73 490

The estimated CSSA expenditure involved in 2003-04 (up to February 2004) was \$1.9 b.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB190

Question Serial No.

0887

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The revised estimate for services for elders allocated to the Government sector in 2003-04 has seen an increase of 79.8%, amounting to some \$234 m when compared with the original estimate. What is the reason for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 original estimate, the increase of 79.8% in the 2003-04 revised estimate for this programme under the Government sector is mainly due to the additional expenditure for the Operation CARE project incurred during this year. The \$102 m one-off provision for the project was not budgeted in the 2003-04 original estimate but subsequently approved by the Finance Committee on 16 May 2003 as one of the Government's proposed employment relief measures in response to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB191

Question Serial No.

0888

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In view of the substantial increase in the revised provision in the previous year, why does the Administration drastically reduce the estimated provision for the services for elders allocated to the Government sector in 2004-05? How does the Administration ensure that it will not possibly underestimate the amount of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate for this programme under the Government sector, the reduction of \$97.1 m or 41.4% in the 2004-05 estimate is mainly due to the inclusion of the one-off additional expenditure incurred for the project of Operation CARE during 2003-04. The expenditure was a one-off expenditure provided by a new non-recurrent commitment of \$102 m approved by the Finance Committee on 16 May 2003 as one of the Government's proposed employment relief measures in response to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong. Due to the completion of this project in 2003-04, no provision is required for 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB192

Question Serial No.

0889

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department will review the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders in which social centres and multi-service centres for the elderly have been upgraded to neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs) and district elderly community centres (DECCs) respectively. Will additional resources be required for this task? If affirmative, what is the anticipated increase in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : We are now collecting relevant statistics on the service output and outcome performances of the DECCs and NECs for data analysis. As the details of the review are yet to be worked out, we do not know at this stage the resources likely to be required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB193

Question Serial No.

0890

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department hived off its sheltered workshops to non-governmental organisations in 2003. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the amount of savings achieved by the Government as a result of this policy?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : Only one sheltered workshop, namely the Pak Tin Sheltered Workshop was closed in 2003-04. The closure of this workshop has generated an annual savings of \$2.64 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB194

Question Serial No.

0891

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides direct assistance to disabled athletes through the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund. What is the amount of expenditure incurred in this area in 2003-04? Which types of athletes are eligible to apply for assistance under the fund? Approximately how many athletes are benefited each year?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : The Hong Kong Paralympians Fund aims to foster the development of the disabled in sports and support their pursuit for excellence in international sports events by providing financial assistance to them. The Fund provides, among others, subsistence grant and employment assistance grant for disabled athletes. The subsistence grant is given to disabled athletes who have attained outstanding performance at international sports events and those with such a potential. The employment assistance grant is provided to disabled athletes who have officially retired as an athlete after the 2000 Paralympic Games. In receiving the grant, they need to have a supporting statement from the prospective employer.

A total of \$2.6 m subsistence grant has been approved for over 70 disabled athletes covering the period from April 2002 to September 2004. For employment assistance grant, so far no application has been received by SWD. New applications for both grants are being invited.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

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

Question Serial No.

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

1000

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

During 2004-05, the Bureau will "revive discussion on the long-term health care financing options including the Health Protection Account."

Regarding the above initiative, please provide information on the scope of discussion, the options to be considered, the channels to gauge public opinion, the timetable and the expected time for publishing the outcome of discussion. Will overseas or local experts be commissioned for this? If so, how will the experts be commissioned and what is the estimated expenditure incurred? What are the total estimated costs of the entire project?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

To strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of our health care system, we have in the Health Care Reform Consultation Document published in Dec 2000 floated the idea of a Health Protection Account (HPA) scheme. Following that consultation exercise, a study group involving medical doctors, epidemiologists, actuaries, economists, statisticians and social scientists from various universities, the Hospital Authority and Department of Health was formed to examine in greater depth the feasibility and implications of introducing the HPA scheme in Hong Kong. Several studies have been conducted and the group is in the process of finalizing its studies. We plan to present the group's findings to the LegCo Panel on Health Services in mid-2004. These studies, conducted over 2002/03 to 2004/05, will incur a total cost of about \$2 million. These costs will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	23 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB196

Question Serial No.

0893

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The revised estimate for the rehabilitation and medical social services allocated to the Government sector in 2003-04 amounting to some \$541 m, has seen an increase of 32.4% when compared with the original estimate. What is the reason for this?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 original estimate, the increase of 32.4% in the 2003-04 revised estimate for this programme under the Government sector is mainly due to the provision of \$150 m for the setting up of the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome during this year, partly offset by savings arising from salary adjustment, service rationalisation etc. Additional provision for the trust fund was approved by the Finance Committee on 7 November 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB197

Question Serial No.

0895

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will review the subsidy arrangement for the After School Care Programme (ASCP) in 2004-05. Since the ASCP is currently operated by non-governmental organisations on a self-financing basis through fee charging, in what specific direction will SWD conduct the review?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : ASCP has all along been operated on a self-financing basis. However, SWD has provided a subsidy to facilitate the operating organisations in offering fee waiving/reduction to needy families. The resources allocated also include a small general subsidy for service users irrespective of their background and family income. After consulting the operating organisations on the subsidy mode of ASCP, the general subsidy will be discontinued in 2004-05 so as to better utilising resources. The allocation of resources for fee-waiving/reduction will also be based on actual demand which will be reviewed by SWD on a half-yearly basis so as to meet the changing demand among operating units.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will hive off its three street sleepers outreaching teams (SSOTs) to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide an integrated package of services for street sleepers and homeless persons in 2004-05. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (1) whether the procedure for competitive bidding has been taken for such services;
- (2) the contract period;
- (3) the mechanism to monitor the NGOs' work and to ensure the quality of their services; and
- (4) the operating expenses involved in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (1) The hiving off of SWD's SSOTs is part of the revamping exercise for setting up new integrated teams to be operated by three NGOs which are already providing services for street sleepers with Government's funding support either through recurrent subvention, Lotteries Fund (LF) grant or both. Therefore, no competitive bidding is involved.
- (2) The two NGOs already receiving recurrent subvention to provide services for street sleeper will operate the revamped integrated teams under a Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) with no time limit. One NGO that is not receiving recurrent subvention but only a LF grant due for expiry by

March 2004 will operate the revamped integrated team under a time-limited FSA to be reviewed in three years.

- (3) SWD will monitor the performance of the integrated teams according to the requirements (including output and outcome standards) set out in the FSAs.
- (4) An annual recurrent subvention of \$6 m is required for operating the new integrated teams. The teams will be revamped by pooling resources from individual subvented services for street sleepers and SWD's three SSOTs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB199

Question Serial No.

0941

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Regarding the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision of this programme area, please provide information on the following:

- (1) the total amount of savings in salary cost to be achieved from the two civil service pay cuts in the 2004-05 Estimates;
- (2) the rank and salary of the net-increase post to be created in 2004-05;
- (3) reasons for the Social Welfare Department's estimated increase in paid cases under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Schemes.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

- Reply :
- (1) For 2003-04, the part-year effect of 3% civil service salary adjustment (Pay Cut) effective from 1 January 2004 amounts to \$3.6 m. For 2004-05, the full-year effect of Pay Cut effective from 1 January 2004 and the part-year effect of Pay Cut effective from 1 January 2005 amounts to \$18.8 m.
 - (2) A total of eight time-limited posts, including one Statistician, four Statistical Officers I, one Census and Survey Officer, one Clerical Officer and one Social Security Assistant, will

be created in 2004-05 to carry out the Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households and Consumption Study. These posts are equivalent to \$2,924,172 at 2004-05 notional annual mid-point salary (NAMS) value. The creation of these posts will be offset by deletion of seven posts which are no longer required operationally, including one Senior Welfare Worker, one Workshop Instructor III, one Clerical Officer, two Office Assistants and two Workman II. These posts are equivalent to \$1,226,004 at 2004-05 NAMS value. Therefore, the net increase of post under Programme (2) Social Security in 2004-05 is one post or \$1,698,168 at 2004-05 NAMS value.

- (3) The projections on the number of CSSA and SSA cases have been prepared after taking account of the growing trends in caseload in recent years.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB200

Question Serial No.

0942

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 :

- (1) In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up one additional Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre (ICYSC). Please state the location, staffing and service facilities, etc. for the centre, and the required provision for the project.
- (2) Is the project to set up two additional ICYSCs at secured premises in newly developed/redeveloped areas completed? If so, please state in detail the locations, facilities, provision allocated and the anticipated utilisation rate for the two centres. If not, please explain why.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (1) In 2004-05, SWD has agreed with the operating non-governmental organisation (NGO) to pool existing resources of \$5.1 m to set up one additional ICYSC at the Community Centre at Lee On Estate, Ma On Shan Area 108. Under the lump sum mode of subventions, the operating NGO is given the flexibility to determine the number and rank of staff posts of the new ICYSC, with regard to its operational needs. The facilities for the ICYSC will include conference room, playroom, audio-visual room, domestic science room, interview rooms, group activity rooms and counselling rooms together with modernised furniture and equipment.

(2) Two additional ICYSCs were set up in 2003. Details are as follows:

New ICYSC Location	Resources (\$m)	Month/Year Formed
Ocean Shores, Tseung Kwan O	4.3	June 2003
Fu Cheong Estate, Sham Shui Po	5.6	July 2003

The facilities in these two ICYSCs are comparable to those mentioned in (1). These two ICYSCs were formed at new locations to serve new youth population. They are now being operated in an effective manner and the average rate of achieving core programme plans is expected to be above 85% having regard to the norm of the service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB201

Question Serial No.

0943

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will proceed with closing the Kwun Tong Hostel (KTH) and hiving off the services to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in order to meet the changing needs and demand of the young male probationers who require residential training service. In this regard, please provide information on the following:

- (1) The contract period, operational expenses per annum during the contract period and the name of the service provider.
- (2) How will SWD monitor the work of the service provider?
- (3) A comparison between the operational expenses in 2004-05 and the relevant figure in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : (1) SWD has already reached agreement with the Youth Outreach (YO) for them to integrate the service of KTH into its existing residential service on a non-time-limited project basis effective from June 2004. On top of the current provision of \$4.66 m (i.e. adjusted from the original \$5 m in 2002-03 due to efficiency savings and salary adjustments), SWD will allocate an additional lump sum grant of \$1.25 m per annum to YO for this purpose, making a total of \$5.91 m in 2004-05.

(2) Like all other subvented NGOs, the YO is subject to service performance monitoring and assessment conducted by SWD. Apart from the need to follow a generic set of

Service Quality Standards, the YO is required to enter into a Funding and Service Agreement with SWD covering outcome and output performance standards. SWD will conduct on-site inspection from time to time and closely monitor the regular statistical returns and action plans submitted for any unmet standards. SWD can terminate subvention for the service if the service provider persistently fails to meet the performance standards.

(3) In 2003-04, the operational cost for KTH is \$10.10 m. The cost for YO to run residential service for youth at risk including inmates of former KTH is \$5.91 m in 2004-05.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB202

Question Serial No.

0952

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 :
- (1) Please state separately the number of participants of the Intensified Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme and the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs) in 2003; and
 - (2) What is the estimated staffing and provision for implementing the Intensified SFS Scheme in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

- Reply :
- (1) To assist more Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) unemployed/low-income earners to be self-reliant, the Social Welfare Department has, since June 2003, intensified the SFS Programme. Relevant measures include direct job matching, enhancing the Community Work Programme and commissioning more non-governmental organisations to launch IEAPs for CSSA unemployed recipients and near CSSA recipients. As at the end of February 2004, there were 41 300 participants enrolled in the intensified SFS Programme. As regards the IEAPs, 40 such projects have been launched since October 2003, involving 3 082 participants as at the end of February 2004.
 - (2) The provision earmarked for 2004-05 is \$72.8 m including administrative support expenses. The number of staff responsible for implementing the intensified SFS measures is 399 comprising one Chief Social Security Officer, one

Senior Social Security Officer, 11 Social Security Officers I, two Social Security Officers II, three Community Work Administrators (CWAs), 197 Employment Assistance Co-ordinators (EA Co-ordinators), 148 Community Work Organisers (CWOs), 32 Job Developers, three Clerical Assistants (CAs) and one Workman II. The EA Co-ordinators, CWOs, one CWA, and two CAs are non-civil service contract staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB203

Question Serial No.

0953

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Programme (3) Services for Elders, the estimated financial provision for the Government sector in 2004-05 is 41.4% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure on the services rendered through the Operation CARE in 2003-04, and the savings to be achieved as a result of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Operation CARE project was funded by a non-recurrent commitment of \$102 m approved by the Finance Committee on 16 May 2003 as one of the Government's proposed employment relief measures in response to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong. Of this about \$50 m was for the provision of free household cleaning services while \$52 m was for the provision of minor repairs and other patching up work for elders, people with disabilities and other vulnerable families. Some 2 500 non-skilled workers and 2 000 semi-skilled construction workers were employed by non-governmental organisations commissioned by the Social Welfare Department to undertake the operation.

A \$2.8 m savings will be achieved under Programme (3) Services for Elders as a result of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB204

Question Serial No.

0954

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Programme (3) Services for Elders, the estimated financial provision for subvented/private sectors in 2004-05 is 1.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please give reason(s) for the increase and provide information on the amount of provisions for major items as well as items with additional provisions.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate for this programme under the subvented/private sectors, the increase of 1.3% in the 2004-05 estimate is mainly due to the funding of new projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the additional provision for further development of elderly services at \$100 m, partly offset by efficiency savings, the two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005 and the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
@ INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB205

Question Serial No.

0884

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2003-04, the actual performance of the Hospital Authority (HA) fell short of the performance indicators for the year and the unit cost of the whole range of services rose. Does the Authority keep any statistics for the amount of bad debts incurred on HA relating to default payment of non-local residents for use of HA services? What is the outstanding maintenances and medical charges for these non-local residents who gave birth in Hong Kong during their visit here? Does the Hospital Authority set aside provision for such bad debts? If yes, what is the amount?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply :

For the period April to September 2003, the amount of bad debt attributable to non-eligible person (i.e. persons who are not eligible for subsidized public health care services) is \$6.6 Million. Information on the latter half of 2003-04 is not yet available.

The amount written off due to birth cases is already included in the above and is not separately kept. Provisions for bad debt will be made at the end of the financial year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB206

Question Serial No.

0907

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

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Regarding policy research projects and the expenditure involved, please provide detailed information on the policy research projects commenced or being conducted by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau itself or with the funding of the Bureau in 2003-04, including

- 1) project title, objective and subject matter;
- 2) expenses;
- 3) latest progress;
- 4) whether the Administration has followed up on the research results.

Also, is there any provision earmarked for policy research in 2004-05? If yes, what is the amount? What are the objectives and subject matters of the respective projects?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

HWFB's major task is to formulate and co-ordinate policies in respect of areas under HWFB's purview. To achieve this, we carry out extensive and intensive research into these areas using as far as possible information available and with inhouse resources. Where external consultants are used, we have prepared at Appendix a table showing the titles of the projects, expenditures incurred in 2003-04/ to be incurred in 2004-05 and current position of the projects.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB207

Question Serial No.

0972

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the outsourced services :

1. please list, by type of services provided, the names of the contractors, their service areas, number of employees, contractual period and contract price.
2. what is the staffing level and expenditure for supervising the performance of these contractors?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (1) The types of outsourced supporting services in the Hospital Authority (HA), names of the contractors, contractual periods and contract values are shown in the Appendix. The grand total for over 40 hospitals in HA is \$249.93 Million over the contract durations, i.e. about \$132.9 Million per year. The total number of staff employed by these contractors is around 1 660, i.e. around 3% of the total workforce of HA.
- (2) Day-to-day monitoring of the contractors' performance is undertaken by the existing management staff of the respective hospitals or HA Head Office, as appropriate, in addition to their normal duties. Therefore no additional expenditure is incurred.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

March 2004

Appendix

Contracting Out of Supporting Services

	Type of Service	Name of Contractor	Hospital	No./ Est. No. of Staff employed by Contractor for this Contract	Contract Duration (Period)	Total Contract Value (\$Million)
I	Carpark Management Services	Imperial Parking (HK) Ltd	POH	4	01/11/2002 - 31/10/2004 (2 years)	0.72
		Imperial Parking (HK) Ltd	CMC	2	16/05/2002 - 15/05/2004 (2 years)	0.38
		Synergis Management Services Limited	KWH	6	01/09/2003 - 31/08/2006 (3 years)	3.57
		Urban Carparking Limited	PMH	8	01/01/2003 - 31/12/2004 (2 years)	5.22
		Vinci Park Services Hong Kong Ltd	RH	5	02/05/2002 - 01/05/2004 (2 years)	N.A. (25% of the revenue generated by the carpark will be given to RH by the contractor)
		Wilson Parking (Hong Kong) Ltd	PWH	4	16/11/2003 - 15/11/2006 (3 years)	5.22
II	Security Services	Adams Secuforce (International) Ltd	RH	9	01/04/2003 - 28/04/2004 (1 year)	1.08
		Adams Secuforce (International) Ltd	TKOH, UCH	19	01/09/2003 - 31/08/2005 (2 years)	2.73
		Pakco Security (HK) Ltd	SJH	1.5	01/09/2002 - 31/08/2004 (2 years)	0.22
		Pakco Security (HK) Ltd	CPH	5	01/12/2002 - 30/05/2004 (1 year & 6 months)	0.71

	Type of Service	Name of Contractor	Hospital	No./ Est. No. of Staff employed by Contractor for this Contract	Contract Duration (Period)	Total Contract Value (\$Million)
III	Security & Carpark Management Services	P. Dussmann Hong Kong Ltd	PMH	7	01/04/2001 - 31/03/2004 (3 years)	2.44
		Adams Secuforce (International) Ltd	GH, DKCH, FYKH, MMRC	13	01/02/2004 - 31/01/2006 (2 years)	2.56
		Security Centre Ltd	NDH	21	01/12/2001 - 10/05/2004 (2 years & 6 months)	4.20
		Synergis Management Services Ltd	WTSH	8.5	01/09/2003 - 31/08/2006 (3 years)	3.68
						12.88
IV	Laundry Services	Service Master Laundry Limited	AHNH, SCH	26	16/05/2003 - 15/05/2006 (3 years)	14.30
		Service Master Laundry Limited	RHTSK	44	15/09/2003 - 14/09/2006 (3 years)	19.12
		Service Master Laundry Limited	UCH, OLMH	15	10/03/2003 - 30/04/2004 (1 year & 2 months)	1.27
		Tin Fung Laundry	BH	49	01/07/2003 - 31/03/2004 (9 months)	0.54
		Tin Fung Laundry	BH	49	01/04/2004 - 31/03/2006 (2 years)	1.54
		Tin Fung Laundry	WTSH	9	01/04/2002 - 31/03/2004 (2 years)	2.90
		Tin Fung Laundry	TWEH	20	01/04/2003 - 31/05/2004 (1 year & 2 months)	0.98
		Tin Fung Laundry	BBL	20	04/12/2003 - 03/09/2004 (9 months)	2.83

	Type of Service	Name of Contractor	Hospital	No./ Est. No. of Staff employed by Contractor for this Contract	Contract Duration (Period)	Total Contract Value (\$Million)
V	Domestic Services & Cleansing Services	Baguio Cleaning Services Co Ltd	QEH	0.5	02/01/2004 - 31/12/2004 (1 year)	0.05
		ISS Hospital Services	KCH	37	01/12/2002 - 31/03/2005 (2 years & 4 months)	4.54
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd	CMC	20	01/10/2002 - 30/04/2004 (1 year & 7 months)	2.42
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd	PMH	23	01/11/2003 - 31/10/2004 (1 year)	3.97
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd	AHNH	147	01/02/2004 - 30/06/2005 (1 year & 5 months)	15.70
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd.	PMH (LKB)	36	12/01/2004 - 11/01/2005 (1 year)	2.00
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd.	CPH	38	01/09/2003 - 30/05/2004 (9 months)	1.84
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd.	POH	16	01/09/2003 - 31/07/2004 (11 months)	1.08
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd.	GH, TWH, QMH	85	01/04/2004 - 31/03/2006 (2 years)	16.09
		ISS Mediclean (HK) Ltd.	TMH, BBL	103	23/10/2003 - 22/04/2004 (6 months)	3.58
		Serco Group (HK) Ltd	TKOH	136	18/07/2002 - 17/07/2004 (2 years)	21.19
		Serco Group (HK) Ltd	UCH	86	16/05/2002 - 15/05/2004 (2 years)	9.20
		Serco Group (HK) Ltd	HHH	9	01/09/2003 - 16/05/2004 (9 months)	0.40

	Type of Service	Name of Contractor	Hospital	No./ Est. No. of Staff employed by Contractor for this Contract	Contract Duration (Period)	Total Contract Value (\$Million)
		Serco Group (HK) Ltd	NDH	142	01/05/2002 - 30/04/2004 (2 years)	17.24
		Service Master (HK) Ltd	TPH	30	01/12/2000 - 30/04/2004 (3 years & 5 months)	6.22
		Service Master (HK) Ltd	PWH, SH	217	01/04/2003 - 31/03/2006 (3 years)	38.22
						143.74
VI	Pest Control	Christian Environmental Health Ltd	YCH	3	01/11/2002 - 31/10/2004 (2 years)	0.10
		Johnson Group Pest Specialist Ltd	See remark #1	20	01/12/2003 - 31/11/2005 (2 years)	1.03
						1.13
VII	Gardening and Landscape Maintenance Services	Baguio Landscaping Services Ltd.	See remark #2	12	01/04/2002 - 30/09/2004 (2 years & 6 months)	3.14
		Universe Service Co.	See remark #3	38	01/04/2002 - 30/09/2004 (2 years & 6 months)	5.75
		Yan Kee Nursery	GH	2	01/12/2003 - 30/11/2004 (1 year)	0.14
						9.03
		Sun Shing Transportation Co. Partners Co.	NTW Cluster	1	01/08/2003 - 31/07/2005 (2 years)	2.94
	Sun Hung Hing Transportation Co.	1				
	Kerry Logistics (HK) Ltd.	1				
	Lison Transportation Co. Ltd.	1				

	Type of Service	Name of Contractor	Hospital	No./ Est. No. of Staff employed by Contractor for this Contract	Contract Duration (Period)	Total Contract Value (\$Million)
VIII	Goods and staff transportation	Country Coach Limited	KCH	1	20/10/2003 - 19/10/2004 (1 year)	0.22
		Lison Transportation Co. Ltd.	POH	2	01/04/2003 - 31/03/2004 (1 year)	0.29
		Partners Co.	PMH	1	01/03/2004 - 31/12/2004 (10 months)	0.08
		Partners Co.	KCH	1	01/10/2003 - 30/09/2004 (1 year)	0.03
		Shun Keung Transportation Co.	PMH	1	01/03/2004 - 31/12/2004 (10 months)	0.12
		Sun Hung Hing Transportation Co.	PMH	1	01/03/2004 - 31/12/2004 (10 months)	0.28
		Sun Rising (Lantau Island) Co Ltd	PMH (GOPCs)	2	29/09/2003 - 31/03/2004 (6 months)	0.25
		Sun Shing Transportation Co.	UCH	1	01/09/2003 - 31/08/2004 (1 year)	0.18
		Sun Shing Transportation Co.	KCH	1	01/10/2003 - 30/09/2004 (1 year)	0.02
		Tai Kwo Lo Transportation Co. Ltd.	KH, BH, HKEH	2	03/09/2003 - 02/07/2004 (10 months)	0.50
		Thunder Express Services Co. Ltd.	CMC	1	01/04/2002 - 31/03/2004 (2 years)	0.19
		Eastern Worldwide Company Ltd.	BTS	8	01/01/2004 - 31/12/2005 (2 years)	3.4
						249.93

Remark :

#1 = CCH, PYNEH, RHTSK, SJH, TWEH, WCHH, DKCH, FYKH, GH, MMRC, NLH, QMH, TYH, TWH, BH, HKEH, BTS, HAHO, KH, QEH, RC, HHH, TKOH, UCH, CMC, KCH, KWH, OLMH, PMH, WTSH, YCH, AHNH, BBH, SCH, NDH, SH, TPH, PWH, CPH, POH, SLH and TMH.

#2 = BTS, HKEH, KH, QEH, TKOH, UCH and OLMH.

#3 = PYNEH, WCHH, FYKH, MMRC, NLH, QMH, CPH, KCH, PMH, TMH, AHNH, SCH, PWH, SH and TPH.

Legend :

1.	AHNH	:	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital
2.	BBH	:	Bradbury Hospice
3.	BBL	:	Butterfly Bay Laundry
4.	BH	:	Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital
5.	BTS	:	Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service
6.	CCH	:	Cheshire Home (Chung Hom Kok)
7.	CMC	:	Caritas Medical Centre
8.	CPH	:	Castle Peak Hospital
9.	DKCH	:	Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital
10.	FYKH	:	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Yiu King Hospital
11.	GH	:	Grantham Hospital
12.	HAHO	:	Hospital Authority Head Office
13.	HHH	:	Haven of Hope Hospital
14.	HKEH	:	Hong Kong Eye Hospital
15.	KCH	:	Kwai Chung Hospital
16.	KH	:	Kowloon Hospital
17.	KWH	:	Kwong Wah Hospital
18.	MMRC	:	MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre
19.	NDH	:	North District Hospital
20.	NLH	:	Nam Long Hospital
21.	NTW Cluster	:	Hospitals in New Territories West Cluster (i.e. TMH, POH, CPH & SLH)
22.	OLMH	:	Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital
23.	PMH	:	Princess Margaret Hospital
24.	PMH (GOPCs)	:	Princess Margaret Hospital (General out-patient clinics)
25.	PMH (LKB)	:	Princess Margaret Hospital (Lai King Building)
26.	POH	:	Pok Oi Hospital
27.	PWH	:	Prince of Wales Hospital
28.	PYNEH	:	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
29.	QEH	:	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
30.	QMH	:	Queen Mary Hospital
31.	RC	:	Rehabaid Centre
32.	RH	:	Ruttonjee Hospital
33.	RHTSK	:	Ruttonjee Hospital & Tang Shiu Kin Hospital
34.	SCH	:	Cheshire Home (Shatin)
35.	SH	:	Shatin Hospital
36.	SJH	:	St. John Hospital
37.	SLH	:	Siu Lam Hospital
38.	TKOH	:	Tseung Kwan O Hospital
39.	TMH	:	Tuen Mun Hospital
40.	TPH	:	Tai Po Hospital
41.	TWH	:	Tung Wah Hospital
42.	TWEH	:	Tung Wah Eastern Hospital
43.	TYH	:	Tsan Yuk Hospital
44.	UCH	:	United Christian Hospital
45.	WCHH	:	Wong Chuk Hang Hospital
46.	WTSH	:	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Tai Sin Hospital
47.	YCH	:	Yan Chai Hospital

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

HWFB208

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0975

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How does the Government regulate dispensaries attached in major chain supermarkets at present? Are these dispensaries registered separately or in block under a single registration?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, authorised sellers of poisons and listed sellers of poisons, also known commonly as dispensaries and medicine companies respectively, are required to obtain a licence prior to commencement of business. Each premises must be registered individually, and this is applicable to dispensaries/medicine companies under supermarket chains. Inspectors of the Department of Health conduct regular and surprise visits to individual dispensaries to ensure compliance with law.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB209

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0976

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Have regular inspections been carried out on premises of registered Chinese medicine practitioners?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) provides that a public officer authorised by the Director of Health may only enter any place (including premises of registered Chinese medicine practitioners) in which he has reason to suspect that an offence under that Ordinance is being or has been committed. As such, regular inspection to such premises has not been carried out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB210

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0995

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Provision for disease prevention in 2004-05 is reduced but at the same time, the Department of Health is responsible for establishing the Centre for Health Protection, a new body for fighting and preventing communicable diseases. Will it result in the lowering of the standard of the services provided by the Department of Health and the subvented sector in terms of quality and quantity? Moreover, what impact will the reduction (of 3.2%) in the provision for the Government sector have on the staffing of the Department of Health for disease prevention?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply :

Reduction in provision for disease prevention in 2004-05 will be achieved through savings measures such as service reorganisation, service mode reengineering and reduction in departmental expenses. As such, the standards of services provided by the Department of Health (DH) will not be adversely affected.

With the phased establishment of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) within the DH from June 2004, there will be enhancement and integration of resources to strengthen Hong Kong's capacity for fighting and preventing communicable diseases.

The CHP will comprise about 1 300 existing staff of the DH. In 2004-05, DH will create 23 posts to strengthen disease prevention under Programme 2 and six posts to strengthen health promotion under Programme 3. Furthermore, DH will employ about 170 non-civil service contract staff comprising mainly doctors, nurses and para-medical professionals to carry out enhanced public health functions.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the operation of the CHP will not be constrained by a lack of resources. The operating expenditure of this new agency upon full establishment will amount to about \$1 billion per year, which will largely be funded by redeployment of existing resources from DH. A special provision of \$40M has been earmarked by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau under Head 149 in 2004-05 for creation of posts in the CHP and engagement of Hospital Authority staff to be posted to the new agency. The Hong Kong Jockey Club has pledged to contribute \$500M for establishment of the CHP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB211

Question Serial No.

0880

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

All performance targets set under Programme (1) were 100% achieved for 2002 and 2003. Will the Administration consider reviewing the relevant performance measures in order to further enhance efficiency? For example, can the target for the time required to finish processing applications for export or re-export food health certificates, currently at 13 working days, be reduced to 10 days or 1 week?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply :

The targets have been set taking into consideration the estimated number of applications, the manpower resources available and the work procedures involved. The current targets are considered reasonable and appropriate.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB212

Question Serial No.

0881

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The financial provision for Programme (1) "Food Safety and Public Health" of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for 2004-05 increases substantively by 8.7% on the original estimate for 2003-04. Yet there is no marked increase in the estimated amount of work for 2004. What items of expenditure will this 8.7% increased provision be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply :

The provision for Programme (1) in the 2004-05 Estimate is similar to that in the 2003-04 Revised Estimate and higher than that in the 2003-04 Original Estimate. This is because the Department plans to continue to strengthen mosquito and rodent control measures in 2004-05 in the light of last year's SARS outbreak and the threat of dengue fever. This work will include filling up of cracks and crevices to prevent rodent harbourage, removal of abandoned articles/receptacles and grass cutting.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB213

Question Serial No.

0963

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the public cleansing services outsourced:

- (a) Please list out, by types of services provided, the names of the private contractors currently providing public cleansing services, their respective service areas, the number of staff employed, the contract periods and the contract values.
- (b) What is the staffing establishment and expenditure for the supervision of the performance of the contractors providing such services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (a) As at 1 March 2004, the Department has contracted out the following public cleansing services –

..... /

<u>Type of Services</u>	<u>Total No. of Staff Employed</u>	<u>Contract Period</u>	<u>Total Contract Value</u>
Street Cleansing	7 327	6 months to 2 years	\$962.9 m
Waste Collection	394	2 to 5 years	\$302.0 m
Mechanical Street Sweeping and Gully Cleansing	43	5 years	\$44.9 m
Desludging /Nightsoil Collection	9	2 years	\$3.7 m

Names of respective contractors and their service areas are set out in Annex.

- (b) A total of 342 Health Inspectors, Senior Foremen and non-civil service contract staff are deployed to supervise and monitor the performance of cleansing contractors. The estimated expenditure for the year 2004-05 is \$ 99 m.

Signature _____
Name in block letters **GREGORY LEUNG**

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

Service Areas	Name of Contractors Providing Services in			
	Street Cleansing	Waste Collection	Mechanical Street Sweeping and Gully Cleansing	Desludging /Nightsoil Collection
Central	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Johnson Environmental, Hang Shun, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Western	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Hang Shun, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Eastern	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Baguio, Hang Shun, New Method, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Southern	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Hang Shun, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Wanchai	Baguio, Hang Shun, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Hang Shun, Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Islands	Champion, Baguio, Wai Hong, Yu's	Baguio, Hang Shun, Wai Hong, Wong Sup Chai	ISS, Wai Hong	ISS
Yau Tsim	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Mong Kok	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Waylung, Yu's	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Sham Shui Po	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Kowloon City	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Johnson Cleaning, New Method, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong, Waylung
Wong Tai Sin	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Johnson Cleaning, New Method, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Kwun Tong	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong, Yu's	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	Wai Hong
Tsuen Wan	Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong	Hang Shun, Swan, Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	Zappaway
Kwai Tsing	Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong	Baguio, Hang Shun, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
North	Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong, Waylung	Hang Shun, Swan, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Tai Po	Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong	Hang Shun, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Sai Kung	Johnson Cleaning, Man	Baguio, Hang Shun,	ISS, Wai Hong	-

Service Areas	Name of Contractors Providing Services in			
	Street Cleansing	Waste Collection	Mechanical Street Sweeping and Gully Cleansing	Desludging /Nightsoil Collection
	Shing, Wai Hong	Wai Hong, Yu's		

Service Areas	Name of Contractors Providing Services in			
	Street Cleansing	Waste Collection	Mechanical Street Sweeping and Gully Cleansing	Desludging /Nightsoil Collection
Sha Tin	Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong	Hang Shun, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Tuen Mun	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong	Hang Shun, New Method, Wai Hong	ISS, Wai Hong	-
Yuen Long	Baguio, Johnson Cleaning, Man Shing, Wai Hong	Hang Shun, Wai Hong, Waylung	ISS, Wai Hong	-

- Legend**
- Service areas refer to the boundaries of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department District Offices.
 - | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Baguio | = | Baguio Cleaning Services Co. Ltd. |
| Champion | = | Champion Cleaning Transport Co. Ltd. |
| Hang Shun | = | Hang Shun Cleaning & Pest Control Services Co. |
| ISS | = | ISS Environmental Services (HK) Ltd. |
| Johnson Cleaning | = | Johnson Cleaning Services Co. Ltd. |
| Johnson Environmental | = | Johnson Environmental Services Ltd. |
| Man Shing | = | Man Shing Cleaning Services Co. Ltd. |
| New Method | = | New Method Cleaning Services Ltd. |
| Swan | = | Swan Hygiene Services Ltd. |
| Wai Hong | = | Wai Hong Cleaning & Pest Control Co. Ltd. |
| Waylung | = | Waylung Waste Services Ltd. |
| Wong Sup Chai | = | Wong Sup Chai Transport Co. |
| Yu's | = | Yu's Tin Sing Enterprises Co. Ltd. |
| Zappaway | = | Zappaway Ltd. |

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

HWFB214

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1118

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention" of the Controlling Officer's Report for Head 149 – Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, it is mentioned that the Administration will oversee the implementation of a parenting programme. Please give a brief description of the programme, stating its estimated expenditure for 2004-05 as well.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Department of Health provides a parenting programme at all Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs). The programme aims to increase the knowledge and skills of all parents attending MCHCs in bringing up their children. All parents will receive guidance in parenting through comprehensive information leaflets, workshops and/or individual counseling on different topics such as preparing to be parents, building positive parent-child relationship and managing children's behaviour. Parents having difficulties in parenting will be given more intensive training on parenting skills.

The financial provision for this programme in 2004-05 is \$6.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 215

Question Serial No.

1119

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please list the government departments which have been using the “Gender Mainstreaming Checklist” in 2003-04 and those departments which are going to use the Checklist in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy making process. An analytical tool in the form of a “Gender Mainstreaming Checklist”, as well as an accompanying information kit have been developed and introduced to several policy areas.

2. In 2003-04, the “Checklist” was used in the following areas:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Policy Areas</u>
Commerce, Industry Technology Bureau / Information Technology Services Department	and IT education in the community
Home Affairs Bureau	Review on advisory and statutory bodies
Architectural Services Department	Design of facilities in public buildings

3. In 2004-05, we intend to roll out the “Checklist” to these areas:-

Department

Policy Area

Food Environment and Hygiene Provision of public toilets

Department

Information Services Department Major publicity campaigns

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 216

Question Serial No.

1120

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. Please give a breakdown of the number of civil servants participating in gender-related training by departments for 2003-04.
2. With the provision of such training to the civil servants, in what way do those who have received the training find it useful to their work?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2003-04, seven gender-related training workshops were organised for the staff of the Social Welfare Department, Information Services Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, as well as Gender Focal Points of all bureaux and departments. 162 participants attended these workshops. Details are as follows:-

Workshop	Date held	No. of staff attended
Social Welfare Department	8 July 2003	34
Social Welfare Department	9 July 2003	41
Information Services Department	12 Feb 2004	9

Leisure and Cultural Services Department	13 Feb 2004	14
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	20 Feb 2004	22
Gender Focal Points	10 Feb 2004	16
Gender Focal Points	17 Feb 2004	26
	Total	162

2. Course evaluation is integrated as part of the workshop. Feedback from participants on the training courses has on the whole been positive. Many of the considered that the workshops were useful in raising their awareness of gender issues in their daily work, and increasing their sensitivity towards the specific needs and feelings of clients of different genders. Some participants reflected that the workshops provided them with skills in handling special clients (e.g. victims of sexual abuse); while some indicated that the workshops raised their consciousness in avoiding gender stereotyping in publicity materials (e.g. announcement of public interest).

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB217

Question Serial No.

1124

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) What are the total establishment and the staffing level of each rank of the Hospital Authority in 2003-04? What is the salary cost for each rank?
- (b) What are the total establishment and the staffing level of each rank of the Hospital Authority in 2004-05? What is the estimated salary cost for each rank?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai Hing, Emily

Reply : The requested information is provided as follows:

	2003-04 (Projection)		2004-05 (Projection)	
	Manpower (no. of full-time equivalent staff as at 31 Mar 2004) (Note)	Personal emoluments and staff oncost (\$ Million)	Manpower (no. of full-time equivalent staff as at 31 Mar 2005) (Note)	Personal emoluments and staff oncost (\$ Million)
Medical	4 705	\$6,538	4 852	\$6,470
Nursing	19 257	\$9,799	19 130	\$9,566
Allied Health	4 881	\$2,923	4 746	\$2,875
Management	976	\$970	953	\$935
Others	21 933	\$4,465	21 250	\$4,261
Total	51 752	\$24,695	50 931	\$24,107

Note : Unlike Government departments, the Hospital Authority does not operate an establishment system. Hence, full-time equivalent manpower figures are provided instead.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB218

Question Serial No.

1268

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

Programme : 3 Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide a list of the projects approved and being processed under the Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases as well as those under the Health Services Research Fund together with the amount of fund involved. What are the current balances of the two Funds?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID) was set up after the SARS epidemic in 2003 with a capital amount of \$500 million to support research on infectious diseases. The Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF), with a capital amount of \$10 million, was set up in 2002, to support research in public health, health services and Chinese medicine. It replaces the Health Services Research Fund which was officially wound up in July 2003.

RFCID

- \$50 million was provided to support research projects on infectious disease in the Mainland through the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Funding has been earmarked to support research in infectious diseases in the University of Hong Kong, as follows:-
 - \$22 million for the university to undertake a portfolio of basic laboratory, epidemiological and public health research in emerging infectious diseases, and
 - \$8 million for the university to strengthen its Bio Safety Level III laboratory facilities.

- Funding has been earmarked to support research in infectious diseases in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, as follows:-
 - \$25 million for the university to undertake a portfolio of clinical trial and public health research in emerging infectious diseases.
- Funding consideration is being made to support a portfolio of research studies on nosocomial infection and long term follow-up of SARS patients to be undertaken by a consortium comprising The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hospital Authority.
- Funding commitment of \$18 million has been made to support 24 investigator-initiated projects on infectious diseases covering basic research, etiology, epidemiology and public health as well as clinical and health services research.

HHSRF

- Funding commitment of \$9.2 million has been made to support 19 research projects on public health, health services and Chinese medicine.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB219

Question Serial No.

1269

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

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Although the financial provision for 2004-05 under this Programme is 84% lower than its revised estimate for 2003-04, there is still an increase of 210.8% over its original estimate for 2003-04. In this regard, please provide a detailed breakdown of the uses of the increased provision and the amount involved.

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply : The increase of \$91.7 million (210.8%) in the 2004-05 estimate, as compared with the 2003-04 original estimate, is mainly due to the provision for the research fund to encourage, facilitate and support research on prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 220

Question Serial No.

1270

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide, by hospital and by service, a detailed breakdown of the hospital beds covered by the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05, showing the difference between the two sets of figures as well.

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The number of hospital beds and changes in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are shown below:

Care Type	<u>As at 31 March 2004</u>	<u>As at 31 March 2005</u>	Net change
General	19 454	19 326	-128
Infirmary	2 951	2 951	0
Mentally ill	4 802	4 802	0
Mentally handicapped	800	800	0
Total	28 007	27 879	-128

In 2004-05, the Hospital Authority plans to reduce 128 general beds, of which 48 beds belong to the Hong Kong West Cluster and 80 beds come from the Kowloon Central Cluster. The detailed plan has yet to be worked out but it is expected that only those specialties with a lesser bed demand, such as Paediatrics and Obstetrics, will be affected.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
@ INITIAL WRITTEN / SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB221

Question Serial No.

1271

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. What is/are the reason(s) for the increase in cost per accident and emergency attendance from \$630 in 2002-03 to \$830 in 2003-04?
2. Did the Administration assess the impact on the patronage of service of the accident and emergency departments following the implementation of the A&E charge and the policy of charging non-permanent residents of Hong Kong full costs? If yes, what is the result of the assessment?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

1. In 2003/04, there had been a reduction in attendance at Accident & Emergency (A&E) by 24.4%. 79.2% of the reduction was due to drop in non-urgent and semi-urgent attendance. The increase in average cost per attendance was due to a change in case mix (proportion of patients with more severe conditions) and fall in total attendance.
2. After the introduction of the A&E charge, there is a decrease in the number of attendances for all triage categories except the critical category. Details are as follows –

Triage Category	Dec 2001 – Nov 2002	Dec 2002 – Nov 2003	Changes
1. Critical	15,103	16,325	+1,222 (+8.1%)
2. Emergency	41,069	35,279	-5,790 (-14.1%)
3. Urgent	558,054	467,297	-90,757 (-16.3%)
4. Semi-urgent	1,419,996	1,110,606	-309,390 (-21.8%)
5. Non-urgent	294,655	183,600	-111,055 (-37.7%)
6. Unclassified	14,647	11,827	-2,820 (-19.3%)
Overall	2,343,524	1,824,934	(-22.1%)

We believe the A&E charge has played a part in reducing A&E attendances, in particular for the semi-urgent and non-urgent categories. The utilisation of A&E service might also have been affected by the following factors in 2003/04 -

- (a) the public's tendency to avoid visiting hospitals (including A&E Department) during the SARS outbreak;
- (b) changes in disease pattern, e.g. the influenza activity in 2003 has dropped as a whole compared to 2002;
- (c) HA has implemented a number of on-going initiatives to manage demand on acute hospital services including reliance on A&E services and inpatient beds, e.g. pre-discharge planning and community-based care support for target patient groups. These measures could also have contributed to reduction of A&E attendances.

Non-Hong Kong residents, except those who are spouses or children under 11 years of age of Hong Kong Identity Card holders, have all along been classified as Non-eligible persons and are subject to a higher rate for using public hospital services, including A&E service. In 2003-04, the definition of Non-eligible persons was changed to include Non-Hong Kong residents who are spouses and children under 11 years of age of Hong Kong Identity Card holders as well.

Before the introduction of the A&E charge, there was no need to distinguish patients as Eligible or Non-eligible persons for the purpose of charging. There is therefore no accurate data on the number of non-eligible persons who used the

A&E service before the introduction of the A&E charge. Hence there is no basis for assessing the impact of the change of the Non-eligible person definition on the utilization of A&E services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB222

Question Serial No.

1272

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (1) Please provide the number of cases and the amount involved in respect of the outstanding medical charges in 2002-03 and 2003-04.
- (2) Please provide the number of cases and the amount involved in respect of the outstanding medical charges for accident and emergency service in 2002-03 and 2003-04. Among them, how many cases involve non Hong Kong permanent residents?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The number of outstanding bills and amount relating to bills issued in 2002-03 and 2003-04 are as follows:

Period	Settlement Cut-off Date	No. of Outstanding Bills	Outstanding Amount (\$ Million)
2002-03 (full year)	31 March 2003	109 995	87.9
2003-04 (April to December 2003)	29 February 2004	95 946	77.5

Information for the period from January to March 2004 is not yet available.

The number of outstanding bills and amount relating to bills issued in 2002-03 and 2003-04 on charge for accident and emergency services, which was introduced on 29 November 2002, are as follows:

Period	Total No. of Bills	Total Amount (\$ Million)	Non-Eligible Persons - no. of bills	Non-Eligible Persons – amount (\$ Million)
2002-03 (November 2002 to March 2003)	16 939	4.5	6 199	3.5
2003-04 (April to December 2003)	17 271	4.1	5 077	2.9

Information for the period from January to March 2004 is not yet available.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB223

Question Serial No.

1273

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2004-05, how much provision is earmarked for the 59 outpatient clinics taken over from the Department of Health by the Hospital Authority? As compared to the period during which these clinics were under the management of the Department of Health, is there an increase or a decrease in terms of provision? What are the reasons for the increase/decrease in the provision?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The full-year recurrent funding allocated to the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004-05 for the operation of the general outpatient clinics transferred from the Department of Health (DH) is \$539.2 million. The amount is generally the same as the cash costs for operating these clinics by DH in previous years. The transfer is a cost neutral exercise.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05 ^{Reply Serial No.}
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB224

Question Serial No.

1274

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the provision for the Chinese medicine outpatient services in 2004-05? What is the expected number of attendances? What are the plans to extend the services?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The Hospital Authority set up three clinics in 2003 to provide Chinese medicine outpatient service. The recurrent subvention for providing this service will be about \$13.3M in 2004-05. It is estimated that there will be about 90,000 consultations for the three clinics. The expansion of the service will be reviewed in light of the operating experience of the three clinics.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB225

Question Serial No.

1297

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

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned about the need to raise the standard of policy research undertaken by the Government:

“To improve our governance, we must raise the level of sophistication with which both the Government and the community handle policy issues. We need to do more public policy research, particularly from a macro and long-term perspective. Objective and concrete public policy research will help us better realise the objectives of effective governance. It will help us avoid sweeping, politicised and emotional policy debates, thus making it easier for the Government and various sectors of the community to reach a consensus on public issues. This will ensure that our policies are implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong.”

Please advise whether provision has been made or resources deployed in the 2004-05 Estimates to take forward a stated commitment of the Policy Address that public policy matters will be pursued with a higher standard. If yes, please give a detailed account of the projects funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : Since the publication of the 2004 Policy Address, the Central Policy Unit (CPU) has been exploring ways to promote research on public policy issues and develop the human resources required. It is understood that the CPU is formulating an agenda for policy research so as to take forward research on priority issues and will carry out relevant research work using in-house resource as far as possible. Pending CPU's findings, it is difficult to estimate the resource implications at this juncture. Within the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, a Research Office has already been established in June 2001 to strengthen the government's research capabilities in health policy matters. The recurrent provision for the Research Office for 2004-05 is about \$5.3 million.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
@ INITIAL WRITTEN / SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB226

Question Serial

1321

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
000

: Subhead (No. & title) :

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the accident and emergency (A&E) services, will the Government inform us :

- in detail the reasons why the percentage of triage II and III A&E patients handled within target waiting time is just 95% and 90%
- the targets achieved in respective of triage II and III A&E patients in the acute hospitals?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

1. The objective of setting triage categorisation in Accident & Emergency (A&E) Departments is to ensure patients presenting with clinical conditions of different levels of severity are properly prioritised in receiving treatment. It is a common practice in Emergency Medicine to set performance standards as sliding scale of percentages of patients seen within a reasonable time frame.

In HK, the performance pledge for A&E services is :

Triage Category	Registration to treatment target time (min)	% to be seen within target time
1 Critical	0	100%
2 Emergency	< 15	95%
3 Urgent	< 30	90%

2. In financial year 2003-04 (statistics up to February 2004), the average waiting time and performance standard for triage categories 2 and 3 cases are as follows :

Triage Category	Average waiting time	Performance standard
2 Emergency	5 minutes	96.6%
3 Urgent	16 minutes	89.0%

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB227

Question Serial No.

1322

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the (revised estimate) of 2003-04 and the (estimate) of 2004-05 of the Hospital Authority, the financial provision is reduced from 29,538.7 Million to 28,106.4 Million. Will the Government inform us the medical services that will be affected as a result of the reduction in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon . MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The Hospital Authority will strive to maintain the quality of medical services through the prioritisation of its services to meet the health care needs of the community, strengthening the community mode of health care delivery to reduce reliance on inpatient care and formulating appropriate human resources strategies to enhance productivity and contain costs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB228

Question Serial No.

1323

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Concerning the rise in the number of specialist outpatient attendances of geriatric services, could the Administration give details on :

- the reasons for the rise in the number of attendances;
- the resources put on the specialist training in geriatric services from 2001-02 to 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The rise in the number of attendances of elderly patients in specialist outpatient clinics is in line with the increase in the elderly population. They are more vulnerable to chronic illnesses and require regular medical attention.

Resources have been put in for training of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in geriatrics each year. However, training in geriatrics are built into general training programmes and therefore it is difficult to quantify how much resources have been dedicated to specialist training in geriatrics. In addition to general training programmes, the Hospital Authority also arranges for Family Medicine trainees to be seconded to geriatric teams in enhancing their training in acute geriatric medicine and community care.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO HWFB229
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

1324

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

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the revised estimate for 2003-04, an additional \$200 Million was allocated to the training and welfare fund for the Hospital Authority. Please explain in detail the objectives and uses of the additional provision and the latest progress vis-à-vis the estimate for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The main objectives of the Training and Welfare Fund is to provide health care staff (including civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA)) with additional training to maintain and enhance their expertise in infectious disease control in the hospital setting, provide special recuperation grant for those health care staff who contracted SARS while on duty, and implement other staff welfare initiatives. Out of the \$200 Million, \$150 Million is for training and \$50 Million for staff welfare initiatives.

Between September 2003 and March 2004, over 30 000 health care workers in HA (including contractors' staff) received some basic and / or refresher training on infection control. In addition, around 550 of the targeted groups (i.e. doctors, nurses and allied health) have been given more in-depth training on contact tracing, outbreak management, avian flu management, clinical epidemiology and surveillance, risk communication and psychological preparation for crisis.

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Report of the SARS Expert Committee and the Report of the HA Review Panel on the SARS Outbreak, HA has

mapped out the following future directions for its Infectious Disease Control Training Centre –

- Develop a proficient infection control team
- Set up an Infectious Disease Control Training Centre
- Enhance leadership capability in crisis management
- Ensure effective infectious disease management through team approach
- Facilitate the implementation of a robust surveillance system
- Develop a proactive occupational safety and health team
- Engage experts from CDC, WHO to provide consultancy on the whole infectious disease mechanism

The estimated annual training budget of the Centre is around \$28 Million.

On the welfare side, the HA has provided the families of the six deceased staff who contracted SARS while on duty with a special relief grant to meet urgent needs and an additional payment equivalent to 60 months of basic salary to deceased staff's estate. The total cost involved was about \$15 Million. Furthermore, a non-accountable recuperation grant of \$50,000 was paid to each of the 322 staff (including civil servants working in HA) who were confirmed to have contracted SARS while on duty.

The HA is planning to provide staff who suffer permanent incapacity as a result of contracting SARS while on duty with a payment equal to 90 months of basic salary multiplied by the percentage of incapacity as assessed by the Labour Department. The HA has also allocated \$1.4 Million to the seven hospital clusters to enable them to run staff health and wellness programmes on a regular basis. In addition, the HA has earmarked \$7.7 Million to Oasis (HA's Centre for Personal Growth) to strengthen psycho-social support for staff who are in need in the aftermath of the SARS outbreak.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB230

Question Serial No.

1505

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the estimated staffing and expenditure provision for the enhancement of medical support for elderly care homes through the Visiting Medical Officer Scheme? Has a target number been set regarding service recipients? If yes, what is that number?

Asked by : Hon. Chan Yuen Han

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) plans to recruit 100 private doctors to serve as Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) under the VMO/Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT) Collaborative Scheme (the Scheme). As at February 2004, 78 VMOs were recruited. Apart from VMOs, the Scheme also involves the participation of HA's geriatric specialists and nurses. The former provides supervision and training to VMOs on community geriatrics and the latter provides support to them.

Expenditures on the VMO programme are estimated to be \$16 million for 2004-05.

At present, 178 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) are under the care of the VMOs. For 2004-05, our target is to bring the total number of VMO attendances to 84 000.

The majority of the remaining RCHEs are receiving outreach services from CGATs. Together, the services of the VMOs and CGATs will cover almost all the 750 RCHEs in Hong Kong, involving about 54 000 elders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

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

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please provide detailed information as to the support given to the Centre for Health Protection set up by the Department of Health. What is the expected expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In the spirit of enhancing inter-agency collaborations and communications, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will adopt an integrated approach in carrying out many of its health protection activities. To this end, we have earmarked a sum of \$30M in 2004-05 under Head 149 programme (9) for the Hospital Authority to release about 40 professional staff to support the operation of the CHP, in particular the Infection Control Branch and Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch, upon their establishment in June 2004.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	_____
	23 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 232

Question Serial

1507

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

Programme : (10) Subvention: Prince Philip Dental Hospital

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the estimated expenditure with regard to enhancing and expanding continuing education for dentists and para-dental personnel in private and public sectors? Does the Administration have a target number of people benefiting from the scheme? If yes, what is that number?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2004, the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong¹ (HKU) will continue to organize for dentists in both the public and private sector 46 Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses on a self-financing basis, for which the Prince Philip Dental Hospital (PPDH) will provide the administrative support. PPDH will be reimbursed by HKU on the relevant expenditure. Based on past experience, the projected attendances for these courses are estimated to be 550.

PPDH will also offer two new part-time, 1-year certificate courses for dental technicians in the private sector, and will continue to organize about 20 short courses for other para-dental personnel during the summer vacation. All these courses will also be provided on a self-financing basis. The estimated attendances for these courses are projected to be about 130.

¹ The Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong is a recognized CME programme provider.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS. CARRIE YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB233

Question Serial No.

1508

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

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In respect of the recruitment of 300 doctors for training in various specialties, are the 300 doctors new recruits or serving doctors who have their contracts renewed? Please provide the details and expenses incurred.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The 300 doctors will be new recruits who will receive specialist training in various clinical specialties or training in family medicine as Resident doctors. The former will lead to a specialist qualification, and the latter will enable the trainee doctors' future practice in primary care. The Hospital Authority is conducting an open recruitment exercise for the intake of new Resident doctors in July 2004 and January 2005 respectively to tie in with the time of completion of internship of medical graduates. The estimated expenditure in 2004-05 for employing the new Resident doctors is \$129.3 Million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB234

Question Serial No.

1542

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question: Please advise the resources and manpower the Administration has earmarked for the implementation of measures regarding the wholesaling of live fish.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply: Work relating to the wholesaling of live fish will be taken up by existing staff. No additional resources have been earmarked for this purpose under Head 149.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food
Date	_____

Reply Serial No.

HWFB235

Question Serial No.

1043

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding residential care homes for the elderly,

- (1) the estimated provision for services for elders in 2004-05 is \$3,374.1 m. Please state the respective provision for residential care and community support services for elders in 2004-05 and over the past three years;
- (2) it was originally planned that 354 additional care-and-attention home places would be provided in 2003-04. However, according to the revised estimate, no additional places would be provided at all. What is/are the reason(s) for this?
- (3) what is the total amount of provision earmarked by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2004-05 for payment of Dementia Supplement to residential care homes for the elderly? Does it represent an increase or decrease over last year's provision?
- (4) what is the respective number of training places planned to be provided in 2004-05 for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (1) The breakdown of the financial provision for residential care services for elders and community support services for elders for 2004-05 and the previous three years are tabulated below:

Type of Service	2001-02 (Actual Expenditure) (\$m)	2002-03 Actual Expenditure (\$m)	2003-04 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)	2004-05 (Draft Estimate) (\$m)
Residential Care Services	1,940.4	2,062.1	2,092.1	2,166.3
Community Care & Support Services	926.4	1,031.0	1,241.0	1,114.6
Central Support Services	111.7	105.5	95.0	93.2
Total	2,978.5	3,198.6	3,428.1	3,374.1

- (2) SWD originally planned to increase 354 care-and-attention home places in 2003-04 by in-situ expansion of 154 places in the existing care-and-attention homes and converting 200 existing home for the aged places into care-and-attention home places. On further review, it was found that the in-situ expansion programmes in previous years had already optimised the use of space in most of the homes. It was also decided that more space between beds should be allowed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Having regard to these, the in-situ expansion programme planned for 2003-04 was shelved. For the conversion programme, it will be rescheduled to 2004-05 to tie in with the scheme to phase out home for the aged places.
- (3) The total sum available for the allocation of Dementia Supplement to residential care homes for the elderly for 2004-05 is \$13 m. The amount was \$13.8 m for 2003-04.
- (4) In 2004-05, a total of 420 training places will be offered to 180 professional staff and 240 care workers/home helpers who provide residential care and community support services to the demented elders.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB236

Question Serial No.

1044

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department will review the outcome of the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders in 2004-05. What are the details of the review and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : We are now collecting relevant statistics on the output and outcome performances of the District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres for review purpose. As the details of the review are yet to be worked out, we do not know at this stage the resources likely to be required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB237

Question Serial No.

1045

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure of the District Elderly Community Centre (DECC) planned to be set up in 2004-05? Where will it be located?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated annual expenditure of the DECC planned to be established in 2004-05 is \$3.6 m. This planned DECC will be located at Tak Tin Estate in Kwun Tong.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB238

Question Serial No.

1046

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to day care centres/residential care homes for the elderly, please inform this Committee:

- (1) The cost per place per month of a day care centre for the elderly (D/E) in 2004-05 is estimated at \$5,542, representing a decrease of 11% over that in 2003-04. What is the reason for the decrease?
- (2) Which residential care homes and day care centres for the elderly have been provided with additional day care places in 2003-04? What is the amount of financial resources involved?
- (3) It is anticipated that the enrolment rate of day care centres for the elderly will continue to stand at the surplus level of 110% in 2004-05. Is there any plan to further provide additional places?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (1) The main reasons for the decrease in the unit cost of a day care centre place are:

- Two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January 2004 and 2005;
- Efficiency savings; and
- Efficiency gain arising from the integrated service mode of the day care places.

(2) In 2003-04, we provided 300 additional day care places at a total cost of \$11.44 m. Details are as follows:

- 220 additional places in the 35 D/Es established before 2001-02, among which 80 places were transformed from the then Day Care Centres for Demented Elderly. The expenditure of these 220 places was \$7.92 m.
- 14 additional places in two residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders. These two homes were Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association Buddhist Li Ka Shing Care-and-attention Home for the Elderly (Day Care Unit) and Asia Women's League Limited Kowloon City District Day Care Unit attached to Chan Kwun Tung Care-and-attention Home for the Elderly. The expenditure of these 14 places was \$0.52 m.
- 66 places in three new projects, of which 44 places were attached to two RCHEs each allocated with 22 day care places under competitive bidding. The two projects were Yan Chai Hospital Tsz Ching Home for the Aged cum Day Care Unit and Po Leung Kuk Sunny Green Day Care Centre for the Senior attached to Eco-home for the Senior. The remaining 22 places were provided by Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tuen Mun District Integrated Services for the Elderly Day Care Unit. The expenditure of these 66 places was \$3 m.

(3) The enrolment rate of D/E is set at 110%. It aims at maximising the utilisation of the day care places. For various reasons, e.g. sick leave, attending medical appointment, everyday there will be a number of elders absent, and hence the average attendance rate is below 100%. Thus, the enrolment figure does not imply unmet service demand. In 2004-05, we plan to provide an additional 40 day care places in the community.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB239

Question Serial No.

1047

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated provision allocated by the Social Welfare Department for launching community publicity campaigns on the prevention of elder abuse in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2004-05, the department will continue to launch the publicity campaign on 'Strengthening Families and Combating Violence'. Prevention of elder abuse is one of the themes to be addressed in this campaign. \$0.6 m has been earmarked for this campaign. Besides, publicity and community education programmes (e.g. talks, exhibition, drama, etc.) on prevention of elder abuse will also be provided by District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) as part and parcel of their services. As such, the resources earmarked specifically for publicity activities on the prevention of elder abuse cannot be separately ascertained.

On the other hand, the two three-year Pilot Projects on Prevention and Handling of Elder Abuse launched by the Haven of Hope Christian Service and Caritas - Hong Kong from April 2001 to March 2004 with the support from Lotteries Fund (LF) will be extended for one more year, with additional LF grant of \$1.821 m. In 2004-05, the two non-governmental organisations will focus more on transferring their experience in combating elder abuse to related service units through providing training, producing a casebook and VCDs, and developing an operational model for reference by DECCs etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB240

Question Serial No.

1048

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding residential services, the cost per place per month for aged homes, care-and-attention homes and nursing homes will drop by 8.3%, 4% and 5.2% respectively in 2004-05. What is/are the reason(s) for this? What measures will the Social Welfare Department (SWD) take to ensure that the quality of services delivered by various service providers will not be affected with the decrease in cost?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The decrease in the unit cost of subsidised residential care places for elders in subvented homes is caused by the following:

- (1) the lapsing of time-limited posts of Care Assistants by the end of 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate);
- (2) two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January 2004 and 1 January 2005; and
- (3) efficiency savings.

The reduction in cost due to the reasons stated above will not affect service quality which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement drawn up between SWD and subvented non-governmental organisations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB241

Question Serial No.

1049

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the community support services, the estimated number of the cases served under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) and the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) in 2004-05 is the same as against the 2003-04 revised estimate. What is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The total funded maximum caseloads for the 18 EHCCS teams and the 60 district-based IHCS teams serving frail elders are 2 189 and 1 120 respectively. As at February 2004, the cases served by EHCCS teams and IHCS teams were 1 579 and 840 respectively, which represented utilisation rates of 72% and 75%. Moreover, the total number of ordinary cases served requiring meal delivery and simple household assistance has remained quite stable in the region of 26 000 a year. As the utilisation of these EHCCS and IHCS teams remains below 75% of the funded maximum caseload in recent months while the ordinary cases served were more or less the same throughout the year, we do not project that there would be a significant increase in demand in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB242

Question Serial No.

1050

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for carrying out the activities under the Opportunities for the Elderly Project (OEP) in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2004-05, the estimated provision for allocation to applicant organisations to carry out activities under the Opportunity for the Elderly Project is \$3 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB243

Question Serial No.

1051

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Government planned to provide 1 194 additional places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) in private residential care homes for the elderly in 2003-04. However, the revised estimate shows that there is only an increase of 502. What is/are the reason(s) for the shortfall?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The total number of new places purchased under the EBPS in 2003-04 is less than originally planned due to a smaller than expected demand for EBPS places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB244

Question Serial No.

1052

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What measures will be taken in 2004-05 to encourage more subvented organisations to provide carer support services? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : To provide holistic and integrated services to the elders and their carers, carer support services have already become part and parcel of the service components of both residential care services and community support services. Subvented organisations are required to provide various educational and support programmes, carer resource corner, training on caring skills, and respite service, etc. to the carers to meet their specific needs.

Under this integrated approach, carer support service has become one of the essential service components of elderly services and no additional expenditure is involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB245

Question Serial No.

1053

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What measures will be taken in 2004-05 to promote the wider use of computer and information technology (IT) amongst elders? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : To further encourage our elders to use IT, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue the provision of personal computers for use by elders in all new centres coming on stream through the support of the Lotteries Fund. In general, one new centre involves provision of about \$30,000 to \$40,000. Furthermore, many elderly service centres and community organisations organise various IT training programmes for elderly by making use of their own resources or seeking alternative funding support from 'Opportunities for the Elderly Project' of SWD and other Trust Funds. The cost of such initiatives cannot be ascertained.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB246

Question Serial No.

1096

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department will continue to "rationalise" the provision of day nursery (DN) and day crèche (DC) places in 2004-05. In this connection, please provide the number of DN and DC places to be reduced upon rationalisation and the justification for the number of places to be "rationalised".

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : In 2004-05, 28 852 DN places and 920 DC places will be provided. The reason for rationalising the provision of these places is the decrease in the population of the very young and hence the dwindling service demand. In order to optimise the use of resources and in view of under-utilisation of some centres, there are on-going rationalisation plans which involve closure of centres and reduction of capacity. In 2004-05, after the planned adjustments, the enrollment rate is expected to be around 87%, this means that there is adequate provision to meet service demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB247

Question Serial No.

1097

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to launch publicity activities in 2004-05 to strengthen family solidarity. In this connection, would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) details of the publicity activities launched last year and the expenditure involved; and
- (2) details of the publicity activities to be launched this financial year and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In 2003-04, SWD continued to launch the publicity campaign on 'Strengthening Families and Combating Violence' to enhance public awareness of the need to strengthen family solidarity, encourage early help-seeking and prevent violence including spouse battering, child abuse, elder abuse and sexual violence. The publicity activities included "In Search of Resilient Family Ambassadors", theme days and interactive exhibition booths, short radio messages, radio series, television announcements of public interest, printing of slogans on utility bills, display of roadside banners/plywood boards/posters, electronic display of slogans, production and distribution of other publicity materials such as tissue packs/holders/boxes, garbage bins, magnets, calendars, telephone cards, leaflets etc. Besides, activities such as seminars, family camps and exhibitions were held in various districts. The centralised programmes incurred an expenditure of around \$0.98 m.

- (2) Provision of \$0.6 m has been earmarked for the campaign in 2004-05. While some of the publicity activities (e.g. radio series, display of publicity materials) of 2003-04 will continue in 2004-05, the Working Group on the Publicity Campaign convened by SWD and comprising representatives from the Information Services Department and non-governmental organisations will meet to work out new plans for 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB248

Question Serial No.

1098

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department completed an evaluation of the primary preventive programme of the Understanding the Adolescent Project (UAP) in 2003. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the findings of the evaluation; and
- (2) the expenditure incurred by the evaluation.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Federick

Reply : (1) The data collected from students, teachers, parents and social workers in the evaluative study of the UAP indicated that the primary preventive programmes of the UAP had positive effects on the students. The students' ability in relation to anger management, conflict resolution, problem solving and communication with others had been enhanced. Their relationship with teachers, classroom behaviour, sense of belonging to family and school, sense of responsibility and willingness to help others had also improved.

(2) The evaluative study was funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Lotteries Fund.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB249

Question Serial No.

1099

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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 : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department completed an evaluation of the peer counsellor programme in 2003. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (3) the findings of the evaluation; and
- (4) the expenditure incurred by the evaluation.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In the "Evaluation on Engagement of Peer Counsellors for Secondary Three School Leavers" conducted by the University of Hong Kong, the effectiveness of the peer counselling programme was confirmed. The study concluded that the programme had been well received by students, peer counsellors and concerned service units. Positive impact had also been made on the students, peer counsellors and schools.

In June 2003, the Committee on Services for Youth at Risk accepted the overall recommendations of the above evaluation and concluded that peer counselling service could be sustained by school social work service and other core young people services or through senior form students acting as 'big brother/sister'. The department had extended the provision for peer counsellors for another year in 2004-05 for them to better consolidate their working experience so as to enhance their competitive edge in the labour market or to pursue further studies.

- (2) The total cost for the evaluation was \$295,000.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare <hr/>
Date	26 March 2004 <hr/>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB250

Question Serial No.

1100

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) conducted the study on the residential care services for ex-mentally ill persons to achieve efficient use of resources in 2003. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details and findings of the study; and
- (2) the expenditure incurred by the study.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) A multi-disciplinary Working Group comprising representatives from SWD, Hospital Authority, service operators and service users conducted a sample study on the residential care need of the ex-mentally ill persons. Questionnaires were sent to 800 applicants for residential places in Long Stay Care Homes (LSCHs) and Halfway Houses (HWHs) (together comprising 50% of the waitlistees of the Central Waiting List) to gather their general profile and needs. In addition, seven focus group meetings were held with stakeholders including service users, social workers and psychiatrists for in-depth understanding on service needs and delivery modes.

Key findings of the sample study include:

- Half of the applicants were living in the community.
- The majority had good self-care ability.
- The majority were satisfied with their living conditions yet had limited family/social support.
- Very few made use of community support services.

Also, quite a large number of these applicants had declined an offer of placement for admission to LSCH (51% in 2002-03) and HWH (43% in 2002-03).

Based on the Working Group's recommendations, multi-disciplinary teams have been formed to conduct clinical assessment on mental patients and to formulate their discharge plans from hospitals. In addition, a checklist is being worked out for social workers to guide them in making referrals regarding ex-mentally ill persons' application for residential services and community support services.

- (2) The above-mentioned study was undertaken in-house by existing staff of SWD. No additional expenditure was incurred.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB251

Question Serial No.

1106

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

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

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Subhead 000 Operational Expenses, please provide information on the following:

- (1) the title of non-directorate permanent posts to be deleted in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) considering that there will be a net decrease of 133 non-directorate permanent posts as stated in the 2004-05 Estimates;
- (2) the reason(s) for the slight increase in the provision for Allowances under Personal Emoluments over last year's revised figure after the deletion of posts;
- (3) the reason(s) for the provision for Hire of Services under Other Charges to be increased by \$100 m over last year's revised figure and a breakdown of the expenditure involved; and
- (4) the total number of contract staff and short-term contract staff in SWD, the average salary of the posts concerned and the total expenditure involved in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The information required are set out as follows:

- (1) In 2004-05, 145 non-directorate permanent posts in SWD will be deleted, which will be partly offset by the creation of 12 posts, resulting in a net decrease of 133 posts. The

breakdown of the posts to be created and deleted is as follows:

(a) Deletion of Posts

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No of Posts</u>
Social Work Officer	-2
Assistant Social Work Officer	-3
Chief Social Work Assistant	-3
Senior Social Work Assistant	-28
Social Work Assistant	-38
Senior Welfare Worker	-3
Welfare Worker	-10
Clerical Officer	-1
Assistant Clerical Officer	-10
Clerical Assistant	-9
Office Assistant	-3
Nursing Officer	-1
Enrolled Nurse	-1
Physiotherapist I	-1
Cook	-2
Hostel Manager / Manageress	-1
Motor Driver	-1
Property Attendant	-1
Workshop Instructor II	-2
Workshop Instructor III	-3
Ward Attendant	-10
Workman II	-12
Sub-total	<u>-145</u> = (a)

(b) Creation of Posts

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No of Posts</u>
Assistant Social Work Officer	+4
Clerical Officer	+1
Census and Survey Officer	+1
Social Security Assistant	+1
Statistical Officer I	+4
Statistician	+1
Sub-total	<u>+12</u> = (b)
Total	<u><u>-133</u></u> = (a)+(b)

- (2) The slight increase of \$9,000 in the provision for Allowances under Personal Emoluments is mainly due to an expected increase in acting appointments in 2004-05 to meet the short-term service gap between the departure of Voluntary Retirement takers and the deletion of posts, partly offset by the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay

cuts ;

- (3) The additional provision of \$107 m for Hire of Services under Other Charges in 2004-05 is earmarked for the delivery of the second batch of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services, as well as subsidised places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme and contract homes; and
- (4) There will be 1 019 contract staff and short term contract staff in SWD at the beginning of 2004-05. The average monthly salary of these staff is about \$8,790; and the total expenditure in 2004-05 is around \$94 m.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB252

Question Serial No.

1107

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the 40 training courses provided by the Social Welfare Department for social workers and professionals in 2003-04, please provide the types, number of participants and expenditure involved. What are the expenditure involved in and details of continuing to provide these courses in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2003-04, a total of 1 828 social workers and related professionals attended 40 training programs conducted in the form of induction training courses, seminars and specialised skills training workshops on handling of child abuse, domestic violence, suicide cases and meeting new challenges arising from the family services review. The total expenditure is \$542,000.

In 2004-05, training will focus on consolidation of management, counselling, intervention and treatment skills. We shall provide 15 training programmes for about 560 social workers and related professionals. The expenditure is estimated to be \$341,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB253

Question Serial No.

1108

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Please state the current staffing and details of expenditure of the Special Investigation Section (SIS) under the Social Welfare Department. Please also state separately the additional staffing and expenditure incurred as a result of maximising the efficiency of the section in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : There are currently 115 staff running the section and the provision allocated for 2003-04 is \$42.6 m. The SIS intends to maximise its efficiency in combating fraud and abuse by improving work processes and strengthening skills without incurring any additional expenditure. The provision earmarked for 2004-05 is \$42.1 m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB254

Question Serial No.

1109

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) plans to re-engineer the department and non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) family services centres (FSCs) into Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in 2004-05. Please provide updated position on manning, handling of various cases and expenditure incurred after the re-engineering exercise, particularly the detailed staffing arrangement and expenditure involved in respect of services to be provided to single parents by IFSCs.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : SWD will re-engineer all existing FSCs/counselling units into IFSCs in 2004-05 by phases through pooling of existing resources. The whole re-engineering exercise will be cost-neutral.

It is our plan to set up 60 IFSCs covering the whole territory. The existing manpower resources will be flexibly redeployed to these centres, having regard to the population to be served and particular district needs. SWD is now actively mapping out the implementation plan and related arrangements (e.g. demarcation of service boundaries, deployment of manpower, etc.) in consultation with the NGOs concerned.

Each IFSC with a minimum of 12 social workers apart from a supervisor will provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services such as outreaching service, enquiry service, family life education, parent-child activities, volunteer training, mutual support groups, counselling and referral service etc. Single-parents are among the core service targets of IFSCs. In fact, 194 groups and programmes have been organised specially for single parents by the pilot IFSCs by the end of 2003, and such groups and programmes will continue to be organised in future where necessary. Support to single parents is part and parcel of the services of IFSCs. Therefore, we do not have a separate provision with regard to single parents, either in terms of staffing or other expenditure.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB255

Question Serial No.

1110

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Social Welfare Department will review the measures to assist single parents on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in 2004-05. What is the expenditure involved and what are the details of the review?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : We will make use of existing resources to review the measures to assist single parents on CSSA with a view to finding the best ways to help them achieve self-reliance. We plan to complete the review by the end of 2004.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB256

Question Serial No.

1171

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, it is stated that the Social Welfare Department extended the service hours of medical social services in major hospitals in 2003. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (3) details of this initiative; and
- (4) the additional expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The implementation of extended hours service (extended from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday) has made it more convenient for patients and their families to approach medical social workers (MSWs) for timely assistance. During the past eleven months, the total number of interviews conducted and the total number of enquires received during extended hours were 1 250 and 1 800 respectively.

Two MSWs are arranged to work according to a duty roster to provide extended hours service at each of the six major acute hospitals, viz. Queen Mary Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital.

- (2) No additional expenditure has been incurred.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB257

Question Serial No.

1176

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department will see a reduction of 5.4% in the estimated financial provision for rehabilitation and medical social services in 2004-05 when compared with the original financial provision in the previous year. What are the items of reduced expenditure and please provide details on them.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 original estimate for this programme, the decrease of 5.4% in the 2004-05 estimate is mainly due to efficiency savings, the two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005, the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), partly offset by funding for new projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB258

Question Serial No.

1177

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will combine some sheltered workshops and supported employment services for restructuring into integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres in 2004-05. What would be the savings achieved in expenditure and the number of staff reduced as a result of the restructuring?
- (2) SWD will hive off its day activity centres, sheltered workshops, hostels for mentally handicapped persons to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 2004-05. What would be the savings achieved in expenditure and the number of staff reduced as a result of the hiving off, and how will the surplus staff be re-deployed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) In 2004-05, 16 Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres are to be formed through pooling of the resources of existing sheltered workshops and supported employment units. It will be a cost-neutral exercise and no savings in terms of manpower or expenditure will be achieved.
- (2) The hiving off of four SWD rehabilitation service units to NGOs in 2004 will generate a total annual savings of \$4.3 m. 83 staff will be affected by the exercise. We will arrange to deploy them to other service units within the department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB259

Question Serial No.

1178

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department plans to provide respite service in residential homes for people with disabilities in 2004-05. Please inform this Committee of the schedule of the plan and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Respite services are temporary residential care services to help alleviate the burden of the carers of people with disabilities as the carers themselves might need to attend to personal or family business from time to time. As respite services are provided within existing subvented rehabilitation homes by making use of the casual vacancies, no additional financial resources are required. It is planned that a total of 142 respite care places will be provided in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB260

Question Serial No.

1182

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : There will be a decrease of 10.6% for the Social Welfare Department's expenditure on the services for young people in 2004-05 when compared with the original estimate in the previous year. Please state separately the items to be reduced and details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 original estimate for this programme, the decrease of 10.6% in the 2004-05 estimate is mainly due to efficiency savings, the two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005, the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate) and the lapsing of the time-limited portion of Understanding the Adolescent Project, partly offset by the funding for new projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB261

Question Serial No.

1183

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will review the subsidy arrangement for the After School Care Programme (ASCP) in 2004-05. What are the reasons for and direction of the review? What is the additional expenditure incurred by SWD if the arrangement is implemented?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : ASCP has all along been operated on a self-financing basis. We have however provided a subsidy to facilitate the operating organisations in offering fee waiving/reduction to needy families. The resources allocated also include a small general subsidy for service users irrespective of their background and family income. After consulting the operating organisations, the general subsidy will be discontinued in 2004-05 with a view to better utilising resources. The allocation of resources for fee-waiving/reduction will also be based on actual demand which will be reviewed by the department on a half-yearly basis so as to meet the changing demand among operating units. The change in subsidy mode of ASCP does not incur additional recurrent expenditure.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB262

Question Serial No.

1357

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (1) The number of occasional child care units was reduced by three, from 242 in 2002-03 to 239 in 2003-04. Please provide the names of the three units concerned.
- (2) In 2003, the Social Welfare Department relocated five under-utilised child care centres to reserved premises in new housing developments. Please provide the names of those five child care centres.
- (3) Whether tendering procedure has been taken for the provision of eight family support networking teams (FSNTs) in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 2003? What was the funding required? What would be the savings if such services were provided by the Government sector?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (1) The reduction of three Occasional Child Care Service units in 2003-04 represented a net decrease taking into account all the closed and newly opened units. Details are as follows:

Closed units	Newly opened units
1 Sisters of Precious Blood - Precious Blood Nursery (Shamshuipo)	1 Caritas-Hong Kong - Yau Tong Day Nursery (Yau Tong)
2 The Chinese Rhenish Church HK Synod - Tai Yuen Rhenish Child Care Centre (Tai Po)	2 The Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children - Sham Tseng Day Nursery (Tsuen Wan)
3 The Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children - Ma Tau Chung Day Crèche (Kowloon City)	3 The Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children - Ocean Shores Child Care Centre (Tseung Kwan O)
4 The New Territories Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Limited - Cheung Hong Estate Children Garden (Tsing Yi)	4 Hong Kong & Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists - WFB Samatabhadra Nursery (Ngau Tau Kok)
5 Caritas-Hong Kong - Heng On Day Nursery (Ma On Shan)	5 Chiu Yang Resident Association of Hong Kong Limited - Chiu Yang Child Care Centre (Sheung Wan)
6 Caritas-Hong Kong - Chuk Yuen Day Nursery (Wong Tai Sin)	
7 Hong Kong & Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists - WFB Samatabhadra Crèche (Wong Tai Sin)	

8	The Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children - Chan Kwan Biu Memorial Foundation Day Crèche (Tseung Kwan O)	
	- 8 units	+ 5 units
Net reduction of 3 units		

(2) In 2003, five child care centres are reprovisioned. Details are as follows:

Agency	Closed Child Care Centres	New Child Care Centres
1. The Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	Ma Tau Chung Day Crèche (Kowloon City)	Sham Tseng Day Nursery (Tsuen Wan)
2. Hong Kong & Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists	WFB Samatabhadra Crèche (Wong Tai Sin)	WFB Samatabhadra Nursery (Ngau Tau Kok)
3. The Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	Chan Kwan Biu Memorial Foundation Day Crèche (Tseung Kwan O)	Ocean Shores Child Care Centre (Tseung Kwan O)
4. Chiu Yang Resident Association of Hong Kong Limited	Chiu Yang Day Nursery (Sheung Wan)	Chiu Yang Child Care Centre (Sheung Wan)
5. Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service	St. Olav's Child Care Centre (Shamshuipo)	Kin Ming Child Care Centre (Tseung Kwan O)

(3) The eight FSNTs are operated by the same NGOs of the Integrated Neighbourhood Projects (INPs) upon running of the latter. This was one of the recommendations of the consultancy study on the Review of INPs conducted by the University of Hong Kong. As the NGOs concerned are experienced in

serving the same catchment area and have the flexibility of deploying staff and resources within their existing service units to avoid displacement of staff, tendering was not considered necessary.

The revised estimate for 2003-04 and estimate for 2004-05 of the eight FSNTs are \$6.6 m and \$6.4 m respectively. There would be no savings if such services were provided by the Government sector.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB263

Question Serial No.

1481

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : In 2001, the Government earmarked \$70 m in recurrent expenditure for expanding the services of integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs) over a three-year period, and starting from 2002-03, six new integrated centres were being formed over a period of four years, involving an annual recurrent expenditure of \$37.6 m. Since individual organisations have formed the teams with existing resources, what is the actual amount of annual recurrent expenditure saved by the Government in this task?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The new ICYSCs have all along been formed with resources pooled from existing youth services. To expedite formation of ICYSCs at existing and new locations, we have separately earmarked new resources of \$70 m and \$37.6 m for these purposes. The service re-engineering exercise is expected to bring about an annual savings of \$29.5 m over the next three years or so.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB264

Question Serial No.

1482

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Provision for the Understanding the Adolescent Project (UAP) will be ceased this year. In view of the remarkable outcome of the project, has the Government earmarked provision in 2004-05 for continuing to implement this project?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : Only part of the provision for the UAP will expire in 2004-05. The remaining funding of \$20 m, which is recurrent in nature, will continue to be available for UAP in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB265

Question Serial No.

1483

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The provision for services for young people is reduced by \$184 m due to the reasons stated on page 326 of the Estimates. Please provide a breakdown of this by different items.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : A breakdown of the main items for the reduction in the provision for this programme is provided below -

Item	Amount + / (-) \$ m
Completion of the time-limited portion of the Understanding the Adolescent Project	(26.0)
Completion of the time-limited Community Care Project	(51.5)
Lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for the extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate)	(40.5)
Effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut in 2004-05	(30.5)
Efficiency savings to be achieved in 2004-05	(50.1)
Full-year effect of new initiatives implemented in 2003-04 and 2004-05 including additional school social worker units etc.	14.6
Total	(184.0)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB266

Question Serial No.

1484

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the total amount of provision for services for elders under the subvented sector in 2004-05? What is the increase over the revised estimate in 2003-04? To which services is the additional provision allocated? What is the respective amount of additional provision for each type of service?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The estimated financial provision for services for elders under the subvented sector in 2004-05 is \$2,559.9 m, which represents a net decrease of 2.4% over the revised estimate of financial provision for 2003-04 after efficiency savings, the two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January 2004 and 2005 and the lapsing of temporary jobs (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate).

Services for elders with additional resources in 2004-05 are as follows:

Service	Estimated Cost for 2004-05 (\$m)
District Elderly Community Centre	2.4
Day care centre places	1.9
Further development of elderly services ^(Note)	100.0

Service	Estimated Cost for 2004-05 (\$m)
Total	104.3

(Note) Including conversion of homes for the aged places to higher level care places, among others.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB267

Question Serial No.

1485

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the places of homes for the aged, please inform this Committee:

- (1) What is the estimated amount of savings achieved by taking forward the phasing-out plan of homes for the aged as stated by the Administration under this programme area? What are the details of implementation? In how many years will it be expected to complete? How many places will first be phased out in 2004-05 and how much resource may be saved?
- (2) The number of places of homes for the aged in 2004-05 has seen a decrease of 200 over that in the previous year, but the number of places of care-and-attention homes has increased by 200 at the same time. Is this an arrangement to tie in with the phasing-out plan? What is the amount of resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : (1) We will shortly form a task group involving representatives from the operating agencies to work out various implementation issues. We expect that the phasing out of homes for the aged places will be conducted in phases. As the details are yet to be worked out, we do not have at this stage an estimate as to the number of places to be phased out in 2004-05 and the resources involved.

- (2) To make use of the resources saved from the phasing out of homes for the aged, we plan to create a certain number of residential care places providing long term care primarily on a cost-neutral basis. The 200 additional care-and-attention home places is only an indicative figure for planning purpose as details on the phasing out programme have yet to be worked out.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB268

Question Serial No.

1486

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many residential care homes for the elderly are estimated to be provided through the open bidding exercise in 2004-05? How many places are estimated to be provided and what are the resources involved? What is the amount of Government subvention per place?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : In 2004-05, one contract residential care home for the elderly with 30 subsidised places will come into operation. Also, we plan to make available two premises for open tender in 2004-05 for operation as contract homes providing a total of 68 subsidised places. The three aforementioned contract homes will provide a total of 98 subsidised places at an estimated annual expenditure of \$7.7 m. The average subsidy per place will be \$78,885 per annum.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB269

Question Serial No.

1487

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the plan for providing infirmary care to elders in non-hospital setting under the services for elders? What is the estimated number of residential care places to be provided as a whole, and the financial provision to be earmarked for this purpose? In 2004-05, how many residential care places are to be provided initially, and what is the amount of resources to be deployed? What is the estimated amount of Government subvention for each place? Will provision of this kind of infirmary care service be arranged through open bidding?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : Provision of infirmary care to elders in a non-hospital setting is a new initiative to be implemented in 2004-05. The Administration aims to provide 50-100 infirmary places of this kind for medically stable elders at the initial stage. Based on the experience gained from this, we will determine the longer term strategy. The Administration is in the process of working out the unit cost of infirmary places in non-hospital setting and will make reference to the staffing requirement of medical infirmaries under Hospital Authority where appropriate. Our initial thinking is to invite operators with relevant experience to put forward proposals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB270

Question Serial No.

1488

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the expenditure involved and details of the programme to be launched for evaluating the effectiveness of the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : We are now collecting relevant statistics on the service output and outcome performances of the re-engineered District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres for review purpose. As the details of the review are yet to be worked out, we do not know at this stage the resources likely to be required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB271

Question Serial No.

1489

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the provision of rehabilitation services by the subvented sector, would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) Newly subvented rehabilitation services in 2004-05 include:
- 560 residential care places for discharged mental patients;
 - 333 residential care places for the mentally handicapped;
 - and
 - 195 day activity centre places.

What is/are the reason(s) for a 1% decrease in the rehabilitation service block allocation for the subvented sector as against the 2003-04 figure in spite of an increase in the above places?

- (2) There is a decline in the average cost of the rehabilitation service places provided by the subvented sector in 2004-05, which includes:
- a decline of 6.5% in respect of residential care places;
 - a decline of 7% in respect of day activity centre places;
 - a decline of 5.5% in respect of pre-school services places for disabled children; and
 - a decline of 4 % in respect of sheltered workshop places.

What is/are the reason(s) for the 4% - 7% reduction in the cost of places of such services disregarding the effect of the 2.5% reduction in social welfare expenditure and the civil service pay cut?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

- (1) The lower financial provision for the rehabilitation services provided by non-governmental organisations in 2004-05 is mainly due to the 2.5% across the board cut on subvention allocation, the pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005 and the lapsing of time-limited posts of Programme Assistants in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), partly offset by the increase in resources for additional places in various rehabilitation services.

- (2) Disregarding the effect of the 2.5% across the board reduction in subvention allocation, the reduction in the average unit cost of rehabilitation services is due to the pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005 and the lapsing of time-limited posts of Programme Assistants in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB272

Question Serial No.

1492

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) will be established in 2004-05. What are the maximum, minimum and average costs of IFSCs run by the Government and subvented sectors respectively? Please give reasons for the cost difference.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will re-engineer all existing family services centres (FSCs)/counselling units into IFSCs in 2004-05 by phases through pooling of existing resources. It is our plan to set up 60 IFSCs covering the whole territory. The existing manpower resources will be flexibly redeployed to these centres, having regard to district needs and the population to be served. Each IFSC will have a minimum of 12 social workers apart from a supervisor. SWD is now actively working on the implementation plan and related arrangements (e.g. demarcation of service boundaries, deployment of manpower, etc.) in consultation with the non-governmental organisations concerned, and therefore details of the costing of individual IFSCs cannot be ascertained yet. The whole re-engineering exercise will be cost-neutral.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB273

Question Serial No.

1502

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Please inform this Committee of the expenditure required for implementing the Ending Exclusion Project (EEP) and the number of service recipients. What are the contents of the services under the Project and the unit cost for each service? What is the amount of savings in Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payments made available by the launching the services and their effectiveness?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The provision in 2004-05 required to implement the EEP through redeployment of existing resources is estimated at \$8.5 m, similar to the requirement in 2003-04. Of these, \$5 m is for engaging 30 Employment Assistance Co-ordinators on non-civil service contract terms to deliver the Active Employment Assistance (AEA) programme. The remaining \$3.5 m is for meeting the costs of 300 places each month under the After School Care Programme.

The Project aiming to assist single parents on CSSA has been implemented since March 2002. As at the end of February 2004, a total of 2 842 CSSA single parent recipients had joined EEP. The Project comprises a voluntary AEA programme, improved work initiatives, help with child-care and enhanced supportive services.

A cost benefit analysis, obtained by netting off the savings in CSSA expenditure due to EEP participants having secured employment against the cost of running the programme,

indicated that about \$0.9 m per annum had been saved. As at the end of February 2004, out of 440 participants who had secured employment, 84 became totally independent and left the CSSA net while 238 significantly reduced their dependence on CSSA. Apart from the simple analysis which showed that EEP is cost-effective in monetary terms, the findings of a longitudinal study on the psychological, attitudinal and behavioural changes of the single parents and their children joining EEP showed that project participants had exhibited more job-seeking behaviour, secured more part-time employment and become less socially isolated.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB274

Question Serial No.

1547

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : The Administration will implement the Training and Development Roadmap for the Social Security Officer (SSO) grade with a view to enhancing the management and development of the grade in 2004-05. What is the estimated amount of resources required for the task and when is the anticipated date of commencement and completion? What is the specific content of the Training and Development (T&D) Roadmap?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The development of the T&D Roadmap for the SSO grade officers is conducted in-house by the department without incurring any additional expenditure.

It will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2004 for all SSO grade officers in the department.

The purpose of the T&D Roadmap is to provide a systematic approach for developing the required core competencies of SSO grade officers as they progress in the grade. It comprises a range of programmes covering different training areas related to professional knowledge, management, language and communication skills as well as information technology. The compulsory programmes are specially designed to equip newly appointed Social Security Officers II to perform their role during the first three years after appointment, whereas the optional programmes are designed to enrich and expand the knowledge and skills of SSO grade officers for meeting operational needs and assist their professional growth and career development.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

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

HWFB275

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1608

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The work under this Programme involves woman health service. The actual number of attendances in 2003 and the estimated number of attendances in 2004 are 34 000 and 37 000 respectively.

Please provide the types of service provided and the residential area, age group, education level, marital status and number of children of service users in 2003-04. Will the service target in 2004-05 be different? If yes, what are the details? What is the actual expenditure in 2003? How does it compare with the allocated expenditure for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The Woman Health Service (WHS) aims to promote the health of women and address their health needs at various stages of life. The WHS provides health assessment including physical check-up and where necessary, laboratory and radiological examinations for women below the age of 65. Health services for women aged 65 and over are provided in Elderly Health Services. The WHS also covers health education on various women health topics, such as healthy lifestyle, breast and cervical cancers, menopause and osteoporosis. The target clientele will remain the same in 2004-05.

We do not yet have the actual expenditure of the WHS for 2003-04 at the moment. The revised estimate for 2003-04 is \$24.5M. The provision for 2004-05 will be \$24.1M.

We do not have readily-available aggregate data on the geographical distribution of the residence and number of children of service users. A breakdown by age, educational level and marital status of clients in 2003 is as follows:

Age

<30	5%
30-39	19%
40-49	42%
50-59	31%
60-64	3%

Educational level

Below primary	5%
Primary	31%
Secondary	55%
Tertiary or above	9%

Marital status

Single	17%
Married	83%

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB276

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1609

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is estimated that 75 000 cervical smears will be taken in 2004.

Please state how this estimated figure is worked out and the manpower, equipment and estimated expenditure involved in the whole exercise.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The projected number of cervical smears to be performed by the Department of Health (DH) in 2004 is estimated on the basis of demand in the past for such service. The projected number has also taken into account the pattern of service provision which involves the private sector as a major service provider, as well as the enhanced awareness of the target population upon the launch of DH's Cervical Screening Programme.

There are 84 staff involved in delivering the Cervical Screening Programme. The provision in 2004-05 is \$40.5M including \$5M for procurement of equipment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB277

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1610

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The work under this Programme also involves maintaining the surveillance and control of communicable diseases. Please provide the total expenditure and establishment for this work in 2003-04. How does it differ from the situation in 2002-03? What are the estimated expenditure and establishment in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

Surveillance and control of communicable diseases is an integral part of various services of the Department of Health (DH), and hence involves different service units under the Department. Therefore, there is no readily available information on the aggregate expenditure and establishment deployed for this area of work.

Under DH, the Disease Prevention and Control Division (DPCD) is responsible for the coordination of the surveillance and control of communicable diseases as well as non-communicable diseases. The establishment of DPCD in 2002-03 and 2003-04 were 54 and 52 respectively, and the provision for the Division increased from \$85.3M in 2002-03 to \$95.9M in 2003-04.

In 2004, DH will establish a Centre for Health Protection (CHP) to strengthen its capacity in fighting and preventing communicable diseases. DPCD will be subsumed under CHP. The CHP will mainly comprise 1 300 existing staff of the DH. In 2004-05, DH will create 23 posts to strengthen disease prevention under Programme 2 and six posts to strengthen health promotion under Programme 3. Furthermore, DH will employ about 170 non-civil service contract staff to enhance public health functions. The operating expenditure of this new agency upon full establishment will amount to about \$1 billion per year, which will be largely funded by redeployment of existing resources from DH. Additional funding has also been earmarked by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and from contributions from the Hong Kong Jockey Club for establishing the Centre.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

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

HWFB278

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

1611

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been stated under this Programme that “public health promotion programmes (will be enhanced) to instil a healthy lifestyle concept in the community” in 2004-05. Please set out in detail the content of programmes, the expenditure required, the establishment, the target number of service recipients and the way to assess the effectiveness of such programmes.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

In 2004-05, Department of Health (DH) will enhance its public health promotion programmes to instil a healthy lifestyle concept in the community. DH's Central Health Education Unit (CHEU) is responsible for coordinating the Department's efforts on this front. In 2004-05, public health promotion programmes will be enhanced in the areas of communicable disease prevention, promotion of regular exercise, healthy diet and mental health. These programmes will be targeting at all members of the public. Health promotion message on these areas will be promulgated through production of health education materials, organising health education activities, developing close working relationship with health professionals and other health promotion partners, as well as through the mass media. The provision for CHEU in 2004-05 is \$37.4M, and the workforce of the Unit in 2004-05 will be 55.

DH will assess the effectiveness of these programmes through comparing the change in knowledge, attitude and practice of the public on specific health issue.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB279

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1758

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Centre for Health Protection, a new body to be set up, what are the establishment and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

The expenditure requirements of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) can broadly be grouped under 'one-off expenditure' and 'recurrent expenditure'. A one-off sum of about \$330M is required for developing a communicable disease information system, establishing a CHP control and resources centre, setting up emergency communication facilities, procuring new laboratory equipment, etc. The recurrent expenditure of the CHP upon full establishment will amount to around \$1 billion per year, of which about 70% will be spent on staffing.

The 1 500 workforce in CHP will comprise about 1 300 existing staff of the Department of Health. In 2004-05, DH will create 23 posts to strengthen disease prevention under Programme 2. DH will employ about 170 non-civil service contract staff comprising mainly doctors, nurses and para-medical professionals to carry out enhanced public health functions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

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

HWFB280

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1759

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the operation of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), will the Department set out in detail:

- the timetable for the anticipated establishment of individual functional branches under the CHP?
- the grades and ranks of the approximate 1 500 staff working in the CHP? Among these people, how many of them are redeployed from the existing establishment and how many of them are new recruits?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will be established by mid-2004. Initial attention would be paid to the development of the Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch and Infection Control Branch. The other functional branches, namely, Programme Management and Professional Development Branch, Emergency Response and Information Branch, Public Health Services and Public Health Laboratory Services, will be fully developed by 2005.

The CHP will have some 1 500 staff comprising about 180 medical staff, 430 nursing staff, 420 paramedical staff and 470 supporting staff. Of these, about 170 will be new recruits and the remainder will be redeployed/engaged from the Department of Health or Hospital Authority.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB281

Question Serial No.

1746

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 341 - Non-recurrent Grants Subhead : 184 - Director
of Social Welfare
Incorporated

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the breakdown in detail of the 2003-04 revised estimated expenditure of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)? How will the Administration assess the implication and effectiveness of each approved project in terms of social inclusion and the development of social capital?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The 2003-04 revised estimate of \$4,669,000 for the CIIF includes:

- (a) \$2,869,000 to meet the cashflow requirements projected for the 15 projects approved up to the time when the draft Estimates was prepared; and
- (b) \$1,800,000 as a guesstimate on the likely number of projects to be further approved in the remainder of 2003-04, and their possible cashflow projections which were made on the basis of previous cashflow experience in respect of similar approved projects.

On evaluation, the CIIF Committee together with its Secretariat monitor the progress and achievements of approved projects through:

- (a) quarterly milestones progress reports for assessing output delivery and half-yearly reports on achievement of results

against the original plan in terms of enhancement of social capital and social cohesion; and

- (b) site visits by Members of the CIIF Committee and Secretariat for assessment of the situation on the ground including the feedback of the participants.

In relation to assessing the approved projects in terms of social inclusion and development of social capital, while the nature of every project differs, the assessment normally covers the following aspects:

- (a) enhanced capacity of the participants to help themselves and others - this can be measured by the number of participants changing from being passive recipients of social welfare services to be active contributors socially and economically (such as becoming volunteers, helpers, co-operative organisers, and/or becoming gainfully employed.);
- (b) increased mutual support capability of the community - this can be reflected through the changes in the quantity and quality of self-sustaining support networks established in the community and those of cross-sectoral support platforms being established across different social groups; and
- (c) increased social and economic participation opportunities - this can be shown by the level of volunteering, mutual help activities, sharing of community resources and joint efforts to address the needs of the local community. Other expected results include possible pathways to assist participants to increase their confidence and ability to progress from volunteering to employment (part-time or full-time).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB282

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1192

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- 1 Regarding the detection of genetically modified ingredients in food products, the Government said that it would extend its scope of analysis to cover other genetically modified organisms. What kind of genetically modified organisms will be included?

- 2 How many food samples had been tested for genetically modified ingredients for the past three years?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

1. For detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO), the Government Laboratory at present provides analytical services on the detection of 1 genetically modified (GM) type of soya and 5 GM types of maize in food products. Two quantitative techniques were validated and applied to determining the percentage GM content in food products with identified GM types. The Government Laboratory will continue to extend the test scope for detection of GM food, for instance, method development for detection of GM papaya and potato is currently being undertaken.

2. The workload situation for the past three years is detailed as follows:

2001: 15 samples*

2002: 350 samples

2003: 211 samples

* A GMO Unit was formally established in the Government Laboratory in December 2001. Until mid 2003, the analytical service was mainly focused on the identification of 1 GM soya type and 2 GM maize types. Since July 2003 besides the provision of regular analytical services, active method development work has been undertaken to extend the test scope to cover the identification and quantitation of 1 GM soya type and 5 GM maize types.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 26.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB283

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1637

Programme : (2) Advisory and Investigative Services

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of tests performed on seepage and swimming pool water samples will be reduced from 35 504 (actual) in 2003-04 to 25 000 in 2004-5. Would the Government inform us in detail:

- the reasons for the significant substantial reduction in the number of tests?
- whether other monitoring methods will be used to test seepage and the quality of swimming pool water?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

1) The high output of 35 504 determinations of seepage and swimming pool samples, being 161 % of the estimated figure of 22 000 determinations, arose primarily from an exceedingly high input of seepage samples resulting from the increased public awareness of environmental hygiene upon the outbreak of SARS. In the light of the unexpected fluctuation of workload and the actual output figure for 2003, the expected workload level for 2004 is adjusted to 25 000 determinations.

2) The Administration will continue with the existing mechanism in monitoring swimming pool water quality. In the meantime, the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department have plan to set up a Joint Office to deal with water seepage complaints.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 25.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB284

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1172

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the indicators for 2004 (Estimate) in respect of the provision of courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors will be reduced. Please advise on:

(1) the reasons for the reduction.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Since the introduction of the Hygiene Supervisor (HS) Training Courses in late 2001, the Department has trained about 20 000 HS. The Department has set a target of offering 200 courses in 2004 for about 8 000 participants after taking into consideration the anticipated demand for the course in the market.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB285

Question Serial No.

1173

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, the Food and Environmental and Hygiene Department will promote health education to students, elderly and new arrivals through talks and outreaching activities during 2004-05. Will the Administration advise on:

- (1) whether similar programmes have been conducted in the past three years and, if so, the details and expenditure incurred; and
- (2) the number of staff involved and the provision reserved for such programmes for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The Department has been organising talks, seminars and public activities to educate various sectors of the community, including students, elders and new arrivals, on the importance of environmental hygiene and food safety. A total of 170, 1 860 and 2 523 such activities were organised in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively. There is no specific provision allocated for talks/seminars. All these expenses are covered by the annual provision for public education and community involvement. The expenditure incurred on public education and community involvement in 2002/03 and 2003/04 are \$40.8 million and \$39.5 million respectively. The provision for 2004/05 is \$38.9 million.
- (2) The Department has a dedicated team of nine staff specially deployed to organize talks and outreaching activities, the cost of which has been absorbed in the 2004/05 provision of \$38.9 million. Other staff in the Department help out with these activities as part of their daily duties.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB286

Question Serial No.

1185

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Programme (1), how many food labelling-related complaints did the Government receive in 2003? How many of them were substantiated? After investigation upon receipt of the complaints, how many warning letters were issued and how many prosecutions were instituted? What were the outcomes of these prosecutions?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In 2003 there were 148 complaints on food labelling matters and 25 of them were substantiated. Arising from these 25 cases, 16 warning letters and 14 summonses were issued. Of these summonses, 10 cases have been convicted and 4 cases are pending hearing. The average fine for the convicted cases is \$2,000.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB287

Question Serial No.

1186

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the inspection of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong, please advise on the following:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure for 2004? Since staff have to be deployed to conduct inspections in the Mainland, what kind of allowance will be provided and how much per inspection?
- (b) Owing to avian flu, import of live poultry from the Mainland has been suspended. Is it necessary to amend the number of inspections to be conducted on farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong under Programme (1) as the number will increase if the Government resumes the import or decrease if the ban lasts indefinitely?
- (c) What are the main duties of these inspection officers? Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of such inspection on enhancing the food safety standard in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) A financial provision of \$1.8 m has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for the inspection of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong. Officers on duty to the Mainland are eligible for a subsistence allowance to cover expenses on food and accommodation. The daily rate varies from RMB1,178 to RMB1,875 depending on the city visited.
- (b) The number of farm inspections to be conducted in 2004 will be constrained by the available manpower resources, which will remain at similar level for the immediate future. The visit programme covers inspection of poultry, pig, cattle,

goat and aquaculture farms. The number and types of farms to be visited may be adjusted flexibly during the year in accordance with circumstances.

- (c) The main duty of the officers conducting farm inspections is to perform compliance checks to ensure that the farms comply with the importation requirements including animal health, disease surveillance and hygiene standards. Ad hoc inspections will be conducted to farms with history of unsatisfactory monitoring results to ensure that irregularities are rectified. These visits have proved to be effective in enhancing communication with the exporting authorities and food safety standards.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG

	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date	25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB288

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1187

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Item 011 "Extension of ex-gratia payment to the Itinerant Hawker Licence holders of the New Territories", please give the number of the existing licensed itinerant hawkers in the New Territories. What is the estimated number of hawkers who will surrender their licences in 2004?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

As at 31.1.2004, there were 369 licensed itinerant hawkers conducting business in the New Territories. It is estimated that about 60 licensed itinerant hawkers in the New Territories will surrender their licences for ex-gratia payment in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB289

Question Serial No.

1188

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to hawker management, will the Administration advise on:

- (a) The actual and revised expenditure for the past three years, the estimate for 2004-05, as well as the manpower strength of the Hawker Control Teams in the past three years.
- (b) The respective numbers of summons issued to unlicensed hawkers and successful prosecutions instituted in the past two years. Please also state the general reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions.
- (c) In connection with the target of "dealing with complaints of illegal hawking in built-up areas within 30 minutes":
 - (i) What is the definition of "built-up area"?
 - (ii) Was there any complaint of illegal hawking in "non-built-up areas"? If so, how many complaints were received in 2003? What is the average time required to deal with one complaint case?
 - (iii) Has any target been set for "non-built-up areas"? If so, what is the target? If not, what is the reason?
 - (iv) What processes are involved in the 30 minutes?
- (d) The number of hawker blackspots was 71 in 2002-03 and 2003-04 as well as in 2004-05. Are they the same blackspots? If not, where were the blackspots eradicated or included in the past two years?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure incurred on hawker management and the manpower of the Hawker Control Teams are set out at below:

<u>Expenditure</u>			
2001/02 (Actual)	2002/03 (Actual)	2003/04 (Revised estimate)	2004/05 (Draft estimate)
\$1,015 m	\$991 m	\$911 m	\$847 m

Number of Hawker Control Team staff

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
2 990	2 945	2 645

- (b) Information on prosecutions for hawking without licences is set out at below:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
No. of prosecutions	19 320	18 649
No. of convictions (i.e. successful prosecutions)	19 256	18 588

The acquittals were mainly due to insufficient evidence.

- (c) (i) A “Built-up area” is an area in which many high-rise residential and commercial buildings are situated with high pedestrian flows.
- (ii) There were complaints of illegal hawking in “non-built-up areas”. Relevant statistics have not been kept.
- (iii) The Department does not have any performance target for “non-built-up areas”. As these areas usually do not have serious hygiene or obstruction problems caused by hawking activities, it is considered not necessary to set a performance target for these areas. The Department will deploy staff of hawker control teams to these areas as soon as possible in response to complaints.
- (iv) Upon receipt of a complaint on illegal hawking in “built-up areas”, staff of the hawker control teams will be deployed to investigate the complaint. The target of dealing with the complaint within 30 minutes is to allow time for the appropriate staff to be advised and to arrive at the scene of complaint.
- (d) The locations of hawker blackspots in 2002-03 and 2003-04 are not the same. In 2003-04, eight locations were deleted from and eight new locations were added to the list. A list of these 16 locations is provided at Annex.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

A. Locations deleted from the list of Hawker Blackspots in 2003-04

No	District	Location
1	Western	Kennedy Town area including Smithfield Market surroundings, Smithfield, North Street, Belcher's Street, Catchick Street and Hau Wo Street
2	Sham Shui Po	Apliu Street and its vicinity
3		Tai Nam West Street
4	Sha Tin	Outside Hang On Estate
5	Sai Kung	On pavement at junction of Tong Ming Street and Tong Chun Street, near Sheung Tak Bus Terminus, Sheung Tak Estate, Tseung Kwan O
6	Tai Po	Tai Po Market Station Kowloon Canton Railway
7		Po Heung Street
8	Yuen Long	Long Ping Estate flyover

B. Locations included into the list of Hawker Blackspots in 2003-04

No	District	Location
1	Sham Shui Po	Mei Foo Sun Chuen (Mei Foo Bus Terminus & Lai Wan Road)
2		Cheung Sha Wan Road (near rear lane of 171-203 Cheung Sha Wan Road)
3	Sha Tin	Fun City near Sha Tin Clinic
4		Mei Tin Road
5	Yuen Long	Outside Tin Shui Estate and its vicinity
6	Tuen Mun	Outside Shan King Estate
7		Outside Fu Tai Estate
8		Kai Fat Path

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB290

Question Serial No.

1189

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the talks on food safety and environmental hygiene under Programme (4), what is the total number of talks organised upon requests and on the Department's initiative respectively in the past two years? What is the expenditure involved? How was it compared with the expenditure in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The number of talks/seminars on food safety and environmental hygiene organized by the Department in the past two years is as follows: -

Year	Health talks/seminars on request	Self initiated talks/seminars
2002	35	1805
2003	169	2333
Total	204	4138

The Department does not have a specific allocation for organizing talks/seminars. The relevant expenses are covered by the annual provision for public education and community involvement. The expenditure incurred for public education and community involvement in 2002/03 and 2003/04 is \$40.8 million and \$39.5 million respectively. The provision for 2004/05 has been slightly reduced to \$38.9 million due to mainly civil service pay cut.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
	Director of
Post Title	<u>Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB291

Question Serial No.

1190

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (2), please advise on:

- (a) The breakdown of the net deletion of 328 posts for 2004-05 by grade and their respective numbers.
- (b) It is stated that the savings achieved will be offset by the funding requirement for providing cleansing services to newly developed areas and for new facilities. Please list out the newly developed areas and their respective provision required.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The breakdown is set out in **Annex**.
- (b) Provisions earmarked for providing cleansing services in newly developed areas are as follows –

District in which newly developed areas are located	Provision (\$million)
Tsuen Wan	1.8
Sai Kung	0.8
Tai Po	0.5
Shatin	0.5
Sham Shui Po	0.4
Islands	0.3
Yuen Long, Western, Kwai Tsing and Yau Tsim	0.4

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Calligraphist	1
Clerical Assistant	3
Clerical Officer	4
Executive Officer	9
Information Officer	2
Management Services Officer	1
Official Languages Officer	1
Personal Secretary	5
Special Driver	16
Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Supervisor	1
Transport Services Officer	1
Artisan	10
Foreman	14
Ganger	34
Workman I	1
Workman II	221
Works Supervisor	2
Police Inspector/Superintendent*	-1
	<hr/>
	328
	<hr/> <hr/>

*This post, to be seconded to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, will be created for providing expert support for the formulation, operation, and maintenance of a comprehensive contingency control system to prevent and prepare for the outbreak of communicable diseases in Hong Kong.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB292

Question Serial No.

1191

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (3), please advise on:

- (a) The breakdown of the net deletion of 465 posts for 2004-05 by grade and their respective numbers.
- (b) It is stated that the savings achieved will be offset by the funding requirement for managing new public markets. Please list out the new public markets and their respective provision required.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (c) A breakdown of the 465 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 by grade is as follows:

	No. of Posts
Hawker Control Officer	320
Clerical Officer	1
Special Driver	1
Foreman	96
Workman I	36
Workman II	11
	<hr/>
	465
	<hr/>

- (d) Provisions included for new markets to be opened in 2004-05 and for markets opened in earlier years with additional provision required in 2004-05 are as follows:

Market	\$million
* Tai Po Hui Market	14.6
* Queen Street Cooked Food Market	3.8
* Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	2.5
Luen Wo Hui Market	3.2
Centre Street Market	2.3

* Note : New markets to be commissioned in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB293

Question Serial No.

1055

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Programme (3), the financial provision for market management and hawker control is \$1.3b for 2004-05. Please advise on the number of prosecutions against illegal hawking in the past year and the cost of each prosecution case.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2003, there were 20 467 prosecutions for hawking offences. The cost of each prosecution is not available as no costing has been conducted.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB294

Question Serial No.

1010

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is expected that, after the deletion of 803 posts, the establishment of the Department will be 11 514 posts in 2004-05. The number of posts deleted is the greatest among all Government departments and accounts for about 15% of the total number of posts deleted in the civil service. The 803 posts are mainly related to environmental hygiene services and market management and hawker control services.

Please advise on the ranks and number in respect of the deleted posts and arrangements to take up the relevant duties. How does the Department ensure that the environmental and market hygiene services will not be affected, and what implication does the deletion of posts have on the total estimated departmental expenses in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

A breakdown of the numbers and ranks of the net 803 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 is at Annex. The provision of environmental and market hygiene services will be maintained through outsourcing of services, streamlining of procedures, re-prioritization and re-organization of work. The annual savings to be achieved from the deletion of the 803 posts, net of the expenses for providing the required services, is estimated to be \$118 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

Breakdown of the net 803 posts to be deleted in 2004-05

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>
<i>(a) Posts to be deleted in 2004-05</i>		
Artisan	Artisan	10
Calligraphist	Senior Calligraphist	1
Clerical Assistant	Clerical Assistant	3
Clerical Officer	Senior Clerical Officer	1
	Clerical Officer	2
	Assistant Clerical Officer	6
Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer	3
	Senior Executive Officer	5
	Executive Officer I	2
Field Assistant	Field Assistant	1
Foreman	Senior Overseer	1
	Overseer	8
	Senior Foreman	6
	Foreman	96
Ganger	Ganger	35
Hawker Control Officer	Principal Hawker Control Officer	1
	Chief Hawker Control Officer	3
	Senior Hawker Control Officer	44
	Hawker Control Officer	43
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer	229
Information Officer	Principal Information Officer	1
	Information Officer	1
Laboratory Attendant	Laboratory Attendant	1
Management Services Officer	Management Services Officer II	1
Official Languages Officer	Official Languages Officer I	1
Personal Secretary	Personal Secretary I	1
	Personal Secretary II	4
Registered Nurse	Nursing Officer	1
Special Driver	Special Driver	17
Supplies Assistant	Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Supervisor	Supplies Supervisor II	1
Transport Services Officer	Transport Services Officer II	1
Workman I	Workman I	37
Workman II	Workman II	232
Works Supervisor	Works Supervisor II	2
	<i>Sub-total (a):</i>	804

'b) Post to be created in 2004-05

Police Inspector/Superintendent Superintendent of Police 1

(Post to be seconded to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau upon creation for providing dedicated expert support in the formulation, operation and maintenance of a comprehensive contingency control system to prevent and prepare for the outbreak of communicable diseases in Hong Kong.)

Sub-total (b): 1

No. of net posts to be deleted [(a) – (b)]: 803

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB295

Question Serial No.

1252

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) The Administration has contracted out the management of all the 4 public markets in Kowloon City District on a pilot basis. How many management companies have participated? What is the expenditure incurred? What are the conditions and details of the contracting-out scheme?
- (b) When will the Administration review the pilot scheme? How many more markets does the Administration plan to be covered in this scheme? What is the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) One management company has been awarded the contract to manage the four public markets in Kowloon City District for two years from 1 March 2004 to 28 February 2006 at a total contract sum of \$13.31 million. The contractor is responsible for providing overall management, cleansing/pest control services, minor repairs and maintenance, and supply of consumable items to the four markets.
- (b) The Department will review the pilot scheme at end 2004, and will in the light of experience gained, decide whether the scheme should be extended to other markets and if so, the estimated resource requirements.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB296

Question Serial No.

1253

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards the food consumption survey on the local population, what is the estimated expenditure for 2004-05? What is the purpose of conducting the survey?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The survey aims to collect information on the food consumption pattern of some 5 200 individuals aged 20 to 84 years and to construct a database of the food commonly consumed by people in Hong Kong. The data collected will significantly enhance the Department's capability in assessing food risks. A financial provision of \$960,000 has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB297

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1254

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. Regarding the free training courses for Hygiene Supervisors, what is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details? What is the estimated number of Hygiene Supervisors to be provided with such training?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The expenditure to be incurred in 2004-05 for implementing the Hygiene Manager / Supervisor Scheme is estimated to be \$2 m, which will include the provision of 200 Training Courses for about 8 000 Hygiene Supervisors.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB298

Question Serial No.

1255

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Hong Kong has been plagued by “avian influenza” from time to time and those in the trades affected encounter financial difficulties at times. In this connection, has the Administration devised any long term strategy? If so, what are the details and the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has continued to devise appropriate measures to deal with “avian influenza” and tackled the financial difficulties affecting those in the trades.

On 25 February 2004, the Government announced a package of relief measures with a total financial implication of about \$8.443 million (comprising revenue loss to Government of about \$6.973 million and ex-gratia payment of about \$1.47 million) to help live poultry wholesalers, retailers and transporters affected by the suspension of importation of live poultry from the Mainland due to the recent avian influenza outbreak in the region. The relief measures include a three-month rental waiver (inclusive of rates and air-conditioning charges, if applicable) to the live poultry wholesalers and retailers operating in the wholesale and retail markets under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) respectively, waiver of 3-month parking fees (inclusive of rates) for lorries parked at designated spaces on a monthly basis for the transportation of live poultry in AFCD's wholesale poultry markets, and ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers operating in private premises.

The ex-gratia payment of about \$1.47 million is to be paid out from Head 49 FEHD.

In addition, the Finance Committee has, on 26 March 2004, approved the creation of a new commitment of \$42 million under Head 22 AFCD Subhead 700 to provide one-off ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators to assist them tide over the difficult period. Moreover, three-month rental waiver (resulting in revenue loss of about \$18,000 to the Government) will also be provided to the operators of the two crate washers at the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market.

As regards the long term strategy, we have announced that new measures relating to segregation of human from poultry would need to be implemented, subject to consultation. We will soon consult the public on possible options including central and regional slaughtering. Details of expenditure could only be available after we have taken into account the views received during the consultation period and decided on the way forward on the matter.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB299

Question Serial No.

1275

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How much provision will be reserved for improving the facilities and management of public markets? Will there be any savings in the long run?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In the years ahead, FEHD plans to spend about \$370 million to proceed with air-conditioning retro-fitting and general improvement works to 5 markets/cooked food centres (CFCs). FEHD also plans to spend about \$320 million to carry out general improvement works in another 12 markets/CFCs. For improvement on market management, the resources required will be absorbed within the existing allocation. As additional resources are required to improve the trading environment and enhance the management of markets/CFCs, we do not expect to achieve any savings arising from these improvement works.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB300

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1276

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 :

Of the markets currently managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, what is the vacancy rate of the stalls in each market? Please provide the figures of the vacancy rate in terms of the number of stalls and their respective area against the whole market. How much resources does the Administration need to allocate to manage these vacant stalls?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The vacancy rate of the stalls in each market and cooked food centre (as at 29.2.2004) in terms of the number of stalls and their respective area against the whole market is provided at Annex.

Each market is managed as a whole and it is not possible to differentiate the resources spent on vacant stalls.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

FEHD Public Market Vacancy Position (By Stall No. and Stall Area)

(as at 29.2.2004)

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
1	BRIDGES STREET MARKET	60.00	53.40
2	CAUSEWAY BAY MARKET	32.73	20.53
3	ELECTRIC ROAD MARKET	46.61	33.45
4	JAVA ROAD MARKET	21.11	14.87
5	NORTH POINT MARKET	19.05	15.38
6	SAI WAN HO MARKET	24.83	23.01
7	SHAU KEI WAN MARKET	36.67	41.95
8	QUARRY BAY MARKET	44.54	27.54
9	YUE WAN MARKET	31.71	30.47
10	CHAI WAN MARKET	12.36	8.46
11	KUT SHING STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
12	CHEUNG CHAU COOKED FOOD MARKET	17.65	13.58
13	CHEUNG CHAU MARKET	2.92	3.05
14	MUI WO COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
15	MUI WO MARKET	14.29	9.16
16	PENG CHAU MARKET	51.16	38.64
17	TAI O MARKET	15.38	11.76
18	ABERDEEN MARKET	25.81	21.77
19	AP LEI CHAU MARKET	0.00	0.00
20	TIN WAN MARKET	24.19	27.63
21	YUE KWONG ROAD MARKET	14.21	10.92
22	STANLEY TEMPORARY MARKET	62.50	53.92
23	NAM LONG SHAN ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	28.57	29.41
24	BOWRINGTON ROAD MARKET	18.65	18.38
25	LOCKHART ROAD MARKET (COMPLEX)	18.13	13.26
26	TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET	55.56	45.73
27	WAN CHAI MARKET	18.98	20.08
28	WONG NAI CHUNG MARKET	23.94	20.78
29	CENTRE STREET MARKET	40.74	44.78
30	SHEK TONG TSUI MARKET	31.37	20.90
31	SHEUNG WAN MARKET	9.73	8.50
32	SMITHFIELD MARKET	6.88	3.78
33	SAI YING PUN MARKET	3.92	4.53
34	HUNG HOM MARKET	6.11	4.44
35	KOWLOON CITY MARKET	24.29	20.75
36	TO KWA WAN MARKET	15.73	10.14

37	ON CHING ROAD FLOWER MARKET	53.85	53.85
38	CHA KWO LING MARKET	77.78	76.09
39	KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE COOKED FOOD MARKET	13.79	13.79
40	NGAU TAU KOK MARKET COMPLEX	18.82	17.76
41	SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX	19.16	19.05
42	SZE SHAN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
43	TSUN YIP COOKED FOOD MARKET	21.43	21.43
44	TUNG YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
45	YEE ON STREET MARKET	27.69	26.46
46	LEI YUE MUN MARKET	20.00	14.08
47	BOUNDARY STREET MARKET	28.13	37.33
48	FA YUEN STREET MARKET	14.58	16.38
49	MONG KOK MARKET	56.16	55.95
50	SOY STREET TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD MARKET	26.32	26.32
51	TAI KOK TSUI TEMPORARY MARKET	38.14	32.78
52	CHEUNG SHA WAN COOKED FOOD MARKET	57.14	57.14
53	LAI WAN MARKET	4.76	5.62
54	PEI HO STREET MARKET	1.28	2.96
55	PO ON ROAD MARKET COMPLEX	45.55	42.87
56	TUNG CHAU STREET TEMPORARY MARKET	70.47	58.63
57	NGAU CHI WAN MARKET	13.81	19.14
58	CHOI HUNG ROAD MARKET	29.51	26.63
59	SHEUNG FUNG STREET MARKET	16.46	16.74
60	TAI SHING STREET MARKET	12.45	17.94
61	HAIPHONG ROAD TEMPORARY MARKET	46.21	39.03
62	KIMBERLEY STREET MARKET	0.00	0.00
63	KWUN CHUNG MARKET	34.70	34.55
64	YAU MA TEI MARKET	28.47	30.02
65	CHEUNG TAT ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	16.67	16.67
66	KA TING COOKED FOOD MARKET	35.29	35.29
67	KWAI SHUN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	8.33	8.33
68	NORTH KWAI CHUNG MARKET	8.33	9.31
69	TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	60.00	56.52
70	WING FONG STREET MARKET	21.85	15.35
71	WO YI HOP ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	5.56	6.76
72	TSING YI MARKET	13.16	16.36
73	KWU TUNG MARKET SHOPPING CENTRE	3.06	4.41
74	SHA TAU KOK MARKET	7.58	9.59
75	LUEN WO HUI MARKET	23.03	28.55
76	SHEK WU HUI MARKET	3.05	2.12
77	SAI KUNG MARKET	28.57	20.39
78	TUI MIN HOI MARKET	14.71	8.20
79	FO TAN (EAST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	16.67	16.67
80	FO TAN (WEST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	53.33	53.33
81	SHA TIN MARKET	7.26	5.56

82	TAI WAI MARKET	10.40	13.77
83	PLOVER COVE ROAD MARKET	42.59	47.94
84	TAI PO TEMPORARY MARKET	24.40	19.97
85	HEUNG CHE STREET MARKET	11.01	8.73
86	SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET	40.54	32.29
87	TSUEN KING CIRCUIT MARKET	48.79	49.70
88	TSUEN WAN MARKET	13.65	12.22
89	YEUNG UK ROAD MARKET	3.59	4.40
90	CHAI WAN KOK COOKED FOOD MARKET	12.50	12.50
91	HUNG CHEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	27.27	27.27
92	KIN WING COOKED FOOD MARKET	40.00	40.00
93	KWONG CHOI MARKET	44.05	40.00
94	LAM TEI MARKET	37.50	37.50
95	SAN HUI MARKET	25.53	17.93
96	TSING YEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	16.67	18.29
97	YAN OI MARKET	19.44	12.16
98	HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET	24.11	25.28
99	KAM TIN MARKET	23.26	23.12
100	KIK YEUNG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	7.14	1.61
101	KIN YIP STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
102	LAU FAU SHAN MARKET	20.00	20.00
103	TAI KIU MARKET	23.92	18.81
104	TAI TONG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	5.56	6.10
105	TUNG YICK MARKET	42.73	34.83
	Total	23.89	21.51

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB301

Question Serial No.

1277

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

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 Subhead 700, Items 001 and 002 are the ex-gratia payments to recover cooked food hawker and itinerant hawker licences. From the actual expenditure for 2003-04, it can be seen that the scheme to recover hawker licences was not too successful. Please give the total number of licences recovered since the implementation of the scheme and the percentage. Has the Government considered the reasons why the scheme was not so successful? In 2004-05, what plan is in hand to further attract the licence holders to surrender their licences?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

20 cooked food stall hawker licences and 108 itinerant hawker licences have been surrendered since the inception of the Department on 1 January 2000. These represent 10.6% and 16.5% of the valid cooked food stall hawker licences and itinerant hawker licences respectively on 1 January 2000. The rather lukewarm response may have been due possibly to the persistent unemployment situation in the past few years. We have at present no plans to improve the level of ex-gratia payments to attract the licence holders to surrender their licences in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB302

Question Serial No.

1278

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the estimate, how much resources will be allocated to test blood samples taken from poultry for avian influenza H5 antibodies and pigs' urine samples for beta-agonists?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A financial provision of \$7 m has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for testing blood samples taken from poultry for avian influenza H5 and \$6.4 m for testing of pigs' urine for beta-agonists.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB303

Question Serial No.

1279

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the estimate, how much resources will be allocated for the inspection of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong and for the enhanced testing of samples taken from food animals for veterinary drug residues?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A financial provision of \$1.8 m and \$12.8 m have been included in the 2004-2005 Estimate for the inspection of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong and testing food animals for veterinary drug residues respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB304

Question Serial No.

1280

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In the estimate, how much resources will be allocated to step up the monitoring of the dengue fever vector and to rodent prevention and control?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Financial provisions of \$89.5 m and \$74.4 m have been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for dengue vector control and rodent control work respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB305

Question Serial No.

1281

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How many risk assessment studies on food will be conducted in the following fiscal year? What are the food items to be included in these studies? What is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2004-05, in addition to ad-hoc studies on topical issues of food safety and public health concern, the Department will conduct four major risk assessment studies related to seafood, Chinese dim sum, microwave cooking and dietary exposure to lead respectively. A financial provision of \$3.6 m including personal emoluments for 7 staff has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HWFB306

Question Serial No.

1328

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of applications for import of game, meat and poultry decreased sharply from 3 969 in 2002 (actual) to 3 274 in 2003 (actual), and is expected to increase to 3 300 in 2004 (estimate). Please give details on:

- the reasons for the expected increase in the number of applications for import;
- the number of applications for import of game, meat and poultry in each of the past five years;
- the breakdown of applications for import of various kinds of game in each of the past five years.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- The number of applications for import of game, meat and poultry in 2004 is estimated to be similar to that in 2003. The figure in 2004 is rounded to the nearest hundred.
- The numbers of applications for game, meat and poultry since the establishment of the Department in 2000 are –

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
3 975	4 191	3 969	3 274
- The types of game imported included goat, pigeon, ostrich, silky chicken and deer. There is no detailed breakdown by individual types.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB307

Question Serial No.

1329

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks has increased from 63 739 in 2003 (actual) to 64 000 in 2004 (estimate). Please explain in detail:

Why there is an increase in the number of poison treatments

Why the number of trappings has not increased accordingly, and dropped from 2 424 in 2003 (actual) to 2 400 in 2004 (estimate) instead.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and the number of trappings for 2004 are expected to be at about the same level as those for 2003. For the purpose of the 2004-05 Estimates, the Department has rounded the figures to the nearest thousand or hundred.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB308

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1330

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of inspections to food premises will be reduced from 304 966 in 2003 (actual) to 300 000 in 2004 (estimate). In this connection, please give details on:

- the reasons for such reduction when the number of applications for food business licences is on the increase?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The number of inspections is expected to be at about the same level as that for 2003. For the purpose of the 2004 Estimate, the Department has rounded the figure to the nearest hundred thousand.

Signature	GREGORY LEUNG
Name in block letters	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB309

Question Serial No.

1331

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The number of courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors will be reduced from 240 in 2003 (actual) to 200 in 2004 (estimate). In this connection, please give details on:

- the reasons for the reduction in the number of the relevant courses/seminars?
- the number of existing restaurants with Hygiene Supervisors and the percentage of these restaurants over the total number of restaurants?.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Since the introduction of the Hygiene Supervisor (HS) Training Courses in late 2001, the Department has trained about 20 000 HS. The Department has set a target of offering 200 courses in 2004 for about 8 000 participants after taking into consideration the anticipated demand for the course in the market.

The Department does not have information on the number of existing restaurants with trained Hygiene Supervisors as the new Hygiene Manager / Supervisor Scheme has not yet been implemented. The Department plans to implement this initiative in late 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB310

Question Serial No.

1332

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, a total of 328 posts will be deleted. In this connection, please give details on the following:

- the reasons for the deletion of these posts; and
- the breakdown by grade, post and length of service of the staff affected.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The net deletion of 328 posts under Environmental Hygiene and Related Services in 2004-05 is mainly due to the departure of the incumbents on retirement. A list showing the grades and ranks of the posts concerned is set out in Annex. On leaving the service, the staff concerned will have a service length ranging from 7 to 36 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

**List of grades and ranks of the 328 posts
for environmental hygiene and related services to be deleted in 2004-05**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Artisan	Artisan
Calligraphist	Senior Calligraphist
Clerical Assistant	Clerical Assistant
Clerical Officer	Senior Clerical Officer
	Clerical Officer
	Assistant Clerical Officer
Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer
	Senior Executive Officer
	Executive Officer I
Foreman	Overseer
	Senior Foreman
	Foreman
Ganger	Ganger
Information Officer	Principal Information Officer
	Information Officer
Management Services Officer	Management Services Officer II
Official Languages Officer	Official Languages Officer I
Personal Secretary	Personal Secretary I
	Personal Secretary II
Special Driver	Special Driver
Supplies Assistant	Supplies Assistant
Supplies Supervisor	Supplies Supervisor II
Transport Services Officer	Transport Services Officer II
Workman I	Workman I
Workman II	Workman II
Works Supervisor	Works Supervisor II

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB311

Question Serial No.

1333

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The numbers of fixed-pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers will decrease from 7 412 and 858 in 2003 (actual) to 7 200 and 650 in 2004 (estimate) respectively. Please explain in detail:

- the reasons for the decrease in the number of licensed hawkers

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The number of licensed fixed-pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers is estimated to continue to decrease following non-renewal of the fixed-pitch hawker licences by the licensees and voluntary surrender of itinerant hawker licences for ex-gratia payment.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB312

Question Serial No.

1334

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this Programme, a total of 465 posts will be deleted. Please give details on the following:

- the reasons for the deletion of these posts; and
- the breakdown by grade, post and length of service of the staff affected.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The net deletion of 465 posts under Market Management and Hawker Control in 2004-05 is mainly due to the departure of the incumbents on retirement. A list showing the grades and ranks of the posts concerned is set out in Annex. On leaving the service, the concerned staff will have a service length ranging from 7 to 36 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

**List of grades and ranks of the 465 posts
for market management and hawker control to be deleted in 2004-05**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Clerical Officer	Assistant Clerical Officer
Foreman	Overseer
	Foreman
Hawker Control Officer	Principal Hawker Control Officer
	Chief Hawker Control Officer
	Senior Hawker Control Officer
	Hawker Control Officer
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer
Special Driver	Special Driver
Workman I	Workman I
Workman II	Workman II

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB313

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1335

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 :

The target of stalls let has been lowered from 84% to 80%. Will the Administration explain in detail:

- the reasons for lowering the target of stall let.
- the reasons for the letting percentage in 2003 (actual) to stand at only 77%.
- the vacancy rate of stalls in various markets in the past five years.
- the measures to deal with the drop in the number of leased stalls.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The occupancy rate of the public markets is determined by a host of factors and some such as the prevailing economic situation, shopping habits of the public, or competition from other retail outlets in the neighbourhood are beyond the control of the Department. Having taken into account all these factors, the Department considers that an overall occupancy rate of 80% represents the most appropriate indicator that it could reasonably attain for the markets in 2004-05 under the circumstances.

The decline of the letting percentage in 2003 (actual) might have been attributed to the unfavourable economic conditions in the past few years, particularly during the SARS outbreak, the changing shopping habits of the public, and the strong competition from the increasing number of other retail outlets.

The vacancy rate of stalls (inclusive of stalls purposely frozen for reasons such as re-development, re-siting commitments, and renovation works) in various public markets ending each year since the establishment of the Department in January 2000 is set out in Annex.

Apart from undertaking general improvement works to the markets, including upgrading of fire services provisions, ventilation, lighting, signage and drainage, the Department has adopted a range of other measures to help improve the attraction of the markets, including :

- enhanced management and promotion of selected public markets by engaging dedicated personnel with relevant experience from the private sector;
- providing customer service training for stallholders;
- maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets through enhanced cleansing services and requiring the stall holders to clean up their stalls on the monthly market cleansing day;
- a pilot scheme to lower the upset auction prices of those long-standing vacant stalls to attract bidders; and
- flexibility in determining the nature of stall businesses and stall sizes.

The Department will continue to implement improvement works and carry out market promotion efforts in 2004-05 to help improve the occupancy rate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>25 March 2004</u>

Vacancy Rate for Public Markets

<u>Name of Markets</u>	<u>Dec. 2003</u> Vacancy rate %	<u>Dec. 2002</u> Vacancy rate %	<u>Dec. 2001</u> Vacancy rate %	<u>Dec. 2000</u> Vacancy rate%
<u>Eastern</u>				
Yue Wan Market	31%	27%	21%	19%
Chai Wan Market	13%	19%	15%	-
Kut Shing Street CFM	0%	9%	9%	18%
Java Road Market	20%	16%	13%	8%
Causeway Bay Market	33%	24%	20%	15%
Electric Road Market	46%	42%	39%	30%
Sai Wan Ho Market	24%	22%	22%	19%
Quarry Bay Market	41%	37%	29%	23%
Shaukeiwan Market	37%	32%	30%	27%
North Point Market	10%	0%	0%	0%
<u>Wanchai</u>				
Bowrington Road Market	19%	15%	13%	11%
Tang Lung Chau Market	54%	48%	35%	38%
Wong Nai Chung Market	24%	24%	17%	13%
Lockhart Road Market	17%	12%	12%	6%
Wan Chai Market	17%	12%	8%	7%
<u>Central</u>				
Bridges Street Market	60%	60%	57%	57%
<u>Western</u>				
Sheung Wan Market	9%	8%	14%	11%
Sai Ying Pun Market	3%	3%	5%	1%
Centre Street Market	37%	16%	12%	4%
Smithfield Market	6%	5%	5%	2%
Shek Tong Tsui Market	31%	29%	27%	19%
<u>Southern</u>				
Aberdeen Market	25%	20%	16%	15%
Nam Long Shan Road CFM	25%	7%	18%	25%
Stanley Temporary Market	33%	33%	33%	29%
Tin Wan Market	24%	19%	15%	15%
Yue Kwong Road Market	13%	10%	14%	17%
Apleichau Market	0%	2%	2%	3%
<u>Islands</u>				
Tai O Market	23%	23%	35%	42%
Peng Chau Market	49%	51%	47%	37%
Mui Wo Market	9%	9%	0%	0%
Cheung Chau Market	3%	2%	3%	4%
Mui Wo CFM	0%	0%	0%	5%
Cheung Chau CFM	12%	6%	12%	6%

<u>Name of Markets</u>	<u>Dec. 2003</u> Vacancy rate %	<u>Dec. 2002</u> Vacancy rate %	<u>Dec. 2001</u> Vacancy rate %	<u>Dec. 2000</u> Vacancy rate%
<u>Kwun Tong</u>				
Ngau Tau Kok Market	18%	13%	8%	5%
Shui Wo Street Market	18%	13%	12%	7%
Yee On Street Market	28%	29%	23%	17%
Tsun Yip Street CFM	23%	20%	7%	11%
Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse CFM	21%	7%	10%	17%
Sze Shan Street CFM	0%	0%	12%	6%
Tung Yuen Street CFM	0%	0%	0%	25%
Cha Kwo Ling Market	78%	56%	44%	33%
Lei Yue Mun Market	15%	10%	10%	15%
<u>Kowloon City</u>				
To Kwa Wan Market	14%	13%	12%	9%
Kowloon City Market	24%	23%	21%	18%
Hung Hom Market	6%	4%	1%	2%
On Ching Road Flower Market	54%	54%	54%	77%
<u>Wong Tai Sin</u>				
Ngau Chi Wan Market	15%	13%	12%	10%
Choi Hung Road Market	30%	26%	19%	18%
Tai Shing Street Market	13%	11%	10%	13%
Sheung Fung Street Market	15%	8%	6%	6%
<u>Mong Kok</u>				
Fa Yuen Street Market	11%	7%	3%	5%
Mong Kok Market	58%	57%	55%	52%
Tai Kok Tsui Temporary Market	38%	34%	30%	25%
Boundary Street Market	28%	22%	19%	16%
Soy Street Temporary CFM	26%	21%	21%	11%
<u>Sham Shui Po</u>				
Po On Road Market	45%	42%	41%	39%
Pei Ho Street Market	2%	2%	2%	2%
Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	69%	67%	66%	64%
Lai Wan Market	2%	2%	2%	0%
Cheung Sha Wan CFM Market	57%	57%	57%	57%
<u>Yau Tsim</u>				
Haiphong Road Temporary Market	46%	46%	44%	37%
Kwun Chung Market	35%	28%	23%	20%
Yau Ma Tei Market	28%	24%	23%	18%
Kimberley Street Market	0%	0%	0%	0%
<u>Kwai Tsing</u>				
Wing Fong Street Market	20%	13%	6%	0%

Ka Ting CFM	35%	24%	24%	24%
Tai Yuen Street CFM	60%	55%	65%	70%
Wo Yi Hop Road CFM	6%	22%	28%	17%
North Kwai Chung Market	7%	7%	5%	4%
Cheung Tat Road CFM	17%	17%	17%	0%
<u>Name of Markets</u>	<u>Dec. 2003</u>	<u>Dec. 2002</u>	<u>Dec. 2001</u>	<u>Dec. 2000</u>
	Vacancy rate %	Vacancy rate %	Vacancy rate %	Vacancy rate%
Kwai Shun Street CFM	8%	17%	0%	0%
Tsing Yi Market	11%	5%	8%	22%
<u>Tsuen Wan</u>				
Yeung Uk Road Market	3%	2%	2%	2%
Heung Che Street Market	8%	8%	7%	9%
Chai Wan Kok CFM	9%	3%	0%	13%
Tsuen Wan Market	13%	10%	4%	3%
Sham Tseng Temporary Market	38%	35%	22%	14%
Tsuen King Circuit Market	49%	44%	40%	34%
<u>Tuen Mun</u>				
Lam Tei Market	38%	37%	38%	38%
Hung Cheung CFM	27%	27%	27%	27%
Kin Wing CFM	40%	40%	15%	40%
Kwong Choi Market	43%	43%	38%	29%
San Hui Market	24%	20%	13%	4%
Yan Oi Market	13%	14%	7%	6%
Tsing Yeung CFM	17%	22%	11%	11%
<u>Yuen Long</u>				
Kam Tin Market	21%	14%	12%	12%
Lau Fau Shan Market	20%	20%	8%	12%
Kik Yeung Road CFM	7%	0%	0%	0%
Tai Kiu Market	22%	21%	21%	15%
Tai Tong Road CFM	6%	0%	0%	0%
Kin Yip Street CFM	0%	0%	7%	0%
Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market	22%	14%	10%	5%
Tung Yick Market	42%	41%	39%	35%
<u>North</u>				
Sha Tau Kok Market	6%	3%	2%	2%
Shek Wu Hui Market	2%	3%	1%	1%
Kwu Tung Mkt Shopping Centre	5%	3%	5%	0%
Luen Wo Hui Market	22%	8%	-	-
<u>Tai Po</u>				
Tai Po Temporary Market	24%	24%	22%	21%
Plover Cove Road Market	42%	34%	27%	26%
<u>Sai Kung</u>				

Sai Kung Market	28%	27%	24%	16%
Tui Min Hoi Market	12%	0%	35%	38%
Sha Tin				
Sha Tin Market	7%	3%	3%	1%
Tai Wai Market	10%	6%	2%	2%
Fo Tan CFM (East)	17%	17%	17%	17%
Fo Tan CFM (West)	53%	53%	47%	47%

CFM = Cooked Food Market

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB314

Question Serial No.

1389

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The FEHD is responsible for conducting risk assessment on food and pests affecting public health. In 2004-05, how many risk assessment studies are expected to be conducted in this respect? What will such studies be about specifically? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2004-05, the Department will conduct four major risk assessment studies related to dietary exposure to lead, seafood, Chinese dim sum and microwave cooking respectively. In addition to these, there will be ad hoc studies on topical issues of food safety concern.

For pests affecting public health, a variety of risk assessment work using indicators such as rodent infestation rate, rat-flea index and mosquito ovitrap index are conducted on a regular basis.

A financial provision of \$10.6 m has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for these purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB315

Question Serial No.

1390

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Programme (1), the estimate for 2004-05 will increase by 8.7% on the 2003-04 original provision. Please explain how the increased provision will be allocated and what is the expenditure for each item of work?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The provision for Programme (1) in the 2004-05 Estimate is similar to that in the 2003-04 Revised Estimate and higher than that in the 2003-04 Original Estimate. This is because the Department plans to continue to strengthen mosquito and rodent control measures in 2004-05 in the light of last year's SARS outbreak and the threat of dengue fever.

Provisions for mosquito and rodent control work in 2004-05 are \$89.5 m and \$74.4 m respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB316

Question Serial No.

1548

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : During 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to launch the publicity campaign to strengthen family solidarity under the programme of family and child welfare. What are the estimated expenditure involved and details of the campaign? How would the Administration assess the effectiveness of the campaign in strengthening family solidarity?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : In 2004-05, SWD will continue to launch the publicity campaign on 'Strengthening Families and Combating Violence' to enhance public awareness of the need to strengthen family solidarity, encourage early help-seeking and prevent violence including spouse battering, child abuse, elder abuse and sexual violence. Provision of \$0.6 m has been earmarked for the campaign.

While some of the publicity activities (e.g. radio series, display of publicity materials) of 2003-04 will continue in 2004-05, the Working Group on the Publicity Campaign convened by SWD and comprising representatives from the Information Services Department and non-governmental organisations will meet to work out new plans for 2004-05.

A survey was conducted in 2003-04 to collect the views of the service users of different service units. The findings indicated that about half of the respondents were aware of the publicity campaign, and that television APIs, roadside plywood boards/banners and posters received the most attention from them.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB317

Question Serial No.

1549

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : With regard to the services for elders, the Administration will develop a more extensive network of carer support services by incorporating carer support into various types of care services for elders in the coming year. Please state in detail the contents of support services planned to be increased and the resources involved by the types of elderly services.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : To provide holistic and integrated services to the elders and their carers, carer support services have already become part and parcel of the service components of both residential care services and community support services. Educational and support programmes, carer resource corner, training on caring skills, and respite service, etc. are being provided by subvented organisations to the carers to meet their specific needs.

Under this integrated approach, carer support service has become one of the essential service components of the elderly services and no additional expenditure is incurred.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB318

Question Serial No.

1550

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under employment services, why will the cost per place per month of sheltered workshops run by the Government sector increase from \$3,883 in 2002-03 to the estimated \$4,107 in 2004-05 while that of the subvented sector decrease from \$3,633 to \$3,304 over the same period?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : The decrease in unit cost per month of sheltered workshops in the subvented sector is mainly due to the lapsing of time-limited posts of Programme Assistants by the end of 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut and efficiency savings. The increase in unit cost per month of the sheltered workshops operated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is caused by the reduction of those stand-alone sheltered workshops which have been hived off/closed in 2003-04. In 2004-05, there will only be two sheltered workshops operated by SWD and both are with hostels, namely, Hang Ngai Manufacturing & Hostel and Wing Lung Bank Golden Jubilee Sheltered Workshop & Hostel (WLBGJSW&H). These two service units with functions other than sheltered workshops are managed by supervisors with higher ranking to cater for their operational needs. For example, WLBGJSW&H is a gazetted Place of Refuge.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Director of Social Welfare

Date

26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB319

Question Serial No.

1551

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the rehabilitation and medical social services, please provide:

- (1) the type of self-financing hostels planned to be introduced in 2004-05, the number of places to be provided and the estimated cost per place per month; and
- (2) the breakdown of the number of places by residential homes under the respite service in residential homes for people with disabilities, the estimated implementation schedule and the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : (1) The proposed self-financing hostels for people with disabilities, to be run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), provide alternative residential and respite services in the form of small group homes, hostels or satellite housing to meet temporary and permanent housing needs of people with various types of disabilities, including discharged mental patients, people with mental handicap or visual impairment. In 2004-05, the project at Ko Shing Street in Sheung Wan will provide 20 places for mentally handicapped persons while the ex-staff and ex-doctors quarter sites of the Castle Peak Hospital in Tuen Mun will provide about 200 additional residential places for people with various types of disabilities. An amount of \$38.4 m

from the Lotteries Fund was granted to meet the refurbishment/fitting-out cost of the projects. NGOs are required to meet all the related recurrent expenses from their own resources including that arises from the day-to-day maintenance of the premises.

- (2) Respite services are temporary residential care services to help alleviate the burden of the carers of people with disabilities as the carers themselves might need to attend to personal or family business from time to time. As respite services are provided within existing subvented rehabilitation homes by making use of the casual vacancies, no additional financial resources are required. It is planned that a total of 142 respite care places will be provided in 2004-05.

Planned provisions of respite services are as follows:

Service	No. of places
Supported Hostel for Mentally Handicapped Persons	2
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	43
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	79
Care-and-Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons	18
Total	142

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB320

Question Serial No.

1552

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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 : It is stated in the 2004-05 Estimates that the percentages of cases satisfactorily completed in probation homes, reformatory schools and probation hostels are 88%, 63% and 58% respectively. What is the estimated amount of resources required for cases not satisfactorily completed? What are the reasons for not having completed the training? Are there any plans to review the residential training with a view to increasing the percentages of cases satisfactorily completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

- (1) The unit costs of residential services in probation homes, reformatory school and probation hostel are the overall average figures. Cases under residential training require the same resource input and staff attention regardless of the cases are satisfactorily completed or not.
- (2) From our past records, the reasons for failure to complete the residential training are-
 - being put on other sentences for outstanding offences committed before admission to the homes.
 - breach of court orders due to unsatisfactory performance.
 - committing further offences.
 - absence without leave during the residential period.

- (3) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) conducts an on-going review of the departmental home services for continuous improvement in service quality and effectiveness. To meet the changing needs of residents and to arouse their interest in learning, the homes have strengthened their developmental and educational programmes through various means, including collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education to provide computer courses for residents. For future service development, SWD will transfer the probation hostel service to a non-governmental organisation in 2004-05 to enable young probationers to enjoy a wider range of community-based services including employment assistance.

SWD is also proceeding with a project to co-locate the departmental homes into a purpose-built training complex where residents will benefit from upgraded training facilities and programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB321

Question Serial No.

1614

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Under this programme area, the estimated provision for 2004-05 is around \$23.95 b, which is about \$800 m (i.e. 3.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. It is stated that the increase is mainly due to "an estimated increase in paid cases under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance Schemes".

In the 2004-05 Budget, the economy is forecast to grow by 6% in real terms for the coming year and job opportunities should continue to increase. In the light of this, why is there an estimated increase in paid cases despite an expected improvement of the economy? What is the estimated number of new cases as against the total number of CSSA recipients?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : The CSSA Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for individuals or families who cannot support themselves financially for such reasons as old age, disability, illness, unemployment, low earnings or single parenthood. Although the significant increase in unemployment cases has been largely arrested due to the improving economy and the introduction of intensified measures under our Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases. In fact, we estimate that the old age and single parent family cases will constitute the largest increase in 2004-05.

We estimate that the number of CSSA cases will increase to 304 800 (comprising an estimated total number of 558 500 recipients) in 2004-05, representing an increase of 17 000 cases when compared with the revised estimate for 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB322

Question Serial No.

1617

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : Under this programme area, the Social Welfare Department “re-organised and strengthened the Special Investigation Section (SIS) to deal with suspected fraud and abuse of social security schemes” in 2003-04, and will “maximise the efficiency of the SIS” in 2004-05.

Concerning this area of work in 2003-04, please state the expenditure involved, the number of cases served, the total number of disclosed fraud and abuse cases and the public money involved, their proportion to the aggregate number of cases and amount and a comparison with the relevant figures for 2004-05, and to what extent the efficiency of the SIS can be raised in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : The provision allocated for the SIS in 2003-04 was \$42.6 m while the overpayment identified amounted to \$65 m. The SIS is made up of two Fraud Investigation Teams, the Data Matching Team and the Performance Management Team. During the year 2003-04 (up to 29 February 2004), the Fraud Investigation Teams handled 4 020 reports and suspected fraud cases and 367 cases were found to have fraud established with a total overpayment amounting to \$24.1 m. The Data Matching Team and the Performance Management Team have completed 24 806 cases and 3 943 cases respectively with a total overpayment amounting to \$40.9 m.

During 2004-05, we shall review the work of SIS more intensively with a view to improving efficiency and effectiveness in handling cases. This will include a review of performance indicators and ways and means to strengthen staff's skills and professional knowledge. At this stage it is not possible to predict the outcome of the review or the extent to which improvements can be achieved. The number of fraud cases dealt with is to a large extent dependent on the number and type of cases reported rather than the internal processes of the SIS.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB323

Question Serial No.

1625

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of day crèche (DC) places and day nursery (DN) places was reduced from 960 and 28 973 in 2003-04 (revised estimate) to 920 and 28 852 in 2004-05 (plan) respectively. Would the Administration provide the reason(s) in detail for the planned reduction in the number of such places?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : In 2004-05, 28 852 DN places and 920 DC places will be provided. The reason for rationalising the provision of these places is the decrease in the population of the very young and hence the dwindling service demand. In order to optimise the use of resources and in view of under-utilisation of some centres, there are on-going rationalisation plans which involve closure of centres and reduction of capacity. In 2004-05, after the planned adjustments, the enrollment rate is expected to be around 87%, this means that there is adequate provision to meet service demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB324

Question Serial No.

1626

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The cost per place per month for foster care and small group homes will drop from \$8,923 and \$13,041 in 2003-04 (Revised Estimate) to \$8,525 and \$12,413 in 2004-05 (Plan) respectively. Please provide detailed information on the following:

- (1) reason(s) for the decrease in cost;
- (2) number of service recipients; and
- (3) whether the service quality will be affected as a result of the decrease in cost?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- (1) The reduction in unit cost is due to two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005; and the 2.5% efficiency savings to be applied across the board on subvention allocations in 2004-05.
- (2) As at 31 December 2003, there were 682 children receiving foster care service and 892 children receiving small group home service.
- (3) The reduction in unit cost, due to reasons stated in (1) above, should not affect service quality which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB325

Question Serial No.

1627

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
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 : Regarding the substantial increase in the number of cases served under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme from 366 100 in the 2003-04 revised estimate to 395 400 in the 2004-05 estimate, would the Administration state in detail:

- the reasons for the increase in the number of cases served?
- the number of eligible applicants who are successful in applying for CSSA?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : The increase in the number of CSSA cases served in 2004-05 is mainly due to the projected increase in the number of new applications. Although the significant increase in unemployment cases has been largely arrested due to the improving economy and the introduction of intensified measures under our Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases. In fact, we estimate that the old age and single parent family cases will constitute the largest increase in 2004-05.

We estimate that the average number of CSSA cases for 2004-05 will increase to 304 822 while the average number of recipients will be 558 500. It is difficult to estimate at this stage whether they will all be successful applications.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB326

Question Serial No.

1628

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**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 : With regard to reported Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) fraud cases handled by the Social Welfare Department, would the Administration state in detail:

- What are the respective numbers of reported CSSA fraud cases received and cases of successful prosecution, and what are the sentences for such cases in each of the past five years?
- What measures are taken to combat frauds on CSSA?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : In the past five years (up to 29 February 2004), there were totally 15 573 reported CSSA fraud cases received. Statistics on the number of cases which were reported from the public by sources are provided below:

Financial Year	No. of Report of Fraud Received			Total
	* Report Fraud Hotline	<u>Letter</u>	** Special Report Fraud Form	
1999-2000	2 126	141	Not yet available	2 267
2000-01	2 312	198	107	2 617
2001-02	2 352	475	162	2 989
2002-03	3 156	606	191	3 953
2003-04 (up to 29 February 2004)	2 957	667	123	3 747

* In place since August 1998 **In place since May 2000

Up to the end of February 2004, there were 1 530 cases with fraud established of which 506 cases had been reported to the Police and 198 had been successfully prosecuted. Statistics on the sentences for the prosecuted cases are provided below:

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (up to February 2004)	Total
<i>Imprisonment</i>	0	12	35	50	35	132
<i>Bound Over</i>	0	3	1	2	2	8
<i>Community service Order</i>	3	6	12	11	12	44
<i>Fine</i>	0	1	0	0	1	2
<i>Stern warning</i>	0	0	1	4	0	5
<i>Found not guilty</i>	5	0	0	2	0	7
Total	8	22	49	69	50	198

The Special Investigation Section of the department will strengthen staff's skills and professional knowledge to combat fraud. The Section investigates and assembles cases for the Police's consideration for prosecution, and performs matching of information with other Government departments and organisations. On the preventive side, we emphasise community education and, in particular, the obligation to give truthful statements when applying for CSSA and for CSSA recipients to report changes in circumstances honestly and promptly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB327

Question Serial No.

1629

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the 41.4% decrease in the financial provision under the Government sector, would the Administration state in detail:

- the service covered by the provision and the number of service recipients;
- the reasons(s) for the drastic reduction in the provision.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate for this programme under the Government sector, the decrease of 41.4% in 2004-05 estimate is mainly due to the lapse of the \$102 m one-off provision for Operation CARE project in 2003-04, efficiency savings, the two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005 and the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB328

Question Serial No.

1630

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, the cost per place per month of day care centres has decreased from \$6,220 in 2003-04 (Revised Estimate) to \$5,542. Would the Administration state in detail:

- What are the reasons for the decrease in cost?
- What is the number of service recipients?
- Will the service quality or service scope be affected by the decrease in cost?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : The main reasons for the decrease in the unit cost of day care centres are:

- (1) two pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005;
- (2) efficiency savings; and
- (3) efficiency gain arising from the integrated service mode of the day care places with the residential care home for the elderly.

The number of service recipients of Day Care Centre for the Elderly is estimated to be 1 900 in 2003-04.

Service quality which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement is not expected to be affected.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

HWFB329

Question Serial No.

1631

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme area, financial provisions allocated to the Government and the subvented sectors in the 2004-05 estimate have decreased by 34.7% and 1% respectively when compared with those in the 2003-04 revised estimate. Would the Administration state in detail:

- what are the reasons for the decrease in provision?
- what is the decrease in the provision for each service?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate, the decrease of 1% in the 2004-05 estimate under the subvented sector is mainly due to efficiency savings, the pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005, the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004 outside the 2004-05 estimate), offset by the additional funding for new projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05. The decrease of 34.7% in the provision for the Government sector is due to the same factors and the one-off provision of \$150 m for setting up the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003-04.

The decrease in provision for various services included in the 2004-05 estimate under this programme is on average about 5%.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 26 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB330

Question Serial No.

1632

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of places in halfway houses (HWH) and long stay care homes (LSCH) provided to discharged mental patients will increase from 1 349 and 980 in the 2003-04 (Revised Estimate) to 1 509 and 1 380 for the 2004-05 (Plan) respectively. Please state in detail:

- what are the reasons for the substantial increase in the number of places?
- what are the reasons for the decrease in financial provision despite the increase in service demand?
- what is the staffing involved?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply : The increase of 160 HWH places and 400 LSCH places in 2004-05 is due to the anticipated completion of the two purpose-built rehabilitation complexes, namely the Lai King Headland Rehabilitation Complex and Tuen Mun Rehabilitation Complex.

As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate, the decrease of 7.7% in the 2004-05 financial provision under this programme is mainly due to the one-off provision of \$150 m for setting up the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003-04, efficiency savings, the pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January of 2004 and 2005, the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2003-04 (earmarked funding for their extension has been approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February 2004

outside the 2004-05 estimate), largely offset by the additional funding for new projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

The notional staffing level for each rehabilitation complex is 206 including registered social workers, qualified nurses and professional therapists, e.g. occupational therapist /physiotherapist as well as other welfare and care staff, etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Community Development									
Young People									

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : As compared with the 2003-04 revised estimate, the amounts of reduction in the 2004-05 estimate in respect of programme areas (1), (3) to (7) are provided:

Programme Areas	2003-04 revised estimate (a) \$m	Reduction due to Civil Service pay cut 3% (b) \$m	Reduction due to the exclusion of funds related to temporary jobs (c) \$m	Reduction due to efficiency savings (d) \$m	Other reductions* (e) \$m	Resources for new/expansion of services (f) \$m	Resources transfer from/to other programmes# (g) \$m	2004-05 estimate a-b-c-d-e+f+/-g \$m	Resources for the extension of temporary jobs to be approved \$m
(1) Family and child welfare	1,700.7	(31.6)	(3.6)	(44.4)	-	10.1	117.8	1,749.0	10.9
(3) Service for the Elders	3,428.1	(73.2)	(42.5)	(155.3)	(102.0)	303.9	15.1	3,374.1	43.5
(4) Rehabilitation & Medical Social Services	2,726.3	(65.5)	(19.3)	(56.8)	(150.0)	92.0	(9.8)	2,516.9	19.6
(5) Services for offenders	292.2	(6.1)	(1.2)	(6.2)	-	3.1	(3.0)	278.8	0.6
(6) Community Development	281.6	(4.1)	(18.3)	(10.3)	-	0.1	(115.4)	133.6	1.7
(7) Young People	1,342.0	(30.5)	(92.0)	(50.1)	(26.0)	19.0	(4.4)	1,158.0	145.3

* Due to exclusion of non-recurrent commitment of \$102 m for Operation CARE under Programme (3), \$150 m for setting up the SARS Trust Fund under Programme (4) and recurrent subvention of \$26 m upon lapse of time-limited portion of the Understanding the Adolescent Project under Programme (7).

Including the transfer of \$114 m from Programme (6) to Programme (1) to facilitate the formation of Integrated Family Service Centres and other transfers among programmes mainly due to redeployment of staff, adjustments in apportionment of administrative costs etc.

The resources of \$240.4 m for the extension of temporary jobs were approved by Finance Committee on 20 February 2004. This includes \$18.8 m for the extension of temporary jobs under Programme (2) Social Security.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB332

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1157

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Department of Health plans to delete 293 permanent posts (including 5 posts to accommodate general grades officers working in general outpatient clinics of the Hospital Authority). Please inform us of :

- (a) the ranks mainly involved, the number of officers, the terms of employment and the mode of deletion in relation to such posts;
- (b) whether the post deletion relates to the outsourcing of individual work and if yes, the rank, the number and the job nature of the officers concerned as well as the outsourcing timetable;
- (c) whether the reduction in establishment will result in a heavier workload for the existing staff, in particular the frontline healthcare and rehabilitation workers; and
- (d) how the Department can ensure that staff morale and service quality will be maintained and will not be declined as a result of the staff cut.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

In 2004-05, the Department of Health (DH) will delete 331 posts in the permanent establishment. Separately, 38 posts will be created to strengthen disease prevention and information technology support. The net deletion is 293 posts. Details are at Annex.

DH will delete the posts which will fall vacant through natural wastage including retirement under the voluntary retirement scheme. There is no plan for out-sourcing.

Through DH's continuous efforts in service re-organisation and service mode re-engineering, DH staff is deployed effectively to meet service requirements. The Department will closely monitor the manpower position and provide suitable training to existing staff to facilitate their redeployment and job transition. The Department maintains effective and open communication with staff and staff groups through the work of the Staff Relations and Subvention Unit. Ongoing staff consultation is undertaken through designated standing committees including Departmental Consultative Committee and Grade Consultative Committees, as well as regular meetings with staff associations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Posts to be deleted/created in 2004-05

(d) Posts to be deleted

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Artisan	1
Calligraphist	1
Clerical Assistant	21
Clerical Officer	25
Consultant	2
Darkroom Technician	2
Dental Officer	6
Dental Surgery Assistant	3
Dental Therapist	4
Dispenser	3
Enrolled Nurse	73
Executive Officer	1
Health Inspector	2
Hospital Administrator	1
Hospital Foreman	3
Inoculator	12
Laboratory Attendant	4
Medical and Health Officer	6
Medical Laboratory Technician	12
Midwife	2
Motor Driver	1
Office Assistant	3
Personal Secretary	5
Property Attendant	24
Radiographer	3
Registered Nurse	64
Scientific Officer (Medical)	1
Statistical Officer	2
Supplies Assistant	2
Supplies Supervisor	3
Workman II	<u>39</u>
Sub-total:	331

(e) Posts to be created to strengthen disease prevention and control

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Administrative Officer	2
Controller, CHP	1
Executive Officer	2
Inspector of Police	1
Medical and Health Officer	8
Registered Nurse	14
Treasury Accountant	<u>1</u>
Sub-total:	29

(f) Posts to be created to strengthen information technology support

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Analyst/Programmer	7
Computer Operator	<u>2</u>
Sub-total:	9

Net deletion **293**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB333

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

1174

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It has been stated under this Programme that the indicator concerning the registration applications from healthcare professionals processed shows an estimated decrease in 2004-05. In this connection, please inform us of:

(1) the reason for the estimated decrease in the indicator.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The estimated decrease in the number of registration applications from healthcare professionals is mainly accounted for by a projected reduction in the number of applications from Chinese medicine practitioners, the majority of which were processed in 2002 and 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB334

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

1336

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Attendances at health education activities have decreased from 973 000 in 2003 (Actual) to 800 000 in 2004 (Estimate), representing a reduction of 17.78%. Will the Department set out in detail:

- the reason for the decrease in attendances?
- if measures will be taken to attract the public to attend health education activities?
If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

The higher attendances in 2003 were associated with the extra health education activities primarily relating to SARS. It is expected that the number of activities may slightly fall in 2004.

Health promotion activities will continue to be publicised through announcements on the health education website and hotline, media briefings, newspaper articles, announcements and advertisements, and publicity through collaborating parties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB335

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

1337

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Department of Health subvents the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) in providing initiatives against smoking. In this regard, will the Department set out in detail:

- (a) the provision for subventing COSH in the last 5 years?
- (b) whether the effectiveness of such anti-smoking initiatives has been evaluated?
- (c) the reason for the slight decrease in the number of publicity/educational activities delivered by COSH as stated under 2004 (Estimate).

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- (a) The total subvention provided to COSH in the past five years are: -

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Total</u> \$M
2003-04 (revised estimate)	10.9
2002-03	8.0
2001-02	11.7
2000-01	8.3
1999-2000	9.0

- (b) COSH conducts pre- and post-activity evaluation on the knowledge, attitude and practice of participants on tobacco control issues. It also conducts opinion survey on public attitude on tobacco control issues and youth smoking survey every 5 years.
- (c) The estimated number of publicity/educational activities to be delivered by COSH in 2004 (i.e. 265) is based on the number of on-going and planned activities, which is similar to the number in 2003 (i.e. 266).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB336

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Curative Care

1338

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The attendances of inpatients including emergency cases for dental treatment have increased from 52 000 in 2003 (Actual) to 60 000 in 2004 (Estimate), representing a rise of 15.38%. In addition, the attendances for dermatology services at specialist outpatient clinics have increased from 249 000 in 2003 (Actual) to 260 000 in 2004 (Estimate), representing a rise of 4.42%. Will the Department set out in detail:

- The reason for the marked increase in the attendances of such services?
- The reason for no corresponding increase in provision despite the increase in service demand?
- The reason for reducing 98 posts in the establishment under this Programme despite the increase in service demand? Please state the grades, posts and length of service of the officers concerned.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Owing to the SARS outbreak last year, the attendances for these services experienced a sharp fall in 2003. The projected attendances in 2004 are estimated with reference to the actual figures in 2002.

As a result of civil service pay cut and efficiency improvement measures, no increase in provisions for these two services in 2004 is required. A total of 98 posts will be deleted in Programme 4 which will fall vacant through natural wastage including retirement under the voluntary retirement scheme. Details are as follows –

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Clerical Assistant	4
Clerical Officer	9
Consultant	1
Darkroom Technician	2
Dental Officer	1
Dispenser	2
Enrolled Nurse	25
Hospital Foreman	1
Laboratory Attendant	1
Medical Laboratory Technician	6
Motor Driver	1
Office Assistant	1
Property Attendant	12
Radiographer	3
Registered Nurse	11
Supplies Assistant	1
Supplies Supervisor	1
Workman II	16
	<hr/>
	98

The average length of service of such staff is 17.4 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB337

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1478

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Programme (2) Disease Prevention, the provision in 2004-05 is \$43.1M (3.4%) less than that in 2003-04. In this connection, please provide information on:

- (1) how the Department can maintain the existing service quality in face of the cut in provision?
- (2) the provision and timetable involved for DH's ongoing planning for the setting up of the Centre for Health Protection in early 2004-05.
- (3) the net 105 permanent posts to be deleted in 2004-05 and the saving in expenditure as a result of such deletion.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (1) Reduction in provision for disease prevention in 2004-05 will be achieved through savings measures such as service re-organisation, service mode re-engineering and reduction in departmental expenses. As such, service standards of the Department of Health will not be adversely affected.
- (2) The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will be established by mid-2004. Initial attention would be paid to the development of the Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch and Infection Control Branch. The other functional branches will be fully developed by 2005. The recurrent expenditure of the CHP upon full establishment will amount to about \$1 billion per year, of which around 70% will be spent on staffing. Apart from funding redeployed from within the Department, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has earmarked a special provision of \$40M under Head 149 for creation of posts in the CHP and engagement of Hospital Authority staff to be posted to the new agency. Separately, the Hong Kong Jockey Club has pledged a contribution of \$500M to support establishment of the CHP.
- (3) The net deletion is 105 permanent posts. The full-year savings arising from the deletion is \$24.8M. Details are given at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB338

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

Question Serial No.
1498

Programme :
Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out the ranks and scope of work of duties in relation to the net 293 permanent posts to be deleted in 2004-05 as well as the saving in expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2004-05, the Department of Health will delete 331 posts, which will fall vacant through natural wastage including retirement under the voluntary retirement scheme. These posts cover a number of grades such as Medical and Health Officer, Enrolled Nurse, Dental Therapist, Medical Laboratory Technician, as well as Clerical Officer, Office Assistant and Personal Secretary. Separately, 38 posts will be created in 2004-05 to strengthen DH's work on disease prevention and information technology support. The net deletion is 293 posts. Details of these posts are at Annex. As the posts are to be deleted gradually in 2004-05, the net savings to be achieved in 2004-05 will be about \$15M. The full year net effect of the deletion will be \$61M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Posts to be deleted/created in 2004-05

(g) Posts to be deleted

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Artisan	1
Calligraphist	1
Clerical Assistant	21
Clerical Officer	25
Consultant	2
Darkroom Technician	2
Dental Officer	6
Dental Surgery Assistant	3
Dental Therapist	4
Dispenser	3
Enrolled Nurse	73
Executive Officer	1
Health Inspector	2
Hospital Administrator	1
Hospital Foreman	3
Inoculator	12
Laboratory Attendant	4
Medical and Health Officer	6
Medical Laboratory Technician	12
Midwife	2
Motor Driver	1
Office Assistant	3
Personal Secretary	5
Property Attendant	24
Radiographer	3
Registered Nurse	64
Scientific Officer (Medical)	1
Statistical Officer	2
Supplies Assistant	2
Supplies Supervisor	3
Workman II	<u>39</u>
Sub-total:	331

(h) Posts to be created to strengthen disease prevention and control

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Administrative Officer	2
Controller, CHP	1
Executive Officer	2
Inspector of Police	1
Medical and Health Officer	8
Registered Nurse	14
Treasury Accountant	<u>1</u>
Sub-total:	29

(i) Posts to be created to strengthen information technology support

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Analyst/Programmer	7
Computer Operator	<u>2</u>
Sub-total:	9

Net Deletion **293**

Posts to be deleted/created under Programme 2

(j) Posts to be deleted

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Medical and Health Officer	6
Registered Nurse	21
Enrolled Nurse	46
Midwife	2
Inoculator	12
Medical Laboratory Technician	6
Hospital Administrator	1
Executive Officer	1
Statistical Officer	2
Clerical Officer	7
Clerical Assistant	8
Office Assistant	1
Personal Secretary	5
Laboratory Attendant	1
Property Attendant	3
Hospital Foreman	1
Supplies Supervisor	2
Supplies Assistant	1
Workman II	<u>11</u>
Sub-total:	137

(k) Posts to be created to strengthen disease prevention and control

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Controller, CHP	1
Medical and Health Officer	4
Registered Nurse	13
Administrative Officer	2
Executive Officer	1
Inspector of Police	1
Treasury Accountant	<u>1</u>
Sub-total:	23

(l) Posts to be created to strengthen information technology support

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>
Analyst/Programmer	7
Computer Operator	<u>2</u>
Sub-total:	9

Net Deletion **105**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB339

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1504

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), a new body for fighting and preventing communicable diseases,

- (1) re-engineering and restructuring are to be carried out for identifying the staff and resources to be redeployed to the CHP. Will there be any reduction in staff? If yes, what are the details?
- (2) will the Department provide new training courses for the staff working in the CHP? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved? What is the target number of recipients of such training?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (c) The CHP will have a workforce of some 1 500 staff. Most of them will be redeployed from existing staff in the Department of Health. About 170 will be new recruits and 23 posts will be created under Programme 2 to strengthen disease prevention. There will be a net increase rather than reduction in staff for fighting and preventing communicable diseases.
- (d) In 2004-05, \$13M will be allocated for staff training in the Department, including that for fighting and preventing communicable diseases. Additional work-based training, local and overseas attachments and local commissioned training will be organised. Staff of the CHP will also be sponsored to attend training courses, seminars and conferences.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05 ^{Reply Serial No.}

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

HWFB340

Question Serial No.

1544

Head : 149 Government Secretariat
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (9) Subvention : Hospital Authority

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Does the Government have any plan to further increase the provision of Chinese Medicine out-patient services, including setting up such clinics other than in hospitals or enhancing the services provided by existing clinics? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu Chung

Reply :

The Government is committed to introducing Chinese medicine into the public health care system. The Hospital Authority set up three clinics in 2003 to provide Chinese medicine outpatient service. The expansion of the service will be reviewed in light of the operating experience of the three clinics.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and
Food

Date

March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HWFB341

Question Serial No.

1425

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead : 8001 SX –
Head 708 – Capital Reprovisioning of
Subventions and Major welfare facilities
Systems and Equipment

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the reprovisioning of welfare facilities under subhead 8001SX of the expenditure part of the Capital Works Reserve Fund, how many projects will need to be carried out in 2004-05? Please give a list of the names of the projects.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : There are seven reprovisioning items in 2004-05 required as a result of the Housing Authority's Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme. They are listed as follows:

- (a) Reprovisioning of Sheng Kung Hui Diocesan Welfare Council's Home Help Team from Block 1, Homantin Estate to Ma Tau Wai Estate.
- (b) Reprovisioning of the Society for the Rehabilitation of Offenders – Hong Kong's Half-way House for Discharged Mental Patients from Yuen Long Estate to Tin Wah Estate.
- (c) Reprovisioning of Sik Sik Yuen – Ho Ping Social Centre for Senior Citizens from Block 24, Sau Mau Ping (II) Estate to Redevelopment of Sau Mau Ping Estate Phase 7.

- (d) Reprovisioning of Association of Baptist for World Evangelism Incorporation's Children and Youth Centre from Lai King Estate to Kwai Shing (East) Estate.
- (e) Reprovisioning of the Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod's Day Nursery and Day Crèche from Kwai Chung Estate to Tin Yiu Estate.
- (f) Reprovisioning of Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council's Martha Baker Social Centre for the Elderly from Block 3, Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate to Upper Ngau Tau Kok Redevelopment Phase 1.
- (g) Reprovisioning of Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention Hong Kong's Shek Kip Mei Social Therapy Centre from Shek Kip Mei Estate to Tai Yuen Estate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>31 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB342

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

1747

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the ratio of the supply and demand for the rebus service? Will there be any increase in the number of rebus in consideration of the demand?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Of the existing rebus fleet, 59 are deployed to operate scheduled route service and 19 on dial-a-ride booking service respectively. During its non-core hours, the former group of vehicles also provide dial-a-ride service.

The scheduled route service is fully utilised, carrying 708 passengers per day. As at 1 January 2004, there were 49 passengers on the waiting list for scheduled route service, representing about 7% of the daily passengers carried. With the introduction of one new scheduled route in February 2004 and another one planned for the second quarter of 2004, we envisage that the waiting list will be further reduced. For the dial-a-ride booking service, the average monthly bookings from June to December 2003 were 4 921, of these, 95% (4 673) were accepted for service with the remaining 5% (248) being declined.

There is no plan to increase the number of rebus. However, in the coming year, we will replace six old rebus, which will help to improve the efficiency, hence the productivity of the rebus service. In the longer term, our intention is to raise passenger capacity through efficiency improvement of the existing service, for example, enhancement of the computerised booking system, replacement of old vehicles and route rationalisation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB343

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Advisory and Investigative Services

1193

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is mentioned in programme (2) that high output of seepage samples arises from an exceedingly high input. However, as the indicators show, the estimated number of tests to be performed on seepage samples in 2004 is 25 000 which is almost 10 000 less than that of 2003. What is the reason for that?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In 2003, a total of 35 504 determinations of seepage and swimming pool samples was conducted, against the original estimated figure of 22 000 determinations. The high output arises primarily from an exceedingly high input of seepage samples resulting from the increased public awareness of environmental hygiene upon the outbreak of SARS. In the light of the unexpected fluctuation of workload and the actual output figure for 2003, the expected workload level for 2004 is adjusted to 25 000 determinations. Nevertheless, the Government Laboratory will continue to perform tests on seepage samples if the number of input samples exceeds our estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 25.3.2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB344

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : 5. Transport Services for People with Disabilities

1490

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : There is high demand for the rehabus service. As commented by the people with disabilities, they have encountered difficulties in booking the rehabus service. Please advise the failure rate in booking the rehabus service in 2003. Are there any improvement measures to improve the service? How will the Administration make use of the approximate 10% increase in financial provision for next year to improve the overall rehabus service? What will be the long-term plan to cater for the demand for the rehabus service?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply : Of the existing rehabus fleet, 59 are deployed to operate scheduled route service and 19 on dial-a-ride booking service respectively. During its non-core hours, the former group of vehicles also provide dial-a-ride service.

As at 1 January 2004, there were 49 passengers on the waiting list for scheduled route service, representing about 7% of the daily passengers (708) carried. With the introduction of one new scheduled route in February 2004 and another one planned for the second quarter of 2004, we envisage that the waiting list will be further reduced. For the dial-a-ride booking service, the average monthly bookings received from June to December 2003 were 4 921, of these, 95% (4 673) were accepted for service with the remaining 5% (248) being declined.

The approximate 10% increase in financial provision for 2004-05 is earmarked for the replacement of six old rehabuses, which will help to improve the efficiency, hence productivity, of the rehabus service.

In the longer term, our intention is to raise passenger capacity through efficiency improvement of the existing service, for example, enhancement of the computerised booking system, replacement of old vehicles and route rationalisation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB345

Question Serial No.

1638

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There will be a decrease in the number of tests performed on both pharmaceuticals (quality control) and pharmaceuticals (registration), please give the reasons for the decrease in detail.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

With reference to the key indicators for statutory testing as given in the concerned COR report, it should be noted that the figures for 2003 are actual figures while the figures for 2004 are estimated figures. For 2003, the estimated and actual numbers of tests performed for pharmaceuticals (quality control) and pharmaceuticals (registration) are set out below –

	2003 (<u>Estimate</u>)	2003 (<u>Actual</u>)
Pharmaceuticals (quality control)	22 000	23 520
Pharmaceuticals (registration)	16 000	16 609

When considering projections for 2004, the Government Laboratory took into account the actual figures for 2003 and the forecasts from client departments. On this basis, the estimated figure for 2004 for pharmaceuticals (quality control) is projected to be 23 000 while that for pharmaceuticals (registration) 16 000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 25.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB346

Question Serial No.

1639

Head : 48 Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

There will be a substantial reduction in the number of tests performed on food samples for regulatory compliance purposes, please give the reasons for the reduction in detail.

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

In 2003, a total of 92 052 determinations of food samples for regulatory compliance purposes was conducted. This figure was higher than the estimate of 82 000 determinations by about 12 %. The increase in output was mainly due to the fluctuation of the complexity of the incoming samples requiring slightly larger amounts of tests for the year 2003. The expected level of 82 000 determinations for 2004 remains unchanged as compared to that of 2003 since FEHD made no indication of a drastic change in the overall analytical requirement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 26.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 347

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1013

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The matters requiring special attention in the coming year include “assisting farmers to capture high-value-market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production”. Please give information on the details and specific plans of this task in 2004-05, target number of farmers, manpower and expenditure involved and expected result.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

AFCD will provide technical support to cultivators in the areas of greenhouse designs, selection of suitable crops, pest and disease management, good horticultural practices, soil management and seed saving, through conducting workshops, seminars and on site field visits. It will also assist the organic sector to develop an organic standard and certification system to ensure production standards. About 31 staff and \$7.1 million are earmarked in 2004-05 for these tasks. AFCD has set itself a target of having a total of 40 farms covering 16 ha of land converted to organic farming and a total of some 9,600 m² of greenhouse built in 2004-05. The organic standard and certification system is also scheduled to be implemented during the same period.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 348

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : - 000 Operational Expenses

1211

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Subhead, the Allowances under Personal Emoluments in the 2004-05 Estimate have increased. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the reason for the increase in the Allowances under Personal Emoluments?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

As compared with the Revised Estimate 2003-04, the 2004-05 estimate for various items under subhead 002 Allowance has actually dropped except for acting allowance and on-call duty allowance. The former increases marginally from \$5.08m to 5.8m whilst the latter increases from \$80,000 to \$102,000.

The estimated increase in acting allowance is to provide for the anticipated increase in long term acting arrangements of established posts vacated by retiring officers. As for on-call duty allowance, the increase is largely due to a change in the mode of operation of the Animal Management Division of the Department. In the past, the Division stationed an overnight team comprising 5 staff in the Animal Management Centre from 2300 to 0800 hours the next day to respond to emergency calls. Since December 2003, the overnight team members were redeployed to attend other duties. An on-call arrangement was made instead and staff were only called upon to perform duties during the overnight period when emergency calls were received. As a result, more officers have become eligible for the payment of on-call duty allowance.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>26 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 349

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1555

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : One of the matters requiring special attention in 2004-05 is “promoting environmentally-friendly culture practices and stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management”. What are the details of this task? Does it include hygiene management during transportation of fish, as well as hygiene management of fish tank water at wholesale, retail and restaurant levels? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

This department promotes environmentally-friendly culture practices, steps up monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management to enhance the sustainability of the local aquaculture industry.

Environmentally-friendly culture practices being promoted include the use of dry pellet feeds and proper waste and refuse disposal measures to reduce water pollution in fish culture zones. Apart from routine water quality monitoring in fish culture zones for early detection of red tide outbreak and other environmental deterioration, we have also extended the monitoring to include E. coli and cholera bacteria content. In addition, a fish health management programme is in place to help fish farmers minimize losses due to fish diseases through on farm fish health checks and diagnostic service. A provision of \$8.5 million has been allocated in 2004-05 for these services.

The above services are neither targeted at food hygiene management of live fish during their transportation nor food hygiene management of fish tank water at wholesale, retail and restaurant levels. Nevertheless, we provide support to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department through monitoring water quality of fish tanks in wholesale fish markets managed by the Fish Marketing Organization.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB350

Question Serial No.

1438

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Since 2002, around 56 000 labels have been checked on average each year. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. How much resources has been committed to perform the work?
2. How have the organisations found to be in breach of the legislation been dealt with in the past ?
3. How was the effectiveness of the relevant measures assessed?
4. Have reviews been made on the effectiveness of the work? If so, what is the result? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The expenditure incurred for checking labels in 2002-03 and 2003-04 is \$3.7 m and \$3.9 m respectively. Depending on the gravity of the contravention, warning letters or summonses will be issued to the offenders. The Department monitors the level of compliance by the traders by the number of warning letters and summonses issued and making follow-up checks on premises where contraventions have been detected. The work have been effective and traders are found to have generally followed the labelling regulations and adhered to the Department's advice when irregularities are detected.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB351

Question Serial No.

1439

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. In 2003-04, the Team Clean pointed out that the cleansing work for 90 hygiene blackspots had to be stepped up. In this connection, what is the progress of the cleansing work and the expenditure involved? In 2004-05, is there any provision earmarked for maintaining the cleansing work of the hygiene blackspots? If so, what is the amount? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Does the Government conduct regular inspection on the hygiene condition of the blackspots after cleansing?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

This Department is involved, together with other Departments, in clearing 71 of the 90 hygiene blackspots identified last year. We deployed existing resources to tackle these blackspots and 11 of them have been eradicated. No specific provision has been included in 2004-05 for this purpose but the Department will continue to deploy existing resources to tackle the remaining ones and to monitor the hygiene conditions of these places.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB352

Question Serial No.

1440

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is estimated that in 2004-05 the volume of sludge collected by gully emptiers will decrease drastically as compared with that in 2002-03. What are the reasons? In view of the drastical decrease, has the Government considered the need to review the manpower structure? If so, what is the result? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Department has since September 2002 outsourced 70% of its mechanized gully cleansing service. As the Department requires the contractor to dewater the sludge, the total weight of sludge to be disposed of in 2004 will be substantially reduced from that in 2002 when no dewatering was carried out before disposal and be comparable to that in 2003. Through suitable re-deployment, outsourcing of the service has not given rise to any surplus of staff.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB353

Question Serial No.

1470

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health, please give details on:

- (1) the respective ranks with regard to the 10 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 and the amount of savings to be achieved.
- (2) breakdown of the operating expenses for cleansing and pest control work for 2004-05 and 2003-04 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The ranks involved are Assistant Clerical Officer, Clerical Officer, Field Assistant, Ganger, Laboratory Attendant, Nursing Officer, Senior Executive Officer and Senior Overseer. The annual savings are estimated to be around \$2.7 million.

The estimated expenses for pest control and related cleansing work for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are \$240 million and \$232 million respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB354

Question Serial No.

1471

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services, please list out:

- (1) the total savings achieved as a result of the civil service pay cut for 2004 and 2005 respectively.
- (2) the 328 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 and the savings so achieved.
- (3) the funding requirement in 2004-05 for providing cleansing services to newly developed areas and for managing new facilities.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (1) Savings expected to be achieved in 2004-05 from the civil service pay cut for 2004 and 2005 amount to \$47.3m.
- (2) Details of the net 328 posts to be deleted are set out in **Annex**. Annual savings from the deletion of these posts amount to \$47.8m.
- (3) \$5m and \$10m are estimated to be required respectively for providing cleansing services to newly developed areas and operating new facilities.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Calligraphist	1
Clerical Assistant	3
Clerical Officer	4
Executive Officer	9
Information Officer	2
Management Services Officer	1
Official Languages Officer	1
Personal Secretary	5
Special Driver	16
Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Supervisor	1
Transport Services Officer	1
Artisan	10
Foreman	14
Ganger	34
Workman I	1
Workman II	221
Works Supervisor	2
Police Inspector/Superintendent*	-1
	<hr/>
	328
	<hr/> <hr/>

*This post, to be seconded to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, will be created for providing expert support for the formulation, operation, and maintenance of a comprehensive contingency control system to prevent and prepare for the outbreak of communicable diseases in Hong Kong.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB355

Question Serial No.

1472

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control, please advise on the respective ranks and sections concerned with regard to the 465 posts to be deleted in 2004-05, and the amount of savings so achieved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

A list showing the ranks of the 465 posts to be deleted under Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control in 2004-05 is at Annex. The posts are in the Hawkers and Markets Sections and the related administrative sections of the Department. The amount of annual savings to be achieved from the deletion of these posts is estimated to be \$91.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Post Title Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

**List of grades and ranks of the 465 posts
for market management and hawker control to be deleted in 2004-05**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Clerical Officer	Assistant Clerical Officer
Foreman	Overseer
	Foreman
Hawker Control Officer	Principal Hawker Control Officer
	Chief Hawker Control Officer
	Senior Hawker Control Officer
	Hawker Control Officer
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer
Special Driver	Special Driver
Workman I	Workman I
Workman II	Workman II

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB356

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1473

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 Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control, please give a breakdown of the funding requirement and other operational expenses in relation to the management of new public markets in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- (e) Provisions included for new markets to be opened in 2004-05 and for markets opened in earlier years with additional provisions required in 2004-05 are as follows:

Market	\$million
*Tai Po Hui Market	14.6
*Queen Street Cooked Food Market	3.8
*Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	2.5
Luen Wo Hui Market	3.2
Centre Street Market	2.3

* Note : New markets to be commissioned in 2004-05

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB357

Question Serial No.

1494

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the details of the review on the alignment of the market rental adjustment mechanism? When will they be made public for consultation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Before the re-organisation of municipal services in 2000, the two Provisional Municipal Councils adopted different market rental adjustment mechanisms and practices. In 2001, the Administration submitted detailed alignment proposals to the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) for discussion. The Panel advised that it was not an opportune time to discuss the proposals due to the then poor economy.

Market operations are commercial activities but are currently receiving heavy subsidies from taxpayers. It remains the Administration's goal to gradually increase the rentals payable by stallholders to the open market rental levels. To avoid imposing an excessive burden on stallholders during the transitional period, the Department plans to raise the rental in phases and would set an annual cap on the percentage of rental increase. The Department is refining the proposals with a view to consulting the Panel again in late 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB358

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1495

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the regularisation of “private kitchens”, please advise on the following:

- (a) What is the progress? When will there be specific plans?
- (b) How many “private kitchens” are there in Hong Kong? Has the Administration set any target on the number of “private kitchens” to be regularised? If so, what is the target? What is the estimated expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

To facilitate the “private kitchen” type of operations, the Department plans to introduce a new category of licensed food business under section 31 of the Food Business Regulation (Cap.132 sub. leg.). Premises licensed under this new category will have to comply with the following requirements and conditions :-

- (a) The premises must be housed in commercial buildings or composite commercial/residential buildings;
- (b) The seating capacity would be limited to no more than 24 persons at any one time;
- (c) The operation would be confined to the provision of dinner and the business hours should be no more than three and a half hours per day; and

- (d) Provision of meals for consumption off the premises would not be allowed.

The LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene expressed general support to the regularization proposal at its meeting on 18 December 2003.

The Department is presently working out the licensing requirements for this new category of licence in collaboration with Buildings Department and Fire Services Department and plans to introduce relevant amendments to the Food Business Regulation in the 2004-05 legislative session. Resources required to implement this initiative are not expected to be substantial and will be absorbed within the existing resources.

The number of this new category of licence to be issued will depend on the number of applications which can satisfy the Department's licensing requirements and conditions. The Department does not have a fixed target on the number to be issued. It is estimated that there are at present about 85 establishments offering "private-kitchen" type of services to customers, of which 55 operators are already holding a food business licence or a certificate of compliance for operation as a club.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>24 March 2004</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB359

Question Serial No.

1496

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the introduction of nutrition labelling, what is the estimated expenditure involved and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

After consolidating the views and comments received during the public consultation exercise on the proposed nutrition labelling scheme, a Regulatory Impact Assessment will be conducted to evaluate the scheme's overall costs and benefits, including the potential benefits of lowering the overall health costs to the community. Public education programmes will continue to be conducted to enhance consumers' knowledge on nutrition and nutrition information on food labels. A financial provision of about \$3 m has been included in the 2004-05 Estimate for these purposes.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB360

Question Serial No.

1497

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to the 803 permanent posts to be deleted in 2004-05, what are their respective ranks and relevant duties? How much savings will be achieved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

A list showing the ranks of the net 803 permanent posts to be deleted in 2004-05 is set out in Annex. Of these posts, 465 are for market management and hawker control, 328 are for environmental hygiene and related services, and 10 are for food safety and public health. The annual savings to be achieved from the deletion of the posts is estimated to be \$142 million.

Signature

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Director of

Post Title Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25 March 2004

List of the net 803 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 by rank

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Artisan	Artisan
Calligraphist	Senior Calligraphist
Clerical Assistant	Clerical Assistant
Clerical Officer	Senior Clerical Officer
	Clerical Officer
	Assistant Clerical Officer
Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer
	Senior Executive Officer
	Executive Officer I
Field Assistant	Field Assistant
Foreman	Senior Overseer
	Overseer
	Senior Foreman
	Foreman
Ganger	Ganger
Hawker Control Officer	Principal Hawker Control Officer
	Chief Hawker Control Officer
	Senior Hawker Control Officer
	Hawker Control Officer
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer
Information Officer	Principal Information Officer
	Information Officer
Laboratory Attendant	Laboratory Attendant
Management Services Officer	Management Services Officer II
Official Languages Officer	Official Languages Officer I
Personal Secretary	Personal Secretary I
	Personal Secretary II
Registered Nurse	Nursing Officer
Special Driver	Special Driver
Supplies Assistant	Supplies Assistant
Supplies Supervisor	Supplies Supervisor II
Transport Services Officer	Transport Services Officer II
Workman I	Workman I
Workman II	Workman II
Works Supervisor	Works Supervisor II

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB361

Question Serial No.

1541

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What plans does the Government have for the dissemination of public messages about avian flu and live food poultry in 2004-05? What is the amount of the estimated expenses?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

With the outbreaks of avian flu in recent years, the Government has spared no efforts in educating the public about various preventive measures against this disease. As far as the Department is concerned, an amount of \$38.9 m has been earmarked in the 2004/05 Estimates for public education and community involvement in order to drive home various important messages concerning environmental hygiene and food safety, including the prevention of avian flu. Other than the production of publicity materials, talks and seminars will be held to enhance public understanding of the avian flu infection and proper ways of handling live poultry and wild birds.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB362

Question Serial No.

1546

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to financial provision, the estimate figure for 2004-05 is 12.5% less than the revised figure for 2003-04. What are the services for which provision is cut? What measures will be taken to ensure that the quality of relevant services will not be affected?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

For Programme (2), the 2004-05 estimate is 12.5% lower than the 2003-04 revised estimate due mainly to civil service pay cut, deletion of civil service posts when they become vacant and reduced provision for the creation of temporary jobs.

To ensure that the quality of the services is sustained, the Department is regularly reviewing and streamlining operational procedures and exploring alternative means of service delivery having regard to the manpower available. Appropriate training will also be given to staff to enhance service quality and efficiency.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB363

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1755

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Matters requiring special attention in 2004-05 include following up the regularisation of “private kitchens”. What are the detailed plan and timetable for the implementation of the relevant work? What are the estimated manpower and financial expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

To facilitate the “private kitchen” type of operations, the Department plans to introduce a new category of licensed food business under section 31 of the Food Business Regulation (Cap.132 sub. leg.). Premises licensed under this new category will have to comply with the following requirements and conditions :-

- (a) The premises must be housed in commercial buildings or composite commercial/residential buildings;
- (b) The seating capacity would be limited to no more than 24 persons at any one time;
- (c) The operation would be confined to the provision of dinner and the business hours should be no more than three and a half hours per day; and
- (d) Provision of meals for consumption off the premises would not be allowed.

The LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene expressed general support to the regularization proposal at its meeting on 18 December 2003.

The Department is presently working out the detailed licensing requirements for this new category of licence in collaboration with Buildings Department and Fire Services Department and plans to introduce relevant amendments to the Food Business Regulation in the 2004-05 legislative session.

Resources required to implement this initiative are not expected to be substantial and will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>24 March 2004</u>