

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Session No.: 15

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB001

Question Serial No.

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

Subhead (No. & title) : --

0024

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2005-06, what are the timetables for the amendment and implementation of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance?
- (b) Is there any provision earmarked for the implementation of the proposed amendment of the Ordinance? If yes, what are the staffing requirement and expenditure involved?
- (c) What are the shares of personal emoluments and departmental expenses in the expenditure?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005 (the Bill) is scheduled for introduction into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in May 2005. Subject to LegCo's examination of the Bill, we aim to put the new regulatory framework into place in 2006.
- (b)&(c) At the operational level, the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health co-ordinates and enhances the Government's efforts in tobacco control. At present the TCO has around 30 staff with an expenditure of \$12.7 million in 2004-05. In anticipation of the legislative changes, we would enhance the strength of the TCO by an addition of around 30 staff and realign the work of the entire team to undertake new enforcement duties, publicity and education work. In 2005-06, the total expenditure of the TCO is expected to be \$17.5 million.

Furthermore, the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH), with a provision of \$6.1M in 2005-06, will conduct advisory, advocacy and promotional activities on tobacco control. An amount of \$5 million has been set aside for COSH to organize activities in respect of building a smokefree community.

Existing staff responsible for the health portfolio in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will continue to deal with the policy steering and inter-agency coordination work relating to the Bill under Programme 3. The financial provision for such steering and coordination cannot be separately identified.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB002

Question Serial No.

0025

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 2005-06, it stated that the Bureau would revamp and rationalise the existing regulatory framework for licensed food premises. Please advise:

- a. the timetable for revamping the framework;
- b. whether the revamped framework would be more streamlined and more cost-effective when compared with the existing one. If so, please provide a breakdown of the projected manpower and expenditure required for the revamp of the regulatory framework; and
- c. the estimated annual savings in operational expenditure to be achieved after the revamping.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : We are working together with the Subcommittee to Study the Streamlining of Food Business Licensing under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene to review the existing regulatory framework for licensed food premises. We aim to complete the review in the second half of this year. We expect that the revamped framework would be more streamlined and more cost-effective when compared with the existing one. The review is conducted by existing staff. No additional resources have been allocated for this purpose. The actual savings arising from the revamped framework would only be available upon the completion of the review.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB003

Question Serial No.

0026

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: On implementing measures to strengthen control on live fish and fish tank water to ensure food hygiene, please advise:

1. the manpower and expenditure earmarked for year 2005-06;
2. the details of the accreditation scheme for seawater suppliers and the expenditure required; and
3. the evaluation criteria adopted to assess the effectiveness of the said scheme.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

- Reply:
1. Except that \$200,000 has been earmarked for the development of the accreditation scheme for seawater suppliers, we will deploy existing staff and resources to strengthen control on live fish and fish tank water.
 2. The accreditation scheme for seawater suppliers is voluntary in nature aiming to motivate the seawater suppliers to exercise self-regulation, thereby ensuring the availability of reliable seawater supply for keeping live seafood for human consumption. Under the scheme, seawater suppliers will have to meet criteria in areas such as source of seawater, filtration and disinfection systems, equipment cleansing and maintenance schedules, seawater sampling and documentation before they can attain accreditation status from the accrediting body. The Government has earmarked \$200,000 for the development of the scheme by the accrediting body. After the launch of the scheme, the accrediting body will be required to run the scheme independently on a self-financing basis.
 3. We shall evaluate the effectiveness of the accreditation scheme having regard to the participation rate of the trade and the usefulness of the scheme in ensuring the quality of the fish tank water supplied by the accredited seawater suppliers.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB004

Question Serial No.

0027

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 : On reviewing and considering measures to enhance the operation and management of public markets, please advise:

- a. the objectives (including economic impact), scope, targets and methodology of the exercise, its timetable and the manpower and expenditure required; and
- b. whether an independent consultant would be commissioned to conduct the review and, if so, the expenditure required.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

- Reply :
- a. The review will cover the future role of the government in the provision and management of wet markets and cooked food centres and market rental policy. The objective is to enhance the cost effectiveness of the provision and management of wet markets and cooked food centres. The review will be conducted by the government internally by deploying existing resources. It is expected that the review will be completed in 2005/06 financial year as far as possible.
 - b. The government will not commission an independent consultant to conduct the review.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB005

Question Serial No.

0049

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 state the number of persons waived from medical fees respectively for accident and emergency services, outpatient services, drugs and inpatient services, etc in 2004-05. What are the respective amounts exempted? Please list the details in respect of eligible and non-eligible persons.

Asked by : Hon.YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The total medical fees waived for 2004-05 for accident and emergency service, outpatient services (including general outpatient and specialist outpatient clinics), drugs (for specialist outpatient clinics), and inpatient service is projected to be in the order of \$490.8 million. The information on the total overall number of HA services attendees, the amount of fees waived in respect of these services with breakdown by eligible and non-eligible persons in 2004-05 are set out in the table below.

2004-05 (Projected)	Accident & Emergency Service		Outpatient services (General outpatient & Specialist outpatient clinics)		Drug charge for Specialist Outpatient Clinics		Inpatient service	
	No. of attendances	Amount \$'Mn	No. of attendances	Amount \$'Mn	No. of orders	Amount \$'Mn	No. of cases	Amount \$'Mn
Eligible Persons	462 182	46.2	2 465 493	137.3	880 822	31.3	302 468	249.1
Non-eligible Persons	1 603	0.9	1 276	0.8	Not applicable*	Not applicable*	1 576	25.2
Total	463 785	47.1	2 466 769	138.1	880 822	31.3	304 044	274.3

Note* : There is no separate drug charge for NEPs at Specialist Outpatient Clinics. The cost of drugs is covered by the higher charge paid by NEPs for medical attention and treatment.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB006

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

0050

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 2005-06? If yes, please elaborate on the details of calculation. If no, please provide details on the new mechanism. Please specify the respective funding for each hospital cluster under the Hospital Authority and the criteria for resource allocation to each cluster.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

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 Model introduced in 2001-02. Based on the calculation under this funding model, the growth rate in the recurrent budget of HA for 2005-06 should be around 2.2%.

In view of the Government's tight budgetary situation and the objective of reducing public sector spending, the final growth rate applied for 2005-06 is 1%. However, the Government has allocated other additional funds to the HA on a focused basis for various themes and programmes to serve the population's needs as follows –

Purpose	Amount Allocated in 2005-06 (\$ million)	% of HA's original baseline funding in 2004-05
(a) strengthening infectious disease control and meeting the additional demand for hospital services arising from an ageing population and population growth	550.0	1.81%
(b) setting up of general outpatient clinics ¹	153.9	0.5%
(c) creation of temporary jobs (based on operational needs)	204.7	0.67%

Note 1 : This is part of a time-limited funding approved by the Government under the 2000 RAE to cover the set-up cost of the general outpatient clinics after their transfer from the Department of Health to HA.

The resource allocation within the HA for hospital clusters is also largely based on a population-based funding model. The share of funding to be allocated to each cluster is first

calculated on the basis of age-adjusted geographic population within its catchment area, then adjustments are made for a number of factors which include the utilisation of services by patients from other clusters and the funding requirements of some very specialised service that are provided in certain designated centres. The amount of funding for each cluster in 2005-06 is as follows –

	HK East	HK West	Kln Central	Kln East	Kln West	NT East	NT West	Total ²
Budget allocation (\$ billion)	3.01	3.22	3.69	2.65	6.18	4.44	3.26	26.45

Note 2: Apart from the funding allocated to clusters, there are separate funding allocation for the HA Head Office (\$0.5 billion) and budget items controlled centrally by HA Head Office such as information technology systems, insurance, legal services and claims, interns, and Chinese Medicine clinics (\$0.9 billion)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB007

0051

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 :

After the reduction of general hospital beds in 2004-05, will the manning ratio of medical and nursing staff to hospital beds increase? Please list the manning ratios for general hospital beds by medical, nursing and other grade staff in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The manpower to bed ratio for general beds has been on a slight upward trend. The relevant figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the projection for 2005-06 are as follows –

	Doctors per general bed	Nurses per general bed
2003-04	0.187	0.752
2004-05	0.189	0.758
2005-06(estimate)	0.192	0.768

A substantial number of staff in other grades (such as allied health professionals and health care assistants) provide services to both general and psychiatric beds and in both inpatient and outpatient settings. It is therefore not possible to provide separate manpower to bed ratios of these staff.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB008

Question Serial No.

0052

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 :

As the number of day patients in 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been on the increase, will the number of medical, nursing and other grade staff who are responsible for taking care of day patients be increased accordingly? Please list the manning ratios of medical, nursing and other grade staff to day hospital patients in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

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 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. The international trend has been for healthcare organisations to develop ambulatory care programmes and to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment by ambulatory and outpatient services. The Hospital Authority has taken this into account when formulating its human resources strategy and manpower plans.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB009

Question Serial No.

0053

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 year 2004-05, how much provision was available for the Samaritan Fund? How many cases of different nature were subvented and how much subvention was given out? In the past three years, were there any changes in the number of self-financed purchases? If yes, what were the relevant purchases? 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. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The Samaritan Fund is primarily funded by donations from charitable organizations, the Government and reimbursements from the Government to cover fees for privately purchased medical items (PPMI) provided to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). Sources of funding (projected) in 2004-05 are as follows:

	\$ Million
Reimbursement from government for CSSA recipients	34.5
Transfer from Government Designated Donation	2
Donations	16
Total	52.5

The estimated number of cases and the related expenditure of the Samaritan Fund in 2004-05 are set out in the table below. The Government is planning to seek the approval of the Finance Committee shortly to inject additional funds into the Samaritan Fund.

Items	No. of cases	Amount (\$ million)
Cardiac Pacemakers	416	14.1
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) and other consumables for interventional cardiology	1 772	50.5
Intraocular Lens	874	1.4
Home use equipment, appliances and consumables	118	1.2
Drugs (other than Imatinib)	166	7.2
Imatinib (or Glivec)	117	20.0
Gamma Knife surgeries in private hospital	37	2.3

Cost for harvesting bone marrow in foreign countries	8	1.0
Myoelectric prosthesis / custom-made prosthesis / appliances for prosthetic and orthotic services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services	178	1.5
Total no. of cases and related expenditure	3 686	99.2

At present, drugs to be purchased by patients at their own expenses, but for which assistance is available under the Samaritan Fund to patients in need, include –

- interferon;
- growth hormone; and
- 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 2004-05, these drugs include taxane, letrozole, anastrozole, basiliximab, daclizumab, fludarabine, imatinib and liposomal amphotericin B.

Changes between 2002-03 and 2004-05 include the extension of Imatinib for patients with Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumour and as first line use for Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia.

The expenditure on home use equipment, appliances and consumables; and drugs purchased through the Hospital Authority on behalf of patients in the past two years are listed in the table below. Information for 2004-05 is not yet available.

Items	2003-04	2002-03
	Amount (\$Mn)	Amount (\$Mn)
Home use equipment, appliance and consumables	0.7	1.7
Drugs	8.5	4.6

Note: The above figures include the amounts of patient contribution in cases supported by the Samaritan Fund and other charity funds managed by the Hospital Authority. The Hospital Authority does not have full information on self-purchased items because patients may acquire these items of their own choice outside the public hospital system.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB010

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

Question Serial No.

0076

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

What are the financial and staffing provisions for the operation of Chinese medicine outpatient services in 2005-2006? Is there any plan to allocate more resources for the provision of Chinese medicine clinical services in public hospitals, with a view to meeting public demand for Chinese medicine services and providing job opportunities for some 80 graduates of Chinese medicine every year?

Asked by: Hon. EU, Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

There are currently three Chinese Medicine (CM) clinics in operation under the Hospital Authority (HA). The subvention for each of these clinics in 2005-06 is \$4.3M.

The total staff provision for the existing three clinics is as follows:

<u>Staff Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
CM Practitioner	8
CM trainee	9
CM Pharmacist/Dispenser	9
Nurse	4
Support Staff	11

The Administration has committed to open at least three more CM clinics in 2005-06. Subject to negotiation between the HA and the interested non-governmental organizations/charitable organizations, the new clinics are intended to be operating on a self-financing basis. To provide more training opportunities for local CM graduates, it is the Administration's intention to require NGOs/charitable organizations to employ at least five local CM graduates in each of the new clinics. Designated funding will be provided by the Government for the purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB011

Question Serial No.

0066

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 paragraph 6 under the Brief Description, it is stated that two small group homes and 25 children's home places will be reduced through re-engineering of residential child care services. What are the reasons for the re-engineering of residential child care services?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The re-engineering of residential child care services aims at optimising the usage of existing resources and achieving a better matching between service demand and provision so as to meet the changing service needs. In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department worked jointly with non-governmental organisations to reduce two small group homes (16 places) and 25 places in a residential nursery, and at the same time increase 50 foster care places. Through such service re-engineering, we are able to regulate the under-utilised residential nursery service, increase the provision of foster care which is a better and more preferable placement option for children as it enables them to grow up in a family-like environment, and achieve an overall net increase of 9 residential care places to benefit more children.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB012

Question Serial No

0067

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 paragraph 6 under the Brief Description, it is stated that 36 day crèche places, 162 day nursery places and two occasional child care units have been reduced in view of the declining child population. Please set out the details of the units closed and the districts where these units were situated respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In view of the declining child population, we have reduced the provision of day crèche, day nursery and occasional child care services in 2004-05, with details set out below:

(a) Reduction of 36 day crèche places:

<u>CENTRE CLOSED</u>	<u>Places Reduced</u>
Hong Kong Society of Protection of Children HKSPC Operation Santa Claus Tai Wo Day Crèche (Tai Po)	-36

(b) Reduction of 162 day nursery places:

<u>CENTRES CLOSED* or with PLACES REDUCED#</u>	<u>Places Reduced</u>
1. Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union HK Ltd. * C.M.A. Long Ping Child Care Centre (Yuen Long)	-100
2. Hong Kong & Macau Lutheran Church * Lok Wah Day Nursery (Kwun Tong)	-100
3. The Salvation Army # Lai Chi Kok Day Nursery (Mong Kok)	-12
4. The Salvation Army # Wah Fu Day Nursery (Southern)	-42
5. St. James' Settlement # Kathleen McDouall Child care Centre (Wan Chai)	-28
6. St. James' Settlement # Causeway Bay Child Care Centre (Causeway Bay)	-14
7. Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association # Choi Wan Day Nursery (Wong Tai Sin)	-16
8. Hong Kong Christian Service * Central Day Care Centre (Mong Kok)	-112

9. Hong Kong & Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists *WFB Samatabhadra Day Nursery (Kwun Tong)	-100
Sub-total:	-524
<u>CENTRES NEWLY OPENED</u>	<u>Places Increased</u>
1. Hong Kong Christian Service Central Day Care Centre (Mong Kok)	+112
2. The Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong Evangelical Free Churches of China -Tin Yan Nursery (Tin Shui Wai)	+100
3. Po Leung Kuk Wai Yin Nursery (Eastern)	+150
Sub-total:	+362
NET REDUCTION	-162

(c) Reduction of two Occasional Child Care Service units:

<u>UNITS CLOSED</u>	
1. Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union HK Ltd. C.M.A. Long Ping Child Care Centre (Yuen Long)	
2. Hong Kong & Macau Lutheran Church Lok Wah Day Nursery (Kwun Tong)	
3. Hong Kong Christian Service Central Day Care Centre (Mong Kok)	
4. Hong Kong & Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists WFB Samatabhadra Day Nursery (Kwun Tong)	
5. Hong Kong Society of Protection of Children HKSPC Operation Santa Claus Tai Wo Day Creche (Tai Po)	
- 5 units	
<u>UNITS NEWLY OPENED</u>	
1. Hong Kong Christian Service Central Day Care Centre (Shanghai Street, Mong Kok)	
2. The Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong Evangelical Free Churches of China -Tin Yan Nursery (Tin Shui Wai)	
3. Po Leung Kuk Wai Yin Nursery (Eastern)	
+ 3 units	
NET REDUCTION	
- 2 units	

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB013

Question Serial No.

0068

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 : As stated in the Indicators in paragraph 7 under the Brief Description, the cost per place per month for the foster care provided by the subvented sector will be reduced to \$8,282 in the 2005-06 estimate from \$8,489 in the 2004-05 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the cut of the "cost per place per month"? Has the Administration conducted any study on its impact?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The reduction in the unit cost for the foster care is due to the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings. Nevertheless, the foster care allowance for foster parents and maintenance grant for foster children have remained at the same level. As the reduction in unit cost is mainly due to adjustment in staff cost and efficiency savings, it should not affect the service quality. The quality of the services is monitored through the Funding and Service Agreement and the operating non-governmental organisations are required to meet the output and outcome standards specified in the Agreement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB014

Question Serial No.

0069

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 : As stated in the Indicators in paragraph 7 under the Brief Description, the cost per place per month for the small group homes provided by the subvented sector will be reduced to \$12,138 in the 2005-06 estimate from \$12,514 in the 2004-05 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the cut of the "cost per place per month"? Has the Administration conducted any study on its expected impact?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The reduction in the unit cost for the small group homes is due to the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings. As the reduction in unit cost is mainly due to adjustment in staff cost and efficiency savings, it should not affect the service quality. The quality of the services is monitored through the Funding and Service Agreement and the operating non-government organisations are required to meet the output and outcome standards specified in the Agreement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB015

Question Serial No.

0070

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 the programme of Social Security, the financial provision allocated for the Government sector in 2005-06 will increase by 4.9% when compared with the revised estimate for 2004-05, and the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) cases served is expected to increase to 377 800 in 2005-06 from 363 300 in 2004-05. What are the reasons for making such a significant upward adjustment to the expected number of CSSA cases served?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

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 we have seen a decreasing trend of unemployment cases in the past year due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases, notably low earnings cases and single-parent family cases. Besides, continuous increases have also been observed over a sustained period in old age cases and disability cases which are less susceptible to the impact of an improving economy. We therefore estimate that there will be an overall increase in the number of cases served in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB016

Question Serial No.

0071

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 : It is stated in the Indicators that the cost per place per month of a day care centre for the elderly (D/E) provided by subvented/private sectors will be reduced to \$5,335 in 2005-06 estimate from \$5,471 in 2004-05 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the cut of the "cost per place per month" of D/E? Has the Administration conducted any study on its impact?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per place per month of the D/E in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

The cost reduction will not affect the service quality of D/E which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement drawn up between the Social Welfare Department and the service providers. We will continue to closely monitor the service quality of the D/E.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB017

Question Serial No.

0072

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 : It is stated in the Indicators that the cost per case served per month of the integrated home care services (IHCS) provided by subvented/private sectors will be reduced to \$1,150 in 2005-06 estimate from \$1,205 in 2004-05 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the cut of "the cost per case served per month" of the services? Has the Administration conducted any study on its impact?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per place per month of the IHCS in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

The cost reduction will not affect the service quality of IHCS which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement drawn up between the Social Welfare Department and the service providers. We will continue to closely monitor the service quality of the IHCS.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB018

Question Serial No.

0073

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 : It is stated in the Indicators that the cost per place per month of the aged homes provided by subvented/private sectors will be reduced to \$4,212 in 2005-06 estimate from \$4,312 in 2004-05 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the cut of "the cost per place per month" of the homes? Has the Administration conducted any study on its impact?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per place per month of the aged homes in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

The cost reduction will not affect the service quality of aged homes which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement drawn up between the Social Welfare Department and the service providers. We will continue to closely monitor the service quality of the aged homes.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB019

Question Serial No.

0074

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 : It is stated in the Indicators that the cost per place per month of the care-and-attention homes provided by subvented/private sectors will be reduced to \$7,638 in 2005-06 estimate from \$7,861 in 2004-05 revised estimate. What are the reasons for the cut of "the cost per place per month" of the homes? Has the Administration conducted any study on its impact?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per place per month of the care-and-attention (C&A) homes in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

The cost reduction will not affect the service quality of C&A homes which is governed by the Funding and Service Agreement drawn up between the Social Welfare Department and the service providers. We will continue to closely monitor the service quality of the C&A homes.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB020

Question Serial No.

0028

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 :

A total of 618 non-directorate posts of FEHD will be deleted in 2005-06. Please list the posts to be deleted through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other means under each programme, highlighting the numbers, ranks, post titles, relevant duties and annual staff remuneration involved. Is the deletion accompanied by a reduction in the total amount of the expenditure envelope?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

A list showing the details of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 is at Annex. The 2005-06 Estimate for the Department has reflected the savings from the deletion of these 618 posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Details of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Number of posts</u>		<u>Rank/Post title</u>	<u>Duties</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u> \$ million
	<u>Under Voluntary Retirement Scheme</u>	<u>Other Means</u>			
Food Safety and Public Health	5	5	Chief Health Inspector, Senior Health Inspector, Health Inspector I/II, Projectionist, Workman II	To ensure food safety and give pest control advice.	2.4
Environmental Hygiene and Related Services	99	415	Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health, Superintendent of Environmental Health, Chief Health Inspector, Senior Health Inspector, Health Inspector I/II, Transport Services Officer II, Special Driver, Artisan, Ganger, Property Attendant, Workman I, Workman II.	To provide environmental hygiene and licensing services and associated support services.	91.6
		1	Superintendent of Police	To provide temporary expert support to the Centre for Health Protection.	0.9
Market Management and Hawker Control	45	48	Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health, Superintendent of Environmental Health, Chief Health Inspector, Senior Health Inspector, Health Inspector I/II, Workman I, Workman II	To maintain a clean and hygienic environment in public markets and control on-street hawking activities	27.1
Total	149	469			122.0
					

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB021

Question Serial No.

0029

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. 515 of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 come from this programme. Please list the posts to be deleted through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other means, highlighting the numbers, ranks, post titles, relevant duties and annual staff remuneration involved.
2. What kinds of environmental hygiene services will be affected (both in terms of expansion and reduction of services) as a result of such deletion?
3. How much of the savings achieved from the deletion of posts will be used for "managing new facilities and provision of cleansing services to newly developed areas"? Please provide details about the new facilities and the areas of new cleansing services to be provided?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. A list showing the numbers, ranks/post titles, relevant duties and annual remuneration of the 515 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 under this programme area through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other means is at Annex.
2. Environmental hygiene services would not be affected as a result of deletion of these posts. The Department will seek to maintain all existing key environmental hygiene services through various initiatives including better staff deployment, streamlining of procedures, and outsourcing of services.
3. The 2005-06 estimate has included \$18 million for providing cleansing services to newly developed areas in various districts, including areas in Ma On Shan, Pak Shek Kok, Penny Bay and West Kowloon Reclamation and operating new facilities such as Fu Shan Crematorium and new public toilets at various locations.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

**List of the 515 Posts to be deleted in 2005-06
from Programme (2) - Environmental Hygiene and Related Services**

<u>Rank/ Post Title</u>	<u>Relevant Duties</u>	<u>No. of Posts for deletion</u>		<u>Annual Salary (\$m)</u>	
		<u>Under Voluntary Retirement Scheme</u>	<u>Other Means</u>		
Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	}	1		0.929	
Superintendent of Environmental Health		4		3.092	
Chief Health Inspector		17		10.581	
Senior Health Inspector		21		10.575	
Health Inspector I/II		56		18.932	
Transport Services Officer II		To provide environmental hygiene and licensing services and associated support services.		1	0.263
Special Driver				12	1.946
Artisan				34	4.857
Ganger				82	9.461
Property Attendant				2	0.231
Workman I				52	6.000
Workman II				232	24.711
Superintendent of Police			To provide temporary expert support to the Centre for Health Protection.		1
		Total:	99	416	
				92.475	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB022

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0030

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 forecasts that the provision required for making ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers surrendering their licences with endorsement to sell live poultry will be reduced in 2005-06, please advise on:

1. the difference between the estimate for 2005-06 and the actual expenditure for 2004-05;
2. the estimated number of licences surrendered by retailers in 2005-06 and the number and size of retail stalls involved;
3. the measures to encourage live poultry retailers to surrender their licences (including adjustment of calculation for ex-gratia payment) should the number of licences surrendered in 2005-06 fall short of the estimation.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. The commitment of \$236.428 million approved by the Finance Committee for making ex-gratia payments to retailers who voluntarily surrender their licences/market stall tenancies to sell live poultry has included provision for the surrender of all 814 licences/tenancies. The actual expenditure on ex-gratia payment to licensees/tenants who took part in the voluntary surrender scheme in 2004-05 is \$58.7 million. The unspent balance will be carried forward to 2005-06 to meet the ex-gratia payment to applicants who opt to join the surrender scheme.
2. The Department has not made any estimate on the number of licensees/market stall tenants who will surrender their licences/tenancies for selling live poultry in 2005-06.

3. The voluntary surrender scheme was drawn up in 2004 after taking into careful consideration all relevant factors, including the need to protect public funds, the views of the then LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the concerns of the live poultry retailers. The Administration has no plans to revise the ex-gratia payment package.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB023

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0031

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 :

Will financial provision be made for the implementation of the Hygiene Manager/ Supervisor Scheme? If so, what are the estimated manpower and departmental expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

About \$0.8 million will be allocated to providing Hygiene Supervisor training in 2005-06. The manpower requirements for implementation of the Scheme will be absorbed within the existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB024

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0032

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 :

- (a) Of the resources involved in implementing the Hygiene Manager/Supervisor Scheme, how much will be allocated to provide recognized Hygiene Supervisor training for food premises? What is the unit cost of training a person to be a Hygiene Supervisor?
- (b) How many Hygiene Supervisors have been trained since the announcement of implementing the Hygiene Manager/Supervisor Scheme? What is the estimated number of food business employees to be provided with the training for Hygiene Supervisors in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) About \$0.8 million will be allocated to providing Hygiene Supervisor training in 2005-06. The unit cost for each training place is estimated to be \$140.
- (b) 750 Hygiene Supervisors have been trained since the announcement in February 2005 of the implementation of the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Scheme from May 2005, raising the total number of trained Hygiene Supervisors to over 29 000. An estimated 7 500 training places for Hygiene Supervisor will be offered in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB025

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0033

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 :

In determining that 120 courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors need to be organized in 2005-06, has the Administration taken into full consideration the high degree of staff turnover in the food business?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

About 20 000 Hygiene Supervisors are required by some 20 000 licensed food premises in Hong Kong. So far, over 29 000 persons have become qualified through the Department's training courses. The Department plans to offer 7 500 training places for Hygiene Supervisors in 2005-06. There should be sufficient Hygiene Supervisors in the market to cope with the demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB026

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0034

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 :

Following the Ciguatera poisoning incidents in Langham Place, FEHD staff conduct inspections to premises selling high-risk ready-to-eat food and other premises within three and five days respectively after provisional licences are issued. What are the implications of such measures for departmental expenditure, inspection manpower and inspection frequency? Please list out respectively the implications for premises selling high-risk ready-to-eat food and other food premises.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The arrangement advances the first inspection to food premises selling high-risk ready-to-eat food and other food premises to within three and five working days respectively upon the issue of a licence so that hygiene problems can be detected for improvement as early as possible. This arrangement has no implications on departmental expenditure, inspection manpower and inspection frequency.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB027

Question Serial No.

0035

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 estimated number of restaurant licences and other food-related licences to be issued in 2005-06 is close to the number issued in 2004-05. However, the estimated number of inspections to food premises in 2005-06 is down by approximately 16 000 times or 5.7% in comparison to that in 2004-05.

As the Hygiene Manager/Supervisor Scheme will be implemented soon and inspections to premises newly issued with provisional licences have recently been stepped up, will the time spent on each inspection be longer subsequent to the implementation of these measures? If so, how much longer and what are the items of inspection?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

To enhance food safety and hygiene standards in food premises, the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Scheme will be implemented from 30 May 2005 and the first inspection for licensed food premises has been advanced to within three to five working days upon the issue of a licence. There will be no change to the items of inspection and the time spent on each inspection.

Signature	
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB028

Question Serial No.

0036

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 :

(a) Given the rapid development of telecommunication and traditional postal services, is there any room for substantial improvement to the following performance pledges under the targets of "licensing of food premises" :

- cases where food business licences will be issued within seven working days upon confirmation of compliance;
- cases where provisional licences for restaurant and other food premises will be issued within seven working days upon receipt of acceptable Certificate of Compliance;
- cases where liquor licences and club liquor licences will be issued to licensed restaurants and clubs within five working days of approval by Liquor Licensing Board;
- cases where Letters of Requirements will be issued within seven working days upon clearance with concerned departments;

(b) If not, what are the reasons? If only slight improvement can be made, to what extent can this be achieved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Having regard to the estimated number of applications and manpower resources available, the present performance standards for the issue of food business licences, provisional licences for restaurant and other food premises, liquor licences/club liquor licences and Letters of Requirements for other licensed premises are considered appropriate and reasonable.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB029

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0037

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 :

Will the Administration consider setting a unified time limit for issuance of liquor licence and food business licence to applicants upon approval of their applications? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

An applicant can submit applications for liquor licence and food business licence in parallel but it is not practicable to align the issue of these two types of licence as they are subject to different application procedures and licensing requirements and are approved by two different licensing authorities, namely the Liquor Licensing Board and Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB030

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0038

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 "licensing of food premises" under Targets , why is the target in terms of percentage for cases where Letters of Requirements for restaurant licences will be issued during Application Vetting Panel meeting set at 98% instead of at 100%?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In setting the performance target, the Department has taken into account 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. The present target of 98% is considered appropriate and reasonable.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB031

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0039

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 the regularisation of “private kitchens”, please advise on the following :

- (1) What is the definition of “private kitchen”? Does it cover upstairs coffee shops, bars and karaoke establishments?
- (2) What are the details of the regularisation plan and the timetable for its implementation? Is there any plan to require those unlicensed “private kitchens” to register so that they can be brought under regulation?
- (3) What are the estimated annual staffing and expenditure required? Is there any provision earmarked for the implementation of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply

- (1) The Department plans to introduce a new category of food business to cover the operation of “private kitchens” under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.). The new category involves the sale of meals for consumption on the premises which provide seating for not more than 24 customers and are open for business for not more than three and a half hours on any day. Whether a food premises (café or bar) may be covered by this category of licence will depend on whether it operates in compliance with the specified licensing requirements and conditions. The operation of a karaoke is governed by the Karaoke Establishments Ordinance (Cap. 573).
- (2) The Department is working out the detailed licensing requirements and conditions and plans to introduce relevant amendments to the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.) in the 2005-06 legislative session.
- (3) Resources required will be absorbed within the existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB032

Question Serial No.

0040

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 :

It was announced that Mainland chilled pork would soon be imported to Hong Kong.

1. Please advise on the duties of FEHD staff in handling chilled pork, the staffing requirement and expenditure so involved, and whether provision is earmarked for its implementation.
2. It is estimated that the number of “applications for import of game, meat and poultry” will increase from 3 381 in 2004 to 3 400 in 2005. Is the estimated increase attributed mainly to chilled pork?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will be responsible for exercising import control at the entry points to ensure that any imported chilled pork from the Mainland is wholesome and fit for human consumption. In addition to import control, the Department will include chilled pork from the Mainland under its regular food surveillance programme at wholesale and retail levels for early detection of any food safety problems. Inspections will also be carried out at retail outlets and enforcement action will be taken against those which do not comply with the licensing conditions for the sale of chilled pork. Any additional work arising from the importation of chilled pork from the Mainland will be absorbed within existing resources. No additional provision is required.
2. The number of applications for import of game, meat and poultry in 2005 is estimated to be similar to that in 2004. The estimated figure for 2005 is rounded to the nearest hundred, viz. 3 400.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB033

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0041

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 :

Why did the let-out rates of public market stalls in 2003 and 2004 fall below the target of 80%?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The unfavourable economic conditions in the past few years, the changing shopping habits of the public and the strong competition from other retail outlets might have contributed to the fall in the let-out rates of public market stalls in 2003 and 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB034

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0042

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 :

1. Please advise on the actual staffing requirement and expenditure involved in managing and maintaining public markets by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in the past 3 years.
2. Please advise on the estimated staffing requirement and expenditure for 2005-06, the management initiatives and works projects for enhancing the competitiveness of markets, and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

1. The expenditure incurred on market management and the number of FEHD staff directly involved in market management in the past three years are set out below:

Expenditure

<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Revised estimate)</u>
\$477 m	\$511 m	\$523 m

No. of FEHD staff directly involved in market management

<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
624	700	657

2. The estimated expenditure on market management and the number of FEHD staff directly involved in market management in 2005-06 are \$540 million and 669 respectively. To improve the occupancy rate of the public markets, the Department will carry out general improvement works (including upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions) to 18 markets and 4 cooked food centres (CFCs) in 2005-06. The works projects are estimated to cost \$367 million. The Department is also studying project plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 12 markets and two CFCs. In addition to the above, the Department will continue to carry out a range of other measures in 2005-06 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;
- maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets through enhanced

cleansing services provided by the Department and the enforcement of the monthly market cleansing day;

- provision of flexibility in determining and changing, for individual stall, the trade of the stall business and where feasible, the stall size;
- merging of selected vacant small stalls to become larger stalls to attract potential bidders;
- lowering, in selected markets, the upset auction prices of long-standing vacant stalls to attract potential bidders;
- adoption of a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected public markets; and
- conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

The resources required for the above measures will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB035

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0063

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 expenditure of refuse collection, please advise on the following:

- (a) How is the recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected calculated; and
- (b) What are the reasons for the increase or decrease in the expenditure per tonne in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (a) The recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected is calculated by dividing the Department's total recurrent expenditure on refuse collection by the total number of tonnes of refuse collected. Recurrent expenditure comprises personal emoluments of civil servants with responsibility over refuse collection, contracting out expenditure on refuse collection services and other relevant departmental expenses.
- (b) The unit expenditure under the '2005 Estimate' column represents the estimated expenditure per tonne for the year ending 31.3.2005. The decrease is mainly due to efficiency improvement, the civil service pay cut and savings on contracting out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Food and Environmental
Hygiene

Date _____

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB036

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0043

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out the information for the past 3 years about the following:

- (1) the total expenditure on tobacco control and the specific use(s)?
- (2) the subvention to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for anti-smoking initiatives; the breakdown of departmental expenditure; the expenses on public education, in particular anti-smoking education targetting the staff of catering and entertainment industries and their customers?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Various services under the Department of Health support tobacco control. In 2001, the Department set up the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) to enhance and coordinate Government's tobacco control efforts.

The expenditure of TCO in the past three years was \$12.7M for 2004-05, \$9.2M for 2003-04, and \$15.9M for 2002-03. Various anti-smoking activities to facilitate compliance with the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance were organised, including visits to restaurants with 200 seats or more and workshops on smoke-free workplace. Publicity campaigns through the mass media and other electronic channels were launched to promote a smoke-free culture in the community. The TCO also runs a smoking cessation hotline to provide counselling and information to help smokers quit smoking.

Separately, the Hospital Authority also runs smoking cessation services through 16 hospital and community-based smoking cessation and counselling centres.

As regards the subvention to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) in the past three years, they are as follows :

	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>General Expenses</u>	<u>Provision for Promotional Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
2004-05	2.7	3.7	4.4	10.8
2003-04	2.6	3.7	3.0	9.3
2002-03	3.0	3.5	1.5	8.0

COSH has a comprehensive strategy in promoting publicity and education programmes, including in the corporate and business sectors where the catering and entertainment industries are covered. In this respect, large-scale campaigns on smoke-free workplace have been conducted since 2000 targeting at employers, employees and customers. A recognition scheme for the corporate and business sectors including catering and entertainment industries was also introduced in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB037

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0044

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2005-06, what are the manpower and expenditure for implementing the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance? Please give a detailed breakdown of uses for such expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2005-06, upon the enactment of the proposed amendments to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap 371), the staffing level of Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health will be enhanced from 30 to 60 and the work will be realigned to undertake new enforcement duties, publicity and education work. In 2005-06, the total expenditure of TCO is expected to be \$17.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

HWFB038

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Question Serial No.

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

0101

Head : 708 Capital Subventions and Major
Systems and Equipment

Subhead : 8058MM Construction of a
new infectious disease
centre attached to Princess
Margaret Hospital

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the construction of the infectious disease centre attached to Princess Margaret Hospital, what is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The cost of construction of a new infectious disease centre attached to the Princess Margaret Hospital is estimated at \$538.3 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, made up as follows –

	\$ Million	
(a) Site works and demolition	2.8	
(b) Site formation, geotechnical and substructure works	11.6	
(c) Building	183.4	
(d) Building services	185.3	
(e) Drainage and external works	5.7	
(f) Link bridge and connection	6.4	
(g) Upgrading of existing mortuary	6.7	
(h) Furniture and equipment	96.3	
(i) Contingencies	40.1	
Total	538.3	(in MOD prices)

Item (c) above is for works involving superstructure construction, provision of finishes, fittings and fixtures, landscaping and other associated works.

Item (d) is for building services works including provision of electrical installations, air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation systems with unidirectional air flow from “clean” zones (e.g. ward corridors) to “dirty” zones (e.g. patient rooms) under a negative pressure gradient and 100% fresh air supply at no less than 12 air changes per hour for dilution of contaminants, fire services installations, emergency generator sets, plumbing and drainage installations, hot water supply systems, automatic toilet waste disinfection system, lifts, medical gas installations and other associated works.

Item (h) is for procurement of special medical equipment, including bedside physiological monitoring system, computed tomography scanner, mobile C-Arm with digital subtraction angiography and computed radiography with departmental network, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 1 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB039

Question Serial No.

0108

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. Please set out in detail the purposes or services for which the new resources provided for the Government sector and the subvented sector will be allocated, as well as the estimated expenditure under each item.
 2. What is the timetable of the Government for providing each of the services set out in (1)? In what districts does the Government plan to provide these services?
 3. In what ways (for example, by tender or one-off grant) will the Government allocate the new resources to the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
1. The planned new provisions under Programme (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services for 2005-06 are as follows:

Programme description	Budget
a. Provide community support services including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhanced family-based respite to provide temporary day care for people with disabilities (PWDs) at their home when their parents/carers are engaged and cannot take care of them; - personal development project to provide integrated socialisation programmes helping young PWDs develop hobbies, interests and talents with a view to stimulating their personal development; and - financial support to new self-help groups of PWDs to promote mutual help and support. 	\$10m
b. Provide extended programmes in day activity centres and sheltered workshops including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elder programme in day activity centre to provide tailor-made activities for the ageing service users; and - extended work programme in sheltered workshops to meet the service needs of those service users who could no longer perform 	\$5.2m

normal work tasks due to old age or deterioration in work capacities.	
Programme description	Budget
c. Teams comprising parties of medical personnel, social workers and non-governmental organisation service operators will be formed to provide assistance to youth with early signs of mental health problem through designated projects to help them acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in the personal and vocational development and draw up future life/career plans, and to enhance their employability and competitiveness.	\$8.1m
d. Provide extended care for ex-mentally ill persons to further strengthen the support and assistance particularly in their activities of daily living and life skills with a view to helping them live in the community. Services will include outreaching visits, guidance and supervision on drug compliance, support and assistance in child care and domestic chores, etc.	\$5.2m
e. Provide vocational assistance for young persons with disabilities through an enhanced on-the-job training programme, intensive employment support and vocational guidance to strengthen their employability and retention of jobs.	\$6.9m
f. Purchase of new rehabuses.	\$3.8m
g. Strengthen IT support for severely disabled persons to equip them with IT equipment facilitating their integration into the community upon discharge from hospital.	\$0.5m

2. The above new programmes will be implemented from the second quarter to the third quarter in 2005-06 and they are all territory-wide programmes.
3. For items that involve the subvented sector, proposals will be invited from non-governmental organisations providing rehabilitation services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB040

Question Serial No.

0121

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 utilisation rate of the children and youth centre (CYC) reached as high as 99% consecutively in the years 2003-04 and 2004-05. Nevertheless, in the estimate for 2005-06, the number of subvented children and youth centres will be reduced by three to 27 from the revised estimate for 2004-05. What are the reasons for the reduction?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The current policy is to pool resources of the conventional CYC to form integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSC) so as to better meet the needs of young people in an integrated and holistic manner. The reduction in the number of CYCs from 30 to 27 in 2005-06 reflects the pooling of the resources of three CYCs to form an ICYSC upon agreement reached with the non-governmental organisation concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB041

Question Serial No.

0125

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 : Please set out the estimated expenditure for the publicity campaign on Strengthening Families and Combating Violence in 2005-06, and provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in terms of the amount and percentage to be allocated for different purposes.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2005-06, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to launch the publicity campaign on 'Strengthening Families and Combating Violence' with a view to enhancing public awareness of the need to strengthen family solidarity, encourage early help-seeking and prevent spouse battering, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual violence and suicide. A provision of \$1.2m has been earmarked for the campaign. While some of the publicity activities (eg. mural competition, display of publicity materials, etc.) of 2004-05 will be carried forward to 2005-06, 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 of 2005-06 and their implementation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB042

Question Serial No.

0126

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 publicity campaign on Strengthening Families and Combating Violence, please explain the criteria and indicators for assessing its effectiveness, and state its effectiveness in 2004-05 and the effectiveness indicators for 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In evaluating the effectiveness of the activities under the campaign, we take into account, inter alia, the number of activities, number of public participants and number of participating organisations. Feedback from participating organisations, if available, helps us to make a qualitative assessment. In the first six months of 2004-05, more than 80 000 participants took part in over 65 district programmes such as exhibitions, workshops, games days, etc. Besides, a total of 56 organisations have joined the territory-wide mural competition which will be carried forward to 2005-06. The same factors mentioned above will be considered in evaluating the activities in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB043

Question Serial No.

0127

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 : It is stated that the Government will provide support to the deprived children and youth at district level to meet their developmental needs. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The estimated expenditure for the provision of these services and a breakdown of the allocation of the expenditure;
2. Has the Government assessed the number of children and youth in need of these services;
3. What are the principles and definitions used in determining the "developmental needs" of those children and youth, and what are "developmental needs" in essence;
4. How do the services address the above-said "developmental needs";
5. Detail of the services, including the contents, time-table for implementation, serving districts, and the number of beneficiaries.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured an additional sum of \$15m per annum for 13 District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) to enhance support services to provide direct assistance to support individual children and youth in vulnerable circumstances to facilitate their wholesome development and the expenses of which cannot be covered by any other existing sources of funding at district level. The Department will apportion the new resources to DSWOs having regard to various social indicators in their respective districts; (e.g. number of low income families, number of new arrival families, number of youth at risk and number of single-parents on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), etc.) so that more needy districts may have a higher priority for new resources. The breakdown by district is yet to be worked out.

2. It is difficult to say exactly how many will be in need of the services. However, it is estimated that about 18 000 needy children and youth will benefit from the new resources.
3. In planning our new services, the developmental needs of children and youth generally refer to the following:
 - Participation in extra-curricular activities to help them develop interpersonal skills, interest, and abilities in sports, music, art, etc.;
 - Participation in community/volunteer services to enhance their civic-mindedness, sense of belonging/achievement/ contribution, healthy identity, awareness and positive ways to overcome life's difficulties; and
 - Opportunity to continue schooling/vocational training and/or secure a job.
4. We hope that the new services could supplement our existing services to provide children and youth with opportunities to develop their potentials and abilities, to participate in extra-curricular activities, to acquire knowledge of the community and social problems, to develop interpersonal communication and problem-solving skills, and to cultivate their sensitivity and creativity, etc.
5. The developmental needs of children and youth are addressed by education, family and welfare services. In so far as the welfare service is concerned, in addition to the CSSA administered by SWD, the non-governmental organisations currently provide comprehensive children and youth services under Government subvention (e.g. Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres, District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams, Outreaching Services for Young Night Drifters and Community Support Services Scheme for young people cautioned under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme). Having regard to the circumstances of their respective districts, DSWOs will make use of the new resources to cover the expenditure of one-off projects and/or to provide direct assistance to needy children and youth to meet their developmental needs but the expenses of which cannot be covered by existing sources of funding at the district level. We shall allocate the resources to DSWOs in early 2005-06. It is estimated that about 18 000 children and youth will benefit from the new resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB044

Question Serial No.

0130

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 cost per place per month for residential homes and sheltered workshops of the Government sector in the 2005-06 estimate is higher than that of the 2004-05 revised estimate. Would the Government explain the reasons for the cost increase and set out the formulae for the calculation of the respective rates of increase?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the increase in the costs per place per month for residential homes and sheltered workshops under the Government sector in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly due to the additional funding for implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system partly offset by the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005.

The increase in the costs per place per month is calculated by comparing the unit costs of the residential homes and sheltered workshops under the Government sector in the 2004-05 revised estimate with the corresponding unit costs of these services in the 2005-06 estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB045

Question Serial No.

0131

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 cost per place per month for the services of the subvented sector (including residential homes, day activity centres, pre-school services for disabled children and sheltered workshops) in the 2005-06 estimate is lower than that of the 2004-05 revised estimate. Would the Government explain the reasons for the cost decrease and set out the formulae for the calculation of the respective rates of decrease?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the costs per place per month for rehabilitation services under the subvented sector (including residential homes, day activity centres, pre-school services for disabled children and sheltered workshops) in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

The reduction in the costs per place per month is calculated by comparing the unit costs of the relevant services under the subvented sector in the 2004-05 revised estimate with the corresponding unit costs of these services in the 2005-06 estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB046

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0169

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the expenditure and manpower involved in conducting tests on imported foods from the Mainland in 2004-05?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure required in conducting tests on imported foods from the Mainland in 2005-06? In the light of reports of contaminated foods in the Mainland, did the Administration take into account the strengthening of relevant work to safeguard public health when drawing up the Estimates?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

For imported food, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department safeguards food safety through a combination of import control at the entry points and regular food surveillance at the wholesale and retail levels. The work is undertaken by the Food Surveillance and Certification Section with a financial provision of \$70.9 m in 2004-05 and \$75.1 m in 2005-06. The increased provision for 2005-06 is mainly for increasing the number of total food samples to be tested.

The Department monitors closely any reports of contaminated food found in the Mainland, liaises regularly with the Mainland authorities for information and conducts targetted surveillance in response to information and food safety incidents. As the control measures aim at not only Mainland food, there is no separate breakdown of expenditure and manpower specifically provided for the inspection and control of food imported from the Mainland.

Signature _____

Name in block letters GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB047

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

Question Serial No.

0197

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the review of the public medical fee structure :

1. When will the relevant work be initiated? Is it expected that the review will involve an increase in medical fees? What are the details of this item?
2. When will the review findings be available?
3. What is the estimated expenditure required for this item?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1. & 2. We are conducting a review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident & emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. In the review, we would also examine the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. It is likely that the review will involve an increase in medical fees having regard to affordability of members of the public. We do not have an implementation timetable at this stage but would consult LegCo members and relevant stakeholders once the proposals are ready.
3. The inter-agency coordination arising from the fee review will be absorbed by existing staff responsible for the health portfolio in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. The financial provision for such steering, coordination and research work cannot be separately identified. \$3 million has been allocated to the Hospital Authority to outsource part of the research work relating to affordability and willingness to pay.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	1 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB048

Question Serial No.

0198

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 :

Regarding the total financial provision:

1. The total provision for 2004-05 has been revised from the original estimate of \$135.2 million to \$216.9 million. Could the Administration set out in detail the items for which the additional provision will be used?
2. Compared with the revised provision of \$216.9 million for 2004-05, the total provision for 2005-06 has decreased by \$84.8 million (or 39.1%) to \$132.1 million. This is mainly due to the decrease in non-recurrent expenditure. Could the Administration give a detailed breakdown of the non-recurrent expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1. The increase of \$81.7 million in 2004-05 revised estimate, as compared with the 2004-05 original estimate, is mainly due to the increase in the cashflow requirements for the one-off non-recurrent item on the Commitment for the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).
2. The breakdown of the major non-recurrent expenditure items under Programme (3) is:

<u>Non-recurrent items</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
• Commitment for the fight against SARS	\$121 million	-
• Funding Research on Control of Infectious Diseases	\$39.1 million	\$60 million
• Setting up of an international network for continuing medical education and continuing professional development by the HK Academy of Medicine	\$5.2 million	\$2.2 million

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB049

Question Serial No.

0199

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: What is the projected expenditure required for the plans dealing with avian influenza? Does it cover the expenditure for compensation? Please provide details of the plans.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau's administrative expenditure for the preventive measures to guard against the occurrence of avian influenza outbreaks will be absorbed within the existing resources.

FEHD is implementing a voluntary scheme under which ex-gratia payment (EGP) would be provided to live poultry retailers who choose to surrender their live poultry selling licences/FEHD market tenancies. Funding has also been solicited for providing retraining courses and one-off grants to assist live poultry retail workers. The approved commitment for the EGP scheme was about \$236.4 million and that for the retraining and one-off grant was \$83 million.

At a joint meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services and Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 14 March 2005, the Administration briefed Members on our comprehensive plan of action to deal with the global problem of avian influenza. Under the plan, it was proposed to set aside about \$264 million to provide EGP to live poultry farmers and wholesalers who choose to surrender their licences/tenancies as well as to provide retraining and one-off grants to affected local live poultry farm and wholesale workers. It is estimated that about \$192.3 million and \$30.8 million would be required for the EGP to poultry farmers and wholesalers respectively, and \$40.8 million would be needed for providing retraining courses and one-off grants to affected farm and wholesale workers.

Separately, as part of the Preparedness Plan for Avian Influenza, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, a provision of \$255 million would be made for the purpose of antiviral stockpile.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB050

Question Serial No.

0206

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 : In 2004, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) supported non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in running self-financing hostels to provide an alternative choice of service. Please provide the details of the plan regarding its implementation and cost-effectiveness. What is the result of the plan as compared with similar plans of the SWD in the past?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2004-05, the Department supported the setting up of self-financing hostels for people with disabilities through the provision of premises and \$40m from Lotteries Fund for refurbishment and fitting out of premises. The projects achieved are the refurbishment of the ex-staff and ex-doctors quarters of Castle Peak Hospital at Tuen Mun and the hostels at Ko Shing Street and Wo Che Estate to provide a total of about 200 places for mentally handicapped persons and ex-mentally ill persons. We have allocated these projects to 9 NGOs operating rehabilitation services. Services are expected to commence in 2005.

For these self-financing hostels, NGO operators are required to meet all the related recurrent expenses from their own resources, including the day-to-day maintenance of the premises. There will be no recurrent commitment from the Government.

At present, there are a total of 7 other self-financing hostels operated by NGOs. These hostels with smaller capacity of about eight to 20 residents, (as compared with the standard subvented homes with capacity ranged from 40 to even 100 or more), usually operate in the form of small group home or family-like mode which allows closer interaction and better interpersonal relationship among co-residents and home staff. Such projects also help to provide an alternative choice to meet the temporary and permanent housing needs of people with disabilities and release subvented hostel places for other needy cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB051

Question Serial No.

0207

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 : In 2004, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) hived off its day activity centres, sheltered workshops and hostels for mentally handicapped persons to non-governmental organisations to achieve cost-effectiveness in service delivery. Has the Administration evaluated whether the cost-effectiveness has improved after the implementation of the plan? What is the effect on service users? How do the hived off projects compare with other similar projects of SWD?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The original users of the hived-off units including day activity centre, sheltered workshops and hostels for mentally handicapped persons have continued to receive similar service despite the change of service operator from SWD to non-governmental organisation. The quality of these service units are governed by the Funding and Service Agreement drawn up between the SWD and the service providers. We will continue to closely monitor the service quality of these service units provided by the service providers.

An annual savings of \$4.3m was generated from these hived off projects.

During the process, two sheltered workshops were converted to Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs) to provide one-stop vocational rehabilitation services to the trainees. In the IVRSCs, a greater variety of training programmes are provided including: centre-based training of simple process, finishing and assembly work; non-centre-based training in the form of outdoor contractual services. IVRSCs also provide job finding, matching, coaching and post placement support as well as other recreational and support services. Such change in service mode further improves the skills and employability of the trainees.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB052

Question Serial No.

0208

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 : It is stated in the financial provision that the 2004-05 revised estimate for the Government sector is \$146.5m, representing a 428.9% increase over the original estimate for 2004-05, while the estimate for 2005-06 is only \$58.9m. What are the reasons for such a decrease?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the decrease of \$87.6m, or 59.8% in the 2005-06 estimate for this programme under the Government sector is mainly due to the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05; and partly offset by the additional funding for launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and strengthening support to the deprived children and youth at district level.

Following the Finance Committee's approval of the necessary provision for extension of the temporary posts in the meeting held on 4 March 2005, there is actually no real reduction in resources in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB053

Question Serial No.

0209

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 : It is stated that the reduction of places in the home for the aged (H/A) and care-and-attention home is due to the phased conversion of self-care (S/C) hostels and H/A places into long term care places. However, while the number of places in H/A and care-and-attention home will be reduced to 4 762 and 10 872 respectively in the 2005-06 estimate when compared with the figures in the 2004-05 revised estimate, there will only be 1 292 newly added long term care services (residential) places. Would the additional long term care places be sufficient to meet the needs for residential places for elderly?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The conversion exercise, which will be conducted in phases and under a subvention-neutral basis, will involve about 10 700 existing residential places. 7 400 of them are S/C hostel and H/A places and 3 300 are care-and-attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care. We project that about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will be generated eventually, including about 2 900 new C&A places. The whole conversion process may take more than five years to complete. We project that about 1 292 C&A places providing continuum of care will initially be created in 2005-06.

The number of places to be created will be smaller than the number of places deleted because the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is much higher than that of a S/C hostel place, a H/A place and a C&A place not providing continuum of care.

To meet the increasing demand for long term care services, the Government has increased the number of subsidised residential care places for the elders from 17 000 in 1997-98 to 27 000 in 2004-05. Also, we have enhanced the community care services to encourage and facilitate the elders to age in place. In addition to the C&A places to be created under the conversion exercise, the Social Welfare Department will continue to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places for the elders in the coming years, through competitive bidding of purpose-built premises.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB054

Question Serial No.

0210

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 : Concerning the Community Service Orders Scheme, the cost per supervision case served per month in 2005-06 is estimated at \$1,285, representing an increase of \$11 as compared with the revised estimate of \$1,274 in 2004-05. What is the reason for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The estimated slight increase in the unit cost for the supervision cases under the Community Service Orders Scheme in 2005-06 is due to the increase in salaries provision arising from the granting of increment to eligible civil service staff, partly offset by the effect of civil service pay cut effective from 1 January 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB055

Question Serial No.

0211

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 : Concerning the probation service, the cost per supervision case served per month in 2005-06 is estimated at \$1,221, representing an increase of \$10 as compared with the revised estimate of \$1,211 in 2004-05. What is the reason for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The estimated slight increase in the unit cost for the supervision cases under the probation service in 2005-06 is due to the increase in salaries provision arising from the granting of increment to eligible civil service staff, partly offset by the effect of civil service pay cut effective from 1 January 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB056

Question Serial No.

0212

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 : It is stated that the enrolment rate of day care centres, which consecutively exceeded 100% for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, is expected to hit as high as 115% in 2005-06. This obviously shows that demand exceeds supply. Would the Administration introduce any measures to balance the demand and supply for the day care centres? If yes, what are the resources involved? If not, why not.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : We have set the enrolment rate of day care centres for the elderly (D/E) at 115% so as to build a buffer to maximise the utilisation of the day care places. This does not mean that there is unmet demand. For various reasons, eg. sick leave, attending medical appointment, there will be a number of enrolled elders absent from D/Es everyday. Hence, the average attendance rate is always below 100%. Currently, there are still unfilled vacancies of day care places in some districts. The vacancy level is around 7% of the total capacity of 1 955 day care places as at end of February 2005. We will continue to review the supply of and demand for day care services, with a view to adjusting the number of day care places in respective districts to meet the needs of elders.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB057

Question Serial No.

0213

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 :
- (1) For the 44 non-directorate posts to be deleted in the coming year, please set out in detail the branches/sections to which they belong and their titles.
 - (2) By what ways will the Government delete these posts?
 - (3) Has the Government evaluated the impact of the deletion of these posts on various services? If yes, what is the result of the evaluation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

(1) In the 2005-06 estimate, 48 non-directorate permanent posts in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will be deleted. This will be partly offset by the creation of four posts, resulting in a net decrease of 44 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>	<u>Branch</u>
Social Work Officer	-1	[-1 in Youth and Corrections (YC) Branch]
Assistant Social Work Officer	-6	[-4 in Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services (RMSS) Branch; -1 in YC Branch; -1 in Family and Child Welfare (FCW) Branch]
Senior Social Work Assistant	-1	[-1 in FCW Branch]
Social Work Assistant	-20	[-13 in YC Branch; -5 in FCW Branch; -2 in RMSS Branch]
Statistical Officer I	-1	[-1 in Research and Statistics Section]
Executive Officer II	-1	[-1 in District Social Welfare Office (DSWO)]

Clerical Officer	-1	[-1 in Research and Statistics Section]
Clerical Assistant	-7	[-7 in FCW Branch]
Enrolled Nurse	-2	[-2 in FCW Branch]
Motor Driver	-1	[-1 in DSWO]
Workshop Instructor III	-1	[-1 in RMSS Branch]
Ward Attendant	-2	[-1 in Elderly Branch; -1 in RMSS Branch]
Workman II	-4	[-1 in Administration Branch; -1 in FCW Branch; -1 in RMSS Branch; -1 in YC Branch]
Sub-total	<u>-48</u>	(a)

(b) Creation of Posts

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>	
Assistant Social Work Officer	+4	[+4 in RMSS Branch]
Sub-total	<u>+4</u>	(b)

Total -44 **(a) + (b)**

(2) These posts will be deleted through natural wastage.

(3) The posts earmarked for deletion in 2005-06 are either due to (i) completion of time-limited projects or (ii) implementation of departmental efficiency saving measures to achieve service integration, remove service fragmentation and promote synergy, and achieve savings through more cost-effective provision of similar services by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). These measures include the closure or hiving-off of non-core departmental service units to NGOs, and the implementation of a technical infrastructure and client information system. Upon the implementation of these initiatives, there is no longer a need for these posts in SWD. The deletion of the posts will not affect the services being provided by SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB058

Question Serial No.

0214

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 :

- (1) Please set out in detail the purposes or services for which the new resources provided for the subvented sector will be allocated, as well as the estimated expenditure under each item.
- (2) For each of the purposes and services set out in (1), in what ways (for example, by tender or lump sum grant) will the Government allocate the resources to the subvented sector?
- (3) What is the timetable of the Government for providing each of the services set out in (1)? In what districts does the Government plan to provide these services?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

- (1) New resources of \$180m will be used for converting subvented self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care-and-attention places providing continuum of care. In addition, new resources of \$20m will be used for providing infirmary care in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis.
- (2) As the conversion exercise is targeted at existing operators receiving lump sum grant subventions, the new resources for the conversion exercise will be allocated to them in the lump sum grant mode. We are considering the best way to utilise the new resources to provide infirmary care to elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis, in the light of feedback received during the consultation process.
- (3) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) plans to launch the conversion exercise by mid 2005. Of the existing 75 operators, the majority of them will carry out conversion at their existing premises. The 75 operators are located throughout the territory. The SWD aims to knock out details of the scheme to provide infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis by mid 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB059

Question Serial No.

0215

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) The Social Welfare Department will continue to support the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in reviewing the social security arrangements. Please advise whether the reviews by the Government will include:
 - (i) conducting a basic needs study again for the purpose of fixing the payment rates under the CSSA Scheme; and
 - (ii) conducting a study of the feasibility of a community-wide retirement protection system.
 - (2) If yes, please state the timetable and the relevant estimates; if not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

- (1) (i) We aim to complete in 2005-06 the evaluation of the intensive employment assistance projects introduced since October 2003 for employable CSSA recipients and the 'near-CSSA' unemployed, and the review of CSSA arrangements and related services for single-parent families on CSSA, in order to strengthen our efforts to help able-bodied CSSA recipients move towards self-reliance. We will also carry out a review of the provision of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme in the same year. We have no plan to conduct a basic needs study in 2005-06 for the purpose of fixing the payment rates under the CSSA Scheme. However, to ensure that the CSSA rates are adjusted in time to maintain their purchasing power, we are closely monitoring the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP). We will also review the weighting system of the SSAIP, having regard to the up-to-date expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients as reflected by the 2004-05 Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA

Households, which started in October 2004 and will be completed by September/October 2005.

(ii) It was mentioned in the 2005 Policy Address that the Central Policy Unit (CPU) would conduct research to lay the groundwork for dealing with the ageing population. An Expert Panel on Financial Security in Old Age has been formed by CPU, with the Health Welfare and Food Bureau, the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau and the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit in attendance, to develop a research agenda on financial security in old age. The Panel is chaired by Prof. Nelson Chow of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong.

(2) (i) The Government is committed to maintaining a sustainable and effective safety net for those who need it, while ensuring that support will not encourage long-term dependence by those who can work. As a safety net of last resort, the CSSA Scheme has been generally working well. In spite of our low tax regime, we have built and sustained a robust system to help people who cannot support themselves financially.

As stated in (1)(ii), to ensure that the CSSA rates are adjusted in time to maintain their purchasing power, we are closely monitoring the movement of the SSAIP and will also review its weighting system, having regard to the up-to-date expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients as reflected by the 2004-05 Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households, which started in October 2004 and will be completed by September/October 2005.

(ii) The CPU Expert Panel is developing a number of researches, and expects that some findings will be available by early 2006. The researches will be funded by CPU's approved provision.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB060

Question Serial No.

0216

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) On what reasons and principles did the Government project that there would be an increase of more than \$1.14b for the 2005-06 estimate for social security over the 2004-05 revised estimate?
 - (2) Has the Government considered the fact that Hong Kong's economy is recovering when drafting the 2005-06 estimate for social security? Does the Government consider that the 2005-06 estimate for social security can reflect such a trend?
 - (3) Please set out in detail the formula for projecting that the 2005-06 estimate for social security would increase by more than \$1.14b.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) Our data indicate that with the exception of unemployment cases, all other categories of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases show an increasing trend. We estimate that there will be an overall increase of CSSA cases and hence an increase of social security expenditure in 2005-06.
 - (2) Although we have seen a decreasing trend of unemployment cases in the past year due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of CSSA cases, notably low earnings cases and single-parent cases. Besides, continuous increases over a sustained period have also been observed in old age cases and disability cases. The CSSA caseload comprising the old, disabled and people in ill-health are less likely to be affected by changes in the economy.
 - (3) The 2005-06 estimate is arrived at by projecting the changes in caseload across case categories (e.g. old age, unemployment etc.) by making reference to their average rates of change in caseload over a reference period. The projected caseloads across the case categories are then used in estimating the expenditure for each of the case categories. By summing across all these case-specific expenditures, the overall 2005-06 CSSA expenditure is obtained.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB061

Question Serial No.

0217

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 :
- (a) Please state the expenditure, number of participants and the effectiveness of the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme in 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05.
 - (b) Please state the estimated expenditure, number of participants and the effectiveness indicator of the Support for Self-reliance Scheme for the 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (a) To assist more unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to become self-reliant, the Social Welfare Department has, since June 2003, intensified the SFS Scheme. Relevant measures include direct job matching, enhancing the Community Work Programme and commissioning more non-governmental organisations to launch Intensive Employment Assistance Projects for CSSA unemployed recipients and near-CSSA recipients. The expenditure, number of active participants and the number of participants successfully securing employment in 2002-03 to 2004-05 are as follows:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 Revised Estimate
Expenditure (including administrative support expenses)	\$66.7m	\$67.6m	\$68.2m
Number of participants	46 170	50 684	46 000
Number of participants successfully securing employment	8 000	18 758	17 200

- (b) The provision earmarked for 2005-06 is \$61.7m including administrative support expenses. Based on the trend in the past 12 months, we estimate the number of participants to be 42 000 and the estimated number of participants to come off the CSSA net, or reduce reliance on CSSA due to paid employment to be around 1 400 per month on average in 2005-06.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB062

Question Serial No.

0218

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 :
- (a) What are the details of the services put forward by the integrated family service centres in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts and the expenditure incurred in 2004-05?
 - (b) What are the numbers of pending, active and closed family cases of the above centres and the expenditure incurred in 2004-05?
 - (c) What are the details of the services expected to be put forward by the above centres and the expenditure to be incurred in 2005-06?
 - (d) What are the expected numbers of pending, active and closed family cases of the above centres and the expenditure to be incurred in 2005-06?
 - (e) Has the Administration earmarked any provision in 2005-06 for publicity to advise the families in distress to seek assistance at the above centres? If so, what is the amount?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

- Reply :
- (a) In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) re-engineered all family services centres (FSCs)/counselling units of SWD and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form 61 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) by phases. Five IFSCs (four operated by SWD and one by NGO) have been set up in Sha Tin district in January 2005 while two IFSCs (both operated by SWD) have been set up in Tai Po district in March 2005. Each IFSC serves a well-defined service boundary and provides a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services including enquiry service, family life education, parent-child activities, voluntary training, outreaching service, mutual support groups, counseling and referral service, etc. All of these IFSCs are formed through pooling of existing

resources on a cost-neutral basis. We do not have the breakdown on the cost of individual IFSCs.

(b) As the five IFSCs in Sha Tin district and the two IFSCs in Tai Po district are only formed in January and March 2005 respectively, the caseload statistics are not yet available. We do not have the breakdown on the cost of individual service component such as casework service since IFSCs provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services other than casework service alone.

(c) In 2005-06, these seven IFSCs will continue to provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services as mentioned in (a) above to meet the multifarious needs of individuals and families in the community. We do not have the breakdown on the cost of IFSCs by district as mentioned in (a) above.

(d) The estimated number of new/reactivated cases to be taken on by these seven IFSCs in 2005-06 is 5 179. We do not have the estimated number of cases pending and cases closed, noting that social workers will attend to the needs of their service recipients at their earliest convenience and will exercise vigorous caseload management to ensure that only cases genuinely in need of social work input will remain in the caseload. The breakdown on the cost involved in casework service cannot be ascertained as mentioned in (b) above.

(e) To achieve the aims of early identification of problem and early intervention, these IFSCs will continue to publicise their services and encourage the public, particularly families in distress, to use their services in 2005-06 through various promotional programmes/activities and distribution of publicity materials etc., with the cost to be met by existing resources. Besides, the District Co-ordinating Committee on Family and Child Welfare Services in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts will continue to organise district-wide activities in 2005-06 to promote the services of IFSCs. Moreover, a provision of \$1.2m has been earmarked to continue launching the territory-wide publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence" in 2005-06, one of the aims being to encourage early help seeking.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB063

Question Serial No.

0219

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 :
- (a) The Administration has assisted CSSA recipients and other socially disadvantaged groups to take up employment in 2004-05. How many cases are active, pending or completed? What is the expenditure incurred in this regard?
 - (b) What is the projected number of recipients of the above-mentioned assistance in 2005-06? What is the expenditure to be incurred in processing the cases?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

- Reply :
- (a) The Social Welfare Department has implemented the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme since June 1999 and intensified its measures since June 2003 to assist the unemployed CSSA recipients back to work. In 2004-05, 15 731 participants who enrolled in the SFS Scheme left CSSA altogether or reduced their reliance on CSSA as a result of paid employment. As at end of February 2005, there are 46 422 active participants in the programme.

To provide tailor-made assistance for the unemployed (including some not yet on CSSA), 40 Intensive Employment Assistance Project (IEAPs) were first launched in October 2003 and 30 more in October 2004. As at end of February 2005, 2 420 near CSSA recipients from other socially disadvantaged groups have joined these projects and are receiving employment assistance including job matching, employment training and post employment support services actively. Out of these 2 420 near CSSA participants, 1 246 of them have been assisted to secure full-time employment.

The related expenditure for implementation of the SFS Scheme for 2004-05 is \$68.2m including administrative support expenses. The IEAPs are co-funded by the Lotteries Fund and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The annual expenditure for implementing the 70 projects is \$35m.

- (b) The estimated expenditure of the SFS Scheme for 2005-06 is \$61.7m including administrative support expenses. Based on the trend in the past 12 months, the estimated number of participants is around 42 000 in 2005-06. As regards the IEAPs, from October 2004 to September 2005 and from October 2005 to September 2006, we plan to

serve no fewer than 2 100 and 3 000 near CSSA recipients respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB064

Question Serial No.

0220

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 family services centres (FSCs)/counselling units operated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be fully re-engineered into integrated family service centres (IFSCs) in 2005-06. Please set out the resource allocation and compare the cost-effectiveness before and after the re-engineering exercise.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) re-engineered all family services centres (FSCs)/counselling units of SWD and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) by phases. These IFSCs are formed through pooling of existing resources on a cost-neutral basis. By combining resources of SWD/NGO's FSCs/counselling units and other resources pooled from family life education, family support and resource centres, family support networking team etc., 61 IFSCs are formed and will be fully implemented in 2005-06. The estimated total recurrent provision in 2005-06 is \$553.6m.

As concluded in the evaluative study of the 15 pilot IFSCs conducted by the University of Hong Kong from April 2002 to March 2004, IFSC is considered effective to address the changing social needs of families through provision of more open, user-friendly, proactive, responsive, flexible, accessible and integrated services to users when compared with the previous service delivery model. SWD will continue to monitor the effectiveness of service delivery through this new IFSC model.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB065

Question Serial No.

0221

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 numbers of foster care places in the 2004-05 revised estimate and the 2005-06 estimate have increased over that of 2003-04. Please explain the reasons why the cost per place per month has been going down substantially while the number of places is on the rise.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : In recent years, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been actively developing foster care service because foster care enables children to grow up in a family-like environment. In 2004-05, SWD worked jointly with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to carry out service re-engineering through which the number of foster care places was increased. In 2005-06, similar service re-engineering will continue. Besides, new resources are also available to provide more foster care places to cope with the upsurge in service demand.

The reduction in the unit cost in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is mainly due to the effect of two civil service pay cuts of 3% each effective from 1 January 2004 and 1 January 2005; efficiency savings; as well as the increase in enrolment rate of foster care service. Nevertheless, the foster care allowance for foster parents and maintenance grant for foster children have remained at the same level.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB066

Question Serial No.

0222

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 enrolment rate of day care centres reached saturation level in the years of 2003-04 and 2004-05. It is stated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06" that the Administration will continue to provide integrated care facilities in the form of day care places to be incorporated into residential care homes and to provide additional subsidised residential care places through competitive bidding.

Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Details of the plan to incorporate day care places into residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs)?
- (2) Progress of the plan?
- (3) The number of RCHEs run by subvented or private sectors which have incorporated day care services? The additional places as a percentage of the total number of day care places?
- (4) The work target to address the demand for day care places?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : (1) To provide integrated and holistic care to the elders, we will provide subsidised day care places in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), in particular purpose-built RCHE contract homes under the premises-led programme. For example, in 2003-04, we created 42 subsidised day care places in two purpose-built RCHE contract homes under the premises-led programme located in the following premises:

- (i) Tze Ching Estate, Wong Tai Sin; and
- (ii) Fu Cheong Estate, Shamshuipo.

Also, we have provided 424 day care places in

13 subvented RCHEs.

We are also planning to create 20 day care places in a new purpose-built RCHE contract home under the premises-led programme in Kwai Shing East.

- (2) The day care places in the contract home in Tsz Ching Estate and Fu Cheong Estate commenced operation in April 2003 and February 2004 respectively. The day care places in the contract home in Kwai Shing East are scheduled to commence service in 2005-06.

SWD will continue to create more day care places in purpose-built contract homes under the premises-led programme in future in districts with service need.

- (3) At present, there are altogether 1 955 subvented day care places. 466 of them (i.e. 24%) are in 15 subvented RCHEs or contract homes. With the commencement of the day care places in the contract home in Kwai Shing East in 2005-06, there will be 16 RCHEs providing 486 day care places.

- (4) We have set the enrolment rate for day care services at 115% so as to build a buffer to maximise the utilisation of the day care places. This does not mean that there is unmet demand. For various reasons, eg. sick leave, attending medical appointment, there will be a number of elders absent everyday. Hence, the average attendance rate is always below 100%. Currently, there are still unfilled vacancies of day care places in some districts. The vacancy level is around 7% of the total capacity of 1 955 day care places as at end of February 2005. We will continue to review the supply of and demand for day care services, with a view to adjusting the number of day care places in respective districts to meet the needs of elders.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB067

Head : 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :000
 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Question Serial No.

0291

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 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The overall projected expenditure on drugs by the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004-05 is \$1,995 Million, representing 6.7% of HA's total expenditure. A breakdown of this amount by hospital cluster is as follows –

Cluster	2004-05 Projected Drug Expenditure (\$Mn)
Hong Kong East Cluster	222
Hong Kong West Cluster	295
Kowloon Central Cluster	300
Kowloon East Cluster	200
Kowloon West Cluster	419
New Territories East Cluster	335
New Territories West Cluster	224
Total	1,995

The difference in drug expenditure amongst hospital clusters is due to a number of factors, including the size of the population in their catchment area, 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 2004-05, HA has introduced ten new drugs and the estimated expenditure on these drugs amounted to around \$5.6 Million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>1 April 2005</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB068

Question Serial No.

0292

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 2005-06, it is stated that the Bureau will implement the various environmental hygiene related measures recommended by Team Clean. Have all these measures been implemented or will be implemented in the current year? If not, what are the measures that have yet to be implemented? Why are they not implemented yet?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : In its final report issued in August 2003, the former Team Clean recommended, among others, the following two environmental hygiene related measures which are directly under the purview of the Bureau –

- (a) stiffening the penalties for offenders who commit cleanliness offences repeatedly within 24 months by applying to the Court for the imposition of a fine higher than the fixed penalty of \$1,500 and the award of a community service order; and
- (b) considering the way forward for addressing the avian influenza problem in the long term.

Regarding (a), we conducted a public consultation exercise in end 2003 and the public were in general support for the proposal. We reported the outcome of the public consultation to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the FSEH Panel) and sought the views of the FSEH Panel on the way forward in March and November 2004 respectively. Members of the FSEH Panel, however, held different views on the proposal. We are reviewing the proposal in the light of Members' comments before proceeding to the drafting of legislative amendments to implement the proposal.

Concerning (b), we conducted a public consultation exercise in April to July 2004 to seek the community's views on the long-term direction to tackle the avian influenza problem. The result of the public consultation exercise was reported to the FSEH Panel on 11 January 2005. On 14 March 2005, we briefed Members' at the Joint Meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services and the FSEH Panel on the Administration's overall plan to reduce the risk of avian influenza outbreaks in Hong Kong, including our plan to introduce a voluntary surrender scheme for live poultry farmers and wholesalers. We are currently consulting the live poultry farmers, wholesalers and transporters on the details of our proposed voluntary surrender package. We intend to seek

funding approval from the LegCo Finance Committee on our proposed scheme this year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

6 April 2005

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

HWFB069

Question Serial No.

0293

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 2005-06 estimates, it is stated that the number of full time equivalent staff serving the Hospital Authority (HA) under the item of "others" is 22 885, representing a decrease of 155 when compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate. Please list out separately the respective ranks and responsibilities of these 155 staff as well as the reasons for post deletion.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The decrease in the number of full time equivalent staff under the category of "others" in 2005-06 is a result of natural wastage rather than deletion of posts. Taking into account the operational needs and the implementation of service rationalization initiatives, some of the positions need not be filled upon staff turnover. These positions include Artisan, Clerk, Cook, Darkroom Technician, Ganger, Hospital Foreman, Laundry Worker, Office Assistant, Property Attendant and Workman.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie Yau

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB070

Question Serial No.

0294

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 :

It is anticipated that the average length of stay for infirmary and mentally handicapped patients in 2004-05 will substantially decrease as compared with 2003-04. What is the reason for that?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Average Length of Stay (ALOS) in a particular year is calculated from the length of stay of patients leaving a public hospital (i.e. discharges from hospital including deaths, and transfers to another hospital) in that year. In 2003-04, in order to make room for convalescent patients who were recovering from SARS, Hospital Authority (HA) had to transfer some long stay infirmed patients from one hospital to another. Some infirmed patients were also discharged. This resulted in a larger than normal number of long stay infirmed patients being captured in the calculation of ALOS in 2003-04, which inflated the figure. In 2004-05, the ALOS for infirmed patients reverted to more normal levels.

As for the higher ALSO for mentally handicapped patients in 2003-04, it was due to a service reorganisation between Siu Lam Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital in that year, which involved the transfer of some long stay patients. Again, this resulted in a larger than normal number of long stay patients being captured in the calculation of ALSO in 2003-04, which inflated the figure.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB071

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 :

It is anticipated that the average length of stay for the mentally ill in 2005-06 will increase substantially by 73 days as compared with 2003-04. What is the reason for that?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) calculates the average length of stay (ALOS) of a particular year on the basis of the length of time each patient leaving a public hospital (including discharges, deaths and transfers) in that year spent in the hospital. It does not capture the length of time spent by patients who are not yet ready for discharge.

In 2005-06, the HA is planning to transfer around 200 chronic psychiatric patients to a new long stay home operated by a welfare organization. As the majority of these patients have been hospitalised for some time, it is therefore anticipated that the ALOS for patients with mental illness will increase substantially in 2005-06 because of the inclusion of these 200 to-be-discharged patients in the calculation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB072

Question Serial No.

0296

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 :

As compared with 2003-04, the unit cost for all inpatient and day care services in 2004-05 have dropped while only the unit cost for inpatient infirmary service has increased. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Owing to the SARS outbreak, there were notable reductions in the volume of activities across the entire range of services provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04. Given the high proportion of fixed costs in HA's cost structure, the unit cost of all service types rose in that year. In 2004-05, there was a recovery in the volume of activities and the unit costs dropped back to more normal levels.

The increase in the unit cost of infirmary services in 2004-05 was mainly due to HA's strategy in targeting its resources to patients with more severe medical conditions. Under this strategy, patients in stable medical conditions are increasingly cared for through community support services. Infirmary patients who require a higher level of medical care would continue to be managed in a hospital setting. The greater concentration of patients requiring a higher level of care led to the increase in unit cost of infirmary services in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB073

Question Serial No.

0297

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:

During 2005-06, the Hospital Authority will contribute to improving population health through collaborative programmes on health promotion, health protection and community-based health care delivery. What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA) on community outreach services in 2005-06 is \$543.1 million, which has grown steadily over the past few years. However, the provision of health promotion and health protection services is an integral part of the work of various HA departments and units, such as the general and specialist outpatient clinics, the smoking cessation clinics, the patient resource centres and the Health InfoWorld, which are also responsible for other duties. It is, therefore, not possible to clearly identify the specific amounts of resources that will be applied by these departments/units on the collaborative programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 April 2005

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

HWFB074

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

0298

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 plans to adopt a multi-pronged approach in 2005-06 to address the budgetary constraint. Please list the relevant measures and the implementation schedule.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) has adopted various measures in the past including the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme introduced in 2003, contracting out of non-core services, service rationalization and other efficiency enhancement measures, to cope with the stringent financial situation. In 2005-06, to address the budgetary constraint and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the public health care system, the HA will continue to adopt stringent control measures to manage the spending level and to consider several long-term initiatives, as follows:

- (a) service rationalization initiatives – continue to enhance the productivity and implement savings initiatives in the system through, inter alia, moving towards more ambulatory / community care services, cluster-based service rationalization measures and other business support initiatives; and
- (b) revenue generation / funding initiatives – explore means of increasing revenue sources, including review of charges for private patients and non-entitled person, review of existing fees, introduction of new fees and other non-medical income as well as discussing / revisiting the funding basis with the Government.

It should be noted that the proposed fee review was not primarily aimed at increasing revenue for the HA. Its main objective was to target government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redress the imbalance between the public and private services and inculcate cost consciousness.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

6 April 2005

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

HWFB075

Question Serial No.

0299

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 :

What is the expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA) on personal emoluments (PE) in 2004-05 and 2005-06? Please give the breakdown of expenditure on personal emoluments by various ranks of the medical, nursing and other grades in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The breakdown of expenditure on personal emoluments (including salary, allowance and staff oncost) by staff groups for the years from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is as follows:

Staff Group	2003-04 (Actual) \$M	2004-05 (Projected) \$M	2005-06 (Projected) \$M
Medical	6,571	6,394	6,224
Nursing	9,785	9,387	9,303
Allied Health	2,900	2,814	2,762
Others	5,431	5,231	5,059
Total (see Note)	24,687	23,826	23,348

Note : The expenditure excludes ex-gratia payments of \$628 million and \$54 million in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively for those HA staff joining the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme. It also excludes the expenditure incurred in 2003-04 and 2004-05 for combating the SARS crisis, which was separately reimbursed to HA by Government.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

4 April 2005

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

HWFB076

Question Serial No.

0300

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 :

What are the expenditures on the allowances under personal emoluments of the Hospital Authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06? Please list the annual allowances expenses in 2004-05 and 2005-06 by ranks of medical, nursing and other staff.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The projected level of expenditure (including honorarium, shift duty allowance, typhoon allowance, obnoxious duties allowance, etc but excluding cash allowance) on allowance by staff groups in 2004-05 is as follows:

Staff Group	2004-05 (Projected) \$M
Medical	136
Nursing	29
Allied Health	8
Others	78
Total	251

The projected level of expenditure on allowance by the same staff groups in 2005-06 is similar to that in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB077

Question Serial No.

0301

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 accident and emergency service in 2004-05 and 2005-06, please provide the following:

- (a) the amount of provision earmarked by the Hospital Authority for covering the total expenditure on accident and emergency service each year;
- (b) the total amount of subvention on accident and emergency service provided by the Hospital Authority after deducting the income generated from accident and emergency service charges;
- (c) the number of accident and emergency departments and average attendance rate of each department;
- (d) the average number of medical and nursing staff in each accident and emergency department; and
- (e) the establishment of medical and nursing staff in accident and emergency department in general.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) According to the projection of the Hospital Authority (HA), the total costs of Accident & Emergency (A&E) services provided by the HA in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are estimated to be \$1,400.5M and \$1,365.4M respectively.
- (b) Taking into account the income generated by A&E services, the total amounts of Government subvention on such services in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are estimated to be \$1,264.4M and \$1,228.1M respectively.
- (c) There are 15 A&E Departments within the HA. The estimated number of attendances at each of these Departments in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively are set out in the table below –

Cluster / A&E Department	2004-05 Revised Estimate	2005-06 Estimate
Hong Kong Easter Cluster (HKEC)		
1. Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH)	155 500	157 300
2. Ruttonjee Hospital (RH)	87 200	87 200
3. St. John Hospital (SJH)	8 100	8 400
Overall (HKEC)	250 800	252 900
Hong Kong West Cluster (HKWC)		
4. Queen Mary Hospital (QMH)	128 500	129 900
Overall (HKWC)	128 500	129 900
Kowloon East Cluster (KEC)		
5. Tseung Kwan O Hospital (TKOH)	113 500	116 200
6. United Christian Hospital (UCH)	202 500	207 000
Overall (KEC)	316 000	323 200
Kowloon Central Cluster (KCC)		
7. Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)	203 300	206 600
Overall (KCC)	203 300	206 600
Kowloon West Cluster (KWC)		
8. Caritas Medical Centre (CMC)	126 300	128 500
9. Kwong Wah Hospital (KWH)	160 200	161 300
10. Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH)	132 100	134 800
11. Yan Chai Hospital (YCH)	144 900	146 500
Overall (KWC)	563 500	571 100
New Territories East Cluster (NTEC)		
12. Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (AHNH)	102 600	103 900
13. North District Hospital (NDH)	119 600	121 100
14. Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH)	160 700	163 900
Overall (NTEC)	382 900	388 900
New Territories West Cluster (NTWC)		
15. Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH)	228 800	230 100
Overall (NTWC)	228 800	230 100
Total for All Clusters	2 073 800	2 102 700

- (d) The number of medical and nursing staff in each of the A&E Department are set out in the table below –

Cluster / Hospital		Medical	Nursing
HKEC	PYNEH	29	46
	RH	17	34
	SJH	5	6
HKWC	QMH	23	42
KCC	QEH	37	63
KEC	TKOH	21	41
	UCH	38	58
KWC	CMC	17	35
	KWH	25	61
	PMH	23	54
	YCH	24	43
NTEC	AHNH	18	34
	NDH	20	45
	PWH	33	54
NTWC	TMH	42	84

Note: Staff figures as at 31 December 2004

- (e) The HA does not operate a system of staff establishment for its hospitals and departments. The number of medical and nursing staff to be deployed in HA's A&E Departments vary from time to time, depending on a number of factors such as the prevailing service need, case mix and the service model adopted in these Departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB078

Question Serial No.

0302

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 :

With regard to the general hospital bed services in 2004-05 and 2005-06, please list

- (a) the annual total expenditure allocated for general hospital beds;
- (b) the total expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA) for subsidizing all general hospital beds after deducting the revenue derived from maintenance and other fees for inpatient service;
- (c) the percentage of average subsidy in the unit cost of a hospital bed; and
- (d) the number of general hospital beds as well as the number and establishment of medical and nursing staff of the two teaching hospitals and the Tuen Mun Hospital.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) According to the projection of the Hospital Authority (HA), the annual total cost of general inpatient services (i.e. in respect of general hospital beds) for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are estimated to be \$18,139.6 million and \$17,685.1 million respectively.
- (b) After deducting the projected revenue derived from maintenance and other inpatient fees, the total net cost of general inpatient services are estimated to be \$17,751.9 million and \$17,299.2 million for 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.
- (c) The average subsidy rate for the general inpatient services is 97.9% for 2004-05 and 97.8% for 2005-06.
- (d) The number of general hospital beds in the two teaching hospitals and Tuen Mun Hospital as at 31 December 2004 are as follows –

Hospital	Number of general hospital beds
Queen Mary Hospital	1 527
Prince of Wales Hospital	1 427
Tuen Mun Hospital	1 372

The number of doctors and nurses in the two teaching hospitals and Tuen Mun Hospital (as at 28 February 2005) are set out in the table below –

Hospital	Doctors	Nurses
Queen Mary Hospital	428#	1 548
Prince of Wales Hospital	507#	1 488*
Tuen Mun Hospital	466	1 552

includes academic staff in the 2 teaching hospitals counted at 0.55 full-time equivalent

* includes nurses in the New Territories East Cluster Office

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB079

Question Serial No.

0303

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 :

With regard to the specialist outpatient services in 2004-05 and 2005-06, please list

- (a) the annual total expenditure allocated for specialist outpatient services;
- (b) the total expenditure of the Hospital Authority (HA) for subsidising all specialist outpatient services after deducting the revenue derived from the consultation, medicine and other fees for specialist outpatient service;
- (c) the number of specialist outpatients and the percentage of average subsidy in the unit cost of specialist outpatient service; and
- (d) the number and establishment of medical and nursing staff for specialist outpatient services in the two teaching hospitals and the Tuen Mun Hospital.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) According to the projection of the Hospital Authority (HA), the total costs of specialist outpatient (SOP) services provided by the HA in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are estimated to be \$5,658.1 million and \$5,516.6 million respectively.
- (b) Taking into account the income generated by SOP services, the total amounts of Government subvention on such services in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are estimated to be \$5,242.8 million and \$5,090.3 million respectively.
- (c) The estimated numbers of specialist outpatient attendances for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are 8 181 000 and 8 184 000 respectively. The percentage of average subsidy in the unit cost of SOP services would be 92.7% for 2004-05 and 92.3% for 2005-06.
- (d) Generally speaking, doctors and nurses are deployed to provide healthcare services in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. It is therefore not possible to provide the number of doctors and nurses who are responsible for the provision of SOP services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 April 2005

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

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

Subhead (No. & title): 868 Hospital Authority
furniture and equipment
for Chinese medicine service

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The Government has said clearly that it would provide more Chinese medicine service. In the case of opening more Chinese medicine outpatient clinics, what is the estimated expenditure required? At present, the provision has a balance of only \$472,000. Is this sufficient to cope with the additional Chinese medicine service?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Administration has committed to open at least three more Chinese Medicine (CM) clinics in 2005-06. Capital subvention of \$15.484M is earmarked under Head 708 Subhead 8049MM (Capital Works Reserve Fund) for setting up the clinics. Subject to negotiation between the Hospital Authority (HA) and the interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/charitable organizations, the new clinics are intended to be operating on a self financing basis. To provide local CM graduates with more training opportunities, it is the Administration's intention to require each of these clinics to employ at least five local CM graduates. The Government will provide separate provision for this purpose.

The amount of \$472,000 is the outstanding balance of funding approved in 2003 for procurement of furniture and equipment to support the opening of the first three clinics and the Toxicology Laboratory in the Hospital Authority.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB 081

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0424

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many animals were euthanized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the past five years? What kinds of animals were they? What was the amount of expenditure used in this area each year? Does the Administration have any plan to control the number of imported pets? What is the amount of resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In the past five years, the number and kinds of animals euthanized by AFCD and the amount of expenditure involved are as below:

Year	Dogs	Cats	Other animals	Expenditure
2000	14,000	2,400	15	\$1.26M
2001	11,400	2,700	90	\$1.36M
2002	11,500	3,600	400	\$1.34M
2003	12,000	5,500	1,200	\$1.29M
2004	11,700	5,300	700	\$1.28M

In the past five years, there was an average of 2,900 dogs and 1,700 cats imported into Hong Kong each year. These figures are not significant in the total population of pet dogs and cats, therefore the Administration has no plan to control the number of imported pet animals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 082

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 700 General non-recurrent

0426

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : By the end of 2004-05, there was still a balance of over \$12 million in the artificial reefs project (Item 540). Please set out what the remaining work is. What is the staffing involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The remaining provision of over \$12 million will be used for various tasks under the artificial reefs project including further deployment of artificial reefs in suitable locations in Hong Kong waters, continuous monitoring, inspection and maintenance of the deployed artificial reefs, and the related education and publicity activities. Three officers are deployed to handle these tasks among other activities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 083

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0427

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 :
- (a) In Programme (1), the revised estimate for 2004-05 was 20.3% higher than the original estimate. What were the reasons for this?
 - (b) The provision for 2005-06 is 20.5% lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05, which is mainly due to decrease in non-recurrent expenditure and operating expenses and deletion of five posts. What are the non-recurrent expenditure items? What are the titles of the posts to be deleted and the amount of resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The original provision under Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets in 2004-05 was \$171.6 million and the revised estimate was \$206.5 million. There is an increase of \$34.9 million or about 20.3%. This is mainly due to the increase in non-recurrent expenditure of ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators affected by the outbreak of avian influenza in the region. A sum of about \$38 million has been spent on this item which has not been included in the original estimate for 2004-05.
- (b) The estimated decrease in the provision for the non-recurrent expenditure in 2005-06 as compared with the revised estimate 2004-05 of \$39.4 million is mainly due to the decrease in cash flow requirement for the ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators as mentioned in part (a) above.

The titles of the five posts to be deleted and the amount of resources involved are set out below-

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Resources involved</u> \$'000
Artisan	2	285
Field Assistant	1	162
Motor Driver	1	143
Field Officer II	1	<u>165</u>
	Total	<u><u>755</u></u>

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

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

HWFB 084

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0428

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 paragraph 6 under Programme (1), it is stated that credit facilities will be provided for the development of offshore fishing. In connection with the credit facilities in this particular area, what are the actual and estimated amounts for 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Low interest loans under the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (with an approved commitment of \$100 million) and Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (with available funds of \$20 million) administered by the department are made available to local fishermen for the development of offshore fishing. While no such loan application was received in 2004-05, we understand that some local fishermen are actively considering offshore fishing proposals and may apply for loans for the purpose pending on their business decision. This department will continue to assist them in developing offshore fishing through provision of technical support services and credit facilities, and strengthen these services as necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB085

Question Serial No.

0346

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 : Given that the economy is recovering, is it necessary for the Administration to anticipate an increase for the provision of social security by 4.9% in 2005-06 and the number of cases of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme to be increased from 363 300 to 377 800?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply : The figure of 377 800 refers to the projected number of all cases served under the CSSA Scheme in 2005-06. Although we have seen a decreasing trend of unemployment cases in the past year due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases, notably low earnings cases and single-parent family cases. Besides, continuous increases have also been observed over a sustained period in old age cases and disability cases which are less susceptible to the impact of an improving economy. We therefore estimate that there will be an overall increase in CSSA cases and social security expenditure in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB086

Question Serial No.

0347

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 : It is stated in paragraph 11 under Brief Description of this Programme that in 2004, the Government adopted a risk management approach in the administration of social security schemes with reference to the recommendations of the consultancy study on risk management on social security schemes. In this connection, please provide details of the work and evaluation of its effectiveness.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The adoption of the risk management approach in the administration of social security schemes is now a basic principle underlying our organisation of work. It means taking an informed and scientific approach to allocation of resources to areas where they will be most effective. Key risk management strategies include:

- (i) applying risk profiles to re-engineer review cycle and review methods; and
- (ii) identifying improvements in procedures and re-prioritising the work, by reference to risk assessment exercises.

Risk management as a general principle helps to optimise use of existing resources and enhances efficiency and effectiveness of the services. The Social Welfare Department will continue to devise new strategies on the basis of the risk management approach to preserve the integrity of the social security system.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG
Director of Social Welfare
4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB087

Question Serial No.

0348

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 2003-04 and 2004-05. What is the recidivism rate of persons receiving these services?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The allocation of resources for probation service, probation homes/hostel, and reformatory school for 2003-04 and 2004-05 is listed below:

Service	2003-04 (Actual) \$m	2004-05 (Revised Estimate) \$m*
Probation Service	87.5	82.7
Probation Homes/Hostel	44.9	36.9
Reformatory School	17.3	16.7

Recidivism rate refers to the percentage of cases with conviction of further offence within court order period against total number of expired/discharged cases in the respective years. The 2004-05 recidivism rate is not yet available. A summary of the recidivism rates for the preceding three years is given below:

Service	Recidivism rate (%)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Probation Service	21	20	17
Probation Homes/Hostel	24	26	26
Reformatory School [#]	56	23	48

* The adjustment in provision is due to the efficiency savings measures such as the hiving off of the probation hostel service to the non-governmental organisation as well as the restructuring of probation service for merger of courts.

There is only one reformatory school with a small capacity. The number of discharges who are hardcore cases failing to complete the school order account for the fluctuating and the relatively higher recidivism rate of the school.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB088

Question Serial No.

0349

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 projected number of day crèche and day nursery places in 2005-06 are 836 and 28 800 respectively. Please provide a breakdown of the places according to their districts.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply : According to the district demarcation of the Social Welfare Department, the distribution of the 836 day crèche places and 28 800 day nursery places are as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>No. of Day Crèche Places</u>	<u>No. of Day Nursery Places</u>
Central, Western & Islands	40	1 604
Southern	24	888
Eastern & Wanchai	84	2 399
Kwun Tong	48	2 896
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	40	3 553
Kowloon City	56	1 923
Sham Shui Po	80	1 515
Yau Tsim Mong	80	1 625
Sha Tin	70	2 431
Tai Po & North	48	2 167
Yuen Long	92	2 118
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	134	3 458
Tuen Mun	40	2 223
Total Number of Places	836	28 800

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB089

Question Serial No.

0350

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 : There is an oversupply of day crèche and day nursery places due to the declining child population. Could the Administration please provide the number of day crèches and day nurseries which has closed or started its business in the last three years?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply : The number of day crèches and day nurseries closed and newly opened in the last three years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Day Crèches</u>		<u>Day Nurseries</u>	
	No. of Centres Closed	No. of Centres Newly Opened	No. of Centres Closed	No. of Centres Newly Opened
2002-03	1	0	4	2
2003-04	3	1	6	6
2004-05	1	0	4	3
Total :	5	1	14	11
	Net reduction of 4 centres		Net reduction of 3 centres	

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 APR 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB090

Question Serial No.

0351

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 : In 2004-05, a Police Superintendent was seconded to the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for a period of nine months to give advice on improving investigation techniques and on plugging loopholes in the social security system. Please provide details of the secondment and the expenditure involved. In addition, what is the Department's estimated expenditure for prevention of fraud and abuse of the social security system in 2005-06? Regarding social security, what is the unit cost for every dollar's saving achieved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : A Police Superintendent was seconded to the SWD from the Hong Kong Police Force in July 2004 for nine months to provide professional advice on measures to improve the mechanism for prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and abuse in the social security system. The expenditure involved for the secondment was \$690,000.

The provision allocated for the Special Investigation Section (SIS) in 2004-05 was \$39.97m while the provision earmarked for 2005-06 is \$40.1m. SIS is made up of two Fraud Investigation Teams, namely the Data Matching Team and the Performance Management Team. During 2004-05, the total overpayment identified for recovery by the Section amounted to \$90.7m. The unit cost for every dollar's saving achieved on social security is thus \$0.44.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB091

Question Serial No.

0352

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, the indicator for employment services shows that the enrolment rate of sheltered workshops (of the Government sector and the subvented sector) maintained at 104% for both 2004-05 and 2005-06. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Why does the enrolment rate exceed 100%?
- (b) Has the Administration taken any measures (such as those on staffing arrangements and the workshop environment) to ensure that the quality of services is up to standard?
- (c) If yes, what are these measures? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) The Department conducted an internal value for money study on sheltered workshop service in February 2003. The study revealed that the average daily attendance from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 was only 88% despite full enrolment of the workshops. Factors contributed to the relatively low attendance rate include trainees' frequent hospitalisation, medical appointment, absence from workshop due to bad work habits and family commitments, etc. To make fuller use of the resources, the Department recommended an above 100% enrolment rate for sheltered workshops so as to improve the daily attendance rate. Accordingly, the enrolment rate of the 2004-05 revised estimate was 104% while the average daily attendance rate became 94%.

- (b) & (c) The purpose of the over-enrolment is to improve the daily attendance rate of the sheltered workshops. The number of people served at any one time would not exceed the designated capacity of the service unit. There should not be any impact on the service quality and workload of the service units concerned. Therefore no additional government subvention or office space was allocated for the over-enrolment arrangement.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB092

Question Serial No.

0399

Head : 341 – Non-recurrent Grants (Lotteries Fund)

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : By what criteria does the controlling officer approve
“non-recurrent grants”?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The non-recurrent grants are allocated to meet capital expenditure for construction, fitting-out, renovation or purchase of furniture and equipment for premises occupied by non-governmental organisations providing welfare services. The grants may also be used to finance experimental projects with a limited duration not exceeding four years.

The major criteria for allocation of the grants are whether and the extent to which the proposed projects could meet the welfare needs of the community as well as their cost-effectiveness. The allocation would also be subject to the advice of the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee.

Signature	Paul TANG
Name in block letters	Director of Social Welfare
Post Title	6 April 2005
Date	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB093

Question Serial No.

0400

Head : 341 – Non-recurrent Grants (Lotteries Fund)

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What requirements must an organisation meet to be eligible to apply for “non-recurrent grants”?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : Non-governmental organisations recognised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Department of Health or the Education and Manpower Bureau as a bona-fide non-profit-making organisation providing a valuable service to the community are eligible to apply for “non-recurrent grants” from SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 094

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

0448

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As far as indicators for statutory testing are concerned, the number of tests performed on Chinese medicines increased 12.8% from 58 286 in 2003 to 65 748 in 2004. Please give the reasons for the upsurge and provide a breakdown of expenses on Chinese medicines tests in 2003 and 2004.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Government Chemist discharges statutory functions as referee analyst under various ordinances and regulations. This involves the provision of analytical services to the Department of Health for the safety monitoring of the Chinese medicines for sale in Hong Kong and the investigation of the suspected intoxication and adverse drug reaction cases related to the consumption of Chinese medicines.

The increased output achieved in 2004 was mainly due to large batches of ad hoc samples submitted by the Department of Health for the examination of aristolochic acids and ephedrine alkaloids, etc arising from the investigation of the suspected intoxication and adverse drug reaction cases.

The expenses for the examination of Chinese medicines for 2003-04 and 2004-05 were \$10.1 m and \$9.7 m respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB 095

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

0449

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As regards the development of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards, please inform us of the current progress, expected completion time as well as the estimated expenditure, staffing arrangement and establishment involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica (HKCMM) Standards Office has been set up under the Department of Health (DH) to manage and coordinate the development of the HKCMM standards, a project undertaken by local universities, for the commonly used herbs in Hong Kong. The Government Laboratory (GL) has actively participated in the development of HKCMM Standards through conducting inter-laboratory comparison studies for verifying the reproducibility of the chemical methods developed by the universities. It also engaged in trial run studies by analyzing some herbs purchased from the local market so as to check the safety limits etc proposed by the universities.

The development of three analytical methods for monitoring the safety of the herbs, i.e. the determination of heavy metals, pesticide residues and mycotoxins (aflatoxins) respectively has been completed. Moreover, the inter-laboratory studies for the first phase (includes 8 herbs) have been completed. Majority of the trial run studies for the first phase have also been completed. The inter-laboratory comparison studies for the second phase (includes 24 herbs) are in progress. The related trial run studies will commence once the universities have completed the necessary data collection. The third phase for 28 herbs will start in due course and is expected to be completed by end 2007.

DH has allocated about \$820,000 to GL for employing three non-civil service contract staff and purchasing the necessary consumables in 2005-06 for the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB096

Question Serial No.

0375

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the reasons for the 20% decrease in the 2005-06 estimate under Programme (5) as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate? Apart from the civil service pay cut, what are the other reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The main reasons for the 20% decrease in the 2005-06 estimate for Programme (5) are-

- (a) reduction in capital expenditure (\$5.4 million), as one rebus is due for replacement in 2005-06 (estimated cost at \$0.6 million), versus ten rebus in 2004-05 (total cost at \$6 million); and
- (b) reduction of provision in line with the civil service pay cut (\$1.1 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB097

Question Serial No.

0586

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 estimate of the general departmental expenses of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2005-06 is \$295m, which represents an increase over the 2004-05 revised estimate by more than 30%. Why does the Government cut the funding for the subvented sector while increase substantially the estimate of the general departmental expenses of the SWD? Please also explain in detail the purposes of the additional provision and the formula for calculating the rate of increase.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Apart from the efficiency savings of 1% applied to the non-governmental organisations (as against 2% on the SWD's operating expenditure), the Government has not reduced the subventions for the subvented sector. On the contrary, the total new resources to be allocated to the subvented sector in 2005-06, amounts to \$184.4m, representing an increase of 2.8% over the 2004-05 revised estimate for subvention.

The increase in provision for the general departmental expenses of SWD in 2005-06 as compared to the 2004-05 revised estimate is mainly due to:

- (a) new resources amounting to \$24m to enhance integrated family services centres and to support services for tackling domestic violence and family problems;
- (b) new resources amounting to \$3.8m for purchase of five new rehabuses; and
- (c) the recurrent consequences (\$40m) for (i) setting up a departmental technical infrastructure (TI) to support better communication and access to information; and (ii) developing a Client Information System (CIS) to automate case management and support service planning. The TI and CIS will be completed in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB098

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0550

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 :

It is mentioned in paragraph 14 under Programme (3) that the let-out rate of public market stalls fell below target owing to increasing competition from supermarkets and other retail outlets. Please advise on the measures to increase the let-out rate.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In addition to the general market improvement works, including upgrading of drainage, lighting, signage, ventilation and fire services provisions, the Department will continue to carry out a range of other measures in 2005-06 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;
- maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets through enhanced cleansing services provided by the Department and the enforcement of the monthly market cleansing day;
- provision of flexibility in determining and changing, for individual stall, the trade of the stall business and where feasible, the stall size;
- the merging of selected vacant small stalls to become larger stalls to attract potential bidders;
- lowering, in selected markets, the upset auction prices of long-standing vacant stalls to attract potential bidders;
- adoption of a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected markets; and
- conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB099

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0551

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 under Programme (3), please advise on the actual and revised expenditure for the past three years, the estimate for 2005-06, as well as the manpower strength of the Hawker Control Teams in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The expenditure incurred on hawker management and the manpower of the Hawker Control Teams are set out at below:

Expenditure

<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Revised Estimate)</u>	<u>(Draft estimate)</u>
\$991 m	\$874 m	\$795 m	\$757 m

Number of Hawker Control Team staff

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
2 945	2 645	2 593

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB100

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0552

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 the hawker blackspots mentioned in the indicators under Programme (3), are the locations of the estimated 64 hawker blackspots in 2005 the same as those of the actual 64 blackspots in 2004? If not, where are the blackspots newly included and eradicated? Please list the locations of the 64 hawker blackspots in 2005-06 Estimates.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The locations of the 64 blackspots for 2005 are the same as those in 2004. A full list of the 64 blackspots is at **ANNEX**.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Hawker Blackspots

ANNEX

No.	Locations
1.	Vicinity of Statue Square and Legislative Council
2.	Vicinity of Chater Garden and Murray Road
3.	Footbridge along Connaught Road Central and vicinity
4.	Jumbo Pier/Aberdeen Praya Road
5.	Causeway Bay Area (Daimaru & Sogo & vicinity)
6.	Johnston Road and Wan Chai Mass Transit Railway (MTR) Exit & vicinity
7.	Bowrington Road & vicinity
8.	Wan Chai Road , Tai Yuen Street, Cross Street, Stone Nullah Street & vicinity
9.	The area near Chai Wan Market including the open space outside Walton Estate, Yee Shun Street, Yee Tai Street, Yee Fung Street and the lane in front of Winner Centre
10.	Kam Wa Street area including Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street
11.	Marble Road area including North Point MTR exits, Kam Hong Street, Shu Kuk Street, a section of King's Road between Kam Hong Street and Tin Chiu Street and vicinity of Java Road Market
12.	Chun Yeung Street area including North Point Road, Tong Shui Road, a section of King's Road around Kam Hong Street, and Fortress Hill MTR exits
13.	Siu Sai Wan area along Siu Sai Wan Road from Bus Terminus up to Fullview Garden

No.	Locations
14.	Kut Shing Street and Chai Wan Footbridge outside Chai Wan MTR Station
15.	The streets around Sai Wan Ho Market including Tai On Street and a section of Shaukeiwan Road in front of Tai On Building; the vicinity of Quarry Bay Market including Quarry Bay Footbridge, a section of King's Road between Finnie Street and Hong On Street and the safety island in front of Jusco
16.	Praya Street, Cheung Chau
17.	Tung Chau Street
18.	Pei Ho Street Market and vicinity
19.	Cheung Sha Wan Road (near rear lane of No. 171-203 Cheung Sha Wan Road)
20.	Kweilin Street between Apliu Street and Yu Chau Street
21.	Argyle Street between Sai Yeung Choi Street and Fa Yuen Street and vicinity
22.	Nelson Street at junction of Nathan Road (Bank Centre & Grand Tower Hotel)
23.	Vicinity of Mong Kok Market (including Nelson Street, Canton Road, Argyle Street, Tong Mei Road)
24.	Tung Choi Street between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
25.	Fa Yuen Street between Mong Kok Road & Nullah Road
26.	Fa Yuen Street between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
27.	Kilung Street, at junction with Poplar Street & vicinity

No.	Locations
28.	Yung Shu Tau, Temple Street (North), Market Street, Shanghai Street & Public Square Street
29.	Arthur Street, at junction of Man Ming Lane & Wing Sing Lane
30.	Temple Street, at junction of Kansu Street & Nanking Street, Sagion Street
31.	Nathan Road, Parkes Street, at junction of Jordan Road & Ning Po Street
32.	Nathan Road, Peking Road, Haiphong Road, Hankow Road & Rock Road
33.	Carnarvon Road, Cameron Road, Granville Road & Humphreys Avenue
34.	Ma Tau Kok Road at junction of Pau Chung Street
35.	Hok Yuen Street, Man Yue Street, Ma Tau Wai Road
36.	Tokwawan Market area bounded by Kowloon City Road, Lok Shan Road & Tokwawan Road
37.	Tak Man Street and Hung Hom Road
38.	Tokwawan Road at junction of Lok Shan Road
39.	Bulkeley Street
40.	Tai Shing Street, Tai Tung Street and vicinity
41.	Kam Chi Path, Wah Chi Path and vicinity
42.	Lung Cheung Road near Wong Tai Sin MTR Station entrances, the portion near Chuk Yuen United Village and vicinity
43.	Lok Fu MTR Station Exit near Wang Tau Hom East Road
44.	Footbridge linking Kowloon Bay MTR Station, Wang Chiu Road, Wang Hoi Road
45.	Hip Wo Street, Shui Wo Street, Hoi Yuen Street, How Ming Street, Tsun Yip Street
46.	Lam Tin On Tin Street, Hing Tin Street, Pik Wan Road
47.	Chung Mei Village
48.	Fanling Kowloon Canton Railway East Station & vicinity

No.	Locations
49.	Sheung Shui Kowloon Canton Railway East Station & vicinity
50.	Under the flyover connecting with Sun Chui Estate & Lung Hang Estate
51.	Fun City near Sha Tin Clinic
52.	Mei Tin Road
53.	Kai Man Path Area
54.	Sam Shing Estate Periphery
55.	Bridge to Tuen Mun Town Hall
56.	Leung King Estate Periphery
57.	Melody Garden and vicinity
58.	Glorious Garden (Lung Mun Road)
59.	Outside Shan King Estate

No.	Locations
60.	Hop Choi Street
61.	Tin Yiu LRT Station and vicinity
62.	Tin Shui LRT and vicinity
63.	Jade Plaza
64.	Tai Po Market Kowloon Canton Railway East Station & vicinity

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB101

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0612

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secreatry : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (1) The estimated provision for 2005-06 is \$9.3 m (1.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2004-05. This is mainly due to the strengthening of pest control work. What is the estimated expenditure required for the strengthening of pest control? What are the details of the work involved?
- (2) At the same time, there is a reduction in the estimated number of surveys under the indicator "pest control surveys conducted" for 2005 as compared with the actual figure for 2004. Is this inconsistent with the Administration's aim of strengthening pest control?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (1) The total provision for pest control work for 2005-06 is \$273 m. In 2005-06, the department will install about 300 electric mosquito traps in 140 aqua privies and procure additional pest control teams to enhance the pest control work.
- (2) Pest control surveys include both pre-planned regular surveys and those conducted in response to specific needs arising during the year. In 2004, about half of the surveys were conducted in response to high ovitrap indices recorded in various locations and reports of vector-borne diseases. Since the figure in 2004 was higher than that of an average year, the estimate for 2005 has been adjusted accordingly.

Signature	GREGORY LEUNG
Name in block letters	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB102

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0538

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision for disease prevention is reduced by 3.2%, from a total of \$1,234.2M in 2004-05 to \$1,195.2M in 2005-06. Among such reduction, the provision for the subvented sector is reduced by 5.1%, which is higher than the 3.1% decrease for the Government sector. What is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The reduction in provision for the Government sector and the subvented sector results from the need to deliver additional efficiency savings in 2005-06 and the 2005 civil service pay adjustment. Both the Government and subvented sectors are subject to a similar level of reduction. Nevertheless, in the context of the Government sector, there is an additional provision for disease control in the Centre for Health Protection for 2005-06, hence resulting in a smaller reduction in the provision for Government than that for the subvented sector.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB103

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0539

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under brief description 8, the work of the Department of Health involves: providing genetic screening and counselling services; reducing preventable death and ill-health among pregnant women, infants and children; providing promotive health care to primary and secondary school students; the oral health of primary school children; maintaining the surveillance and control of communicable diseases; providing laboratory services for the diagnosis and surveillance of various infections and other screening activities; treating patients with sexually-transmitted diseases and controlling the spread of such diseases; providing integrated health care service to the elderly; and providing woman health service. Please set out the corresponding estimates for each of the above specific items of work in 2005-06 and their actual expenditures and percentages of changes in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The expenditure/provision analyses for individual activities under Programme (2) from 2002-03 to 2005-06 are given in the Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Analysis of Expenditure/Provision for Activities under Programme 2

	<u>2005-06</u> <u>Estimate</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>2004-05</u> <u>Rev Est</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>2003-04</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>2002-03</u> <u>Actual</u>
	\$M	%	\$M	%	\$M	%	\$M
(a) providing genetic screening and counselling services	22.6	-2.2%	23.1	-15.7%	27.4	-9.6%	30.3
(b) reducing preventable death and ill-health among pregnant women, infants and children	411.4	-2.8%	423.4	-0.7%	426.5	6.1%	402.1
(c) providing promotive health care to primary and secondary school student	130.3	-3.6%	135.2	-4.7%	141.9	-0.7%	142.9
(d) providing oral health service to primary school children	170.5	-2.2%	174.3	-3.3%	180.3	2.0%	176.8
(e) maintaining the surveillance and control of communicable diseases	150.4	-3.2%	155.4	10.8%	140.2	46.2%	95.9
(f) providing laboratory services for the diagnosis and surveillance of various infections and other screening activities	39.3	-5.1%	41.4	-10.2%	46.1	40.1%	32.9
(g) treating patients with sexually-transmitted diseases and controlling the spread of such diseases	62.6	-6.1%	66.7	-9.0%	73.3	0.7%	72.8
(h) providing integrated health care service to the elderly	148.6	-2.5%	152.4	-4.3%	159.3	3.6%	153.8
(i) providing woman health service	22.7	-2.2%	23.2	6.4%	21.8	9.0%	20.0
(j) others	5.4	-10.0%	6.0	1.7%	5.9	11.3%	5.3
Expenditure for Government Sector	<u>1,163.8</u>	<u>-3.1%</u>	<u>1,201.1</u>	<u>-1.8%</u>	<u>1,222.7</u>	<u>7.9%</u>	<u>1,132.8</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB104

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0540

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Department of Health provides subvention to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health to implement initiatives against smoking. Please provide the details of the initiatives for preventing adolescents and youth from smoking and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) organises various tobacco control activities for the public. COSH also conducts activities specifically targeted at adolescents and youth, including health talks and lectures to schools and social service organisations, interactive anti-smoking musical dramas, and training of students as tobacco control advocates.

A non-recurrent subvention of \$6M has been allocated to COSH for tobacco control activities targeted at youth and women for the period from 2001 to 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB105

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0541

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) Please set out the respective number of samples taken for analysis by the Department of Health on western medicine, proprietary Chinese medicines and health foods in the past three years. How many cases of violation of standards are there? What are the expenditure and establishment involved?
- (b) Has the Department of Health set any target(s) for the samples taken for analysis on pharmaceutical products and health foods for each year? If yes, what are the target numbers?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

- (a) The respective numbers of samples of western medicines, proprietary Chinese medicines and health foods taken by the Department of Health for analysis in the past three years are as follows:

Year	Western Medicines		Proprietary Chinese Medicines/ Health Foods	
	No. of samples tested	No. found to be below quality standards	No. of samples tested	No. found to be below quality standards
2002	1 862	65	2 345	49
2003	2 125	69	2 528	59
2004	2 076	93	2 834	47

Four Senior Pharmacists and 24 Pharmacists are responsible for the inspection and licensing of manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of western medicines, investigations of drug-related complaints, prosecution of offenders, and the sampling of western medicines, proprietary Chinese medicines and health foods for analysis. The staff cost involved for these activities in 2005-06 is \$17.4M.

- (b) The target is to test about 2 000 samples of western medicines and 2 500 samples of proprietary Chinese medicines / health foods each year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB106

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0542

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Concerning inspection of retail outlets of Chinese herbal medicines, how many front-line staff currently deployed by the Department to perform such duty have received relevant training? Will the Department provide training in future to facilitate the existing inspection staff to undertake the inspection duty? If yes, what are the details of such training and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Six officers in the Department of Health trained in Chinese medicines are responsible for inspection of retailers of Chinese herbal medicines in Hong Kong.

In 2005-06, \$160,000 will be allocated to relevant staff training, including diploma/degree course, postgraduate certificate course, seminars and conference.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB107

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0543

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

(a) In 2004-05, how many new cases are managed in Social Hygiene Service? How many cases are revisit cases? How are the distribution of age and sex of these cases? What is the average cost for managing a case in Social Hygiene Service?

(b) Comparing the data in 2003 and 2004, there was an increase in the number of attendees in Social Hygiene Clinics and this increasing trend will continue in coming year. Does the government have any reason for such trend? Any plan to address this problem and if so, how much additional resource required?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

In 2004, there were some 18 000 new attendances and 134 000 revisit cases in Social Hygiene Clinics (SHCs).

There is no readily available information on the age and sex distribution of all attendances in SHCs. Nonetheless, data have been compiled on patients of the five most common sexually transmitted diseases, which together accounted for over 85% of the total clientele. Based on these figures, the ratio of male to female is 1.3:1. The age profile of patients is as follows :

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Below 20	3.4%
20-29	24.3%
30-39	30.2%
40 and above	42.1%

The average cost for handling a case is about \$620.

The increase in attendances in the year 2004 compared to those in 2003 was due to the relatively low attendances in 2003. It could be attributed to the SARS outbreak in 2003 which might have an impact on people's consultation behaviour and pattern.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB108

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0544

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the indicator of attendances at maternal and child health centres, the 2005 estimate on the attendance for the cervical screening service is 100 000. The Department of Health publicises that female aged 25 or above should undergo such examination annually in the first two years and then once in every three year. According to the projection made by the Census and Statistics Department on the local population, there will be nearly 2.7 million females aged 25 or above in 2005. Please provide the following information:

- (a) What are the criteria for estimating the attendance for cervical screening service at maternal and child health centres to be 100 000 in 2005?
- (b) Why is the indicator set by the Department of Health on the attendance for the cervical screening service far smaller than the population requiring such service as publicised by the Department of Health?
- (c) Please set out the respective estimates for the publicity and provision of the cervical screening service for 2004 and 2005.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The territory-wide Cervical Screening Programme (CSP) is organised by the Department of Health (DH) with participation of public and private medical sectors, and non-governmental organisations.

Based on the recommendations of the Cervical Screening Task Force, the CSP would target at women aged 25 to 64 and the screening interval would be once every three years, following two consecutive annual smears producing negative results. Also, the initial target of CSP is to cover 60% of the target female population. This target coverage is comparable to that achieved in many developed countries. According to the Census and Statistics Department, the total population of women aged 25 to 64 is about 2.2 million. This means about 1.3 million women aged 25 to 64 should have a smear test over a period of three years, or 440 000 women each year.

The actual number of attendances for cervical screening at DH during the 10-month period since its launch in March 2004 was 80 000. The estimated attendance of 100 000 in 2005 represents about a quarter of the target population, and also has taken into account the market share potentially to be taken up by the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

The provision for CSP in DH, including publicity, is \$35M in 2004-05. The provision remains unchanged in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB109

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0597

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the upgrade of facilities at Red Ribbon Centre, the Government's AIDS resource and education centre, what is the estimated expenditure required? Please list in detail the amount for each expenditure item.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

An amount of \$7.3M has been earmarked for renovating the Red Ribbon Centre. Major renovation items include the following :

- (a) extension of floor area;
- (b) conversion of the extension into one conference room, one production room, one store room and a toilet;
- (c) construction of a new activity hall;
- (d) conversion of current areas into an open plan office and a library extension; and
- (e) upgrading air conditioning, fire services installation and security provisions.

The breakdown of the major expenditures is as follows :

	\$M
(a) Building works	2.8
(b) Building services	3.4
(c) Contingencies and others	1.1
Total	<u>7.3</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB110

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0598

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the evaluation of regular urine HIV testing programme for drug users:

- (1) What is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?
- (2) Are any objectives set for the testing programme? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

(1) The programme offers urine HIV tests for all drug users attending methadone clinics. The cost for conducting urine HIV tests in 2005-06 is estimated to be \$500,000.

(2) The programme aims to enhance prevention and control of HIV infection among drug users. Drug users found to be HIV positive will be followed up for medical treatment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB111

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Programme :

Operational
expenses

0599

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : For the item of temporary staff, the 2005-06 estimate is \$211,697,000, an increase of \$4,300,000 as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate at \$207,397,000. Does it involve the employment of additional temporary staff? If so, what is the number of additional temporary staff intended to employ? What are their ranks and scope of responsibilities?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The provision in 2005-06 includes the provision for recruitment of additional 32 full time contract staff in 2005-06. Details are at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Projected no. of additional contract staff to be employed by Department of Health in 2005-06

Programme Area	Job Title	Monthly Salary \$	No. of staff in different contract duration		
			Less than 1 year	1 – 2 year(s)	3 years
(1) Statutory Functions	Smoke-free Ambassador	6,300		2	
(1) Statutory Functions	Assistant Tobacco Control Officer	8,200		4	
(1) Statutory Functions	Tobacco Control Officer	10,000		2	
(1) Statutory Functions	Contract Engineer (Biomedical)	33,355 - 51,870		2	
(1) Statutory Functions	Project Officer (Chinese Medicine)	26,540		1	
(1) Statutory Functions	Chinese Medicine Assistant	17,145		4	
(2) Disease Prevention	Project Assistant	6,800	7		
(2) Disease Prevention	Assistant Manager	22,000 - 26,000		1	
(2) Disease Prevention	Service Administrator	77,000		1	

Programme Area	Job Title	Monthly Salary \$	No. of staff in different contract duration		
			Less than 1 year	1 – 2 year(s)	3 years
(2) Disease Prevention	Contract Medical Laboratory Technician	10,700		1	
(2) Disease Prevention	Contract Doctor	33,355 - 54,255			5
(3) Health Promotion	Research Officer (Public Health)	26,540		1	
(3) Health Promotion	Infectious Disease Physician	72,135			1
Total:			7	19	6

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB112

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0600

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out the individual subventions provided to each of the subvented institutions under this programme in 2005-06, and make a comparison with their corresponding revised estimates for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Under this programme area, the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong is the only organisation being subvented. The total subvention for 2005-06 will be \$31.4M. Compared with the revised estimates of \$33.1M in 2004-05, there is a decrease of \$1.7M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB113

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0601

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. What are the differences between the family planning services provided by the maternal and child health centres and those by the Family Planning Association? What are the expenditure and income concerning such services?
2. In view of decreasing birth rate, does the Government plan to transfer the family planning services provided by the maternal and child health centres to the Family Planning Association? If so, what are details of the plan and what will be the changes in the subvention granted to the Family Planning Association? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) provide family planning services to enable all women of childbearing age to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children. Appropriate contraceptive methods including emergency contraception are prescribed according to individual needs. For clients with infertility problem, counselling and referral to specialist will be arranged as appropriate. The MCHCs also provide maternal health services and women after delivery attending the centres for postnatal checkup will be given contraceptive counselling to ensure better spacing of children. The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPAHK) provides family planning services including contraceptive counselling, prescription of birth control methods, infertility counselling and termination of pregnancy to women of childbearing age at extended office hours. They also provide specialised services for newly-wed couples as well as youth sexual health services for women aged below 27 years. In 2004, the actual number of attendances for family planning service at MCHCs was 248 500 and that for the family planning clinics operated by the FPAHK was 182 000.

The scopes of family planning services provided in MCHCs and FPAHK are complementing each other to ensure accessibility to women of childbearing age in Hong Kong. Although the birth rate in Hong Kong is decreasing, the current family planning services at MCHCs need to be maintained because family planning is not merely the prescription of contraceptive methods but also helping to identify infertile couples for early treatment, and there is no plan to transfer the services to the FPAHK.

The family planning service forms an integral part of the services provided by MCHCs for which the total provision in 2005-06 is \$389.2M. The estimated

revenue in 2005-06 is about \$0.3M, based on the standard charge of a nominal rate of \$1 for Hong Kong residents. As family planning service is an integral part of FPAHK's overall service, separate breakdown on its income and expenditure is not readily available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB114

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Curative Care

0602

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) At present, what is the waiting time in general regarding the government dental service provided to patients with special oral healthcare needs?
- (b) Please set out the respective average costs of treatment and the corresponding charges for the following three categories: hospital patients, emergency treatment by dental clinics and patients with special oral healthcare needs.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

- (a) The waiting time for patients with special oral healthcare needs seeking government dental service depends on the severity and nature of their dental conditions. Patients with emergency needs will be given immediate consultation and treatment, while the waiting time for other patients ranges from one week to six months.
- (b) The average unit cost for treatment of hospital patients (including those with special oral healthcare needs) is about \$750 and that for emergency treatment in dental clinics is about \$100.

There is no charge for emergency treatment in dental clinics for eligible persons, and non-eligible persons will be charged at \$700 per attendance. For dental treatment provided to hospital patients (including those with special oral healthcare needs), the Department of Health does not charge patients for the service, which forms part and parcel of the services chargeable by the Hospital Authority.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 115

Question Serial No.

0530

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. In 2004-05, gender-related training has been provided to civil servants. Please specify the departments and the number of civil servants involved as well as the expenses incurred?
2. During 2005-06, which department will be provided with such kind of training? What is the expected number of participants and what is the estimated expenditure?
3. In 2005-06, will there be any funding earmarked for encouraging and motivating civil servants to actively take part in such training?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

(1) Gender-related training workshops are organised to enhance civil servants' sensitivity towards gender issues and women's concerns, so as to facilitate their taking into consideration gender perspectives in their work, including policy making and providing services to the community.

In 2004-05, a total of around \$360,000 was spent on providing gender related training for civil servants. Five training workshops and a mass seminar were organised for 271 participants, a breakdown of which is as follows:

<u>Training Programmes</u>	<u>No. of staff attended</u>
(a) Workshops	
Gender Focal Points (GFP) of various bureaux and departments	53
Home Affairs Department/District Offices	8
Administrative Officers	16
Social Welfare Department	57
(b) Mass seminar (for various bureaux and departments)	137
Total	271

In addition, we have also used the provision to develop a self-learning training kit on Valuing Diversity in collaboration with the Home Affairs Bureau, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Civil Service Training and Development Institute (CSTDI) for distribution to all bureaux and departments and uploading on the Cyber Learning Center of CSTDI.

(2) In 2005-06, we will continue to provide similar training in the form of workshops and mass seminars to civil servants of different bureaux and departments. The expected number is more or less the same as that in 2004-05. A sum of \$350,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.

(3) Response from civil servants towards gender-related training has been positive. Staffing and resources relating to promotion and recruitment of participants will continue to be absorbed by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, CSTDI and the departments concerned.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date: 7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 116

Question Serial No.

0531

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Programme: (4) Women's Interests

Subhead (No. & title):

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

- a. The Administration introduced a "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" in 13 policy areas. Please specify what had been done in this respect in 2004-05 and give a breakdown of the expenditure incurred.
- b. Please state the policy areas to be covered by the above scheme, what specifically will be done and the expenditure involved in 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

- (a) 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 a number of policy areas or programmes.

All bureaux and departments have already designated a senior officer (a directorate officer in most cases) as the "Gender Focal Point" within their respective organisations. These Gender Focal Points 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 HWFB and the Women's Commission.

To facilitate the gender mainstreaming process, gender-related training is provided to civil servants to raise their awareness and equip them with basic gender mainstreaming techniques.

In 2004-05, the Checklist was used in the areas or programmes related to major publicity campaigns by the Information Services Department, publicity on electricity and gas safety by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, a review of the composition of advisory committees and consumer education programmes by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority, provision of public toilets by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, and the

review of provision of female toilets in buildings by the Buildings Department. Resources incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiatives have been absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments. At the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau level, the organisation and coordination work has been absorbed by existing staff.

- (b) In 2005-06, we shall continue to roll out the Checklist to more policy/programme areas on an incremental basis, including but not limited to the pilot “Head-Start Programme” for children aged 0-5, specialized support for young persons with early sign of mental health problem, provision of infirmary care services in a non-hospital setting and combating domestic violence.

Plans are also at hand to form a core group of selected Gender Focal Points to devise plans or strategies to encourage bureaux/ departments for proactive application of the Checklist. We also seek to implement the evaluation mechanism, which include focus group discussions with the Gender Focal Points to gather feedback and compilation of a booklet on good practices on gender mainstreaming. Gender-related training would continue to be provided to civil servants.

Resources incurred in carrying out the initiatives related to gender mainstreaming will continue to be absorbed within the existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB117

Question Serial No.

0532

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 psychiatric service provided by the Hospital Authority (HA), about 200 long-stay psychiatric patients in the hospitals under the HA will be transferred to a new institute operated by a welfare agency in 2005-06. Please inform us of:

- (1) the details of the project and when the new institute will be in operation;
- (2) the hospitals from which these patients will be transferred, the distribution of patients in these hospitals and the mental state of these patients;
- (3) the arrangement for the hospital beds vacated and the manpower saved under the project and whether there will be a reduction in surplus manpower;
- (4) the staffing establishment and the annual operational expenses of the institute under the project;
- (5) when the HA will assess and review the effectiveness of the project and whether there will be any plan to further outsource the long-stay service for psychiatric patients.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- (1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is commissioning a new long stay care home in Tuen Mun, which is expected to commence operation by the end of 2005. The long stay care home will provide an environment which can assist chronic psychiatric patients, who are medically stable, to live independently in the community after their discharge from hospital.
- (2) The new long stay care home caters for long stay psychiatric patients, who are in a stable medical condition. These patients require only some nursing care but do not need any active treatment. Most of the patients who will be transferred to the new long stay care home are expected to come from Castle Peak Hospital and Kwai Chung Hospital.
- (3) The resources released by the HA through this project will be used to enhance ambulatory and community psychiatric services and to meet the increasing

demand for acute psychiatric services. Committing more resources for community-based psychiatric services is also in line with international trend.

- (4) The new long stay care home in Tuen Mun will have a capacity of 400 places. It will have a total of 184 staff, comprising social work, nursing, para-medical and other supporting staff. The annual operation cost will be \$30.72 million.
- (5) At present, HA does not have any plans to outsource long stay care service for psychiatric patients who require active treatment or are not in a stable medical condition. As for the medically stable patients who will be transferred to the new long stay home, the HA will work closely with SWD to keep their residential needs under continuous reviews.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB118

Question Serial No.

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

0533

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the amendment to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance,

1. what is the estimated expenditure for this item?
2. will the enforcement of the amended legislation incur additional expenditure?
3. has the authority developed any indicators to gauge and review the effectiveness of the amended legislation?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- 1 & 2. In Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, activities relating to the amendments to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (the Ordinance) falls within Programme 3, as the expenditure for this Programme area caters for a number of activities, the expenditure in respect of amendments to the Ordinance cannot be separately identifiable.

At the operational level, the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health coordinates and enhances the Government's efforts in tobacco control. At present, the TCO has around 30 staff with an expenditure of \$12.7 million in 2004-05. In anticipation of the legislative changes, we would enhance the strength of the TCO by an addition of around 30 staff and realign the work of the entire team. In 2005-06, the total expenditure of the TCO is expected to be \$17.5 million.

Furthermore, the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH), with a provision of \$6.1M in 2005-06, will conduct advisory, advocacy and promotional activities on tobacco control. An amount of \$5 million has been set aside for COSH to organize activities in respect of building a smokefree community.

3. The proposed legislative amendments will provide an impetus for current smokers to quit smoking, thereby helping to lower smoking prevalence in Hong Kong. In collaboration with the Census and Statistics Department, we will conduct surveys to gauge the smoking patterns for different age groups before and after enactment of the Amendment Ordinance. The Government will also commission tracking surveys to evaluate the impact of the legislative amendments on smoking and secondhand smoking in workplaces and public

places as well as the degree of public support for and compliance with the new regulatory requirements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>7 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB119

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

0594

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 reviewing strategies on health care financing,

1. When will the relevant work be initiated? When will the result be available?
What are the details of the project?
2. What is the estimated cost of the project?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1. The Administration's work on healthcare reform including healthcare financing is pursued in consultation with a high-level advisory committee. Chaired by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food and comprising professionals and community leaders from various fields, a reconstituted Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) was appointed on 1 March 2005 to spearhead the development of healthcare service models in the public and private sectors and the identification of long term financing options.

It is the HMDAC's target to release in December 2005 an interim report with strategies on development of healthcare services and options to improve the financial sustainability of our healthcare system.

2. The policy steering, research and administrative work relating to the HMDAC will be absorbed by existing staff through re-deployment in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. The financial provision for such steering, research and administrative work cannot be separately identified.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 30 March 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB120

Question Serial No.

0595

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 working out and implementing measures to deal with the increasing number of Mainland visitors seeking medical treatment in public hospitals in Hong Kong, what are the estimated expenditure involved? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The possible measures under consideration by the Administration to deal with the increasing number of Mainland visitors seeking medical treatment in public hospitals in Hong Kong include –

- (1) Raise medical fees for non-eligible persons (NEPs) above cost, which can be close to or even higher than charges by the private sector. This include the introduction of minimum package charge (e.g. for obstetric admissions) to discourage premature discharge against medical advice;
- (2) Increase NEP's deposit for hospital admission (Implemented in November 2004);
- (3) Require NEPs to pay an advance deposit for non-emergency services;
- (4) Impose a surcharge on outstanding fees;
- (5) Stop providing non-emergency services to NEPs before settlement of outstanding fees; and
- (6) Stop providing non-emergency services to NEPs who are not the spouse or children under 18 years of age of a Hong Kong Identity Card holder.

As the above possible measures are still being studied and evaluated, the HA cannot provide at this stage an accurate estimate on the additional expenditure or manpower that may be involved for their implementation. However, since most of them would only involve certain changes to existing operational procedures, there should not be any major requirement on resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

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

HWFB 121

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

0520

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the control of destructive fishing practices under Programme (3), how many prosecutions were instigated against destructive fishing in each of the past two years?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

In 2003 and 2004, we instituted a total of 20 prosecutions against destructive fishing practices. All the offenders were convicted and the total penalties imposed are as follows:-

Year	No. of successful prosecutions	Penalties (total fines)
2003	7	\$117,000
2004	13	\$80,500

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 122

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

0521

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Subhead 000 Operational Expenses, the revised estimate for 2004-05 for Job-related Allowances was 25.9% higher than the original estimate. What were the reasons for this?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The original provision for job-related allowances under Subhead 000 Operational expenses in 2004-05 was \$5.976 million and the revised estimate was \$7.524 million. There is an increase of \$1.548 million or 25.9%. This is mainly due to the re-classification of the fire-fighting allowances which was originally under the heading "Allowances" to the heading "Job-related Allowances" in the 2004-05 revised estimate. Expenditure in fire-fighting allowances amounted to \$1.3 million in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 123

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 700 General non-recurrent

0522

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent Expenditure, the revised estimate for 2004-05 was 424.4% higher than the approved estimate, representing an increase of \$63 million. What were the reasons for this? What areas were covered by the non- recurrent expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The original provision for Subhead 700 General non-recurrent expenditure in 2004-05 was \$14.8 million and the revised estimate was \$77.8 million. There is an increase of \$63 million or about 425%. This is mainly due to the increase in cash flow requirements for ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators affected by the outbreak of avian influenza in the region amounting to \$38.9 million and the provision for the extension of 280 temporary jobs for cleansing and maintenance service to country parks and other venues in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department amounting to \$23.3 million (as part of the Government's initiative announced in the 2004 Policy Address to extend 11 700 temporary jobs in the public sector to meet operational needs and provide further relief to those with low education, lesser skills and limited working experience).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 124

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

0523

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In Subventions under Subhead 000 Operational Expenses, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) (Hong Kong) is allocated a funding of \$ 608,000 in 2005-06, which is less than that of last year. What are the reasons for this? What criteria have been used in deciding the amount of subvention?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

As a public expenditure savings measure and owing to restructuring of the subvention into specific projects, the amount of subvention to SPCA (Hong Kong) will be reduced to \$608,000 in 2005-06.

The amount of subvention is based on the number of projects to be carried out by SPCA (Hong Kong), including Cat Colony Care Programme, Mobile Surgical Unit service, Animal Cruelty Investigation, Rehoming of animals and Education for the public.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB125

Question Serial No.

0639

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 :

Under the item of unit cost, the cost of inpatient services for 2005-06 estimates is 2.4% to 3.9% lower than the revised estimates of 2004-05 and indeed significantly lower when compared with the actual figures in 2003-04. What methods will be employed to further cut down the cost this year? How is the quality of service to be maintained at the same time?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The unit costs are calculated by dividing the total cost of each service by the service volume. Due to the SARS outbreak in 2003, there was a significant reduction in the volume of activities across the entire range of services provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04. Given the high proportion of fixed costs in HA's cost structure, the unit costs of all service types were significantly higher in 2003-04 than in previous years as a result. After the SARS outbreak, there was gradual a recovery in the volume of activities and the unit costs came down to more normal. The reduction in unit costs in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is largely due to downward pay adjustments for HA staff, which are in line with civil service pay cuts. The service level and service quality in 2005-06 would be maintained at similar levels as those in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB126

Question Serial No.

0640

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 2005-06, 200 long stay patients in the Hospital Authority (HA) hospitals will be transferred to a newly opened institution operated by a welfare organisation. Are expenses incurred by these 200 patients no longer be borne by the HA? If so, how much savings can the HA achieve?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

The new long stay care home is commissioned and subvented by the Social Welfare Department. It is estimated that the Hospital Authority (HA) can achieve a notional saving of \$59 million a year from the discharge of 200 long stay psychiatric patients to the new long stay home, which is expected to commence operation by the end of 2005. The HA will apply the saving to enhance ambulatory and community psychiatric services and to meet the increasing demand for acute psychiatric services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB127

Question Serial No.

0641

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 view of the direction for the Hospital Authority to focus on emergency and acute services, will the Administration refer more mentally ill, infirm and mentally handicapped patients who require long-term care to welfare organizations this year in order to relieve the burden of the Hospital Authority in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) is exploring various means to enhance its interface with the welfare sector for the provision of patient care. In 2005-06, the HA is planning to transfer about 200 mentally ill patients, who are suitable for discharge but still require long-term care, to a long stay care home operated by non-Government organizations (NGOs). The HA is also working closely with the Social Welfare Department in formulating a model for the provision of infirm care for medically stable elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB128

Question Serial No.

0642

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 target number of hospital beds for the mentally handicapped is 700 in 2005-06, 100 less than the last two years. Why is the target number decreased? Is the number of the mentally handicapped estimated to drop? Or is the Bureau providing such services through other means?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The reduction of 100 beds for the mentally handicapped is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit specialises in caring for children under the age of 16 with severe mental handicap. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of children with severe mental handicap as a result of the declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision for places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools by the Education and Manpower Bureau, which offer an attractive option for providing care to children with severe mental handicap in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in 2005-06 is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past years.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB129

Question Serial No.

0643

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 analysis of financial and staffing provision, it is stated that the provision for 2005-06 is 14.8% lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05. One of the reasons for the reduced provision is anticipated decrease in payment for surveys and publicity programmes. Please specify details of the anticipated decrease and the actual amount involved.

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

The Administration launched a large scale public consultation exercise on "Prevention of Avian Influenza: Consultation on Long Term Direction to Minimise the Risk of Human Infection" from April to July 2004. For that exercise, the Administration distributed about 80,000 copies of the consultation document and about 90,000 copies of the pamphlet. A relevant Announcement of Public Interests was also produced for broadcasting on television and radio respectively.

As we have no plan for any surveys/publicity programmes with a comparable scale in the near future, we anticipate a reduction in the expenditure of about \$1.4 million in 2005-06 Financial Year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB130

Question Serial No.

0644

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 : Many programmes related to agriculture, fisheries and food safety are being scheduled for implementation in the current year. Why is it that the provision need not be increased but can be reduced instead?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The decrease of the provision under Programme (5) is partly due to the effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut and the reduced operating expenses to deliver efficiency savings.

In addition, the Administration launched a large scale public consultation exercise, including publishing consultation documents, producing pamphlet and Announcement of Public Interests, etc., on the long term direction to prevent avian influenza from April to July 2004. As we have no plan to launch a similar programme in the near future, the provision under this programme would be reduced in the 2005-06 Financial Year as compared with that in the 2004-05 Financial Year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB131

Question Serial No.

0645

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 2005-06, it is stated that the Bureau would develop proposals to address the avian influenza problem. Has the Bureau made any provision for implementing the proposals involved? Or would the Bureau apply to the Legislative Council as and when the funds are required? Has the Bureau made any estimate of the funds required?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

At the joint meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services and the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 14 March 2005, the Administration briefed members on our comprehensive plan of action to deal with the global problem of avian influenza. Under the plan, we propose to set aside about \$264 million to provide ex-gratia payment (EGP) to live poultry farmers and wholesalers who choose to surrender their licences/tenancies as well as to provide retraining and financial assistance for affected farm and wholesale workers. It is estimated that about \$192.3 million and \$30.8 million would be required for the EGP to poultry farmers and wholesalers respectively, and \$40.8 million would be needed for providing retraining courses and one-off grants to affected farm and wholesale workers.

The Administration will meet with the live poultry trade to explain the necessity of changing the current mode of operation. It will also consult live poultry farmers and wholesalers on the terms of the voluntary surrender scheme before seeking funding approval from the Finance Committee within this year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food

6 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB132

Question Serial No.

0646

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 : Regarding introduction of legislative proposals to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters, when will the legislation be tabled at the Legislative Council? Has the Bureau made any provision for implementing the law?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : We intend to introduce the bill into the Legislative Council within 2004-05 legislative session. We have not made any provision for implementing the legislative proposal in this financial year because :

- (a) it will take time for the Legislative Council to scrutinize the legislative proposal; and
- (b) there will also be a grace period before implementation.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB133

Question Serial No.

0707

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 700 General non-recurrent

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

In 2005-06, under the subhead of operational expenses, salary expenses decrease by 3.26% while allowance expenses and mandatory provident fund contribution expenses increase by 20% and 32% respectively. What are reasons for the increase in the expenses of these two items? Has some of the savings arising from reduced salary expenses been used for paying allowances?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The increase of \$0.65 million (20%) in allowance expenses and \$0.05 million (32%) in mandatory provident fund contribution expenses in 2005-06, as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, is mainly due to the additional provision for acting allowances and the increase in the number of officers who are appointed on agreement terms or new terms involving contribution to mandatory provident fund.

The reduction in salary expenses in 2005-06 is mainly due to the 2005 civil service pay cut. The savings have not been used for paying allowances.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB134

Question Serial No.

0708

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 700 General non-recurrent

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The general non-recurrent expenditure for 2005-06 is \$67,954,000, representing a decrease of 82% as compared with 2004-05. What are the items that account for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The provision under Subhead 700 Non-recurrent for 2005-06 is \$67.954 million which is \$308.186 million or 82% lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. The major items that account for the decrease are (a) Commitment for the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and (b) Enhancing hospital care services and implementing minor capital works for hospitals and clinics. In fact, the provision under Subhead 700 for 2005-06 has yet to reflect the funding approval of \$204.72 million by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005 for extension of some temporary jobs in the Hospital Authority relating to item (b) above. Taking this recent approval into account, the provision under Subhead 700 as compared with 2004-05 revised estimate is reduced by 28% instead of 82%.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 7 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB135

Question Serial No.

0709

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 700 General non-recurrent

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The general departmental expenses are estimated to be \$69,345,000 in 2005-06, representing an increase of 56.8% over that of last year. What is the reason for the significant increase in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The increase of \$25.1 million (56.8%) in the general departmental expenses in 2005-06, as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, is mainly due to the additional provision for strengthening infectious disease control and for launching the pilot Head Start Programme.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB136

Question Serial No.

0710

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operating expenses
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 700 General non-recurrent

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The provision for six out of ten programmes under HWFB will be reduced, i.e. by 39.1% for Health; 14.8% for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety; 4.3% for Environmental Hygiene; 1.8% for Skills Centres; 3.3% for Hospital Authority and 6% for Prince Philip Dental Hospital respectively. In view of HWFB's repeated emphasis on the need to further improve public health and food safety, and the frequent emergence of communicable diseases and new virus in Hong Kong, will the reduction affect the overall work of the Bureau?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The reduction in provision for the above six programmes under this Bureau in 2005-06, as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, is mainly due to the lower cashflow requirements for SARS-related non-recurrent expenditure item and the reduction in salary expenses arising from the 2005 civil service pay cut. The overall work of the Bureau will not be affected by the reduction.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 137

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

Question Serial No.

0712

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the major projects and estimated expenditures of the newly-established Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged in 2005-06? What are the specific projects for helping and supporting the poor children and what will be the running cost for these supporting services? How to help develop a partnership between the business community, the welfare sector and the Government? How the partners define their functions, co-ordinate their work and share the cost so as to ensure proper care will be provided for the needy?

Asked by : Hon. Kwok Ka-ki

Reply :

The Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged will be disbursed to welfare Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to carry out service projects that will bring direct benefit to the disadvantaged groups, including children in poverty. Starting from 7 March 2005, applications are being invited for the first round until the end of May 2005. The details, including the project content and the cashflow requirement for 2005-06, would depend on the response of the welfare sector though we have tentatively earmarked a total of \$90 million for 2005-06. Projects approved under the Fund would be placed onto Social Welfare Department's website.

To achieve the objective of encouraging the formation of partnership between the business community, the welfare sector and the Government, the Administration will provide grants under the Fund to welfare NGOs which can secure business contributions, in cash or in kind or both, on a dollar-to-dollar matching basis, with a ceiling capped at \$500,000 for each application. Priority will be given to proposals which can sustain the partnership with the business corporations in the longer term. Besides, an amount of up to \$10 million has been earmarked for support measures to facilitate the formation and sustaining of partnerships, including the carrying out of researches, conducting special projects, and constructing a web-based platform to promote the tripartite partnership etc.

As regards the respective functions of the business sector and NGOs, the coordination of their work as well as sharing of cost to ensure proper care to be provided to the disadvantaged, the NGOs and business corporations concerned would be given the autonomy and flexibility because they are in the best position

to decide on these after taking into account their own respective strengths and preferences, as well as the needs of the disadvantaged groups to be served. We would however monitor their progress against their proposals through progress and final reports, which would also be placed on our website for public scrutiny.

Signature	_____
Name in block	
letters	<u>Mrs CARRIE YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for</u> <u>Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>6.4.2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB138

Question Serial No.

0713

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 give a detailed breakdown of the specific items, actual expenditure and evaluation of the relevant initiatives launched under the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs) since October 2003 as well as the items to be reviewed in 2005-06 and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : IEAPs are co-funded by the Lotteries Fund and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to provide tailor-made employment assistance to employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and those "near-CSSA" participants who are at risk of falling into CSSA net to help them remove work barriers, enhance their employability and get back to work. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has commissioned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run at least 100 projects by three annual batches of 40, 30 and 30 in four years from October 2003 to September 2007. Each participating NGOs will be allocated \$0.5m per implementation year for administrative fee. From October 2003 to end February 2005 actual expenditure has been \$33.55m and is expected to reach \$200m by the time all the projects are completed.

SWD has commissioned a research team of the Chinese University of Hong Kong at the cost of \$0.55m to conduct an evaluation study of the IEAPs. The terms of reference of the study are:

- (i) to analyse the success factors of the IEAPs and to advise on any possible measures to improve the success rate and to advise any measures to strengthen the programme so that more unemployed persons can rejoin the workforce and achieve self-reliance;
- (ii) to consider and advise to what extent the IEAP concept might be used and developed to offer enhanced assistance to the specific vulnerable groups who are receiving CSSA, such as the single-parents and long-term unemployed CSSA recipients;
- (iii) to recommend measures to help IEAP participants to leave the CSSA net permanently or not to enter it at all, as well as to make long-term improvements to their potential and social development capacity; and
- (iv) to evaluate the impact of disregarded earnings on

welfare dependence or exit.
The study will be completed in mid 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>7 April 2005</u>

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

HWFB 139

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

0694

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give the figures of the following types of staff in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department:

1. civil servants on pensionable terms;
2. civil servants on contract terms;
3. non-civil service contract staff;
4. staff employed under outsourcing contracts.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Civil service posts are not divided into pensionable or agreement. As at 1 March 2005, the Department had an establishment of 1943 civil service posts and 54 civil servants working in the Department were on agreement terms. Outside the civil service establishment, the Department employed 291 non-civil service contract staff. It is estimated that the Department's contractors employed some 290 staff for the provision of contract services to the Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 140

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0731

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 :
- (a) One of the key work areas under this programme in 2005-06 is to assist farmers in organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production. However, the indicators show that both the production and value of vegetables will decrease. Is the lack of sufficient resources for assisting farmers a cause? If yes, what are the reasons for this?
 - (b) An organic farm certification programme was introduced by the Administration last year. What were the manpower and expenditure involved? How many farms are expected to meet the certification criteria this year?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) The decline in local vegetable production in both quantity and value is due to tough competition from the neighbouring region and loss of cultivated land to development and other non-agricultural uses. But while overall production of vegetables will decline by 12% in 2005-06, the volume of organic and greenhouse production will increase by 23% as compared to the 2004-05 figure. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to devote appropriate resources and manpower to assist farmers who want to switch to organic or greenhouse production.

(b) The certification system of organic produce is developed, on a grant of \$3.9 million from the Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund, by the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre which is an independent certification body jointly established by the Hong Kong Organic Farming Association, Produce Green Foundation and the Baptist University. Some 10 farms are expected to be certified this year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB141

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Operational
Programme :

expenses

0695

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out the respective numbers of staff of the following establishments under the Department of Health:

1. Civil servants on pensionable terms;
2. Civil servants on agreement terms;
3. Non-civil service contract staff;
4. Staff employed by contractors for outsourced services

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Civil service posts are not classified into pensionable or agreement terms of employment. As at 1 March 2005, the Department had an establishment of 4 957 civil service posts (excluding 117 posts for general grades officers working in general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority), with 4 751 civil servants on pensionable terms and 57 on agreement terms. The Department also employed 1 113 full-time non-civil service contract staff. The Department's contractors employed some 80 staff for the provision of contract services to the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB142

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0696

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is/are the target(s) of the Chinese Medicine Council in relation to the registration of Chinese medicine practitioners in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Chinese Medicine Council in 2005 will hold licensing examination for about 500 candidates and register those who pass the examination. The practising certificates of about 2 400 registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners will also be renewed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB143

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0663

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 advise on the Government subsidy for market management in the past two years and its amount against the overall expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department provided subsidies of \$218 million and \$210 million for market management in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The subsidies amounted to 43% and 40 % of the Department's overall expenditure for market management in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB144

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0664

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 :

It is mentioned in paragraph 14 under this programme that the let-out rate of public market stalls fell below target. Please advise on the measures to increase the let-out rate and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

To improve the occupancy rate of the public markets, the Department will carry out general improvement works (including upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions) to 18 markets and 4 cooked food centres (CFCs) in 2005-06. The works projects are estimated to cost \$367 million. The Department is also studying project plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 12 markets and two CFCs. In addition to the above, the Department will continue to carry out a range of other measures in 2005-06 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;
- maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets through enhanced cleansing services provided by the Department and the enforcement of the monthly market cleansing day;
- provision of flexibility in determining and changing, for individual stall, the trade of the stall business and where feasible, the stall size;
- merging of selected vacant small stalls to become larger stalls to attract potential bidders;
- lowering, in selected markets, the upset auction prices of long-standing vacant stalls to attract potential bidders;
- adoption of a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected public markets; and

- conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

The resources required for the above measures will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB145

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0665

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 list out the markets where improvement works will be carried out, details of the works as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department will carry out general improvement works to 18 markets and 4 cooked food centres (CFCs) in 2005-06. The works projects are estimated to cost \$367 million. These markets and CFCs include : Aberdeen Market and CFC, Ngau Chi Wan Market and CFC, Ngau Tau Kok Market and CFC, Shek Wu Hui CFC, San Hui Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Mongkok Market, Lai Wan Market, Tin Wan Market, Yue Kwong Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre, Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market, Tai O Market, Cheung Chau Market, Shek Tong Tsui Market, Shui Wo Street Market, Haipong Road Temporary Market, and Plover Cove Road Market. In addition to the above, the Department is studying project plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 12 markets and two CFCs. These include : Fa Yuen Street Market and CFC, Tung Yick Market, Po On Road Market and CFC, Sheung Wan Market, Sai Kung Market, Wing Fong Street Market, North Kwai Chung Market, Tsuen Wan Market, Yeung Uk Road Market, Sha Tau Kok Market, Shau Kei Wan Market and Choi Hung Road Market.

The general improvement items include upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage, and fire services provision. For Shek Wu Hui CFC and San Hui Market, the improvement works also include retro-fitting of air-conditioning systems. The same also applies to Fa Yuen Street Market and CFC, subject to consultation with the stallholders.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB146

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0666

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 the current vacancy position in each public market in terms of the number of stalls vacant and their respective area.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The vacancy rate in each market and cooked food market, as at 28 February 2005, in terms of the number of stalls and their respective area against the whole market is provided at Annex. In calculating the above vacancy rates, the Department has treated the 1,535 stalls frozen for various reasons (such as re-development, impending renovation works, resiting commitment) as vacant stalls. The vacancy rates of individual markets would drop if these frozen stalls were removed from the list of vacant stalls.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

FEHD Public Market Vacancy Position (By Stall No. and Stall Area)

(as at 28.02.2005)

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
1	BRIDGES STREET MARKET	62.96	55.16
2	CAUSEWAY BAY MARKET	32.73	20.53
3	ELECTRIC ROAD MARKET	50.43	39.21
4	JAVA ROAD MARKET	24.87	15.61
5	NORTH POINT MARKET	26.19	23.56
6	SAI WAN HO MARKET	28.52	23.23
7	SHAU KEI WAN MARKET	35.29	37.55
8	QUARRY BAY MARKET	47.41	29.88
9	YUE WAN MARKET	23.32	21.25
10	CHAI WAN MARKET	8.00	5.89
11	KUT SHING STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
12	CHEUNG CHAU COOKED FOOD MARKET	5.88	6.17
13	CHEUNG CHAU MARKET	5.46	2.63
14	MUI WO COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
15	MUI WO MARKET	11.76	8.66
16	PENG CHAU MARKET	52.38	35.74

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
17	TAI O MARKET	19.23	19.11
18	ABERDEEN MARKET	20.77	20.16
19	AP LEI CHAU MARKET	1.67	0.58
20	TIN WAN MARKET	20.33	20.41
21	YUE KWONG ROAD MARKET	0.51	1.45
22	NAM LONG SHAN ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	28.57	29.41
23	BOWRINGTON ROAD MARKET	17.88	18.50
24	LOCKHART ROAD MARKET	20.47	14.39
25	TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET	65.00	55.18
26	WAN CHAI MARKET	26.67	20.64
27	WONG NAI CHUNG MARKET	20.59	12.03
28	CENTRE STREET MARKET	50.00	50.00
29	SHEK TONG TSUI MARKET	35.29	27.91
30	SHEUNG WAN MARKET	12.39	12.30
31	SMITHFIELD MARKET	11.01	10.57
32	SAI YING PUN MARKET	13.73	20.88
33	QUEEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	38.46	38.46
34	HUNG HOM MARKET	4.39	3.95
35	KOWLOON CITY MARKET	23.79	20.44

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
36	TO KWA WAN MARKET	17.03	10.34
37	ON CHING ROAD FLOWER MARKET	46.15	46.15
38	KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE COOKED FOOD MARKET	17.24	17.24
39	NGAU TAU KOK MARKET COMPLEX	20.47	19.68
40	SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX	22.30	21.42
41	SZE SHAN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	11.76	11.76
42	TSUN YIP COOKED FOOD MARKET	21.43	21.43
43	TUNG YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
44	YEE ON STREET MARKET	30.16	34.04
45	LEI YUE MUN MARKET	27.78	22.55
46	BOUNDARY STREET MARKET	24.14	29.74
47	FA YUEN STREET MARKET	15.87	18.60
48	MONG KOK MARKET	60.31	58.51
49	SOY STREET TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD MARKET	29.41	29.41
50	TAI KOK TSUI TEMPORARY MARKET	41.62	34.74
51	CHEUNG SHA WAN COOKED FOOD MARKET	57.14	57.14
52	LAI WAN MARKET	4.76	5.62
53	PEI HO STREET MARKET	1.29	3.08
54	PO ON ROAD MARKET	41.74	40.31

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
55	TUNG CHAU STREET TEMPORARY MARKET	72.88	58.55
56	NGAU CHI WAN MARKET	17.90	24.08
57	CHOI HUNG ROAD MARKET	32.48	20.90
58	SHEUNG FUNG STREET MARKET	20.00	19.06
59	TAI SHING STREET MARKET	13.83	10.87
60	HAIPHONG ROAD TEMPORARY MARKET	46.53	37.76
61	KIMBERLEY STREET MARKET	0.00	0.00
62	KWUN CHUNG MARKET	33.33	36.52
63	YAU MA TEI MARKET	31.88	31.97
64	CHEUNG TAT ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	25.00	25.00
65	KA TING COOKED FOOD MARKET	41.18	41.18
66	KWAI SHUN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	8.33	8.33
67	NORTH KWAI CHUNG MARKET	12.56	8.98
68	TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	55.00	59.78
69	WING FONG STREET MARKET	21.93	13.16
70	WO YI HOP ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	16.67	20.27
71	TSING YI MARKET	9.46	7.25
72	KWU TUNG MARKET SHOPPING CENTRE	1.02	0.53
73	SHA TAU KOK MARKET	10.94	12.68

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
74	LUEN WO HUI MARKET	23.41	28.83
75	SHEK WU HUI MARKET	4.08	3.03
76	SAI KUNG MARKET	27.91	19.14
77	TUI MIN HOI MARKET	20.59	11.48
78	FO TAN (EAST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	16.67	16.67
79	FO TAN (WEST) COOKED FOOD MARKET	60.00	60.00
80	SHA TIN MARKET	10.61	10.62
81	TAI WAI MARKET	7.65	6.86
82	PLOVER COVE ROAD MARKET	46.36	50.20
83	TAI PO HUI MARKET	11.76	12.59
84	HEUNG CHE STREET MARKET	14.22	10.55
85	SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET	38.89	30.60
86	TSUEN KING CIRCUIT MARKET	53.11	57.64
87	TSUEN WAN MARKET	13.47	12.52
88	YEUNG UK ROAD MARKET	7.36	7.57
89	CHAI WAN KOK COOKED FOOD MARKET	15.63	15.63
90	HUNG CHEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	27.27	27.27
91	KIN WING COOKED FOOD MARKET	40.00	40.00
92	KWONG CHOI MARKET	65.85	51.36

			<i>Percentage of Vacancy by Stall Area (%)</i>
93	LAM TEI MARKET	37.50	37.50
94	SAN HUI MARKET	30.30	21.35
95	TSING YEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET	22.22	24.39
96	YAN OI MARKET	22.43	15.60
97	HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET	27.31	24.72
98	KAM TIN MARKET	19.51	19.53
99	KIK YEUNG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
100	KIN YIP STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
101	LAU FAU SHAN MARKET	16.00	16.00
102	TAI KIU MARKET	29.52	24.47
103	TAI TONG ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET	0.00	0.00
104	TUNG YICK MARKET	45.56	36.86
	<i>Total</i>	<i>24.67</i>	<i>21.63</i>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB147

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0667

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 the implementation of the Scheme of Voluntary Surrender of Live Poultry Retail Licences and Tenancies, more vacant stalls are expected. What is the Department going to do with these vacant stalls?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department will review the position in individual markets and consider the most beneficial use of these vacant stalls. The decision for each market may vary, having regard to the types of business being conducted and the internal environment in the market.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB148

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0668

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 proposes to require all restaurants to appoint Hygiene Manager and/or Hygiene Supervisor. Has the Administration set aside extra resources and manpower to assist and monitor the food business in meeting the requirement? If so, what are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

About \$0.8 million will be allocated to providing Hygiene Supervisor training in 2005-06. The manpower requirements for implementation of the Scheme will be absorbed within the existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB149

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

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

0669

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

With regard to item 436, please list out by area, the number of live poultry stalls resumed in each public market under the Scheme of Voluntary Surrender of Live Poultry Retail Licences and Tenancies and the remaining number of live poultry stalls therein.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A table showing the area of live poultry stalls resumed and the remaining number of operating live poultry stalls in public markets as at 31 March 2005 is at Annex.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Live Poultry Stalls in Public Markets Resumed under the Scheme of Voluntary Surrender of Live Poultry Retail Licences and Tenancies

Region	District	Market ¹	No. of poultry stalls resumed under the voluntary scheme					No. of remaining poultry stalls
			up to 15m ²	above 15-25m ²	above 25-35m ²	above 35-45m ²	above 45m ²	
Hong Kong	Central/Western	Bridges Street Market	4					5
		Smithfield Market			2			8
		Sai Ying Pun Market		1	2			5
		Shek Tong Tsui Market		1				2
		Sheung Wan Market		3				16
	Ex-Central Market		1				0	
	Eastern	Quarry Bay Market		2				3
		Shaukeiwan Market		2				3
		Sai Wan Ho Market			1			3
		Java Road Market		2				3
		Chai Wan Market		1				4
	Yue Wan Market	1					3	
	Southern	Aberdeen Market		4				3
		Yue Kwong Road Market		1				4
		Ap Lei Chau Market		1				3
		Tin Wan Market		2				3
	Wanchai	Bowrington Road Market		5				3
Tang Lung Chau Market			3				2	
Wong Nai Chung Market				1			1	
Hong Kong Sub-total :			5	29	6		74	
Kowloon	Yau Tsim	Kwun Chung Market		2				2
		Yau Ma Tei Market	1	3				15
	Mong Kok	Mong Kok Market		3				5
		Fa Yuen Street Market			3			1
		Boundary Street Market		1				1
	Shum Shui Po	Po On Road Market		2				10
		Tung Chau Street Market		2				14
		Pei Ho Street Market				4		12
	Kowloon City	Kowloon City Market		2				7
		Tokwawan Market		1				7
		Hung Hom Market			1			7
	Wong Tai Sin	Sheung Fung Street Market		2				3
		Tai Shing Street Market				9		10
Kwun Tong	Ngau Tau Kok Market		1				8	
	Yee On Street Market				2		0	
Lei Yue Mun Market		2				0		
Kowloon Sub-total :			1	21	19		102	
New Territories	Tsuen Wan	Heung Che Street Market		1				3
		Sham Tseng Temporary Market				1		0
		Tsuen King Circuit Market		6				0
		Tsuen Wan Market		6				7
		Yeung Uk Road Market		6				16
	Kwai Tsing	Wing Fong Street Market		1				4
	North	Shek Wu Hui Market		1				7
		Luen Wo Hui Market				2		5
		Sha Tau Kok Market		1				0
	Tai Po	Tai Po Temporary Market	4					0
		Tai Po Hui Market		3				10
	Sai Kung	Sai Kung Market		1				2
	Sha Tin	Tai Wai Market		2				2
	Tuen Mun	San Hui Market		2				8
		Yan Oi Market		1				3
	Yuen Long	Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market	2					1
		Tung Yick Market				1		5
Islands	Cheung Chau Market				1		2	
	Mui Wo Market				1		1	
New Territories Sub-total :			6	31	5	1	76	
Total :			12	81	30	1	252	

Notes

1. Markets with no live poultry stalls resumed under the scheme are not included.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB150

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0699

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

It is stated under "Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision" that the increased provision of \$9.3 million (1.9%) is due to the strengthening of pest control measures. However, with the exception of the indicator for poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks (52 000) which registers a slight increase, the numbers under other indicators, viz. number of trappings (2 900), mosquito breeding places eliminated (55 000), and pest control surveys conducted (4 600) are all less than those for 2004. How will the increased provision of \$9.3 million be used?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department plans to strengthen pest control through installation of about 300 electric mosquito traps in 140 aqua privies to enhance the mosquito control measures and to procure additional pest control teams to reinforce the pest control work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB151

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0700

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under "Indicators", the estimated number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies for 2005-06 is 115 000, 17.2% higher than the actual figure for 2004. Why is it necessary to increase the number of blood sample tests? Will additional resources be required?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The estimated number of blood samples to be taken in 2005 is greater than that in 2004 because importation of live poultry was temporarily suspended for more than two months in 2004 due to outbreaks of avian influenza in the Mainland. No additional resources is required for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB152

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0701

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 matters requiring special attention in 2005-06, the Department will “consider introducing legislative amendments to prohibit the abstraction of seawater from specified areas adjacent to the coast for keeping live seafood”. Will there be any public consultation prior to the introduction of legislative amendments? When will the proposed amendments be submitted to the Legislative Council for deliberation?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The proposal to prohibit abstraction of seawater from specified areas adjacent to the coast for keeping live seafood will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for discussion on 15 April 2005. The Department will also consult seawater suppliers and other affected parties on the proposal.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB153

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0702

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 streamlining of licensing system, the Department has indicated that it will consider implementing an electronic application scheme. As such, is there any provision earmarked in 2005-06 for the implementation of such scheme? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The Department is considering to introduce an electronic application system for issue of new licences/permits and is working on the users' requirements of the system. The Department has yet to work out the project details and the funding requirement.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB154

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0703

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under CEPA, many local food products have been granted tariff-free treatment to the Mainland market. However, there is no increase in the number of "export/re-export food health certificates issued" in the "indicators". Is there any increase in the number of applications for export food certificates since CEPA has been implemented? If so, why is there no increase in the number of certificates issued?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

To facilitate the food export trade, the Department processes applications for food export/re-export health certificates upon request from the traders. It is up to the Mainland to determine which food items require export/re-export health certificates from Hong Kong.

There has been no obvious increase in the number of certificates issued for food items for export to the Mainland since the implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) on 1 January 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **GREGORY LEUNG** _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 4 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB155

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

0704

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under "Operational expenses", the 2005-06 estimated expenditure for "General departmental expenses" is \$292,883,000 or 24.6% over the 2004-05 revised estimate. Please advise why this expenditure suddenly shows such a substantial increase? Is the magnitude of increase an individual phenomenon or a persistent trend?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The increase in 2005-06 estimated expenditure for "General departmental expenses" is mainly to cater for the following:

- (a) recurrent consequences for managing and operating new facilities and providing cleansing services for new development areas;
- (b) anticipated additional contract expenditure arising from the implementation of the construction waste fee levy;
- (c) anticipated additional contract expenditure arising from rising salaries and additional work hours as a result of changes to shift arrangements;
- (d) additional provision for enhancing pest control work and food surveillance; and
- (e) provision for contingencies.

As the cause for some of the increases is one-off in nature, the Department does not expect the magnitude of increase to become a trend.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB156

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

0705

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The expenditure of personal emoluments is reduced by 5.1% as compared with the revised estimate of 2004-05. Is this directly related to the deletion of 618 non-directorate posts during the year? How will the services provided by these 618 posts be redistributed? Will the services be ceased to be provided or outsourced? In case of the latter, what is the expenditure so involved? What savings will be achieved by the Department during the year through outsourcing the services?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The 2005-06 Estimate for "Salaries" is lower than that for the 2004-05 Revised Estimate mainly because of the civil service pay cut and the deletion of 618 posts.

Most of the services performed by the posts will continue to be provided through :

- (a) better staff deployment; and
- (b) outsourcing.

The estimated annual cost arising from outsourcing the required services amounts to \$7 million. Estimated savings in 2005-06 derived from the above is around \$3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB157

Question Serial No.

0706

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 :

Is the Department satisfied with the establishment ceiling being set at 11 049 non-directorate posts and 13 directorate posts as at 31 March 2006? Will the establishment need to be trimmed in the medium to long term?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The establishment ceiling of 11 049 non-directorate posts and 13 directorate posts as at 31 March 2006 is set after taking careful account of all relevant factors, particularly the Department's operational needs for maintaining a quality service to the community. The Department will keep its operational needs under review to determine whether any further changes to the establishment is required after 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB158

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0732

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 :

- (a) Having regard to the food safety problems arising from the use of unsafe food additives overseas and in the Mainland, what are the Administration's criteria for food sampling for monitoring purpose?
- (b) Is there any plan for focal sampling of food manufactured in countries or regions where major food incidents have been reported? If so, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department's Food Surveillance Programme is a key component of its food safety assurance system. Under the programme, the Department takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for microbiological and chemical testing. The sampling strategy is risk-based. In addition to foods with specific standards stipulated in the law, particular attention is paid to sampling foods implicated in previous food poisoning outbreaks, food incidents, those being manufactured by or sold in previously convicted food premises, and foods which are subject of public complaints or concern.

The Department adopts a risk-based approach and refers to the latest developments in food risk analyses conducted overseas and locally to determine the priority and the number of relevant food samples taken for testing. To address the public concern on food safety, the Department has since October 2004 taken some 500 additional samples each month for testing. This practice will continue in 2005-06, with a financial provision of \$4.8 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB159

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0733

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 :

Please give an itemized breakdown of contraventions pertaining to the labelling of prepackaged foods detected during inspections in the past two years. What are the numbers of warnings given and prosecutions made? What are the maximum and minimum fines imposed on the convicted cases?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

There were 79 and 95 prosecutions taken out against the vendors/importers in 2003 and 2004 respectively for breach of the labelling regulations. Besides, 20 and 41 written warnings were issued in 2003 and 2004 respectively for minor discrepancies. A breakdown of the contraventions is provided at Annex. The fines imposed by the court ranged from \$500 to \$10,000.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Breakdown on Enforcement Statistics
Labelling of Prepackaged Food (Year 2003 and Year 2004)

Year	2003		2004	
	No. of contraventions	No. of W/L issued	No. of contraventions	No. of W/L issued
Nature of irregularities				
Inadequate information on manufacturers	20	4	21	12
Improper format of indication of durability and expression of net weight	51	0	53	15
Improper/incomplete list of ingredients	23	9	10	10
False labelling	1	1	1	1
Inappropriate language	0	2	8	3
No food name/unclear food name marked on label	13	2	8	0
Lack of or incomplete storage information	13	2	7	0
Absence of exact percentage/amount of the special emphasis on a particular ingredient	0	0	11	0
Total no. of contraventions	121	20	119	41
@ Total no. of prosecutions/warning letters (W/L) issued	79	20	95	41

@ The total number of prosecutions does not tally with that of the contraventions because one prosecution might cover more than one contravention.

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 160

Question Serial No.

0756

Head: 149-Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 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 advise the specific policies and programmes for enhancing women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Government has taken the following initiatives to increase women's participation in government advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) –

- (a) using 25% as the gender benchmark;
- (b) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index (CPI) managed by Home Affairs Bureau;
- (c) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
- (d) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

As a result, women's participation in ASBs has been improving: from 21% in December 2003 to 23% in December 2004. The Government would continue to work on this effort.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB161

Question Serial No.

0763

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 transfer of the 200 long stay mentally ill patients to a newly opened institution operated by a welfare organisation for care and attention:

1. What are the details? What is the estimated expenditure incurred?
2. Whether the transfer of patients can achieve any savings? If it can, what is the estimated amount of savings?
3. How can the quality of services provided by the newly opened institution be assured?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is commissioning a new long stay care home in Tuen Mun, which is expected to commence operation by the end of 2005. The new long stay care home caters for chronic psychiatric patients, who are in a stable medical condition. These patients require only some nursing care but do not need any active treatment. The long stay care home will provide an environment which can assist these patients to live independently in the community after their discharge from hospital.

The new long stay care home will have a capacity of 400 places. It will have a total of 184 staff, comprising social work, nursing, para-medical and other supporting staff. The annual operation cost will be \$30.72 million.

2. The estimated amount of notional savings from the discharge of 200 long stay psychiatric patients to the long stay home is about HK\$59 million a year. This amount will be used to enhance ambulatory and community psychiatric services and to meet the increasing demand for acute psychiatric services.
3. The new long stay home is a subvented project of SWD. SWD has in place a performance management mechanism to ensure the quality of the services delivered. The operator is required to enter into a Funding and Service Agreement with SWD and comply with service output/outcome standards, the essential service requirements as well as the Service Quality Standards as set out by SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 6 April 2005 _____

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

HWFB162

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 :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06*, it is stated that “the estimated level of activities for 2005-06 has not taken into account the potential impact of fee revision for certain public health care services.” What kind of impact does it refer to?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

We are conducting a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident and emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. In the review, we would also examine the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. It is likely that the review will involve an increase in medical fees having regard to affordability of members of the public.

As the review is still in progress, the potential impact of fee revision on the level of activities of public hospitals for 2005-06 cannot be assessed at this stage.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie Yau

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB163

Question Serial No.

0844

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 nursing staff will increase from 19 097 in 2004-05 to 19 253 in 2005-06. Would the Administration advise on the following:

- the grade and rank of the posts to be added as well as their pay and benefits; and
- the impact on the workload of various grades as a result of additional staffing?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The increase in the number of nursing staff in 2005-06 will mainly be registered nurses. They will mostly be employed at the entry point of a registered nurse, which is currently \$17,145 per month. These additional nurses will provide the much needed relief to the workload of frontline nurses and help improve the overall quality of care in public hospitals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	1 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB164

Question Serial No. 0845

0845

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 :

Will the Administration provide details for 2005-06 regarding:

- The number of doctors, nurses and allied health staff in various hospital clusters and the medical staff to population ratio in the respective clusters;
- The number of doctors, nurses and allied health staff in each hospital under the Hospital Authority.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The number and ratio of health care professionals per 1 000 population in each of the seven clusters of the Hospital Authority (HA) as at 28 February 2005 are as follows:

Cluster (no. of hospitals / institutions in the cluster)	No. of healthcare professionals and ratio per 1 000 population					
	Doctors	Ratio	Qualified Nurses	Ratio	Allied Health	Ratio
Hong Kong East (6)	520	0.6	1 960	2.4	561	0.7
Hong Kong West (7)	540 [#]	1.0	2 407	4.6	680	1.3
Kowloon East (3)	585	0.6	2 509	2.7	703	0.8
Kowloon Central (6)	541	1.1	1 875	3.8	496	1.0
Kowloon West (7)	1 064	0.6	4 692	2.5	1 018	0.6
New Territories East (7)	849 [#]	0.6	3 119	2.4	834	0.6
New Territories West (4)	548	0.5	2 321	2.2	509	0.5
Total*	4 647	0.7	18 883	2.7	4 801	0.7

[#] includes academic staff in the two teaching hospitals at 0.55 full-time equivalence

* Based on the projected population 6 976 329 as at 2004 by the Census and Statistics Department

It should be noted that the ratio of health care professionals per 1 000 population varies among clusters and the variance do not necessarily correspond to the difference between the population of the clusters because –

- Patients can receive care in hospitals other than those in their own residential district. There is currently a notable cross-cluster utilization of services; and

- Some specialized services are centred in one or a few hospitals. Thus the medical staff concerned and patients using these services are also centred in these hospitals.

As the doctors, nurses and allied health staff are deployed on a cluster basis, it is not possible to list their numbers in each hospital.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>4 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB165

Question Serial No.

0846

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 information on the operating costs, deficit and reserves in respect of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004-05. Has the Government assessed whether the subvention to be allocated to the HA in 2005-06 will be sufficient to cover its operating expenditure and whether any deficit will be incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The projected operating expenditure for the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004-05 is about \$29.6 billion and the projected overall deficit for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are approximately \$300 million and \$670 million respectively. With the balance of around \$1 billion in HA's general reserve as at 1 April 2004, the funding available for use by the HA will be sufficient to meet its operating expenditure in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie Yau

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB166

Question Serial No.

0847

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 :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06*, it is stated that the Administration will transfer approximately 200 long stay patients in the Hospital Authority psychiatric hospitals to a newly opened institution operated by a welfare organisation. Please give the details of the item as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is commissioning a new long stay care home in Tuen Mun, which is expected to commence operation by the end of 2005. The new long stay care home caters for chronic psychiatric patients, who are in a stable medical condition. These patients require only some nursing care but do not need any active treatment. The long stay care home will provide an environment which can assist these patients to live independently in the community after their discharge from hospital.

The new long stay care home will have a capacity of 400 places. It will have a total of 184 staff, comprising social work, nursing, para-medical and other supporting staff. The annual operation cost will be \$30.72 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB167

Question Serial No.

0848

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 :

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06 that the Hospital Authority will facilitate the development of family medicine. Please provide information on :

- the details of the project; and
- the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) will implement the following programmes in 2005-06 to facilitate the development of Family Medicine (FM) –

Measures	Timetable
(1) Training of family physicians:	
a. Recruit new medical graduates for basic FM training (around 50 places).	July 2005
b. Provide non-specialist residents currently in general practice the opportunity to receive specialist FM training (around 20 places).	July 2005
c. Recruit 4 FM Resident Specialists cum Trainers to enlarge HA's training capacity for FM and enhance supervision of service at general outpatient clinics (GOPCs).	July 2005
d. Give doctors who have completed the basic FM training the opportunity to work as Service Residents in GOPCs (around 30 posts). These doctors can make use of the job opportunity to pursue higher FM training leading to specialist cum trainer qualifications.	July 2005

Measures	Timetable
e. Introduce additional specialty training modules (e.g. attachment to community-based geriatrics, hospice, psychiatry or gynaecology services) recognized by the Hong Kong College of Family Medicine to meet 25% (i.e. 6 months) of their 2-year community-based training requirements for up to 50 community-based FM trainees. This will enhance the coverage and depth of FM training in Hong Kong and supplement the training provided within HA facilities.	Since 2004
f. Encourage and assist FM trainees who have completed training and started practice to serve as Visiting Medical Officers (VMO) for Old Aged Homes.	July 2005
(2) Create 4 additional Associate Consultant posts to strengthen HA's service, training and infrastructure development in FM	April 2005
(3) Promote a pluralistic primary care model based on multi-disciplinary and multi-professional collaboration in GOPCs. Measures include the introduction of sessional consultations by community specialists (medicine, paediatrics, gynaecology, and FM) in GOPC setting and of Nurse Clinic sessions for the management of chronic diseases (hypertension, wound care, etc). The objective of this service model is to improve the quality of care in the management of chronically ill patients in stable conditions through a seamless, holistic and collaborative care model and reduce their reliance on specialist and inpatient services.	Since 2004
(4) Extend HA's Clinical Management System and computerized Outpatient Administration System to the remaining GOPCs (around 14 clinics) to achieve better integration of patient information between primary care and other specialist outpatient services	Starting from July 2005
(5) Introduce in stages a patient-held medical record system in all GOPCs within the next two years. This serves to improve communication of patient information among various health service providers in the community and facilitate better interface between the public and private sectors.	Since 2004
(6) <u>Nurse Clinics in GOPC</u> Nurse clinics (diabetic, hypertension and chronic wound) have been established in 5 GOPCs in NTW Cluster, and diabetic, hypertension, chronic wound and memory screening clinics was established in 3 GOPCs in NTE Cluster. The main functions of nurse-led clinics include: promote treatment compliance, prevention of further complications, promote healthy life style, enhance patient self care capability and improve quality of life. Preliminary data shown improvement in drug compliance, self-monitoring, full evaluation will be conducted in 05-06.	

Measures	Timetable
<p>(7) <u>Community Nurse Service (CNS)/FM collaboration model in managing episodic care of the elders in the community</u></p> <p>The collaborative model is targeted at CNS active home care cases with episodic problems such as urinary tract infection, upper respiratory tract infection, fever and wound infection. These are managed by CN and FM based on agreed triage criteria and protocols. The expected benefit of this programme is to minimize A&E attendance and referrals to SOPC. With successful experience of the pilot in HKW Cluster, it has been roll out to KE Cluster and KW Cluster in January 2005. Framework for outcome measures developed and the effectiveness will be evaluated in 2005-06.</p>	
<p>(8) <u>CNS/FM collaboration in Lantau</u></p> <p>Medical and nursing support are provided to NGOs running Enhanced Home Care scheme in Lantau by CNS/FM joint effort.</p> <p>CNS and Family Medicine started collaboration since July 2004 to provide Travelling Dispensary service in Lantau.</p>	

The expenditure for the above programmes is estimated to be around \$92.8 million per year, and a one-off expenditure of around \$10 million for the computerisation programme at GOPCs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 9 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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 :

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06 that the Administration will enhance our infectious disease emergency response system by strengthening the work of the Centre for Health Protection and building up our surge capacity in dealing with infectious diseases. What are the details and the level of expenditure to be involved? With an estimate of \$132.1 million for the programme in 2005-06, representing a decrease over the revised provision of \$216.9 million in 2004-05, how can the Administration ensure the effective operation of our infectious disease emergency response system?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

Under Programme Area 3, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) formulates and co-ordinates policy and programmes to protect and promote health, prevent and treat illness and disease and minimize the impact of disability. In relation to infectious disease, the Bureau works closely with the Department of Health and Centre for Health Protection (CHP).

At the Bureau level, the provisions under this programme area comprise personal emoluments, recurrent expenditure and non-recurrent provisions e.g. provisions for research fund. The reduction from \$216.9 million in the 2004-05 revised estimates to \$132.1 million in 2005-06 under Programme Area 3 is mainly due to the decrease in non-recurrent expenditure which includes a one-off provision for the fight against SARS.

At the operational end, in terms of strengthening the work of the CHP in 2005-06, government provisions (mainly Head 37 of the Department of Health) for the CHP amount to \$920 million, of which \$680 million and \$240 million will be allocated for staffing and operating expenses respectively.

The CHP has launched a number of initiatives to enhance the effectiveness in the control of and emergency system for infectious diseases. For example, in respect of surveillance, the CHP has created a central notification office and an on-line electronic system to facilitate doctors to report communicable diseases more easily and rapidly. The CHP has also expanded the disease surveillance network to cover child care centres, and will further expand it to include elderly homes and pharmacies.

The CHP has also been collaborating with local, regional and international stakeholders in the prevention and control of communicable diseases. It has been working closely with the Hospital Authority and private doctors in strengthening the control of hospital outbreaks. At the regional level, a speedy and effective communication channel has been established with the Guangdong Department of Health and the Macao Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The CHP has also been closely monitoring global communicable disease intelligence and maintaining close

liaison with the World Health Organisation and other international health authorities.

To enhance effective risk communication, the CHP has been publishing information and advice about communicable diseases and issuing communicable disease alerts to the public and health care providers. A Field Epidemiology Training Programme has been established to strengthen capacity building on communicable disease control and build a competent surge capacity for emergency situations. The programme will provide training to CHP professionals, paramedical staff and others with an interest in communicable disease epidemiology including professionals in the Hospital Authority and private doctors.

Laboratory capacity has been enhanced by the development of various rapid molecular methods for the detection of emerging infections. For example, results of SARS and H5N1 avian influenza testing can be made available within three hours.

With a view to enhancing our preparedness for major communicable disease outbreaks, relevant contingency plans have been developed and reviewed. Exercises and drills have been and will be conducted to ensure smooth running of these plans.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB169

Question Serial No.

0857

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 unit cost for the inpatient services and ambulatory and outreach services in 2005-06 (estimate) will decrease as compared with that of 2004-05 (revised estimate), will the Administration please inform us,

- What is the reason for the reduction in the unit cost for the inpatient services and ambulatory and outreach services?
- How to ensure the maintenance of quality of service in light of the cost reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The unit costs are calculated by dividing the total cost of each service by the service volume. Due to the SARS outbreak in 2003, there was a significant reduction in the volume of activities across the entire range of services provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2003-04. Given the high proportion of fixed costs in HA's cost structure, the unit costs of all service types were significantly higher in 2003-04 than in previous years as a result. After the SARS outbreak, there was gradual a recovery in the volume of activities and the unit costs came down to more normal. The reduction in unit costs in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is largely due to downward pay adjustments for HA staff, which are in line with civil service pay cuts. The service level and service quality in 2005-06 would be maintained at similar levels as those in 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB170

Question Serial No.

0858

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 :

According to the 2004-05 revised estimate and the 2005-06 estimate of the Hospital Authority, the number of general hospital beds will be reduced by 300, from 20 550 to 20 250; and the number of hospital beds for the mentally handicapped will be reduced from 800 to 700. Would the Administration inform us of the following:

- What are the reasons for reducing hospital beds?
- Which hospitals and wards do these beds belong to?
- What is the average number of nursing staff, wards and patients of public hospitals?
- What is the amount of savings to be achieved from the reduction of hospital beds?
- How can the savings be better utilized? Will the savings be spent on developing community medical services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

(1) & (2) In line with the strategy in previous years, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes in 2005-06 to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The reduction in the number of general beds is in line with this development. Other factors for the reduction include the increase in the number of isolation beds which require considerably more space and manpower resources for its operation than general beds, and the need to increase the space between hospital beds for better control of infectious diseases. The 300 general beds to be reduced will be from the Kowloon West Cluster. Exact distribution by specialty and hospital will be worked out later in the year. Tentatively, about 120 convalescent/rehabilitation beds will be reduced at Princess Margaret Hospital and the rest will be general acute beds from all three acute hospitals in the same Cluster.

The reduction of 100 beds for the mentally handicapped is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit specialises in caring for children under the age of 16 with severe mental handicap. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of children with severe mental handicap as a result of the declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision for places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools by the Education and Manpower Bureau, which offer an attractive option for providing care to children with severe mental handicap in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in 2005-06 is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past years.

- (3) As at the end of March 2005, there are 19 097 nursing staff in public hospitals. The projected number of inpatient discharges (including deaths) for 2004-05 is 1 112 500. However, the HA does not routinely collate information on the number of wards in use in public hospitals, because that number varies constantly depending on the prevailing service needs and case mix.
- (4) The HA is not able to quantify the amount of savings that may be achieved in 2005-06 from the reduction in the number of general beds at this time. The savings to be achieved will have to be offset against the efficiency loss due to the spacing out of beds and the higher unit costs of isolation beds, which can only be more accurately assessed with more actual operational experience. For the reduction of 100 beds for the mentally handicapped, the HA estimated that there might be a nominal savings of around \$25 million per year.
- (5) The HA plans to redeploy all resources that may be released from the reduction of beds to strengthen its existing services, with particular emphasis on community outreach services. The HA will also launch new community health programmes (such as hypertension control and fall prevention) in collaboration with community groups and private medical practitioners.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>7 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB171

Question Serial No.

0859

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 face of the gradual ageing of our population, the number of geriatric day places under rehabilitation services for 2006 (Target and Plan) is however maintained at 567, the same level as for 2004 (Actual) and 2005 (Revised Estimate). Would the Administration advise on the following:

- the reasons for arriving at an assessment of unchanged attendances when demands are rising; and
- the expenditure and staff establishment incurred in 2005 as compared with 2004?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

Geriatric Day Hospital is one of the modes of care delivery employed by the Hospital Authority (HA) for the rehabilitation and reintegration of elderly patients back into the community. There are other ambulatory rehabilitation programs and community outreach services for providing effective care to the elders in other settings. These are further supplemented by community care support, which is being expanded with enhanced co-ordination between the HA and the welfare sector. As the current average waiting time for geriatric day service is between 1 to 3 weeks after discharge, efforts will continue to maintain a reasonable level of service without the need to increase the number of geriatric day places given resource constraint.

The estimated total cost for the provision of geriatric day services in 2005-06 is \$175.6 million, which is slightly lower than the amount in 2004-05 at \$180.1 million. The decrease is mainly due to the effects of downward pay adjustment which is in line with the pay cut for civil servants. There is no designated manpower allocation for geriatric day service, which is part and partial of the services provided by public hospitals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB172

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0860

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 :

The numbers of seminars for general public, school talks, series of TV Announcements in the Public Interest and series of Radio Announcements in the Public Interest for 2005 (Estimate) are reduced respectively as compared with those for 2004 (Actual). In this connection, please advise on the following:

- What are the reasons for such reduction? What is the relation between such reduction and the commitment of resources?
- Have the implications of such reduction on the promotion of food safety and the maintenance of a hygienic environment been assessed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The slightly lower projected figures for seminars and school talks for 2005 as compared to the actual figures in 2004 is mainly due to the decreasing number of requests that we have been receiving from community groups and schools. The drop in requests might be related to that many community groups/schools have already attended our seminars/talks since 2003 when we significantly increased the number of such activities. These indicators are not control figures and the Department would arrange such activities as and when requested by community groups/schools.

For the slight decrease in the number of TV/Radio Announcements in Public Interest (APIs), this is because some of the new ones produced in 2004 (e.g. on Anti-Mosquito measures, and Keep Hong Kong Clean message) will continue to be used in 2005.

Despite the projected slight decreases in the above-said activities, the Department indeed plans to invest more resources on Public Education and Community Involvement in 2005-06. The proposed provision of \$27.5 million is 3% more than the revised estimate for 2004-05 for this programme area, enabling the procurement of a publicity van to enhance the publicity activities. The slight reduction in the number of seminars, talks and the production of new APIs is not expected to have adverse impact on the promotion of food safety and the maintenance of a hygienic environment.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB173

Question Serial No.

0883

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the Bureau will re-engineer long term care resources by converting residential care places for the elderly into long term care places and providing infirmary care services in a non-hospital setting. Will the authorities provide detailed information on:

- the expenses to be incurred under the relevant plan; and
- the number of health care professionals to be deployed under the plan, and their distribution by grades?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

A new recurrent amount of \$100M under Head 170 – Social Welfare Department has been secured for 2005-06 for the conversion of self-care hostel places and homes for the aged places into care and attention places providing continuum of care. Together with the new money of \$80 million secured in 2004-05, a total of \$180 million new money would start to be available in 2005-06 for the conversion exercise. Also, \$20M new money under Head 170 – Social Welfare Department has been secured in 2004-05 for providing infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis.

Homes participating in the conversion exercise have to meet the statutory staffing requirements for C&A homes ultimately. Under the subvention-neutral principle agreed with the sector, they will continue to receive the current subvention sum (subject to annual adjustments and other across-the-sector adjustments) to run the future operation after conversion. Under the lump sum grant mode, they have the flexibility to determine and deploy resources on an appropriate staff mix, including health care professionals, to meet their specific needs within the premises of the statutory requirements.

We are considering the best way to utilize the new resources to provide infirmary care to elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis, in the light of feedback received during the consultation process.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

1 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB174

Question Serial No.

0884

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:

Regarding the review of the operation of Chinese medicine services in the public health care sector and setting the direction for further development, what are the estimated expenses involved in 2005-06 and their details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

Three Chinese Medicine (CM) clinics are now in operation under the Hospital Authority (HA). The subvention for each of these clinics is \$4.3M in 2005-06.

The Administration has committed to open at least three more Chinese medicine (CM) clinics in 2005-06. Capital subvention of \$15.484M is earmarked under Head 708 Subhead 8049MM (Capital Works Reserve Fund) for setting up the clinics. Subject to negotiation between the HA and the interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/charitable organizations, the new clinics are intended to be operating on a self financing basis.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

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

HWFB 175

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0776

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 : Please give details about the five posts to be deleted under Programme (1).

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Details of the five posts to be deleted under Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets are set out below-

<u>Rank of the post</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>No.</u>
Artisan	Crop	1
Field Assistant	Crop	1
Motor Driver	Administration	1
Field Officer II	Livestock Farm	1
Artisan	Engineering	1
	Total	<u>5</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 176

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0777

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 : 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 \$0.3 million has been allocated in 2005-06 for providing technical support, liaison services and training to help fishermen develop offshore fishing. Low interest loans under the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (with an approved commitment of \$100 million) and Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (with available funds of \$20 million) administered by the department are made available to local fishermen for the development of 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. 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, and strengthening of these services as necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

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

HWFB 177

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0778

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 : How much resources in the Estimates will be used for conserving local fisheries resources? Please list out the staffing level and the actual supporting work in this area.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2005-06, we shall continue our existing efforts to conserve and manage coastal fisheries resources through conducting regular patrols and taking enforcement actions to combat destructive fishing practices, deployment and monitoring of artificial reefs, monitoring of local fisheries resources, and implementation of relevant educational and publicity activities. In addition, we are pursuing a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. The proposed framework will include the establishment of a fishing licence programme, designation of fisheries protection areas and a mechanism for implementation of an annual territory-wide "closed season" in Hong Kong waters. A provision of \$8.4 million has been allocated in 2005-06 for the above activities and 40 staff are involved in these activities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

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

HWFB 178

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

0779

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 plans does the Government have to promote local agricultural and fisheries products in 2005-06? How much expenditure is involved? Please give details.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Government plans to promote local agricultural and fisheries produce through a two-pronged approach in 2005-06. On one hand, we will continue helping farmers improve the quality of their products through raising production and quality control standards, and introducing new or improved species/varieties. On the other, we will help them develop local brand names and product packaging and emphasizing good quality to capture high-value market niches. A total of \$12.6 million (i.e. \$11.5 million for agricultural products and \$1.1 million for fisheries products) has been earmarked for these tasks in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB179

Question Serial No.

0752

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 paragraph eight under the Brief Description that the Department will enhance the provision of residential care placements, psychological support, child protective services and other crisis intervention services for vulnerable children and young persons displaying psychological problems, suffering from abuse and violence, or exhibiting suicidal behaviour, etc. Please set out in detail the amount of provision and the manpower deployment concerned.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : An additional provision of \$18m will be allocated to enhance services for vulnerable children and young persons displaying psychological problems, suffering from abuse and violence, or exhibiting suicidal behaviour, etc. With this funding, there are plans to provide about 90 additional residential care placements for children, increase the provision of clinical psychologists of the Clinical Psychology Units and social workers of the Family and Child Protective Services Units of the Social Welfare Department, and turn the time-limited service of the Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre into a regular service. Details of the funding and implementation arrangements of these enhanced measures are being worked out with the service providers concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB180

Question Serial No.

0764

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, the indicator shows that "the cost per place per month" of the residential homes of the Government sector is \$11,305, while that of the subvented sector is \$8,424. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The criteria for setting "the cost per place per month" (of the Government sector as well as the subvented sector);
- (b) The reasons why the cost of the Government sector is higher than that of the subvented sector by about 34%;
- (c) Has the Administration considered increasing the number of places of the residential homes operated by the subvented sector in order to reduce expenditure? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

- Reply :
- (a) The cost per place per month is worked out by dividing the total expenditure of the service by the number of places and enrolment rate of the service. The calculation is used for both the Government and the subvented sector.
 - (b) As explained in paragraph two of the Controlling Officer's Report, average unit costs for the Government and subvented sectors are not directly comparable. In the subvented sector, the cost figures reflect the net provision (i.e. after deduction of fee income) required for providing the services. Whereas in the Government sector, they are gross cost figures without discounting fee income which are treated as general revenue, but on the other hand, they reflect only provision under the control of Director of Social Welfare (eg. cost of civil service fringe benefits and rent are excluded). The departmental operation of such direct service is generally more expensive than those run by NGOs because of smaller number of places and the higher ranking of some staff required to cater for special operational needs.
 - (c) Increasing the number of residential places operated by the subvented sector would not help to reduce expenditure as the Department still has to provide additional resources to the non-governmental organisations concerned for providing additional services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB181

Question Serial No.

0765

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 : According to the Indicators under this Programme, the "cost per case served per month" of integrated home care services (IHCS) is \$1,150 in the 2005-06 estimate, which is lower than that of \$1,205 in the 2004-05 revised estimate. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Albeit the decrease in cost, the number of cases served in the 2005-06 estimate is the same as the figure in the 2004-05 revised estimate. Whereas, the estimated number of cases served for this year is some 600 less than the actual number of cases served in 2003-04. What are the reasons for the decrease?
- (2) What is the amount of provision allocated for the IHCS in 2005-06? Is there a decrease in the resources provided for the services?
- (3) If there is a decrease, please explain why.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (1) There are 60 IHCS Teams serving frail and ordinary cases including the elders, disabled and needy families. With the full implementation of the enhanced functions of the re-engineered community support services for the elders, some services provided by IHCS are now also available in most of the elderly centres. These include meal and laundry services, household cleaning, personal assistance and escort. With these alternatives, the number of active ordinary cases served by IHCS was lower than originally estimated. We have therefore adjusted the total number of cases served in the 2004-05 revised estimate downwards. Taking into account the fact that these are unfilled vacancies in most of the IHCS Teams under the frail cases quota and that the caseload of ordinary cases has remained stable, we estimate that there will not be a significant increase in the demand in 2005-06. Therefore, the number of cases planned to be served in 2005-06 will be the same as stated in the 2004-05 revised estimate.
- (2) The provision for IHCS in 2005-06 is \$371.7m, which is \$10.1m less than the 2004-05 revised estimate.
- (3) The decrease in the provision on IHCS in the 2005-06 estimate is caused by the following:
 - (a) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
 - (b) efficiency savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB182

Question Serial No.

0766

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, the Administration indicated that it will “enhance extended care service for ex-mentally ill persons with a view to supporting them for community living.” Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Whether the Administration has any specific plan; and
- (b) The provision earmarked for this service.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

- Reply :
- (a) The extended care service for ex-mentally ill persons is a new initiative planned to help the ex-mentally ill persons to live in the community through support and assistance, particularly in their activities of daily living and life skills. Services will include outreaching visits, guidance and supervision on drug compliance, budgeting, support and assistance in child care and domestic chores etc.
 - (b) The half-yearly provision for this initiative in 2005-06 is \$5.2m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB183

Question Serial No.

0768

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 : In 2005-06, the Administration will strengthen information technology support for the severely disabled persons living in the community. Please inform this Committee of the details of the measures to be taken and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : The Department has commissioned a self-help group for the severely disabled persons to conduct a series of IT training programmes for the severely disabled persons, including training on the use of adaptive devices to facilitate their use of personal computer.

The Department would also strengthen IT support for the severely disabled persons by providing them with IT equipment to facilitate their integration into the community upon discharge from hospital. IT equipment provided would include personal computers (hardwares and softwares) and adaptive devices, such as head mouse, eye tracking device, small motion detector, blow and suck switch, etc., which would facilitate their use of the computer.

The total budget for 2005-06 will be \$0.5m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB184

Question Serial No.

0850

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 number of all categories of Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, the revised estimate for each category as well as the difference between the expenditure and the Government's estimate in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The number of cases (by grant types) under the SSA Scheme in 2004-05 is as follows:

	Number of cases as at end February 2005
Higher Old Age Allowance	367 556
Normal Old Age Allowance	90 115
Higher Disability Allowance	14 282
Normal Disability Allowance	95 458

A comparison between the 2004-05 revised estimate for the various grant types under the SSA Scheme and the actual expenditure (up to February 2005 only) is provided below:

	2004-05 Revised estimate	Actual (April 2004- February 2005)
	\$b	\$b
Higher Old Age Allowance	3.0	2.8
Normal Old Age Allowance	0.7	0.6
Higher Disability Allowance	0.4	0.3
Normal Disability Allowance	1.2	1.1

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB185

Question Serial No.

0851

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 in 2004-05, and the CSSA expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Statistics on the number of CSSA recipients who have resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years are as follows:

Length of residence in Hong Kong	Number of recipients as at February 2005
< 1 year	1 585
1 - < 2 years	4 703
2 - < 3 years	8 194
3 - < 4 years	9 934
4 - < 5 years	13 815
5 - < 6 years	14 330
6 - < 7 years	18 579
Total	71 140

The estimated CSSA expenditure involved in 2004-05 (up to February 2005) was \$1.9b.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB186

Question Serial No.

0888

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 the total number of fraud and abuse cases in 2003-04 and 2004-05, with breakdowns on (i) total number of newly reported cases in that year, (ii) number of cases found to be true fraud and abuse cases and total amount of money involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The total number of fraud cases, with breakdowns on the total number of reported cases and established cases, handled by the Fraud Investigation Teams for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
Number of fraud reports received	4 254	4 673
Number of established fraud cases	430	665
Overpayment identified	\$27.7m	\$39.6m

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB187

Question Serial No.

0889

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 the current number and grades of staff responsible for investigating fraud and abuse cases in the Special Investigation Section. Is there any growth in staff establishment in the past two years and is there any plan to further expand the Section?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : There are two Fraud Investigation Teams (FITs) under the administration of the Special Investigation (SI) Section. Up to the end of March 2005, the two FITs each comprised one Social Security Officer (SSO) I acting as Officer-in-Charge with one deputy who is a SSOII, and 22 SSOIIs divided into Investigation and Assessment Teams. In the past two years, FITs have strengthened the staff establishment to conduct in-depth investigation on suspected fraud cases. The number of SSOIIs increased from 40 in 2003-04 to 46 in 2004-05.

During 2004-05, the SI Section has conducted a Business Process Reengineering Study on Fraud and Overpayment of Social Security Benefits with the Efficiency Unit. The study aims to examine and enhance measures for handling fraud and overpayment cases so as to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, a police superintendent has been seconded from the Hong Kong Police Force to advise on improvements to the mechanism for prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and abuse in the social security system. Further plans to expand the SI Section will depend on the findings of these two reports.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB188

Question Serial No.

0890

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 : How would the budget estimate of \$0.5m from social security for the Subvented Sector be spent in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The budget estimate is a lump sum grant allocation to the Hong Kong Red Cross for running its Local Disaster Relief Service which complements the existing emergency relief service provided by the Social Welfare Department. Through the Local Disaster Relief Service, clothing bundles are distributed to victims of natural disasters and in addition, some useful daily commodities are distributed to other needy persons such as street sleepers and discharged patients/prisoners etc.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB189

Question Serial No.

0907

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 clinical psychologist has been reduced from 48 in 2003-04 to 47 in 2004-05 in the Government Sector. In 2005-06, the respective numbers of clinical psychologist were 47 and 21 in the Government and the subvented sectors.

What are the current caseload per clinical psychologist in the Government sector and the subvented sector respectively? With this caseload and the Government's stated plan to enhance the provision of psychological support for vulnerable children and young people displaying psychological problems, suffering from abuse and violence, or exhibiting suicidal behaviour, etc., what is the estimated case waiting time for the clinical psychological service and the number of cases on the waiting list as at 1 March 2005?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : For the Government sector, the current caseload as at end of February 2005 per clinical psychologist (CP) is 49.82. Average caseload for the 11-month period from 1 April 2004 to 28 February 2005 is 51.25. For the subvented sector, caseload as at end of December 2004 per CP is 35.91. Figures for the fourth quarter of 2004-05 (January-March 2005) from the non-governmental organisations are not yet available. Average caseload for the nine-month period from 1 April 2004 to 31 December 2004 is 33.57.

The estimated case waiting time for the clinical psychological service is 43.04 calendar days (from the date when the referrals are received to the date of the first appointment offered). The waiting time applies to regular cases only. Court cases are generally seen within three weeks from the date that the Court referrals are received. Urgent cases-such as victims of critical incidents, child abuse (sexual/physical), domestic violence, suicide, and the grossly disturbed etc. are given priority, with appointment usually assigned within the first week or two after the referrals were received.

The number of cases on the waiting list as at 1 March 2005 is 149 for general intake assessment cases and 11 for intellectual assessment cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Director of Social Welfare

Date

7 APR 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB190

Question Serial No.

0908

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 : Please provide a breakdown on the grades (i.e. SSWO, SWO, ASWO & etc.) of the family caseworkers of the Family & Child Protection Services Unit.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2004-05, a total of five SSWOs, 95 SWOs and ten ASWOs were provided for five Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs). In April 2005, through deployment of existing resources, an additional FCPSU will be set up, making a total of six FCPSUs with manpower provision of six SSWOs, 113 SWOs and ten ASWOs. SSWOs assume supervisory role and are not counted as caseworkers.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB191

Question Serial No.

0909

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 : What is the average cost for integrated family service centres (IFSCs), operated by the Government & non-governmental organisations (NGOs) sector respectively for 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) re-engineered all family services centres (FSCs)/counselling units of the SWD and NGOs to form 61 IFSCs by phases. The estimated total recurrent provision for 40 SWD-run IFSCs and 21 NGO-run IFSCs in 2005-06 is \$404.7m and \$148.9m respectively. Though each IFSC has a minimum of 12 social workers apart from a supervisor, individual IFSCs may have more social workers depending on the population served and the complexity of social problems in the district. Some SWD's IFSCs also have to take up statutory cases and other cases that are more suitable to be handled by SWD staff even these cases are within the service boundary of an NGOs IFSC. Therefore, we do not think it is meaningful to compare the average provision between SWD IFSCs and NGO IFSCs, or the provision between individual IFSCs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB192

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0842

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please list in detail the respective amounts of actual and estimated subventions granted by the Administration to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health and to the Tobacco Control Office of the Department of Health for the years from 2000-01 to 2005-06. Please also set out the relevant research projects and publicity/educational programmes completed and still in progress as well as the specific outcomes of such initiatives and their future directions.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The provisions for Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) and Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health (DH) from 2000-01 to 2005-06 are as follows :

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>COSH</u>	<u>TCO</u>
	\$M	\$M
2005-06	6.1*	17.5
2004-05	10.8	12.7
2003-04	9.3	9.2
2002-03	8.0	15.9
2001-02	11.7	11.7
2000-01	8.3	1.5

* In addition to the \$6.1M allocated to COSH under Head 37, an amount of \$5M has been set aside for COSH to organise activities in respect of building a smoke-free community. The total subvention for COSH for 2005-06 would therefore be \$11.1M, representing an increase of \$0.3M when compared with 2004-05.

The total numbers of publicity, educational and research programmes conducted by COSH in the past years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
2000	222
2001	260
2002	260
2003	266
2004	325

In 2005, COSH plans to conduct 320 publicity, educational and research programmes concentrating on youth smoking intervention, promotion of smoke-free community and supporting legislative amendments of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance.

The TCO was set up in February 2001 to enhance and coordinate Government's tobacco control efforts. In the past years, TCO conducted various anti-smoking activities to facilitate compliance with the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance. Over 1 200 restaurants with 200 seats or more had been visited since 2001 and about 220 workshops on smoke-free workplace were conducted in 2003 and 2004.

In 2005-06, TCO will launch mass media publicity campaigns to raise public awareness on the hazards of secondhand smoke and create a supportive environment for the forthcoming legislative amendments. Workshops will be organised to equip staff of statutory no-smoking areas with knowledge and skills to enforce the new legislative requirements. In addition, the DH smoking cessation counselling hotline will be upgraded to assist smokers to quit smoking.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB193

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions, (3) Health Promotion

0843

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As regards the implementation of the existing "Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance" in 2004-05, please give a breakdown of the expenditure involved, the staffing arrangement and the prosecution figures. When making amendments to the Ordinance in 2005-06, what are the necessary provision for expenditure and the package required?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

In 2004-05, Tobacco Control Office (TCO) had 30 staff, including one Senior Medical & Health Officer, Tobacco Control Officers and supporting staff. \$12.7M was spent on salaries and other expenditure such as health education and publicity. At present, the Department of Health does not have prosecution power under Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap 371).

In 2005-06, upon the enactment of the proposed amendments to Cap 371, the staffing level of TCO will be enhanced from 30 to 60 and the work will be realigned to undertake the new enforcement duties, publicity and education work. In 2005-06, the total expenditure of TCO is expected to be \$17.5M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB194

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0852

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : For the year 2005-06, what plan(s) does the Government have to provide integrated services to the elderly? What are their expenditures and staff establishment?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Elderly Health Services of the Department of Health will continue to provide services to the elderly through 18 Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) and 18 Visiting Health Teams (VHTs). Services provided by EHCs include physical checkup, health assessment, counselling, curative treatment and health education. VHTs reach out into the community and residential care homes for the elderly in collaboration with other care providers to achieve wide dissemination of health knowledge to elderly and their carers. The teams also carry out influenza vaccination programme for elderly residing in institutions.

The provision for Elderly Health Services in 2005-06 is \$148.6M and the number of staff is as follows -

Medical	34
Nursing	100
Allied Health	51
Executive and Clerical	42
Other Supporting	36
Total	<u>263</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB195

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0853

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The attendance at maternal and child health centers for the family planning service is expected to decrease from 248 500 in 2004 (Actual) to 220 000 in 2005 (Estimate), while the attendance for the maternal health service is anticipated to stand at 128 000. Would the Administration inform us of:

- The reasons for the projected decrease in the attendance for the family planning service?
- The measures to promote the family planning services among the public?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The change in estimated attendance figure for Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) of the Department of Health (DH) for family planning service in 2005 is a result of streamlining of procedures, which will save service users from making frequent visits to the MCHCs.

The family planning service is publicised to the general public through DH webpage and information leaflets. It is introduced in the booklet for new immigrants prepared by the Home Affairs Department. DH also promotes the service to potential clients during their attendances for antenatal, postnatal and child health services at MCHCs, and to patients of the Obstetrics & Gynaecological Departments of public hospitals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB196

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0854

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The attendance at maternal and child health centres for the cervical screening service is expected to increase from 80 000 in 2004 (Actual) to 100 000 in 2005 (Estimate). Would the Administration inform us of:

- the reason(s) for the estimated increase in the attendance for the cervical screening service.
- the expenditure and staff establishment involved for such programme.
- the age group and education level of women who received the screening service in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The territory-wide Cervical Screening Programme (CSP) is organised by the Department of Health (DH) with participation of public and private medical sectors, and non-governmental organisations.

The actual number of attendances for cervical screening at Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) of DH during the 10-month period since its launch in March 2004 was 80 000. We project that the total number of attendances will reach 100 000 in the full year period in 2005.

There is no data on the education attainment of CSP clients of MCHCs. The age distribution of the clients between March and December 2004 is as follows :

Age Group (years)	Percentage
< 25	0.3%
25-49	76.8%
50-64	22.2%
> 64	0.7%

The provision for CSP in DH is \$35M in 2005-06 with 78 staff involved in providing the service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB197

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0855

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the enhancement of public health promotion programmes to instil a healthy lifestyle concept in the community, would the Government inform us of:

- the reason(s) for the estimated drop in the attendances for health education activities from 1 237 000 in 2004 (Actual) to 1 100 000 in 2005 (Estimate). What is/are the implication(s) of the reduction in the number of activities on the implementation of the programmes?
- the expenditure and staff establishment involved for such programmes in 2005 as compared to 2004.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department of Health will enhance its health promotion programmes on healthy living. The estimated attendance for 2005 reflects the baseline level of health education activities planned for the year. The relatively high attendance in 2004 is related to the enhancement of the dengue fever awareness programmes conducted in that summer.

The expenditure for health promotion programmes in the Department is \$59.2M and \$57.3M in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The establishment is 83 for both years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB198

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0877

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In supporting the Chinese Medicine Council in the registration of Chinese medicine practitioners and proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm), what are the expenditure and staff establishment in 2005-06? What is the estimated number of pCm that could be registered in the coming year? What is the anticipated time of completion for the registration of pCm currently on sale?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The provision in 2005-06 for registration of Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) is about \$2M. The number of staff deployed to handle registration and renewal of practising certificates of CMPs in 2005-06 is as follows -

	<u>Full-time Equivalent</u>
Executive Officer	1
Administrative Assistant	2
Clerical staff	10.5
	<hr/>
Total	13.5
	<hr/> <hr/>

The provision in 2005-06 for registration of proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm) is about \$10M. The number of staff deployed to handle registration of pCm in 2005-06 is as follows -

	<u>Full-time Equivalent</u>
Senior Pharmacist	1
Pharmacist	10
Chinese Medicine Officer	1
Assistant Chinese Medicine Officer	4.5
Administrative Assistant	1
Dispenser	3
Clerical staff	19
	<hr/>
Total	39.5
	<hr/> <hr/>

We expect to complete the registration of those pCm applications in hand in about two years. About 6 000 applications will be processed in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB199

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

0878

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Ten permanent posts are to be created under this Programme. What are their ranks and scope of responsibilities?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department of Health will create 22 posts and delete 12 vacant posts under Programme (1). The net creation is 10 posts. Most of the posts to be created are related to the formation of a core team of staff to undertake new enforcement duties, publicity and education work upon the enactment of the proposed amendments to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371). The ranks of the posts are under consideration.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB200

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0879

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Since the operation of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) in 2004-05,
(a) what is the effectiveness in enhancing the capacity in the control of communicable diseases?
(b) what are the numbers and distribution of various healthcare workers in CHP?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The CHP has launched a number of initiatives to enhance the effectiveness in the control of communicable diseases. In respect of surveillance, the CHP has created a central notification office and an on-line electronic system to facilitate doctors to report communicable diseases more easily and rapidly. The CHP has also expanded the disease surveillance network to cover child care centres, and will further expand it to include elderly homes and pharmacies.

The CHP collaborates with local, regional and international stakeholders in preventing and controlling communicable diseases. At the local level, it works closely with the Hospital Authority and private doctors in strengthening the control of hospital outbreaks. At the regional and global levels, a speedy and effective communication channel has been established with the Guangdong Department of Health and Macao Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The CHP also monitors communicable disease intelligence globally and maintains close liaison with the World Health Organisation and other international health authorities.

To enhance effective risk communication, the CHP publishes information on communicable diseases and issues communicable diseases alerts to the public and health care providers. A Field Epidemiology Training Programme has been established to strengthen capacity building on communicable disease control. The programme will provide training to CHP professionals, paramedical staff and others with an interest in communicable disease epidemiology including professionals in the Hospital Authority and private doctors.

On prevention and control of sexually-transmitted infections, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB), various guidelines have been promulgated. These include guidelines on case management of sexually-transmitted infections, infection control practice for HIV transmission in health care settings, and treatment of latent TB infections. The CHP has also expanded voluntary urinary HIV testing in methadone clinics and put in place sentinel surveillance of syndromic sexually-transmitted infections in the private sector.

Laboratory capacity has been enhanced by the development of various rapid molecular methods for the detection of emerging infections. For example, results of SARS and H5N1 avian influenza testing can be available within three hours.

Preparedness for major communicable disease outbreaks has been improved, and contingency plans developed and reviewed. Exercises and drills have also been and will be conducted to ensure smooth running of these plans.

With the above major initiatives, Hong Kong is now much more prepared in the combat

against communicable diseases.

There are 967 medical, nursing and para-medical posts in CHP. The breakdown is at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

**Distribution of Medical, Nursing and Para-medical Posts in CHP
(31 March 2005)**

	Controller's Office	SEB	ICB	ERIB	PHSB	PHLSB	PMPDB	Total
Medical	1	60	11	2	78	20	17	189
Nursing	0	97	11	0	319	0	21	448
Para-medical*	0	3	1	0	64	261	1	330
Total	1	160	23	2	461	281	39	967

* Para-medical posts include medical laboratory personnel, dispensers, radiographers etc.

Note:

SEB : the Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch

ICB : the Infection Control Branch

ERIB : the Emergency Response and Information Branch

PHSB: the Public Health Services Branch

PHLSB: the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch

PMPDB: the Programme Management and Professional Development Branch

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB201

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0880

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned under this Programme that specific work of the Department of Health in 2005-06 includes improving the oral health of primary school children. In this respect, can the Administration provide:

- (a) the details of such work;
- (b) the staffing level involved in such work and the related expenditure;
- (c) the correlation, if any, between such work and the projected 415 000 primary school children participating in the School Dental Care Service as forecasted by the Administration under 2005 (Estimate), and the reason(s) for such correlation?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) The Department of Health promotes the oral health of primary school children through the School Dental Care Service. The Service provides dental examinations, preventive dental services and treatments to primary school children and promotes good oral health habits among them.
- (b) The establishment of the School Dental Care Service in 2005-06 will be 451, comprising Dental Officers, Dental Therapists and other supporting staff. The provision for this service in 2005-06 is \$170.5M.
- (c) The projected 415 000 primary school children will be the recipients of the above preventive and promotive dental services. The number is directly proportional to the workload of the School Dental Care Service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB202

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0881

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provisions for the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority in 2005-06 are 2.5% and 3.3% less than the 2004-05 (Revised) provisions respectively and both organisations provide preventive services to the public. In this respect, can the Administration advise if a mechanism has been established to coordinate the work of the two organisations in disease prevention so as to ensure effective utilisation and allocation of resources? If yes, please provide the details of such mechanism.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

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, 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 disease surveillance in the hospital and clinical setting and adopting effective strategies to prevent disease progression and complications.

DH and HA work closely together at all levels to ensure that the work of the two organisations is coordinated with minimum duplication 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 targetted areas without duplications. 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. There are a number of committees and working groups which serve as a platform of coordination and collaboration in the disease prevention context for DH and HA, as well as for other stakeholders, such as Advisory Committee on Centre for Health Protection (CHP), Cancer Coordinating Committee and Working Group on Poison Prevention and Control. 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.

For the prevention and control of infectious diseases, the CHP has adopted an integrated approach in carrying out many of its health protection functions. Apart from collaborating closely with HA in the development of health protection programmes, the CHP has engaged 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 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB203

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Curative Care

0882

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the respective amounts of subventions provided by the Department of Health under this Programme to the two Chinese Medicine Clinics run by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in 2005-06? How do they compare with the actual subventions in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Department of Health provided a subvention of \$2.9M in 2004-05 to Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to meet part of the operating expenses of two Chinese Medicine Clinics. The subvention in 2005-06 will be \$2.7M. The reduction in subvention has taken into account the civil service pay adjustment and the need for efficiency savings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

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

Head : 149 - 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 : The 2005 Policy Address stated that the Government would launch a Head Start Programme for pre-school children and their families. Please provide a breakdown on the proposed provision as well as programme details and implementation progress.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2005-06, a sum of \$6.9M has been earmarked for the launch in phases the pilot Head Start Programme (HSP) in four selected communities. The provision is for the employment of staff (\$6.7M) and staff training (\$0.2M). \$2.7M will be allocated for the Department of Health (DH) to employ staff such as medical officers, registered nurses, research and project assistants. \$4M will be allocated for the Hospital Authority (HA) to employ staff such as paediatrician, psychiatric and maternity nurses. The details are being worked out.

The pilot HSP for children aged 0-5 years will be launched in phases in four selected communities, namely Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O. The Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs), which at present provide services to over 90% of newborn babies, will be used as the service platform. HSP is a community-based programme which aims to augment the existing service in MCHCs through better alignment of the delivery of health, education and social services to ensure early identification of the varied needs of children and their families so that appropriate services can be made available to them in a timely manner. Implementation of HSP involves inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary collaboration among government departments and relevant agencies.

The first pilot will be launched in Sham Shui Po in July 2005. A Sham Shui Po HSP Coordinating Committee led by the DH with representatives from the HA, the Social Welfare Department, and the Education and Manpower Bureau at the district level has been set up to prepare for the launch of the pilot HSP in Sham Shui Po. The Coordinating Committee will meet regularly to discuss the implementation details, and consult the various stakeholders on the implementation of HSP. Training for relevant staff is being organised. A collaborative service delivery model and the various assessment tools and work protocols are being developed in consultation with relevant departments and agencies. The contents

and operation of the HSP will be refined in light of feedback and experience gathered from the pilot run in Sham Shui Po. It is expected that the HSP will be rolled out in other selected communities in the last quarter of 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB205

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

0905

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The 2005 Policy Address stated that the Government would launch a Head Start Programme for pre-school children and their families. Is there any formal platform to allow different sectors (medical, welfare, child care and child protection, etc.) to deliberate the programme framework?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

Community-based coordinating committees will be set up in the four selected communities to implement the Head Start Programme (HSP) and to consult various stakeholders of health, social welfare and education sectors in the community. For instance, a Sham Shui Po HSP Coordinating Committee led by the Department of Health with representatives from the Hospital Authority, the Social Welfare Department, and the Education and Manpower Bureau at the district level has been set up to prepare for the launch of the pilot HSP in Sham Shui Po.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB206

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0772

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 :

How much resource 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 :

Financial provisions of \$6.8 million and \$6.0 million have been included in the 2005-06 Estimate for testing blood samples from poultry for avian influenza H5 and urine samples from pigs for beta-agonists respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

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

HWFB207

Question Serial No.

0773

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 resource 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 \$1.9 m and \$12 m have been included in the 2005-06 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

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB208

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0774

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 much resource will be earmarked for mosquito and rodent control?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A provision of \$257 million has been included in the 2005-06 estimate for mosquito and rodent control.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB209

Question Serial No.

0775

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 much resource will be earmarked for sampling seawater for keeping live seafood and monitoring the trading of coral reef fish?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department exercises control on the quality of fish tank water and sale of live seafood through an inspection regime on licensed food premises and market stalls and a water sampling and surveillance programme. There is no separate provision reserved in the estimate for these activities and the related expenditure is absorbed within existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB210

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0849

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 :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06 is the promotion of health education to students, elderly and new arrivals through talks and outreaching activities. Please advise on the details, expenditure and staffing requirement so involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005, the Department plans to organize around 1 220 talks and outreaching programmes for schools and 1 200 seminars for elderly and new arrivals. The expenditure will be absorbed within the budget of \$27.5 million which the Department has reserved for public education and community involvement in 2005-06. 13 staff within the Department are tasked specifically for organizing these talks, seminars and outreaching activities. Other staff also help out with these activities as and when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB211

Question Serial No.

0910

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention under Programme (7), the government states that it will provide support to the deprived children and youth at district level. In this connection, could the Government set out the amount of expenditure for providing support to the children and youth in Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung districts in 2004-05, and the amount of financial provision for providing the planned support to the children and youth in Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung districts in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked \$15m per annum for 13 District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) to enhance support services to provide direct assistance to support individual children and youth in vulnerable circumstances to facilitate their wholesome development and the expenses of which cannot be covered by any other existing sources of funding at district level starting from 2005-06. The Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung areas are within the Yuen Long district and Central and Western/Islands district respectively.

SWD will apportion the new resources to DSWOs having regard to various social indicators in their respective districts; (e.g. number of low income families, number of new arrival families, number of youth at risk and number of single-parents on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, etc.) so that more needy districts will have a higher priority for new resources. SWD will take into account the unique needs of the Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung areas while apportioning the new resources to individual districts. We hope that this can be worked out in early 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB212

Question Serial No.

0911

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 Programme (1), the financial provision for the subvented sector in 2005-06 will be reduced by 1.3%. Would the Administration inform this Committee how could it ensure that the subvented sector would still be capable of providing appropriate services in spite of the cut in financial provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The 1.3% decrease in provision for the subvented sector is a result of the net difference between increase and decrease in provision in 2005-06. The decrease in provision is mainly due to;

- (a) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005;
- (b) efficiency savings; and
- (c) service rationalisation and re-engineering in 2005-06 (eg. closure or reduction of capacities in some under-utilised child care centres).

As the reduction in provision is mainly due to adjustment in staff cost, efficiency savings, and rationalisation of some under-utilised services; and that additional funding is provided for the more needy service areas such as residential care placements and crisis intervention service for children and young persons, integrated family service centres, and services to victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crisis etc., the subvented sector would be capable of providing appropriate services without compromising service quality.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB213

Question Serial No.

0914

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 :

Why total Government expenditure in respect of social welfare increases from \$34.12 billion (04-05 revised estimate) to \$36.30 billion (05-06 draft estimate), which is an increase of \$2.18 billion?

We note the following increases from budget:

a.	Head 149 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (programmes 2, 7, 8, social welfare, skills centres, and guardianship)	+\$2.4m
b.	Head 120 Pension (War Memorial Pensions/ Volunteers Pensions)	+\$0.0m
c.	Head 170 Social Welfare Department (programme 6 community development excluded)	+\$1301.4m
d.	Head 186 Transport Department (programme 5 transport for disabled persons)	-\$6.8m
e.	Policy area 33: Women's Interests	+\$5.0m
f.	Lotteries Fund	+\$44.3m

Estimated increases +\$1346.3m

Or +\$1.35 b

Why is there a discrepancy of HK\$0.83b? (\$2.18 b - \$1.35 b = \$0.83 b)

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The discrepancy of \$0.83 billion is mainly due to the inclusion of the following additional provision (which is on top of the increases already shown in the question) in the 2005-06 draft estimate:

	\$ Billion
(a) Increase in the cashflow requirements for capital works projects and major computerization projects funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund	+0.15
(b) Cashflow requirements for the extension of 3 836 temporary jobs under Social Welfare Department (SWD) (Note: Earmarked funding for the extension of temporary jobs was approved by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005, i.e. after the cut-off date for the 2005-06 Estimates, and hence its financial provision was not reflected in the draft estimates of Head 170: SWD)	+0.22
(c) Contingency funds to cater for any unanticipated increase in expenditure in 2005-06	+0.46
Total:	+0.83

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 4 April 2005

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

HWFB 214

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

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

0990

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, what were the amount of expenditure and manpower used by the department in monitoring avian influenza in the past three years? In the coming year, what are the amount of expenditure and staffing arrangement in this area?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In the past three years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (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 livestock diseases. In 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05, AFCD spent \$13.7 million, \$18.5 million and \$20.9 million respectively in the monitoring and control of avian influenza which included expenditure in employing temporary contract staff and procurement of personal protective equipment.

In 2005-06, \$17.7 million has been earmarked for this activity. There is no change in the number of permanent staff involved in this area of work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB215

Question Serial No.

0964

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 : During 2005-06, there will be new initiatives for the Social Welfare Department to strengthen the rehabilitation service for people with disabilities. Please explain the programme details, expenditure, nature of subvention (project-based or recurrent) and expected number of service users benefiting from the following new initiatives:

- to strengthen community support for people with mental handicap and physical handicap living in the community;
- to extend vocational rehabilitation services to disabled young persons and the ex-mentally ill;
- to enhance extended care service for the ex-mentally ill for supporting them to live in the community;
- to provide specialised support service to young persons with early sign of mental health problem.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The programme details, expenditure, nature of subvention and expected number of beneficiaries of the new initiatives are as follows:

Programme details	Expenditure in 2005-06	Expected number of beneficiaries
a. Provide community support services including <ul style="list-style-type: none">- enhanced family-based respite to provide temporary day care for people with disabilities (PWDs) at their home when their parents/carers are engaged and cannot take care of them;- personal development project to provide integrated socialisation programmes helping young PWDs develop hobbies, interests and talents with a view to stimulating their personal development; and- financial support to new self-help groups of PWDs to promote mutual help and support.	\$10m	3 000

<p>b. Provide extended programmes in day activity centres and sheltered workshops including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elder programme in day activity centre to provide tailor-made activities meeting the needs of the ageing service users; and - extended work programme in sheltered workshops to meet the service needs of those service users who could no longer perform normal work tasks due to old age or deterioration in work capacities. 	\$5.2m	380
<p>c. Teams comprising parties of medical personnel, social workers and non-governmental organisation service operators will be formed to provide assistance to youth with early signs of mental health problem through designated projects to help them acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in the personal and vocational aspects and draw up future life/career plans, and to enhance their employability and competitiveness.</p>	\$8.1m	600
<p>d. Provide extended care for ex-mentally ill persons to further strengthen the support and assistance particularly in their activities of daily living and life skills with a view to helping them live in the community. Services will include outreaching visits, guidance and supervision on drug compliance, support and assistance in child care and domestic chores, etc.</p>	\$5.2m	600
<p>e. Provide vocational assistance for young persons with disabilities through an enhanced on-the-job training programme, intensive employment support and vocational guidance to strengthen their employability and retention of jobs.</p>	\$6.9m	300
<p>f. Purchase of new rehabuses.</p>	\$3.8m	N.A.
<p>g. Strengthen IT support for severely disabled persons to equip them with IT equipment facilitating their integration into the community upon discharge from hospital.</p>	\$0.5m	20

Items which involve the subvented sector will be project-based.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB216

Question Serial No.

0966

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, it is stated that the Administration will “enhance the Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS)”. However, as shown by the actual figures for 2003-04 up to the 2005-06 estimate set out in the Targets, the number of CSSS service teams remains at five. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) how would the scheme be enhanced; and
- (b) the amount of provision earmarked for the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) We plan to increase the provision for staff and programme expenditure of the existing five CSSSs with a view to enhancing services for young people cautioned under the Police Superintendents’ Discretion Scheme for minor offences. We shall apportion the new resources among the relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) having regard to the target beneficiaries in their respective serving areas, their existing workload as well as their current provision of manpower, etc. We shall notify the NGOs concerned on the apportionment of provision in early 2005-06.

- (b) The earmarked new resources for this purpose is about \$7m per annum.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB217

Question Serial No.

0967

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 : Regarding the provision for the Government sector in the 2005-06 estimate under this Programme, although it has shown an increase over the 2004-05 original estimate, it is nearly 60% (59.8%) lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the criteria adopted by the Administration in arriving at the estimate?
- (b) The Administration cited "the lapsing of temporary jobs in 2004-05 pending approval of earmarked funding" as one of the reasons for the reduction in provision. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the number of similar temporary posts in the Government sector, and which department has the highest number of such posts?
- (c) What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (d) Has the service quality and continuity been affected?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) The decrease in provision for the Government sector in the 2005-06 estimate of 59.8% as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate is mainly due to the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05; and partly off-set by the additional funding for enhancing support services for the needy, launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system. Following the Finance Committee's approval of the necessary provision for extension of the temporary posts in the meeting held on 4 March 2005, there is actually no real reduction in resources in 2005-06.

- (b) With the approval of the Finance Committee (FCR(2004-05)49) on 4 March 2005, 3 836 temporary posts (the highest number of such jobs among departments concerned) are extended under the Social Welfare Department.
- (c) The total provision for the 3 836 temporary posts is \$237.57m.
- (d) The creation/lapse of temporary posts does not affect the quality and sustainability of current services as these posts are to meet short-term operational needs only.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB218

Question Serial No.

1027

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 :

- (a) Under the Programme of Services for Elders, the Government allocates a total of \$3,354.9m to promote the welfare of elders. Please provide the total amount of provision for residential care and community care and support services for elders respectively in this year as well as over the past three years.
- (b) The amount of funding for the plan to provide 1 292 long term care services places in 2005-06.
- (c) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has provided Dementia Supplement to residential care homes for the elderly over the past few years. Would SWD continue to provide this supplement in 2005-06? If yes, what is the total funding for this? If not, please explain why.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The breakdown of the financial provision for residential care services and community care and support services for elders for 2005-06 and the previous three years is as follows:

Type of Service	2002-03 (Actual Expenditure) \$m	2003-04 (Actual Expenditure) \$m	2004-05 (Revised Estimate) \$m	2005-06 (Draft Estimate) \$m
Residential Care Services	2,050.6	2,044.5	2,013.7	2,114.3
Community Care and Support Services	1,022.3	1,067.0	1,015.6	1,066.5

- (b) The estimated annual provision for the 1 292 places is \$132.4m; and
- (c) Dementia Supplement will continue to be allocated to residential care homes for the elderly in 2005-06. The estimate in 2005-06 for this purpose is \$12.5m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB219

Question Serial No.

1028

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 respective numbers of training places planned to be provided in 2005-06 for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, we plan to provide a total of 240 training places on care for the demented elders. 120 of them will be for professional staff (eg. nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and social workers) and 120 for non-professional staff (eg. care workers and home helpers).

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB220

Question Serial No.

1029

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 2005-06? Where will it be located? What is the scheduled date for the official commencement of operation?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated recurrent provision for the new DECC to be set up in 2005-06 is \$4.1m. It is located at Tak Tin Estate in Kwun Tong District. Service commencement is targeted in June 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB221

Question Serial No.

1030

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 :
- (a) Which residential care homes (RCHE) and day care centres for the elderly (D/Es) have been provided with additional day care places in 2005-06? What is the amount of financial resources involved?
 - (b) The D/Es have been over-enrolled by 15% for two consecutive years. Would the Administration consider further increasing the number of places, in addition to the 20 places stated in the estimate?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

- Reply :
- (a) In 2005-06, a 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a purpose-built RCHE contract home in Kwai Shing East Estate under the premises-led programme. The estimated recurrent provision for this unit is \$0.87m.
 - (b) We have set the enrolment rate of day care services at 115% so as to build a buffer to maximise the utilisation of the day care places. This does not mean that there is unmet demand. For various reasons, eg. sick leave and attending medical appointment, there will be a number of enrolled elders absent from D/Es everyday. Hence, the average attendance rate is always below 100%. Currently, there are still unfilled vacancies of day care places in some districts. The vacancy level is around 7% of the total capacity of 1 955 day care places as at end of February 2005. On top of the provision of 20 day care places in Kwai Shing East Estate, we will continue to review the supply of and demand for

day care services, with a view to adjusting the number of day care places in respective districts to meet the needs of elders.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB222

Question Serial No.

1031

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 : Has additional provision been earmarked for the continuous development of carer support services in 2005-06? What is the total amount involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Carer support service is one of the essential service components in all the re-engineered community support services for elders. All District Community Elderly Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres are required to set up carer resource corners for storing video, reference materials and rehabilitative aids for demonstration or on-loan purposes, conducting self-help groups and organising activities and programmes to help carers manage stress. All contract homes are also required to provide support services to carers as part of their services. As a temporary relief for carers who are taking care of elders residing in the community, there are 50 day care centres/units for the elderly providing day respite service. All of the 136 subvented and contract homes may use their causal vacancies to provide residential respite care, in addition to the 11 designated residential respite care places in these homes.

Since the carer support services are part and parcel of the services provided by community support and residential care service for elders, there is no breakdown solely on the expenditure for developing carer support services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB223

Question Serial No.

1032

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 planned by the Social Welfare Department for carrying out the activities under the Opportunities for the Elderly Project (OEP) in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, the planned provision for allocation to applicant organisations to carry out activities under the OEP is \$3m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB224

Question Serial No.

1033

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 :
- (a) What is the estimated expenditure for the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) for the purchase of places in the private residential care homes for the elderly in 2005-06? Would these private homes continue to be provided with the Infirmity Care Supplement (ICS)?
 - (b) While the Government "planned" to purchase a total of 6 278 EBPS places in private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE) in 2004-05, the revised estimate for the year shows that it has fallen short of the target. In this respect, would the Government explain why the number of places under EBPS will be maintained at 6 235 in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

- Reply :
- (a) The estimated provision for the purchase of places in private residential care homes for the elderly under the EBPS in 2005-06 is \$420m. In 2005-06, Infirmity Care Supplement will continue to cover frail elders receiving subsidised service at private homes participating in the EBPS as appropriate.
 - (b) The 2004-05 revised estimate indicates a decrease in the number of EBPS places as compared with the number in the 2004-05 original estimate for the following reasons:
 - (i) termination of business of an EBPS participating home;
 - (ii) sanctions taken to reduce the number of places purchased from the EBPS participating homes due to their breach of the EBPS Agreement; and
 - (iii) reduction in the licensing area of an EBPS participating home.

We have no plan to purchase additional EBPS places in 2005-06. We will continue to provide additional subsidised RCHE places in future primarily through purpose-built contract homes under the premises-led programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB225

Question Serial No.

1034

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 :

- (a) Regarding the community support services, please explain why there is no increase in the estimated number of cases served under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) in 2005-06.
- (b) Regarding the community support services, the number of cases served under the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) in the 2004-05 revised estimate is 3% lower than that in the original plan, and there is also no increase in the estimated number of cases served in 2005-06. Please give reasons for this.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) EHCCS was first introduced in April 2001 to provide a comprehensive nursing and personal care services for frail elders to enable them to continue to live in the community. Since there are still unfilled vacancies in most of the 18 EHCCS Teams and the caseload has remained stable, we estimate that there will not be any significant increase in the demand in 2005-06. Therefore, the number of cases planned to be served by EHCCS in 2005-06 will be the same as the 2004-05 revised estimate.
- (b) There are 60 IHCS Teams serving frail and ordinary cases including the elders, disabled and needy families. With the full implementation of the enhanced functions of the re-engineered community support services, some services provided by IHCS are now also available in most of the elderly centres. These include meal and laundry services, household cleaning, personal assistance and escort. In view of the alternatives, the number of active ordinary cases was lower than originally estimated. We have thus adjusted downwards the total number of cases served in the 2004-05 revised estimate. Taking into

account the fact that these are unfilled vacancies in most of the IHCS Teams under the frail cases quota and that the caseload of ordinary cases has remained stable, we estimate that there will not be any significant increase in the demand in 2005-06. Therefore, the number of the cases planned to be served in 2005-06 will be the same as the 2004-05 revised estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB226

Question Serial No.

1035

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 :
- (a) 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 the past two years, and the estimated caseload and expenditure in 2005-06 as well.
 - (b) What were the numbers of applications received and the financial commitment of the Government for Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) and Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) payments in the past two years? What are the estimated numbers of applications and expenditure under these two categories for 2005-06?
 - (c) For the estimated number of elders who will join the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme in 2005-06, how many of them will retire in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively? What is the CSSA expenditure involved? What is the financial commitment involved in providing burial grants and better escort service to the participants?
 - (d) Please provide a breakdown of the estimated number of CSSA recipients with less than seven years' residence in Hong Kong by their years of residence, and the CSSA expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

- Reply :
- (a) The number of CSSA cases and the estimated expenditure by nature of case for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

2003-04

(Actual)

Nature of case	Average number of cases with authorised payment	Expenditure \$b
Old age	141 109	8.0
Permanent Disability	14 889	0.9
Temporary Disability/ Ill Health	20 285	1.5
Single-Parent Family	34 597	3.0
Low Earnings	11 613	0.9
Unemployment	41 384	2.7
Others	3 707	0.2
Total	267 584	17.3*

* Amounts may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2004-05

(Revised estimate)

Nature of case	Average number of cases with authorised payment	Expenditure \$b
Old age	144 800	8.0
Permanent Disability	15 900	0.9
Temporary Disability/ Ill Health	21 700	1.6
Single-Parent Family	37 500	3.2
Low Earnings	14 500	1.1
Unemployment	39 900	2.6
Others	4 400	0.3
Total	278 700	17.7

The estimated average number of cases and expenditure for 2005-06 are as follows:

2005-06
(Draft estimate)

Nature of case	Average number of cases with authorised payment	Expenditure \$b
Old age	149 200	8.1
Permanent Disability	17 200	1.0
Temporary Disability/ Ill Health	23 000	1.7
Single-Parent Family	41 500	3.5
Low Earnings	18 100	1.4
Unemployment	39 200	2.5
Others	5 100	0.3
Total	293 300	18.6*

* Amounts may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- (b) The number of Higher Old Age Allowance and Normal Old Age Allowance cases and the expenditure incurred in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

2003-04
(Actual)

	Average number of cases with authorised payment	Expenditure \$b
Higher Old Age Allowance	345 763	2.9
Normal Old Age Allowance	98 844	0.7

2004-05
(Revised estimate)

	Average number of cases with authorised payment	Expenditure \$b
Higher Old Age Allowance	353 100	3.0
Normal Old Age Allowance	90 600	0.7

The estimated average number of cases and expenditure for 2005-06 are provided below:

2005-06 (Draft estimate)		
	Average number of cases with authorised payment	Expenditure \$b
Higher Old Age Allowance	372 100	3.1
Normal Old Age Allowance	88 600	0.7

- (c) The estimated numbers of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong and Fujian as at the end of 2005-06 are 3 900 and 200 respectively and the estimated total expenditure on PCSSA payments for 2005-06 is \$108m, including burial grants of \$0.7m. A non-governmental organisation has been commissioned as the Social Welfare Department's agent to provide a range of services for the PCSSA recipients (including escort service for those retiring to Guangdong) and help with processing applications for burial grant. The contract fee for hiring this agent in 2005-06 is \$2.3m.
- (d) 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 2005
< 1 year	1 585
1 - < 2 years	4 703
2 - < 3 years	8 194
3 - < 4 years	9 934
4 - < 5 years	13 815
5 - < 6 years	14 330
6 - < 7 years	18 579
Total	71 140

The estimated CSSA expenditure involved in 2004-05 (up to February 2005) was \$1.9b.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB227

Question Serial No.

1045

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 : Regarding the scheme for providing counselling and support for students with behavioural problems and non-engaged youth in 2004-05, please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure incurred, the cases served, the number of counselling recipients, the name of the Government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) offering services, as well as the number of school-based social workers, professionals offering counselling, outreaching social workers and counsellors. What is the projected number of non-engaged youth in 2005-06? Please provide an evaluation of the demand for such services, and set out the manpower required and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The welfare services for young people, covering preventive, developmental and remedial services, are all rendered by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on Government subventions. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is responsible for funding and management responsibilities of the services.

2004-05

SWD's current statistical system does not capture individual projects rendered by NGOs targeted at problem students and non-engaged youth and the case/number of counselling recipients so served. It is also not possible to apportion the costs spent on these individual projects as NGOs are all operating under the Lump Sum Grant. They have the full flexibility to use the resources to meet the needs of young people. But,

we are able to provide the names of NGOs providing youth services at the Annex, as well as a summary of the number of social workers providing different types of core young people services below:

Youth Social Worker by Type of Service	Number of Posts
Stationing School Social Workers	484
Outreaching social workers	160
Social workers in Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres	1 135
Social workers in Children and Youth Centres	107
Social workers responsible for young night drifter services	54
Social workers in the Community Support Services Schemes for young persons cautioned under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme	23
Total	1 963

2005-06

Given the mobile nature of the non-engaged youth, it is difficult to assess their number. According to the Census and Statistics Department, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15-19 is 21.5% or 14 700 persons in the last quarter of 2004. The number of school dropouts below 15 in 2003-04 is 1 297 according to information provided by the Education and Manpower Bureau. The total number of the non-engaged youth as per these two sets of figures is 15 997.

The NGOs rendering young people services will assess the youth needs within their serving areas on a regular basis and render services accordingly. According to the 2005-06 estimate, the provision for NGOs in rendering young people services as a whole is \$1,114.4m, inclusive of additional resources of \$23m to enhance services for youth at risk and young offenders. With the availability of new resources, the number of posts responsible for young people services will be increased in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

**List of Subvented Non-governmental Organisations
rendering Young People Service**

	Non-Governmental Organisation
1.	Aberdeen Kai Fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre
2.	American Baptist Mission
3.	Asbury Methodist Social Service
4.	Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (HK) Ltd
5.	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
6.	Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of HK (The)
7.	Boys' Brigade, HK (The)
8.	Caritas - HK
9.	Cheung Chau Rural Committee Youth Centre
10.	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Ltd
11.	Chinese Rhenish Church HK Synod (The)
12.	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of HK
13.	Christian Family Service Centre
14.	Church of United Brethren in Christ HK Ltd (The)
15.	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - HK
16.	Free Methodist Church of HK (The)
17.	Hans Andersen Club
18.	HK Buddhist Association (The)
19.	HK Children & Youth Services
20.	HK Christian Service
21.	HK Family Welfare Society

22.	HK Federation of Youth Groups (The)
23.	HK Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - HK Synod Ltd
24.	HK PHAB Association
25.	HK Playground Association
26.	HK Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council
27.	HK Young Women's Christian Association
28.	HK-Macao Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists
29.	International Social Service HK Branch
30.	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
31.	Methodist Centre
32.	Methodist Church, HK, MEVCC SW (The)
33.	Mongkok Kai Fong Association Ltd (The)
34.	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)
35.	Po Leung Kuk
36.	Sai Kung District Community Centre
37.	Salvation Army (The)
38.	Scout Association of HK
39.	St. James' Settlement
40.	Stewards Ltd
41.	Tai Hang Resident's Welfare Association
42.	Tsung Tsin Mission of HK Social Service Division
43.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
44.	Yan Chai Hospital
45.	Yan Oi Tong Ltd
46.	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
47.	Youth Outreach

48.	Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Ltd
49.	Zion Social Service Ltd.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB228

Question Serial No.

1114

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 expenditure for the overall review of the social security arrangements?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : Apart from the evaluation of the intensive employment assistance projects (IEAPs) for employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and the 'near-CSSA' unemployed, we will make use of in-house staffing resources in 2005-06 to review specific areas of the current social security arrangements. We have commissioned a research team of The Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation of the IEAPs at a cost of \$0.55m, which is funded by the Lotteries Fund and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB229

Question Serial No.

1138

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 : On what criteria did the Administration project that the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme cases served would increase from 363 300 in 2004-05 to 377 800 in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

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 we have seen a decreasing trend of unemployment cases in the past year due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases, notably low earnings cases and single-parent family cases. Besides, continuous increases are also observed in old age cases and disability cases which are less susceptible to the impact of an improving economy. We therefore estimate that there will be an overall increase in the number of cases served in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB230

Question Serial No.

1158

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 the target, it is stated that some sheltered workshops and supported employment places are pooled to form integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres. What are the details of the plan? How much savings can be achieved as a result of the plan? Has there been any study of the impact on service users? If yes, what is the result? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : The formation of Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs), by pooling the resources of some existing sheltered workshops (SW) and supported employment (SE), aims to provide people with disabilities with a series of seamless vocational services in one service setting. This is a cost-neutral exercise.

In 2004-05, a total of 2 868 places (i.e. 2 383 SW places and 485 SE places) had been pooled to form 17 IVRSCs providing 2 889 places.

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. A Working Group, comprising representatives from the Social Welfare Department, service operators and service users/parents had been set up in June 2004 to review the operation and effectiveness of this new delivery mode. It is generally concluded that the model of IVRSC is a good one because it offers more varieties of training delivered in a more flexible and integrative manner and is more able to meet the service users' changing needs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB231

Question Serial No.

1161

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 cost per foster care place per month as stated in paragraph seven under the Brief Description, please explain the reasons why the cost per month for the 2005-06 estimate is lower than that for the 2004-05 revised estimate.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The reduction in the unit cost is due to the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings. Nevertheless, the foster care allowance for foster parents and maintenance grant for foster children have remained at the same level. As the reduction in unit cost is mainly due to adjustment in staff cost and efficiency savings, it should not affect the service quality. The quality of the services is monitored through the Funding and Service Agreement and the operating non-governmental organisations are required to meet the output and outcome standards specified in the Agreement.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB232

Question Serial No.

1194

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 the items of “residential homes” and “sheltered workshops”, why is “the cost per place per month” of the Government sector higher than that of the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : As explained in paragraph 2 of the Controlling Officer’s Report, average unit costs for the Government and subvented sectors are not directly comparable. In the subvented sector, the cost figures reflect the net provision (i.e. after deduction of fee income) required for providing the services. Whereas in the Government sector, they are gross cost figures without discounting fee income which are treated as general revenue, but on the other hand, they reflect only provision under the control of Director of Social Welfare (eg. cost of civil service fringe benefits and rent are excluded). That said, we recognise that departmental operation of such direct services is generally more expensive than those run by non-governmental organisations because of the smaller number of places and the higher ranking of some staff required to cater for special operational needs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB233

Question Serial No.

1193

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) has adjusted the number of day nursery and day crèche places in view of the declining child population. What is the number of places involved and the amount of savings achieved?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : In view of the declining child population, the SWD has adjusted the provision of day nursery (DN) and day crèches (DC) places in the recent years. There will be a net reduction of 11 DN places and 80 DC places in 2005-06. The full-year savings achieved are estimated to be \$0.015m for DN and \$0.2m for DC.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 234

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question

Serial No.

0991

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

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 2005-06, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has allocated \$17.24 million for the inspection of animals and plants imported to Hong Kong, \$6.04 million for the inspection of local livestock farms, \$2.87 million for inspection of marine fish farms, and \$11.61 million for the monitoring of drug residues in food animals. When our staff inspect the farms, they monitor the feeding of food animals with chemicals as part of their normal duties.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 235

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial N
o.

0992

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the past three years, how many cases were there for illegal importation of animals under control or without quarantine? What special measures will be taken by the Government in the coming year to crack down on these illegal activities? What manpower and expenditure are involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In the calendar year 2002, 2003 and 2004 there were 169, 120 and 93 cases respectively of illegal importation of animals without appropriate health certification.

In the coming year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will explore the possibility of using detector dogs to detect smuggled animals. AFCD staff will continue to work closely with the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force at all entry points to Hong Kong to control the entry of animals.

For the year 2005-06, AFCD has allocated 30 staff and \$6.89 million for regulating importation of animals.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 236

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial

No.

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

0993

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Does the Government have any plan to vaccinate all pigs in local pig farms against Japanese encephalitis? If yes, what manpower and expenditure are involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Taking into consideration local epidemiology, pig farming practices, published literature, correspondence and experience of overseas experts, the Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases of the Centre for Health Protection advised the Administration that the overall benefit of pig vaccination as a control strategy against Japanese encephalitis in humans in Hong Kong remains to be demonstrated.

Upon further advice of the Committee, the Administration will conduct a pilot study in selected farms in the Yuen Long area for 2 years which will generate information to guide risk assessment and decision making. This study is likely to involve 2,000 pigs at any one time.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB237

Question Serial No.

0916

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 estimated staffing provision for environmental hygiene and related services for 2005-06 will be reduced by 515 posts as compared with the staffing provision for 2004-05. What are the reasons? Please list out the posts and duties so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The 515 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 from this programme area are mainly vacancies/projected vacancies arising from natural wastage/the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. A list showing the 515 posts and their relevant duties is at Annex.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

**List of the 515 Posts to be deleted in 2005-06
from Programme (2) – Environmental Hygiene and Related Services**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Relevant Duties</u>	<u>No. of Posts for deletion</u>
Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	To provide environmental hygiene services/licensing services and associated support services.	1
Superintendent of Environmental Health		4
Chief Health Inspector		17
Senior Health Inspector		21
Health Inspector I/II		56
Transport Services Officer II		1
Special Driver		12
Artisan		34
Ganger		82
Property Attendant		2
Workman I		52
Workman II	232	
Superintendent of Police	To provide temporary expert support to the Centre for Health Protection.	1
Total:		515

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB238

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0921

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 : Please give the number of posts in each of the following categories of staff in FEHD:

1. civil servants on pensionable terms;
2. civil servants on contractual terms;
3. non-civil service contract staff;
4. staff engaged under the Department's outsourced contracts.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Civil service posts are not divided into pensionable or contract. As at 1 March 2005, the Department had an establishment of 11,727 civil service posts and 45 civil servants working in the Department were on contract terms. Outside the civil service establishment, the Department employed 919 non-civil service contract staff. It is estimated that the Department's contractors employed some 7,800 staff for the provision of contract services to the Department.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB239

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0969

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 regards to “main roads with first round street sweeping services completed before 9:00 a.m.”, why is the target set for 2005-06 lower than those for 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Department's aim is to complete the first round of sweeping the main roads before 9:00 a.m. The targets set for 2003-04 and 2004-05 were 97% and 98% respectively and the actual figures achieved were 100% and 99% respectively. For 2005, we have set the target again at 98% and we plan to achieve no less than the target.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB240

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0970

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 are the specific measures to follow up on the regularisation of "private kitchens"? What are their objectives?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply

The Department is working out the detailed licensing requirements and conditions and plans to introduce the relevant amendments to the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.) in the 2005-06 legislative session.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB241

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0971

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 :

As compared with 2004-05, what is the expenditure required for maintaining the overall standard of cleanliness in public areas, busy thoroughfares and public toilets in the 2005-06 estimate?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for 2005-06 for the provision of cleansing services for maintaining the overall standard of cleanliness in public areas, busy thoroughfares and public toilets is \$1,212 million while the revised estimate for 2004-05 is \$1,278 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB242

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0986

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 recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected in the indicators under Programme (2), the expenditure fell from \$182 per tonne in 2003 to \$165 in the 2005 estimate. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The decrease is mainly due to efficiency improvement, the civil service pay cuts and savings on contracting out.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB243

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

0987

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 :

Under the indicators of Programme (2), the estimated number of raids against illegal slaughtering for 2005 is 310. Why is it less than the actual number of 2004? What are the factors for projecting the number of raids?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The number of raids projected for 2005 has taken into account the actual number of raids in 2004 and the decreasing trend of illegal slaughtering activity in the territory. According to the Department's observations, illegal slaughtering in the territory has diminished substantially as a result of effective enforcement actions carried out over the past few years.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB244

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1144

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 :

It is expected that 618 permanent posts will be deleted in 2005-06. Please list their respective ranks, relevant duties and the ways they are to be deleted.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

A list showing the relevant details of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 is at Annex. These posts are mainly vacancies or projected vacancies arising from natural wastage or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

List of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Relevant Duties</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>	
			<u>Under Voluntary Retirement Scheme</u>	<u>Existing/ Projected Vacancies</u>
(a) <u>Programme 1 – Food Safety and Public Health</u>				
<u>Deletion of Posts</u>				
Health Inspector	Chief Health Inspector	To ensure food safety and provide pest control advice.	3	
	Senior Health Inspector		1	
	Health Inspector I/II		3	
Projectionist	Projectionist			1
Workman II	Workman II			4
		<i>Sub-total:</i>	7	5
<u>Offset by Creation of Posts</u>				
Health Inspector	Superintendent of Environmental Health		2	
		<i>Programme 1 Total:</i>	5	5

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Relevant Duties</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>	
			<u>Under Voluntary Retirement Scheme</u>	<u>Existing/Projected Vacancies</u>
<i>(b) Programme 2 – Environmental Hygiene and Related Services</i>				
<i>Deletion of Posts</i>				
Health Inspector	Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	To provide environmental hygiene/licensing services and associated support services.	1	
	Superintendent of Environmental Health		4	
	Chief Health Inspector		17	
	Senior Health Inspector		21	
	Health Inspector I/II		56	
Transport Services Officer	Transport Services Officer II			1
Special Driver	Special Driver			12
Artisan	Artisan			34
Ganger	Ganger			82
Property Attendant	Property Attendant			2
Workman I	Workman I			52
Workman II	Workman II			232
Police Inspector/ Superintendent	Superintendent of Police	To provide temporary expert support to the Centre for Health Protection.		1
Programme 2 Total:			99	416

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Relevant Duties</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>	
			<u>Under Voluntary Retirement Scheme</u>	<u>Existing/Projected Vacancies</u>
<i>(c) Programme 3 – Market Management and Hawker Control</i>				
<i>Deletion of Posts</i>				
Health Inspector	Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	To maintain a clean and hygienic environment in public markets and control on-street hawking activities.	1	
	Superintendent of Environmental Health		4	
	Chief Health Inspector		8	
	Senior Health Inspector		11	
	Health Inspector I/II		21	
Workman I	Workman I			43
Workman II	Workman II			5
Programme 3 Total:			45	48
Head 49 Grand Total:			149	469
			618	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB245

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1145

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

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 :

In May 2004, the Administration required that wages offered by government contractors to non-skilled workers should not be lower than the average market rates and the working hours of these workers should not be more than the average market level. Has the Administration assessed the effect of this requirement on departmental operational expenses? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

The monthly wage rates and working hours of non-skilled workers working on the Department's service contracts have all along been generally comparable to the prevailing market wage rates and working hours. The implementation of the new requirement by the Government in May 2004 has so far not had any significant impact on the operational expenses of the Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB246

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1051

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 conversion of designated aqua privies into flushing toilets by phases, what are the actual and estimated expenditures so involved from 2003-04 to 2005-06 respectively? What are the lists of the conversion items? Does the Administration have any plans and schedules to convert all the aqua privies into flushing toilets?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The total estimated cost of the conversion works for the 100 aqua privies, split into three phases, is \$92.6 million. We have not incurred any actual expenditure on the conversion project yet since Phase 1 of the conversion project just commenced in February 2005. The anticipated expenditure in 2005-06 is \$20 million. A list of the 100 aqua privies to be converted into flushing toilets under the conversion project is at Annex.

The Department has no plans to convert all aqua privies into flushing toilets as many are located in areas posing very difficult site conditions and technical constraints for carrying out conversion works. In considering whether to convert more aqua privies into flushing toilets, we will need to take into account factors like the usage rate, access to public sewerage system, and cost-effectiveness.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

List of 100 Aqua Privies for Conversion into Flushing Toilets

	Phase 1 (30 APs) (early 2005 – second half of 2006)	Phase 2A (40 APs) (end 2005 – early 2007)	Phase 2B (30 APs) (end 2005 – end 2007)
Islands	Law Uk Village, Lantau Lower Tong Fuk Village, Lantau Shui Hau, Lantau	Lo Wai Village, Lantau Shek Mun Kap, Tung Chung	Lutheran Village Site I, Cheung Chau Lutheran Village Site II, Cheung Chau Tai Kwai Wan, Cheung Chau Wai Tsai Street, Peng Chau
North	Lo Wai, Fanling Ma Wat Tsuen, Fanling Kat O Island, Sha Tau Kok Lai Chi Wo, Sha Tau Kok Luk Keng, Sha Tau Kok Nam Chung, Sha Tau Kok Wu Kau Tan, Sha Tau Kok	Tze Tong Tsuen, Fanling Yin Kong Site I, Sheung Shui Ying Pun San Tsuen, Sheung Shui	Ho Ka Yuen Kan Lung Wai, Fanling Ap Chau Site I, Sha Tau Kok Ho Sheung Heung Old Village Site I, Sheung Shui Ho Sheung Heung Old Village Site II, Sheung Shui Yin Kong Site II, Sheung Shui
Sai Kung	Pak Sha Wan Carpark Tai Mong Tsai Tai Po Tsai Tseng Lan Shue Sha Kiu	Ko Tong Ha Yeung Pak Sha O Po Toi O	Chek Keng Ham Tin Pik Uk Village Sai Wan Site II Tai Chung Hau Tai Miu Tso Wo Hang
Shatin	-	Shap Yi Watt Village	-
Tai Po	Tap Mun Ha Wai Tap Mun New Fisherman's Village Site I Tap Mun New Fisherman's Village Site III Tap Mun Pier Wong Yee Au Village	CARE Village Site I CARE Village Site II Chung Shun Lane Ha Hang Village Ng Tung Tsai Village She Shan Village Tai Po Tau Village Site I Tai Hang Village Site II	Po Sam Pai Village
Tsuen Wan	Fu Yung Shan San Tsuen Ku Hang Village	Chuen Lung Village Pai Min Kok Village Wo Yi Hop Village Yuen Tun Village	Hon Man Upper Village
Tuen Mun	Chung Uk Tsuen San Hing Tsuen Tsing Chuen Wai	-	-
Yuen Long	Kam Tin Yuen Kong Tsuen Ping Shan Heritage Trail Pok Wai Tsuen Shap Pat Heung Choi Uk Tsuen Sheung Tsuen Ku Miu	Hung Shui Kiu Tan Kwai Tsuen Lau Fau Shan Chung Pak Nai Site II Lau Fau Shan Sha Kiu Ha Wan Pat Heung Lo Uk Tsuen Pat Heung Wang Toi Shan Pat Heung Sheung Tsuen Pat Heung Tsang Uk Tsuen Ping Shan Hang Tau Tsuen Ping Shan Lam Hau Pok Ping Shan Sheung Cheung Wai San Tin Mei Po Tsuen San Tin Mei Po Lung Shan Pui Chung Hau Tsuen Shap Pat Heung Tai Wai Tsuen Shap Pat Heung Tin Liu Tsuen	Ha Tsuen San Wai Ha Tsuen Shi Kam Tin Shi Kam Tin Tze Tong Tsuen Lau Fau Shan Kau Nam Street Ping Shan Shui Bin Tsuen San Tin Pak Hok Chau San Tin Tai Sang Wai San Tin Tsing Lung Tsuen Shap Pat Heung Wong Uk Tsuen Wang Chau Yeung Uk Tsuen

	Shap Pat Heung Tung Tau Tsuen Shap Pat Heung Small Traders New Village Shap Pat Heung Pak Sha Tsuen Shap Pat Heung Ying Lung Wai	
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB247

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

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

1156

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under Subhead 700, the 2004-05 revised estimate is about \$278 million higher than the approved estimate for the same year. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The revised estimate for 2004-05 is expected to be \$278 million higher than the Approved estimate as the latter has not included the expenditure incurred on the following items, the funding for which was approved by the Finance Committee after the preparation of the 2004-05 Estimate :

- (a) an increase in the commitment for item 013 'Special improvement in environmental hygiene' to extend some 3,200 temporary jobs by \$270 million;
- (b) a new commitment item 436 'Ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers surrendering their licences with endorsement to sell live poultry or public market tenancies' at \$236.4 million; and
- (c) a new commitment item 437 'Re-training and one-off grants to assist affected live poultry retail workers' at \$83 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB248

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1157

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 :

Under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the estimated financial provision for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for 2005-06 is \$405,000. Why is there an increase of more than \$100,000 in comparison to the revised provision for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The estimated increase of \$135,000 for 2005-06 over the revised provision for 2004-05 is mainly to provide for the reimbursement of a gratuity of \$117,238 to a Head Gardener upon his retirement.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

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

HWFB249

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0923

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : On health promotion, the 2005-06 estimate for the subvented sector represents a significant decrease of 22.6% against the 2004-05 revised provision. What is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The aim of Programme (3), Health Promotion, is to promote health and increase health awareness in the community and among specific target groups. The work is discharged by the Department's various units in collaboration with other community groups. Under this Programme, the Department subvents activities of three organisations with the following details :

<u>Subvented organisation</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$M	\$M	\$M
Hong Kong St. John Ambulance	11.9	11.3	-0.6
Hong Kong Red Cross	0.8	0.8	-
Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH)	10.8	6.1*	-4.7*

* In addition to the \$6.1M allocated to COSH under Head 37, an amount of \$5M has been set aside for COSH to organise activities in respect of building a smoke-free community. The total subvention for COSH for 2005-06 would therefore be \$11.1M, representing an increase of \$0.3M when compared with 2004-05. The question of a reduction of subvention of 22.6% therefore does not arise. This latest development has not been reflected in the 2005-06 Estimates, which was prepared before the subvention arrangement for COSH for 2005-06 was finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB250

Question Serial No.

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Operational
expenses

0924

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (a) The overall financial provision for the Department of Health for the year is 2.5% less than the 2004-05 revised provision. Seven out of the eight Programmes have a decreased provision when compared with the previous year. As explained in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, the decrease is mainly due to the effect of the civil service pay adjustment. Apart from the civil service pay adjustment, what other items will have their expenditure reduced? Will it affect the services originally provided?
- (b) Under Programme (2) Disease Prevention, owing to the deletion of 48 permanent posts in the year, the 2005-06 estimate is reduced significantly by \$39M or 3.2%. Regarding these 48 posts, what are their ranks, annual salaries and scope of responsibilities? How will the work be distributed upon their deletion?
- (c) Under Programme (3) Health Promotion, the estimate is decreased by \$11.1M or 5%. Is such decrease due to reduced work programmes, in addition to the civil service pay adjustment and the deletion of one permanent post?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

- (a) The decrease in provision in 2005-06 is mainly due to the effect of 2005 civil service pay adjustment and implementation of various saving measures such as service re-organisation, service mode re-engineering and reduction in departmental expenses. Service standards will not be adversely affected.

- (b) In 2005-06, the Department of Health will create one post and delete 49 posts which will fall vacant through natural wastage under Programme (2). The net deletion is 48 posts. They are involved in services responsible for prevention and control of diseases, e.g. family health, social hygiene and laboratory support. The level of service will be maintained through re-engineering of operations and staff redeployment. The annual salaries of the posts to be deleted are at Annex.
- (c) Apart from the effect of the civil service pay adjustment and deletion of the post, the decreased provision for 2005-06 in Programme (3) is mainly due to full year effect of posts deleted in 2004-05 and \$4.5M reduction in non-recurrent subvention to the Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) in the year. The latter reduction is more than offset by the additional \$5M set aside for COSH to launch a community building programme to foster a smoke-free environment in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Posts to be deleted under Programme (2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Annual Salaries</u> (per post) (estimated at mid-point salary value as at 1.4.2005) \$	<u>No.</u>
Medical and Health Officer	651,060	5
Registered Nurse	289,620	5
Inoculator	152,280	6
Midwife	216,120	12
Dental Surgery Assistant	182,580	3
Senior Medical Technologist	622,440	1
Medical Laboratory Technician I	365,160	1
Medical Laboratory Technician II	216,120	1
Scientific Officer (Medical)	568,020	1
Typist	134,040	1
Artisan	142,860	1
Property Attendant	115,380	3
Workman II	106,512	9
	Total	<hr/> 49 <hr/>

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

HWFB251

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Programme :

Operational
expenses

0925

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please account for the following –

- (a) In the establishment ceiling 2005-06, it is indicated that there will be a deletion of 91 non-directorate posts during the year. And in the analysis of financial and staffing provision, it is stated that there would be a deletion of 48 permanent posts under Programme (2), 1 under Programme (3), 26 under Programme (4) and 6 under Programme (5), adding to a total of 81. At the same time, there will be a net creation of 10 posts under Programme (1), giving a total deletion of 71 posts. What Programme do the remaining 20 posts to be deleted belong to?
- (b) What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted in the year? What kinds of work support do they provide? By what way(s) will the Department achieve such deletion? On a voluntary basis or via other means?
- (c) Will there be any replacement for the posts to be deleted? If yes, will their ranks be lower or higher than the original posts?
- (d) Will such staff change affect the services currently provided by the Department of Health? Will any services be reduced consequently or even be transferred to other departments or cancelled?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

- (a) The 20 posts are for general grades staff working in the general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority (HA).

- (b) In 2005-06, the Department of Health will create 25 posts and delete 116 posts which will fall vacant through natural wastage. The net deletion is 91 posts. 20 posts are general grades posts in the general out-patient clinics of the HA. Others provide support to statutory functions, disease prevention, health promotion, curative care and rehabilitation programme. Details are at Annex.
- (c) The Department of Health will re-distribute the duties and does not have plans to recruit replacement staff.
- (d) The current level of service will be maintained through service re-engineering and staff redeployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Posts to be deleted in 2005-06

<u>Rank</u>	Number
Medical and Health Officer	12
Senior Nursing Officer	1
Registered Nurse	10
Midwife	12
Inoculator	6
Dental Officer	4
Dental Surgery Assistant	4
Pharmacist	6
Chief Dispenser	2
Radiographic Technician	1
Senior Medical Technologist	1
Medical Laboratory Technician I	1
Medical Laboratory Technician II	1
Scientific Officer (Medical)	1
Physiotherapist I	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	19
Clerical Assistant	1
Office Assistant	2
Telephone Operator	1
Typist	1
Supplies Assistant	1
Artisan	3
Property Attendant	8
Workman II	16
Total	<hr/> 116 <hr/>

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

HWFB252

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0998

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

- (1) Please set out the respective subventions to be granted under this Programme to various subvented organisations in 2005-06, and make a comparison with the 2004-05 revised provision.
- (2) What is/are the reason(s) for a reduction of over 20% in the subvention for the subvented sector under this Programme?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The subvention to various subvented organisations for 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:

<u>Subvented organisation</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$M	\$M	\$M
Hong Kong St. John Ambulance	11.9	11.3	-0.6
Hong Kong Red Cross	0.8	0.8	-
Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH)	10.8	6.1*	-4.7*

- * In addition to the \$6.1M allocated to COSH under Head 37, an amount of \$5M has been set aside for COSH to organise activities in respect of building a smoke-free community. The total subvention for COSH for 2005-06 would therefore be \$11.1M, representing an increase of \$0.3M when compared with 2004-05. The question of a reduction of subvention of over 20% therefore does not arise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB253

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

0999

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the government expenditure for the coming year on services provided to help smokers quit smoking? What is the anticipated number of smokers receiving such services? What is the figure for successful cases of smoking cessation?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Department of Health (DH) promotes smoking cessation through health education, cessation counselling telephone hotline and smoking cessation service in various clinics.

In 2005-06, it is estimated that about 3 000 calls will be handled by the cessation hotline and around 2 200 clients will utilise the smoking cessation service run by DH. The estimated cessation rate at one year is up to 30%. In 2005-06, the estimated expenditure on medication for smoking cessation is about \$1.4M.

Hospital Authority (HA) also provides smoking cessation service through 16 hospital and community-based smoking cessation and counselling centres. HA expects to recruit about 3 000 smokers during 2005-06. According to HA, the estimated cessation rate at one year is also up to 30%. As the smoking cessation programmes are provided as part of HA services, the expenditure involved in rendering such services cannot be separately identified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

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

HWFB254

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) : 700

Question Serial No.

General

1052

non-recurrent

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the programme to conduct a population health survey under item 726, please provide the details for its content, the breakdown of its estimated expenditure, working schedule and progress? What is/are the performance target(s) envisaged in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Department of Health has a plan to conduct a series of surveys on the health status of the Hong Kong population.

The first survey was conducted in 2003-04 to obtain information on physical health, psychological health and lifestyle practices. Two other surveys are also being conducted, one covers cardiovascular disease and its risk factors and another on child health. The former is expected to be completed by the end of 2005 and the latter, mid-2006. The costs of the three surveys are \$1.3M, \$0.9M and \$1.3M respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB255

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) : 700

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

General

non-recurrent

1053

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Smoke-free Workplace Programme under item 733, please provide the details for its content, the breakdown of its estimated expenditure, working schedule and progress. What is/are the performance target(s) envisaged in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Smoke-free Workplace Programme (SWP) commenced in January 2003. The aim is to educate and assist management and staff of companies to implement indoor smoke-free workplace policy. Activities of the SWP include: (1) training workshops to facilitate the managers and staff of workplace to implement the smoke-free policy; (2) roving exhibitions to promote smoke-free culture in the community; and (3) health education to the general public.

The programme was launched in early 2003. Up to end of 2004, over 5 100 staff from more than 1 800 companies have been trained on implementing smoke-free policy, about 120 roving exhibitions were conducted in public premises and 1.6 million items of health education materials were provided to the target population.

The provision for implementing the SWP is \$3.3M, comprising staff cost of \$3M and cost for production of health education materials of \$0.3M.

In 2005-06, it is planned to launch a series of media publicity campaigns to raise public awareness on the hazards of secondhand smoke. Training workshops will also be organised to equip the managers and staff of statutory no smoking areas with knowledge and skills to enforce the new legislative requirements. We aim to increase the participants' knowledge on hazards of secondhand smoke and enlist their support for the smoke-free workplace policy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB256

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1072

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide the breakdown of expenditure, provision allocated and percentage changes for various services provided by maternal and child health centres for the years from 2002-03 to 2005-06, and account for the corresponding percentage increases or decreases.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The services provided by the Maternal and Child Health Centers (MCHCs) include a comprehensive range of health promotion and disease prevention services for children below six; antenatal and postnatal care, family planning service to women of reproductive ages; and cervical cancer screening for women aged 25 to 64 years. There is no separate provision for each of the services as they are funded by the provision for the Maternal and Child Health Service as a whole. The expenditure/provision for these services is as follows:

<u>Financial</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>\$M</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>change</u>
2005-06	389.2	-2.9%
2004-05	401.0	-1.5%
2003-04	407.3	+3.4%
2002-03	394.0	-

The increased expenditure in 2003-04 was mainly due to the full year effect of providing a parenting programme and increased expenditure for conducting HIV tests for antenatal mothers. The decrease in 2004-05 and 2005-06 was mainly due to civil service pay adjustments for 2004 and 2005, and savings arising from rationalisation of services. The decrease was partly offset by the effect of launching the cervical screening service in March 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

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

HWFB257

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Programme :

Operational
expenses

1147

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the anticipated number of temporary staff to be employed in 2005-06? Please provide the breakdown by Programme, post, salary and contract period.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

Compared with 2004-05, it is estimated that the Department of Health will recruit about 32 additional full time contract staff in 2005-06. Details are at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Projected no. of additional contract staff to be employed by Department of Health in 2005-06

Programme Area	Job Title	Monthly Salary \$	No. of staff in different contract duration		
			Less than 1 year	1 – 2 year(s)	3 years
(1) Statutory Functions	Smoke-free Ambassador	6,300		2	
(1) Statutory Functions	Assistant Tobacco Control Officer	8,200		4	
(1) Statutory Functions	Tobacco Control Officer	10,000		2	
(1) Statutory Functions	Contract Engineer (Biomedical)	33,355 - 51,870		2	
(1) Statutory Functions	Project Officer (Chinese Medicine)	26,540		1	
(1) Statutory Functions	Chinese Medicine Assistant	17,145		4	

Programme Area	Job Title	Monthly Salary \$	No. of staff in different contract duration		
			Less than 1 year	1 – 2 year(s)	3 years
(2) Disease Prevention	Project Assistant	6,800	7		
(2) Disease Prevention	Assistant Manager	22,000 - 26,000		1	
(2) Disease Prevention	Service Administrator	77,000		1	
(2) Disease Prevention	Contract Medical Laboratory Technician	10,700		1	
(2) Disease Prevention	Contract Doctor	33,355 - 54,255			5
(3) Health Promotion	Research Officer (Public Health)	26,540		1	
(3) Health Promotion	Infectious Disease Physician	72,135			1
Total:			7	19	6

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

HWFB258

Question Serial No.

0956

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 :

According to the 2004-05 revised estimate and the 2005-06 estimate, the number of allied health staff will reduce from 4 817 to 4 784. 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. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The estimated reduction in the allied health staff in 2005-06 is a result of natural wastage and tight control on the replacement of staff. The reduction of 33 allied health posts will involve a variety of grades and ranks, including Dental Technician, Dietitian, Dispenser, Medical Laboratory Technician, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Prosthetist-Orthotist and Radiographer. The basic salary of these posts ranges from \$11,170 to \$17,145. The staff concerned will be widely distributed among HA hospitals.

Despite the anticipated drop in staff numbers, HA will ensure that the quality of public health services be maintained through various initiatives including strengthening the ambulatory care services to reduce reliance on inpatient services, rationalization of existing services, and appropriate use of new technology. In addition, allied health triage categories will be implemented at all outpatient departments to ensure priority treatment of urgent cases and to encourage non-urgent patients receiving services from private and community providers.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB259

Question Serial No.

0957

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

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is mentioned that the Administration will work out and implement measures, in conjunction with the Hospital Authority, to deal with the increasing number of Mainland visitors seeking medical treatment in public hospitals in Hong Kong. Please list out the relevant details, the expenditure and the manpower to be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The possible measures under consideration by the Administration to deal with the increasing number of Mainland visitors seeking medical treatment in public hospitals in Hong Kong include –

- (1) Raise medical fees for non-eligible persons (NEPs) above cost, which can be close to or even higher than charges by the private sector. This includes the introduction of minimum package charge (e.g. for obstetric admissions) to discourage premature discharge against medical advice;
- (2) Increase NEP's deposit for hospital admission (Implemented in November 2004);
- (3) Require NEPs to pay an advance deposit for non-emergency services;
- (4) Impose a surcharge on outstanding fees;
- (5) Stop providing non-emergency services to NEPs before settlement of outstanding fees;
- (6) Stop providing non-emergency services to NEPs who are not the spouse or children under 18 years of age of a Hong Kong Identity Card holder; and

As the above possible measures, except (2), are still being studied and evaluated, the HA cannot provide at this stage an accurate estimate on the additional expenditure or manpower that may be involved for their implementation. However, since most of them would only involve certain changes to existing operational procedures, there should not be any major requirement on resources.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB260

Question Serial No.

0958

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

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the Bureau will oversee the operation of the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- of the details of the relevant plan;
- the ways to enhance infection control measures in hospitals and clinics; and
- the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (1) To provide assistance to families affected by the unique and unprecedented outbreak of SARS in Hong Kong from March to June 2003, a \$150 million Trust Fund for SARS was set up in November 2003. The Fund provides special ex-gratia payment ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000 to each eligible family member or family with deceased SARS patient(s). Special ex-gratia financial assistance of up to an accumulative total of \$500,000 per patient would also be given to eligible recovered SARS patients or 'suspected' SARS patients treated with steroids who suffer from dysfunction. The special ex-gratia financial assistance is disbursed on a monthly basis and subject to six-monthly renewal.

Up to 29 March 2005, a total of 1 104 applications have been received, with 318 deceased ones and 786 recovered/'suspected' ones. Among them, a total of 866 applications have been approved involving a total of \$113.5 million, with 250 deceased ones at \$81.2 million and 616 recovered/'suspected' ones at \$32.3 million. We have finished processing all applications under the deceased category and are now mainly processing the six-monthly renewal applications for the recovered and 'suspected' categories.

- (2) The Hospital Authority (HA) has taken a number of measures for enhancing infection control in public hospitals and clinics. The major measures in this regard include –
 - Strengthening infection control procedures in all facets of operation in public hospitals and

clinics and promulgating infection control guidelines to frontline staff;

- Enhancing the infrastructure on infection control in public hospitals;
- Devoting additional manpower resources to infection control;
- Enhancing isolation facilities in public hospitals, which include the provision of an additional 1 415 isolation beds in 14 acute hospitals and the construction of a new infectious disease block at Princess Margaret Hospital;
- Improving autopsy facilities in public hospitals for better infection control;
- Setting up of the Infectious Disease Control Training Centre (IDCTC) to reinforce training of frontline staff on infectious diseases management and infection control;
- Implementing the Influenza Vaccination Programme which is targeted at patient groups and health care workers in collaboration with the Centre for Health Protection;
- Drawing up a contingency plan to deal with outbreaks of infectious diseases; and
- Maintaining a high level of preparedness for possible outbreaks of infectious disease, which include conducting drills from time to time and stockpiling of personal protective equipment (PPE).

- (3) It is very difficult to estimate the full expenditure made by the Hospital Authority (HA) on strengthening infection control in public hospitals and clinics. A major reason is that it is impossible to accurately quantify the amount of time spent by hospital staff at all levels on duties and tasks in relation to infection control. However, the amounts of additional funding earmarked by the Administration for strengthening infection control in public hospitals and clinics are readily available. These include the following –

Measure	Amount (\$million)
Funding for strengthening infectious disease control (\$250 million per year from 2004-05 to 2008-09)	250
Funding for strengthening infectious disease control and meeting the additional demand for medical services arising from an ageing population and population growth for 2005-06 (Note 1)	550
Funding from the HA Training and Welfare Fund for the setting up of the Infectious Diseases Control Training Centre and for the provision of training on infectious disease control over a period of 5 years	150
Provision of 1 415 additional isolation beds in 14 public acute hospitals	550
Construction of a new infectious disease block at Princess Margaret Hospital	538
Improvement works at autopsy facilities in 12 public hospitals for better infectious disease control	68 (Note 2)

Note 1 : The funding will mostly be used to employ of additional staff. The need for additional staff arises partly from the need to adhere strictly to infection control requirements (which demand extra time from each staff hence more staff for the same volume of work with infection control procedures properly observed) and partly from the general increase in demand for medical services. As the additional staff to be employed will be deployed in the provision of services in general, it is not possible to quantify the amount of time spent on duties and procedures in relation to infection control. Consequently it is not possible to delineate the portion in the funding that will be devoted to infectious disease control.

Note 2 : The amount is an estimation at this stage. An application to the Finance Committee for funding will be made after the project estimate has been finalized.

Signature	Mrs Carrie Yau
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 261

Question Serial No.

0980

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 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 advise the annual expenditure and items of expenses of, as well as the number of people who benefit from the Capacity Building Mileage Programme.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

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 and a Steering Committee has been set up under the Women's Commission to steer the overall direction of the CBMP.

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. According to the approved budget, the estimated annual expenditure for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is \$4.95 million, \$4.05 million, and \$3.43 million. Major expenditure 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 the number of classes is kept to the minimal to make it easier for women of different needs to participate. In 2004-05, 12 radio courses and three face-to-face courses were offered as planned, and a total of 3,480 participants had registered in the supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses, which is above the estimated enrollment of 2,100 participants in the first year. In addition to these registered participants, there are many others who benefit through listening to the radio programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 262

Question Serial No.

0981

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 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 a breakdown of the items and the expenditure of the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist".

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

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 a number of policy areas or programmes.

2. All bureaux and departments have already designated a senior officer (a directorate officer in most cases) as the "Gender Focal Point" within their respective organisations. These Gender Focal Points 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 HWFB and the Women's Commission.

3. To facilitate the gender mainstreaming process, gender-related training is provided to civil servants to raise their awareness and equip them with basic gender mainstreaming techniques.

4. In 2005-06, we shall continue to roll out the Checklist to more policy/programme areas on an incremental basis, including but not limited to the pilot "Head-Start Programme" for children

aged 0-5, specialized support for young persons with early sign of mental health problem, provision of infirmary care services in a non-hospital setting and combating domestic violence.

5. Plans are also at hand to form a core group of selected Gender Focal Points to devise plans or strategies to encourage bureaux/ departments for proactive application of the Checklist. We also seek to implement the evaluation mechanism, which include focus group discussions with the Gender Focal Points to gather feedback and compilation of a booklet on good practices on gender mainstreaming. Gender-related training would continue to be provided to civil servants.

6. Resources incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiatives have been absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments. At the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau level, the organisation and coordination work has been absorbed by existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 263

Question Serial No.

0982

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 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 a breakdown of the expenditure and focus of work of the three identified priority areas of action of Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, i.e. enabling environment, empowerment of women, and public education, for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau provides executive and secretariat support for the Women's Commission through a dedicated team of nine permanent staff (including officers and personal secretaries) and four non-civil service contract staff to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong. In terms of creation of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, different working groups are set up under the Commission and the staff concerned provides secretariat support required.

The revised estimate for 2004-05 is \$11.3 million under Head 149. In 2004-05, in respect of creation of an enabling environment, the focus of work was to continue to roll out the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist to more policy or programme areas, to provide gender-related training for civil servants, and to liaise with local and international organizations including a planning forum on the future direction of work of the Women's Commission etc. In respect of the empowerment of women, the focus was to enhance women's participation in Government advisory and statutory bodies and support the Commission in the successful implementation of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme etc. In

respect of public education, a number of publicity and public education programmes were launched, including release of a TV drama series and a forum on preventing sexual harassment in universities organized in collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Commission etc.

It should be noted that costs incurred in carrying out the gender mainstreaming initiatives have been absorbed by the participating bureaux and departments. Moreover, many of the activities conducted by the Women's Commission have been done in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other parties and by mobilizing resources in the community.

In 2005-06, a provision of \$16.3 million will be made available under this programme area. In addition to the above-mentioned on-going initiatives, we would provide support to the Women's Commission to, amongst others –

- (a) publish a declaration/booklet on zero tolerance of family violence and set up a district gender focal point network;
- (b) formulate strategies to promote the importance of quality parenting in fostering nurturing and caring families;
- (c) enhance gender awareness in school education, the media and the general public; and
- (d) organize activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 264

Question Serial No.

0983

Head: 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 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 surveys, studies and major programmes to be conducted under this Programme, as well as the required expenditure for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The surveys and research commissioned with the advice on the Women's Commission were completed in or before 2003 and there were no outstanding items to be completed in 2004-05. In 2005-06, a provision of \$16.3 million is provided to support the work of the Commission, of which about \$1 million is made available for conducting surveys and research on women-related issues, including but not limited to quality parenting as well as a family friendly practices to be jointly commissioned with the Equal Opportunities Commission. We would work closely with the Women's Commission and the parties concerned in devising detailed plans during the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7.4.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Replv Serial No.

HWFB265

Question Serial No.

0996

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 progress of the implementation of the registration system for proprietary Chinese medicine?
How much resources will the Administration spend on this area and what are the details? Please
provide breakdowns of the figures.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

The registration system for proprietary Chinese medicines was launched on 19 December 2003. All proprietary Chinese medicines are to be registered with the Chinese Medicines Board (CMB) of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong before they are allowed to be imported to, sold or manufactured in Hong Kong. The Chinese Medicine Council has received about 16000 applications and the registration is expected to complete in about two years.

The provision in 2005-2006 for registration of proprietary Chinese medicines, which is around \$10 million, is made under Head 37: Department of Health. The number of staff deployed in 2005-2006 is as follows:

Rank	Full-time Equivalent
Senior Pharmacist	1
Pharmacist	10
Chinese Medicine Officer	1
Assistant Chinese Medicine Officer	4.5
Administrative Assistant	1
Dispenser	3
Clerical staff	19
Total	39.5

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 6 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Replv Serial No.

HWFB266

Question Serial No.

0997

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:

Regarding the provision of Chinese medicine outpatient services in the public health care sector, how much resources will be allocated for this purpose in this year? What is the direction of its further development? Is there any provision for practical training in Chinese medicine?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply

Three Chinese Medicine (CM) clinics are now in operation under the Hospital Authority (HA). The total provision for these clinics in 2005-06 is about \$13M.

The Administration has committed to open at least three more CM clinics in 2005-06. Capital subvention of \$15.484M is earmarked under Head 708 Subhead 8049MM (Capital Works Reserve Fund) for setting up the clinics. The HA will continue to adopt a collaborative approach with reputable and experienced non-government organizations/charitable organizations in developing these clinics. It is the Administration's intention that the new clinics will operate on a self-financing basis, subject to negotiation between the HA and interested NGOs/charitable organizations. To provide local CM graduates with more training opportunities, it is the Administration's intention to require each of these clinics to employ at least five local CM graduates. The Administration will provide separate provision for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB267

Question Serial No.

1042

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 2005-06, the Hospital Authority will continue to improve population health through community-based health care delivery. What are the details of the plan? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Plan

In view of the challenges of an ageing population with an increasing burden of chronic illness and disabilities, the Hospital Authority (HA) would continue to improve population health through a community-based approach for the delivery of health care services. With the adoption and continued development of this approach, the HA aims to decrease the overall disease burden in the community, enhance health care service delivery in the community setting, and facilitate the participation of the community at large in taking better care of their health. An improvement to the overall health status of the community would in turn lower dependency on hospital care and make the health care system more sustainable in the long run. The relevant initiatives to be taken by the HA in 2005-06 are set out in the paragraphs below.

(1) Decrease disease burden in the community

- Launch community-wide health programmes (e.g. hypertension awareness and fall prevention) to promote awareness of common diseases, which have a high morbidity rate but are amenable to effective prevention.
- Provide on-going health promotion and health protection services through the general and specialist out-patient clinics, smoking cessation clinics, patient resource centres in hospitals and the Health InfoWorld located in the HA Head Office.
- Support the Government's Head Start Programme for children up to the age of five.
- Develop and implement a computerised case notification and outbreak reporting system for notifiable and other communicable diseases.
- Collaborate with the Centre for Health Protection to enhance the preparedness of our health care

system for the possible emergence of an influenza pandemic.

(2) Enhance health care service delivery in community setting

- Further strengthen community outreach services with additional manpower and the implementation of home care protocols.
- Improve the effectiveness of support given to elderly residents of a hundred Old Aged Homes through the Visiting Medical Officer Scheme.
- Facilitate the sharing of patient information and improve the continuity of care between the public and private sector (e.g. through the development of a comprehensive registry of private practitioners in collaboration with the medical associations and an enhancement of HA's existing information technology infrastructure and databases)
- Prepare for the transfer of some 200 stable psychiatric long stay patients to a new long stay care home in the community.
- Explore with the social welfare sector further opportunities in rationalizing infirmary care.

(3) Facilitate participation of community at large in the care of individual's health and sickness

- Roll out a computerised Nursing Discharge Summary to facilitate information flow to community carers.
- Enlist the support of non-Government organisations and private medical practitioners for HA's community-wide health programmes (e.g. hypertension awareness and fall prevention).
- Enhance patients' knowledge of diseases and possible complications that may arise from the treatment procedures (e.g. through the rollout of patient education packages).
- Contribute to the development of the district-based Healthy City movement (e.g. the Health Promoting Schools and Quality Old Aged Home Schemes) in collaboration with partners in other sectors and Government Departments.

Estimated expenditure

In respect of the resources committed within the HA, the estimated expenditure on community outreach services in 2005-06 is \$543.1 million, which has grown steadily over the past few years. However, the provision of health promotion and health protection services is an integral part of the work of various HA departments and units, such as the general and specialist outpatient clinics, the smoking cessation clinics, the patient resource centres and the Health InfoWorld, which are also responsible for other duties. It is, therefore, not possible to clearly identify the specific amounts of resources that will be applied by these departments/units on the above programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB268

Question Serial No.

1043

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 :

As regards geriatric services, the number of Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) attendances for the revised estimate for 2004-05 is 2600 less than that of the original VMO Scheme while such number for the estimate for 2005-06 remains at 81400. What is the reason for that? What is the estimated expenditure for this Scheme?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Hospital Authority (HA) started the VMO/Community Geriatric Assessment Team Collaboration Scheme (the Scheme) in October 2003. The Scheme recruits private doctors as VMOs to provide on-site medical consultations to residential care homes for the elderly on a part-time basis. Taking into account the number of private doctors joining the Scheme and the average number of attendances under the Scheme in the initial few months, HA originally projected that the number of attendances under the Scheme would be around 84 000 in 2004-05. Now and then, there were VMOs withdrawing from the Scheme for various reasons. There were about 77 VMOs under the Scheme as at March 2005, as compared to about 90 at the initial stage. In view of the fewer number of VMOs under the Scheme, HA has revised the projected number of attendances to 81 400 for 2004-05. As it is uncertain whether the total number of VMOs in 2005-06 will be more than the existing number of VMOs, HA has therefore kept the projected number of attendances under the Scheme for 2005-06 at 81 400.

It is estimated that around \$10M will be spent on the Scheme annually. However, the actual expenditure may vary from year to year, depending on the number of VMOs being recruited and the time contributed by them on the Scheme in a particular year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

1 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB269

Question Serial No.

1057

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 :

One of the initiatives of the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2005-06 is to facilitate the development of family medicine. Please provide the details of the initiative and its timetable, expenditure, manpower and expected effectiveness.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) will implement the following programmes in 2005-06 to facilitate the development of Family Medicine (FM) –

Measures	Timetable
(1) Training of family physicians:	
a. Recruit new medical graduates for basic FM training (around 50 places).	July 2005
b. Provide non-specialist residents currently in general practice the opportunity to receive specialist FM training (around 20 places).	July 2005
c. Recruit 4 FM Resident Specialists cum Trainers to enlarge HA's training capacity for FM and enhance supervision of service at general outpatient clinics (GOPCs).	July 2005
d. Give doctors who have completed the basic FM training the opportunity to work as Service Residents in GOPCs (around 30 posts). These doctors can make use of the job opportunity to pursue higher FM training leading to specialist cum trainer qualifications.	July 2005

Measures	Timetable
e. Introduce additional specialty training modules (e.g. attachment to community-based geriatrics, hospice, psychiatry or gynaecology services) recognized by the Hong Kong College of Family Medicine to meet 25% (i.e. 6 months) of their 2-year community-based training requirements for up to 50 community-based FM trainees. This will enhance the coverage and depth of FM training in Hong Kong and supplement the training provided within HA facilities.	Since 2004
f. Encourage and assist FM trainees who have completed training and started practice to serve as Visiting Medical Officers (VMO) for Old Aged Homes.	July 2005
(2) Create 4 additional Associate Consultant posts to strengthen HA's service, training and infrastructure development in FM	April 2005
(3) Promote a pluralistic primary care model based on multi-disciplinary and multi-professional collaboration in GOPCs. Measures include the introduction of sessional consultations by community specialists (medicine, paediatrics, gynaecology, and FM) in GOPC setting and of Nurse Clinic sessions for the management of chronic diseases (hypertension, wound care, etc). The objective of this service model is to improve the quality of care in the management of chronically ill patients in stable conditions through a seamless, holistic and collaborative care model and reduce their reliance on specialist and inpatient services.	Since 2004
(4) Extend HA's Clinical Management System and computerized Outpatient Administration System to the remaining GOPCs (around 14 clinics) to achieve better integration of patient information between primary care and other specialist outpatient services	Starting from July 2005
(5) Introduce in stages a patient-held medical record system in all GOPCs within the next two years. This serves to improve communication of patient information among various health service providers in the community and facilitate better interface between the public and private sectors.	Since 2004

The expenditure for the above programmes is estimated to be around \$92.8 million per year, and an one-off expenditure of around \$10 million for the computerisation programme at GOPCs. In respect of the expected effectiveness, the provision of basic and specialist training on FM is an investment for the future which is not expected to yield dividends immediately, but it is the key for ensuring the long-term development of quality FM services in Hong Kong. The promotion of a pluralistic primary care model in GOPCs provides an important platform for FM to gain a more significant presence in the public medical sector. It is expected to produce benefits in terms of both better management of patients with chronic illness and greater overall cost effectiveness for the HA. Some of the GOPCs are already connected to HA's Clinical Management System and Outpatient Administration System, and this has been proven to be effective in integrating patient information between primary care and other specialist outpatient services. The HA running a pilot project on the patient-held medical record system and will closely monitor and assess its effectiveness.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB270

Question Serial No.

1071

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

Regarding the working out and implementation of measures, in conjunction with the Hospital Authority (HA), to deal with the increasing number of Mainland visitors seeking medical treatment in public hospitals in Hong Kong, please provide a breakdown on the Mainland visitors seeking medical treatment in Hong Kong from 2001-02 to 2005-06 by the illnesses for which they sought treatment, their numbers, the cost of treatment, the expenditures on and revenues from providing treatment, and the losses that HA suffered due to their arrears of payment after treatment.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

Information on Mainland visitors (who are Non-Eligible Persons for the purpose of public medical charges) seeking treatment from public hospitals and clinics in Hong Kong in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are provided in the table below –

Year	Estimated Number of Cases	Revenue Received (\$ million)	Amounts of Fees Outstanding (\$ million)	Estimated Cost of Service Provided (\$ million)
2003/04	56 288	81.7	40.9	161.3
2004/05 (Projected figures)	69 149	101.3	67.6	158.5

Note : The number of cases include hospital admissions, and attendances at Accident & Emergency Departments and Outpatient Clinics. The estimated cost of service provided is calculated on the basis of the average unit costs of the relevant services.

Information on Mainland visitors seeking treatment before 2003-04 are not provided because they cannot be compared directly with the information provided above. The definition of Eligible Persons (EPs) was revised in early 2003. EPs are currently defined as a holder of Hong Kong Identity Card (HKID Card) and children who are Hong Kong residents and under 11 years of age. Before the revision, EPs were defined as a holder of HKID Card and the spouse and children under the age of 11 of a holder of HKID Card. As for the number of cases in 2005-06, it is not possible to make any meaningful projection because the number of Mainland visitors seeking treatment in public hospitals

and clinics in Hong Kong each year is affected by many factors. The Hospital Authority (HA) does not have an estimated figure on the number of such patients for 2005-06.

A breakdown the number of cases of Mainland visitors seeking treatment by their illness is not available as HA does not collate such data. Instead, a breakdown by the medical specialty / department from which treatment was rendered is available and is provided in the table below –

<u>Medical Specialty / Department</u>	Estimated Number of Cases for 2003-04	Estimated Number of Cases for 2004-05
Gynaecology	1 534	1 483
Medicine	2 300	2 472
Nursery	225	331
Obstetrics	17 626	22 234
Orthopaedics	764	691
Paediatrics	1 127	1 241
Surgery	1 016	959
Oncology	1 975	1 071
Accident & Emergency Departments	22 119	30 817
General Outpatient Clinics	1 879	1 660
Others	5 723	6 190
Total	56 288	69 149

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB271

Question Serial No.

1207

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 : One of the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06 under the Programme is that the Bureau will “assist the Central Policy Unit to conduct studies on financial security for the elderly to meet challenges posed by population ageing”. Will the Administration inform us of the direction of the studies, the proposed work plan as well as the staffing and funding arrangements concerned?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : It was mentioned in the 2005 Policy Address that the Central Policy Unit (CPU) would conduct research to lay the groundwork for dealing with the financial implications of population ageing. An Expert Panel on Financial Security in Old Age has been formed by CPU to develop a research agenda on financial security in old age. The Panel is chaired by Prof. Nelson Chow of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong and its members include experts from various related fields.

The Panel will study the sustainability of the three pillars of retirement protection¹ and the financial disposition and retirement planning of current and future generations of older persons. Some initial findings are expected to be available by early 2006. The initiative will be funded by CPU's approved provision. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit support the initiative by providing background information and advice as necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs. Carrie YAU _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 6 April 2005 _____

¹ In the 1990s, the World Bank recommended a three-pillar approach for retirement protection. In Hong Kong, the first pillar refers to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) and Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). The second pillar refers to a privately managed Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and the third pillar refers to voluntary private savings.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 272

Question Serial No.

1163

Head: 149- Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 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 estimate for 2005-06 with regard to the above Programme will be increased by 44.2%. It is mainly due to the anticipated increase in the expenses for organising programmes, liaison with local women's groups, participation in major international forums, and conducting surveys and studies.

1. What are those programmes referring to? What is the sum involved in each of those programmes?
2. What are the surveys and studies to be conducted? What are the details and how much money will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

In 2005-06, a provision of \$16.3 million will be made available under this programme area. In addition to on-going initiatives, we will provide support to the Women's Commission to, amongst others –

- (a) publish a declaration/booklet on zero tolerance of family violence and set up a district gender focal point network;
- (b) formulate strategies to promote the importance of quality parenting in fostering nurturing and caring families;
- (c) enhance gender awareness in school education, the media and the general public; and
- (d) organize activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference

on Women.

The work would be carried out by the secretariat of the Women's Commission and any additional costs required would be absorbed by existing resources. It is not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of the provision on individual items at the moment.

- (2) In 2005-06, of the draft estimate of \$16.3 million, about \$1 million is made available for conducting surveys and research on women-related issues such as quality parenting, as well as a study related to family friendly practices to be jointly commissioned with the Equal Opportunities Commission. We would work closely with the Women's Commission and the parties concerned in devising detailed plans during the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 7.4.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

HWFB273

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

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

1164

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 “adoption of multi-measures to cope with the stringent financial condition”, please provide us the details and advise whether introduction of new types of medical fees will be involved and considered. If yes, how much human and other resources have been or will be spent on the study by the Hospital Authority?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) has adopted various measures in the past including the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme introduced in 2003, contracting out of non-core services, service rationalization and other efficiency enhancement measures, to cope with the stringent financial situation. In 2005-06, to address the budgetary constraint and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the public health care system, the HA will continue to adopt stringent control measures to manage the spending level and to consider several long-term initiatives, as follows:

- (a) service rationalization initiatives – continue to enhance the productivity and implement savings initiatives in the system through, inter alia, moving towards more ambulatory / community care services, cluster-based service rationalization measures and other business support initiatives; and
- (b) revenue generation / funding initiatives – explore means of increasing revenue sources, including review of charges for private patients and non-entitled person, increase of existing fees, introduction of new fees and other non-medical income as well as discussing / revisiting the funding basis with the Government.

We are conducting a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident & emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. In the review, we would also examine the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. It is likely that the review will involve an increase in medical fees having regard to affordability of members of the public.

The inter-agency coordination and research work arising from the fee review will be absorbed by existing staff responsible for the health portfolio in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. The financial and staffing provision for such coordination and research work cannot be separately identified. \$3 million has been allocated to the Hospital Authority to outsource part of the research work relating to affordability and willingness to pay.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06 Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB274

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

1178

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 2004-05. Has the Government assessed whether the subvention to be allocated to the HA in 2005-06 will be sufficient to cover its operating costs and whether any deficit will be incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The projected operating expenditure for the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004-05 is about \$29.6 billion and the projected overall deficit for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are approximately \$300 million and \$670 million respectively. With the balance of around \$1 billion in HA's general reserve as at 1 April 2004, the funding available for use by the HA will be sufficient to meet its operating expenditure in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie Yau

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

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

HWFB275

Question Serial No.

1179

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 list out the first and second priority patients' median waiting time for first appointment at specialist clinics by specialties such as medicine, surgery, paediatrics, etc.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The estimated median waiting time (in weeks) for first appointment at specialist outpatient clinics by specialties for 2004-05 is as follows:

Specialty	First Priority Patients	Second Priority Patients
Ophthalmology	<1	4
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	<1	4
Otorhinolaryngology	<1	4
Paediatrics	<1	4
Gynecology	1	5
Medicine	1	5
Surgery	1	5
Psychiatry	1	6

The information for 2005-06 is not available.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie Yau

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB276

Question Serial No.

1180

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 a breakdown of the bed occupancy rate and the length of stay by various specialties, such as Medicine, Surgery and Paediatrics, etc.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The occupancy rate and average length of stay for major specialties in public hospitals between April 2004 and February 2005 are set out in the table below –

Specialty	Occupancy rate (%)	Average length of stay (days)
Medicine	91	6.4
Surgery	81	4.8
Orthopaedics and Traumatology	86	8.5
Obstetrics	70	3.0
Gynaecology	72	2.7
Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine	66	3.9
Psychiatry	79	105
Overall (including all other specialties)	82	8.8

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date _____ 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 277

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

0994

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What will be the amount of resources reserved for the testing of food for Beta-agonists, and the monitor of the use of seven prohibited chemicals as well as ten agricultural and veterinary chemicals which are under control?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

For 2005-06, a total financial provision of about \$0.8 m has been reserved for analyzing beta-agonists (including clenbuterol and salbutamol) in food. As regards the analysis of the seven prohibited and ten agricultural and veterinary chemicals (clenbuterol and salbutamol are two of the prohibited chemicals), a total financial provision of about \$4.0 m has been reserved. At present, the Government Laboratory provides a full range of analytical services for monitoring of seven prohibited and 37 agricultural and veterinary chemicals controlled under the existing regulations at a cost of about \$8.0 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 278

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Testing

0995

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What will be the amount of resources reserved to test the food for genetically-modified components?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A total financial provision of about \$2.0 m has been reserved for the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in food products and the associated method development work in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr T L TING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB279

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

0965

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, the provision for 2005-06 is 20% less than the revised estimate for 2004-05. The Administration indicates that the reduction is attributable mainly to the effect of salary adjustments in line with the civil service pay cut and reduced capital expenditure. Please advise-

- (a) the percentage of reduction of capital expenditure to the overall reduction in provision for this programme?
- (b) the services affected by the reduction in financial provision?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) As compared with the revised estimate for 2004-05, the provision in 2005-06 will decrease by \$6.8 million, of which \$5.4 million (about 79%) was due to reduction in capital expenditure as one rebus is due for replacement in 2005-06 (estimated cost at \$0.6 million), versus ten rebus in 2004-05 (total cost at \$6 million).

The remaining \$1.4 million reduction in provision for this Programme is due to the effect of salary adjustments in line with the civil service pay cut in 2005 and savings in departmental expenses.

- (b) The reasons for the reduction in financial provision have been explained above. The service level of rebus services will not be affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB280

Question Serial No.

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : -

0826

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please explain for the reasons for the significant increase in the number of passenger trips for rebus scheduled routes and dial-a-ride service in 2004 as compared to 2003. What are the reasons for estimating a drop in passenger trips in 2005 ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : The significant increase of 22% in rebus passenger trips in 2004 over 2003 was due to the following reasons –

- (a) patronage in 2003 as affected by SARS was particularly low, about 8% lower than that in 2002;
- (b) following SARS, social activities were revived and increased in number in 2004, increasing the demand for rebus services; and
- (c) a series of efficiency measures, including re-organisation of scheduled route services and modification of the booking system for dial-a-ride services was implemented in 2004, resulting in an improvement in the efficiency of rebus services.

With the stabilisation of the number of social activities, we estimate that patronage in 2005 will not be as high as that in 2004 but there will still be about 10% increase as compared with that in 2002 (i.e. the situation before SARS).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

HWFB281

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

Question Serial No.

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :000
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

1276

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 Hong Kong, the problem of population ageing is worsening with public demand for medical services ever increasing. However, the Administration's provision for the Hospital Authority (HA) has been decreasing annually. For example, the total provision for 2005-06 (\$27.272 b) represents a reduction of 3.3% (\$940m) as compared with the revised provision for 2004-05 (\$28.212 b).

- (1) As such, has the Administration assessed whether the HA has sufficient resources to meet its ever increasing medical expenditure?
- (2) Will the Administration consider expediting the study on health care financing to provide an early solution to the problem?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) The Government and HA have taken a number of measures to address the problem posed by an ageing population and increasing medical costs. It has all along been our direction to develop more cost-effective ambulatory and community care programmes and to replace, where appropriate, in-patient treatment by ambulatory and out-patient services. Apart from improving the continuity of care, this approach enables HA to provide more cost-effective delivery of health care services and reduce demand on the more expensive in-patient services. This is in line with international development in patient care and is also financially more sustainable. The Government and HA have also been developing effective preventive programmes to minimize the incidence of disease such as influenza vaccination programme, fall prevention programme and hypertension control programme. Other measures adopted include service rationalization, enhancement of public-private interface, exploration of opportunities for private partnership in non-core business and exploration of alternative revenue generation measures. The Government will also review the funding basis for HA with a view to arriving at a more sustainable arrangement.

- (2) The Government has reconstituted the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) to consider health care service models and health care financing options. The current plan of the HMDAC is to issue a consultation document on possible health care financing options by the end of 2005 for public consultation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie Yau</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>4 April 2005</u>

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

HWFB282

Question Serial No.

1277

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : 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 :

1. The Administration first introduced accident and emergency (A&E) charges in a bid to reduce the utilisation rate of the accident and emergency departments. However, as shown in the section of Indicators, the Administration expects the attendance rate for accident and emergency services in 2005-06 to be 2 103 000, an increase of 1.59% as compared with the 2004-05 Revised Estimate of 2 070 000. In this connection, does the introduction of accident and emergency charges fail to achieve the Administration's intended results?
2. Could the Administration state the yearly expenditure of accident and emergency services for the past five years?
3. What is the administration expenditure incurred after the introduction of accident and emergency charge?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

1. The A&E attendance in 2004 was 1 980 608. Attendance for the one-year period just before implementation of the A&E charge (i.e. November 2001 to October 2002) was 2 350 503. Comparison of the attendance figures in these two periods revealed that overall A&E attendance dropped by 15.7% after introduction of charging. It also revealed that non-urgent attendance fell by 44.3% and that the fall in attendance for semi-urgent and non-urgent patients accounted for 90.2% of the drop in attendance. Apart from charging, A&E attendance is affected by seasonal fluctuation in disease pattern, patients' preference, changes in health service delivery model, increase in health care need by the aging population, and price differential between A&E Departments and private general practitioners. (In 2003, the A&E attendance was also affected by the SARS outbreak. Therefore the 2003 A&E attendance figures are not used for comparison purpose here.) The estimated number of attendance of 2 103 000 in 2005-06 is still 10.5% lower than that in the period from November 2001 to October 2002. We believe that, without

implementation of charging, semi-urgent and non-urgent attendances would have been higher.

However, as semi-urgent and non-urgent cases still make up a considerable portion of the A&E first attendances in 2004-05 (61.7% are semi-urgent and 8.4% are non-urgent), we are considering whether a further increase in the A&E charge is warranted to direct these patients to other services and free up the A&E services for those who have a genuine need.

2. The requested information for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is not readily available. The costs of A&E services from 2001-02 to 2003-04 and the projected costs for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are listed in the following table:

Year	Total cost (\$M)
2001-02	1,470.8
2002-03	1,490.1
2003-04	1,526.2
2004-05	1,400.5 (Projected)
2005-06	1,365.4 (Projected)

3. The costs for administering the A&E charge are absorbed into the overall administrative costs of providing medical services and no separate estimation of the costs is available.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**HWFB283****CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1278

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. & title) : --
Welfare and Food BureauProgramme : (9) Subvention : Hospital AuthorityControlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and FoodDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and FoodQuestion :

Regarding "assist the Government in its work on revision of public medical fees and charges," please provide the details. When will the revised fees and charges be introduced? How much are expected to be saved from the revised fee structure?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-hanReply :

The Administration is conducting a review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident & emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions having regard to affordability of members of the public. In the review, we would also examine the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. The Hospital Authority (HA) works with Government in the fee review exercise.

The review is still on-going and we do not have an implementation timetable nor fee projections at this stage.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	2 April 2005

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

HWFB284

Question Serial No.

1279

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 extension of some temporary jobs in the Hospital Authority (HA), what is the estimated expenditure required? How many temporary jobs can be extended?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Under the Initiatives for Wider Economic Participation Scheme, HA will continue to extend some 2000 temporary jobs for about 10 to 12 months with effect from 1 April 2005. The estimated expenditure is around \$200 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie Yau

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB285

Question Serial No.

1280

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

Concerning the item of “Departmental Expenses – General departmental expenses”, by what criteria that the Administration anticipates that there will be an increase in the expenditure from \$44,222,000 in the 2004-05 revised estimate to \$69,345,000 in the 2005-06 estimate?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The increase of \$25.1 million (56.8%) in the general departmental expenses in 2005-06, as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, is mainly due to the additional provision for strengthening infectious disease control and for launching the pilot Head Start Programme.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB286

Question Serial No.

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

1281

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

As pandemic influenza may break out any time, a preparedness plan which includes measures such as increasing the stockpiles of antiviral medications has been drawn up by the Government. What is the estimated expenditure for the preparedness plan? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, as the policy bureau looking after public health matters, oversees the work of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), which is responsible for the implementation of public health protection initiatives.

The Government has drawn up the Framework of Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic. Once a certain response level under the Preparedness Plan is triggered by the occurrence of a particular event, the necessary measures and activities for controlling the spread of the disease specified under the Preparedness Plan will be initiated. Such activities will be carried out by various government departments or organizations such as the Hospital Authority (HA) and will be overseen by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

In particular, we propose that our antiviral stockpile level for dealing with influenza pandemic should be increased to 20.6 million capsules. Subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, an expenditure of around \$254 million will be incurred for the proposed increase in the stockpile level.

While the costs of such activities as disease surveillance etc will be absorbed by the relevant departments, for example, the Department of Health, additional expenditures may need to be incurred for other disease control measures including quarantine and designation of additional clinics for triaging patients with influenza-like-illness at primary care level, etc. Expenses to be incurred will depend on the size of the outbreaks and hence the operations. Moreover, a total of \$34.24 million has been earmarked by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Department for undertaking regular monitoring measures to prevent and combat avian influenza. These activities include exercising import controls for poultry, Mainland farm inspections and retail market surveillance, as well as local farm inspections, sampling and testing.

Moreover, drawing on the framework of Government's Preparedness Plan, HA has prepared its own contingency plan which aims to build the infrastructure for mitigating the consequences of possible pandemics and set out the strategic actions, including logistic support, mobilizing capacity for patient management, drawing on community resources and recovery support, etc. The costs to be incurred will include recruitment of additional professional and ancillary helpers, stockpiling of personal protective equipment, and purchase of additional drugs and vaccines if available. Nevertheless, it is difficult to provide an accurate estimate at this stage as it will depend on the size of the actual outbreak, if any.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB287

Question Serial No.

1282

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 :

What is the estimated expenditure for operating the Centre for Health Protection? Please set out the details of the expenditure items involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB), as the policy bureau looking after public health matters, oversees the work of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), which is responsible for the implementation of public health protection initiatives.

In 2005-06, government provisions (mainly Head 37 of the Department of Health) for the CHP amount to \$920 million, of which \$680 million and \$240 million will be allocated for staffing and operating expenses respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB288

Question Serial No.

1299

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 : What is the progress of the Bureau's continuous efforts to formulate proposals on nutrition labelling scheme for Hong Kong? When will the proposal be implemented? What is the projected cost for its implementation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Administration completed the public consultation exercise on the proposal to introduce a Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information in Hong Kong in January 2004. A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was then carried out to study the various options for implementation. It is our plan to present the results of the consultation and the RIA, together with our proposed implementation plan at the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene scheduled for 15 April 2005.

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.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB289

Question Serial No.

1307

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 000
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. How many Mainland visitors were treated in public hospitals/clinics in Hong Kong in 2004-05? What was the expenditure involved?
2. What is the estimated number of Mainland visitors to be treated in public hospitals/clinics in Hong Kong in 2005-06? What is the expenditure to be involved?
3. How many Mainland visitors were treated by the public hospitals/clinics in Shatin, Tai Po and Tseung Kwan O in 2004-05? What was the respective expenditure involved?
4. What is the estimated number of Mainland visitors to be treated by the public hospitals/clinics in Shatin, Tai Po and Tseung Kwan O in 2005-06? What is the respective expenditure to be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) projects that public hospitals and clinics will handle a total of 69 149 cases where the patient was a visitor from the Mainland in 2004-05. These cases cover accident and emergency (A&E) and outpatient attendances as well as hospital admissions. The estimated cost of the treatment provided is \$158.5 million. The number of cases handled by public hospitals and clinics in Shatin, Tai Po and Tseung Kwan O and the cost of the treatment provided are set out in the table below.

Projected figures for 2004-05	Shatin	Tai Po	Tseung Kwan O
No. of Cases	7 385	1 304	1 498
Estimated Cost	\$18.1Mn	\$2.2Mn	\$1.8Mn

The number of Mainland visitors seeking treatment in public hospitals and clinics in Hong Kong each year is affected by many factors. It is difficult for the HA to estimate the number of such patients for 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 290

Question Serial No.

1319

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health, Subhead (No. &
Welfare and Food Bureau 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. What are the numbers of non-profit making bodies and participants taking part in the Capacity Building Mileage Programme in 2004-05? What is the expenditure involved since its implementation?
2. Regarding the above Programme, what is the expenditure involving the Open University in 2004-05?
3. What are the numbers of non-profit making organizations and participants the Government expects to take part in the above Programme in 2005-06? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

As questions (1) to (3) are interrelated, the replies are consolidated in the following paragraphs.

2. 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 and a Steering Committee has been set up under the Women's Commission to steer the overall direction of the CBMP.

3. 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. According to the approved budget, the estimated annual expenditure for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is \$4.95 million, \$4.05 million, and \$3.43 million respectively. Major expenditure 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.

4. Most of the courses are broadcast by Commercial Radio and the number of classes is kept to the minimal to make it easier for women with different needs to participate. Enrollment for supplementary learning activities and assessment is optional. Women's groups and service organisations have been invited to collaborate by organizing the supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses. As of March 2005, some 75 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have joined the Programme as collaborators. In 2005-06, OUHK would seek to collaborate with more NGOs in the Programme.

5. In 2004-05, 12 radio courses and three face-to-face courses were offered as planned, and a total of 3,480 participants had registered in the supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses, which is above the estimated enrollment of 2,100 participants in the first year. The estimated enrollment for 2005-06 is 3,000 registered participants. In addition to these registered participants, there are many others who benefit through listening to the radio programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.4.2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB291

Question Serial No.

1381

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 :

In 2005-06, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will conduct reviews on the strategies on health care services development and health care financing, as well as on the public medical fee structure. What are the provisions for conducting the two reviews and expenses covered?

Asked by : Hon CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

We are conducting a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident & emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. Separately, we are reviewing the strategies on healthcare service development and healthcare financing in consultation with the reconstituted Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee.

The policy steering, research and inter-agency coordination work arising from the above reviews will be absorbed by existing staff responsible for the health portfolio in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. The financial provision for such steering, research and coordination work cannot be separately identified. On the fee review, \$3 million has been allocated to the Hospital Authority to outsource part of the research work relating to affordability and willingness to pay.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	1 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB292

Question Serial No.

1382

Head : 149 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General non-recurrent
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 :

The provisions under Programme (3) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are \$216.9 million and \$132 million respectively. What are the respective amounts of recurrent and non-recurrent expenditures? What are the major non-recurrent expenditure items and what are the expenses used for?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The recurrent and non-recurrent expenditures for Programme (3) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recurrent</u>	<u>Non-recurrent</u>	<u>Total</u>
2004-05	\$45.8 million	\$171.1 million	\$216.9 million
2005-06	\$64.9 million	\$67.2 million	\$132.1 million

The major non-recurrent expenditure items under Programme (3) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are :

<u>Non-recurrent items</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
• Commitment for the fight against SARS	\$121 million	-
• Funding Research on Control of Infectious Diseases	\$39.1 million	\$60 million
• Setting up of an international network for continuing medical education and continuing professional development by the HK Academy of Medicine	\$5.2 million	\$2.2 million

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB293

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 700 General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

1383

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please account for the \$39.056 million expenditure under Funding Research on Control of Infectious Diseases (Item 021) in 2004-05 by providing a list of the funded research projects, recipient organisations and funding amounts.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

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 RFCID supports research commissioned by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to address specific health problems, fill scientific gaps and respond to public health needs and threats. The RFCID also supports investigator-initiated research, i.e. those that encourage the development of innovations from individual researchers.

To date, the RFCID has committed \$154.66 million towards infectious disease research in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Of this amount, \$63.20 million has been committed for research studies conducted at local institutions commissioned directly by the Bureau. \$50 million was given to the Mainland through the Ministry of Science and Technology to finance research projects on controlling infectious diseases. In addition, \$41.46 million has been earmarked for local investigator-initiated research.

The estimated expenditure of \$39.056 million are the funds earmarked for the financial year 2004-05 to provide funding support for the following research projects:

Commissioned projects

The RFCID has supported three commissioned research studies as follows:

The University of Hong Kong

- \$22 million over 5 years 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 3 laboratory facilities.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

- \$25 million over 5 years for the university to undertake a portfolio of clinical trial and public health research in emerging infectious diseases.

Hospital Authority Consortium (with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the University of Hong Kong)

- \$8.2 million over 2 years to support a portfolio of research studies on nosocomial infection and long-term follow-up of SARS patients.

Investigator-initiated projects

A total of 35 approved investigator-initiated projects on infectious diseases covering basic research; aetiology, epidemiology and public health; as well as clinical and health services research were also supported. The total approved amount of the 35 projects is \$23.81 million and a brief summary of the approved projects in various institutions is listed in the following table.

Institution	Research theme			Total no. of projects	Fund amount (\$ million)
	Public health	Basic research	Health services		
The University of Hong Kong	0	14	1	15	11.53
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1	9	2	12	6.91
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	0	6	0	6	4.51
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	0	1	0	1	0.06
Hong Kong Baptist University	0	1	0	1	0.80

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB294

Head : 149 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau 700 General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

1384

Programme : (3) Health

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Please account for the \$5 million expenditure under Health and Health Services Research Fund (Item 019) in 2004-05 by providing a list of the research projects, funding amounts and research organisations.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The estimated expenditure of \$5 million under the Health and Health Services Research Fund are the funds earmarked for the financial year 2004-05 to support the expenditure flow of 18 approved projects. The total approved amount of the 18 projects is \$8.03 million and a brief summary of the approved projects in various institutions is listed in the following table.

Institution	Research theme			Total no. of projects	Fund amount (\$ million)
	Public health	Health Services	Chinese Medicine		
The University of Hong Kong (HKU)	3	2	0	5	1.79
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)	3	4	1	8	3.96
Ruttonjee Hospital	0	1	0	1	0.09
HKU with University of Birmingham (UK) and University of Sheffield (UK)	1	1	0	2	1.23
CUHK and Hong Kong Polytechnic University	0	1	0	1	0.56
CUHK with University of Wisconsin (USA)	0	1	0	1	0.40

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date _____ 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB295

Question Serial No.

1385

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 :

There will be a decrease of 300 general beds in 2005-06 as compared with 2004-05. In which clusters and hospitals will the beds be reduced and what are the reasons? Given the same bed occupancy rate as in 2004-05 and a decrease in the number of beds, why can the same numbers of discharges, deaths and patient days be maintained at the same levels as those in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In line with the strategy in previous years, the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes in 2005-06 to replace, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The reduction in the number of general beds is in line with this development. Other factors for the reduction include the increase in the number of isolation beds which require considerably more space and manpower resources for its operation than general beds, and the need to increase the space between hospital beds for better control of infectious diseases.

The 300 general beds to be reduced will be from the Kowloon West Cluster. Exact distribution by specialty and hospital will be worked out later in the year. Tentatively, about 120 convalescent/rehabilitation beds will be reduced at Princess Margaret Hospital and the rest will be general acute beds from the three acute hospitals in the same Cluster.

The HA expects that the number of discharges (including deaths) and patients days in 2005-06 will be maintained at similar levels as those in 2004-05. This will be achieved through the shortening of the length of stay and further development of day hospital services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB296

Question Serial No.

1386

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 2003-04 and 2004-05, are there any differences in the criteria for categorization of first priority patients and second priority patients to be treated in specialist clinics? What are the numbers of first priority patients and second priority patients for each year?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The criteria for triaging patients at specialist outpatient clinics (SOPCs) are mainly based on the clinical conditions of the patients. While the criteria have remained largely the same in 2003-04 and 2004-05, a revised triage system for classifying new patients into priority one, priority two and routine categories was implemented in 2004. The estimated number of new cases that were triaged as priority one and priority two respectively in 2004-05 are set out in the table below. Similar information for 2003-04 (i.e. before the implementation of the revised triage system) is not available.

Specialty	Priority one	Priority two
Medicine	9 000	19 000
Surgery	16 000	26 000
Paediatrics	5 000	5 000
Psychiatry	3 000	6 000
Ophthalmology	46 000	16 000
Otorhinolaryngology	13 000	8 000
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	13 000	13 000
Gynaecology	5 000	8 000

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB297

Question Serial No.

1387

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 :

Of the patients using the accident & emergency services in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, how many were triage I, triage II and triage III patients each year?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The number of patients at Accident and Emergency Departments who were triaged as category I, II and III respectively for the past three years are set out in the table below –

Triage Result	Category I	Category II	Category III
2002-03	15 701	41 307	557 766
2003-04	16 557	33 276	449 485
2004-05 (up to 28 Feb 2005)	15 153	32 582	486 568

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB298

Question Serial No.

1388

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 2005-06 estimates, the number of hospital beds for the infirmary is the same as that of 2004-05. What are the reasons for the absence of corresponding increase in the number of patient days despite an increase in bed occupancy rate from 84% to 86%.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

To enhance the control of infectious diseases, the Hospital Authority (HA) is progressively increasing the space between infirmary beds. This requires the temporary suspension in the use of some infirmary beds. In 2005-06, there will be a small increase in the number of infirmary beds that will be temporarily suspended. As the number of usable beds is smaller, it is expected that there will be an increase in the bed occupancy rate from 84% to 86% in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HWFB299

Question Serial No.

1398

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 :

The Administration mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06 that it would review the public medical fee structure to ensure that government subsidies are targeted to areas of greatest needs. Please set out the details of the initiative, the expenditure and the staff establishment involved.

Asked by : Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

We are conducting a new round of review on public medical fees with a view to targeting government subsidies to patients and services most in need as well as redressing the imbalance between the public and private services. The review covers a range of service areas including accident & emergency, in-patient, specialist out-patient services and drug prescriptions. In the review, we would also examine the existing fee waiver mechanism for public health care services to ensure that adequate services remain accessible to persons in economic hardship, including non-CSSA recipients. It is likely that the review will involve an increase in medical fees having regard to affordability of members of the public.

The inter-agency coordination and research work arising from the fee review will be absorbed by existing staff responsible for the health portfolio in the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. The financial and staffing provision for such coordination and research work cannot be separately identified. \$3 million has been allocated to the Hospital Authority to outsource part of the research work relating to affordability and willingness to pay.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 1 April 2005 _____

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

HWFB300

Question Serial No.

1399

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 :

Comparing with 2004-05, the number of allied health staff and other staff will decrease by 33 and 155 respectively in 2005-06. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- of the reasons for the downsizing;
- the types of posts, units and institutions to which these manpower belong;
- the distribution of the reduced posts in hospitals and clinics; and
- the ways to assess the impact of the downsizing on service quality?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The estimated reduction in the allied health and "others" staff groups in 2005-06 is a result of natural wastage and tight control on the replacement and recruitment of staff. The reduction in the number of allied health professionals in 2005-06 is an estimation based on natural wastage rate. The reduction of 33 allied health posts will involve a variety of grades and ranks, including Dental Technician, Dietitian, Dispenser, Medical Laboratory Technician, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Prosthetist-Orthotist and Radiographer.

For the "others" staff group, apart from natural wastage, there are on-going reviews on general support services. Taking into account the operational needs and the implementation of service rationalisation initiatives, some of the positions need not be filled upon staff turnover. These positions include Artisan, Clerk, Cook, Darkroom Technician, Ganger, Hospital Foreman, Laundry Worker, Office Assistant, Property Attendant and Workman.

The staff concerned will be widely distributed among HA hospitals, cluster offices and Head Office. It is expected that detailed manpower situation will become clearer by mid of 2005-06 financial year.

Despite the anticipated drop in staff numbers, HA will ensure that the quality of public health services be maintained through various initiatives including strengthening the ambulatory care services to reduce reliance on inpatient services, rationalization of existing services, and appropriate use of new technology. In addition, allied health triage categories will be implemented at all outpatient departments to ensure priority treatment of urgent cases and to encourage non-urgent patients receiving services from private and community providers.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB301

Question Serial No.

1400

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 :

Compared with the original estimate of \$135.2 (million) for 2004-05, the total provision for 2005-06 decreases by 2.3% to \$132.1 (million). Could the Administration set out in detail the items for which the provision is decreased? Has the Administration assessed the impact(s) of the reduction on these items?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The decrease is mainly due to the lower cashflow requirements for non-recurrent expenditure items in 2005-06 when compared with 2004-05 original estimate, i.e. (a) Funding Research on Control of Infectious Diseases and (b) Setting up of an international network for continuing medical education and continuing professional development by the HK Academy of Medicine. Since the reduction in the total provision is insignificant, no adverse impact on the services to be delivered in the coming year is anticipated.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB302

Question Serial No.

1414

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 :

As the population in Tung Chung increase continuously, is there any plan to provide additional evening out-patient service in Tung Chung. If yes, what is the estimated cost involved and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The General Outpatient Clinic (GOPC) at Tung Chung Health Centre all along provides evening clinic service on weekdays. Upon the request of the local community, since March 2005 the Hospital Authority (HA) has extended the evening clinic session of the GOPC from 10pm to 11:45pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to provide non-urgent outpatient service to Tung Chung residents. The cost of running the extended clinic service is about \$1.08 million a year. The HA will review the operation and utilization of the extended clinic service in six months.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB303

Question Serial No.

1418

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 :

Is there any plan to build a hospital in Tung Chung? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure?
Please also provide the details of the plan.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Subject to the availability of resources, the Government has preliminary plans to build a hospital in North Lantau and has identified Tung Chung Areas 13, 22 and 25 as a potential site. The Hospital Authority has studied the demand for hospital services for the projected local population in Lantau and proposed that a general acute hospital of around 350 beds providing acute and emergency services for major specialties will be able to meet the needs in the early 2010s. Its scope of services is subject to detailed planning. The Architectural Services Department is currently in the process of carrying out a technical feasibility study for the project. At this initial stage, we cannot provide an indication of the estimated expenditure for the project.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB304

Question Serial No.

1469

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 :

1. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will review and consider measures to enhance the operation and management of public markets in 2005-06. When will the review commence? What is its projected expenditure?
2. Will the government commission a consultant to conduct the review? If so, what is the projected expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

- Reply :
1. We aim to commence the review in the second quarter of 2005. The review will be conducted by existing staff. No additional resources have been reserved for this purpose.
 2. The government will not commission a consultant to conduct the review.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB305

Question Serial No.

1470

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 :

1. Compared with the revised provision of \$9.3 million for 2004-05, the provision earmarked for 2005-06 is \$8.9 million, representing a 4.3% decrease in total allocation. The main reason of the decrease is reduced operating expenses achieved through efficiency savings. What measures have the Bureau taken to enhance its operational efficiency? Do they involve redeployment of manpower or redistribution of workload?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The efficiency savings will be achieved mainly through stricter control of general departmental expenses and streamlining of work .

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB306

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1292

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 :

In connection with the follow-up measures on the regularisation of "private kitchens", please advise on the following :

1. What is the estimated expenditure involved?
2. What is the progress? When will the new legislative amendments be introduced?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) Resources required will be absorbed within the existing allocation.
- (2) The Department is working out the detailed licensing requirements and conditions and plans to introduce the relevant amendments to the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.) in the 2005-06 legislative session.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

GREGORY LEUNG

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB307

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1341

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

According to the analysis of financial provision, the savings achieved under Programme (3) is partly "offset by the funding requirement for managing new public markets". Please advise on the funding requirement for managing new public markets in 2005-06 and the number of new public markets to be commissioned during the year.

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

Two new public markets will be commissioned in 2005-06, with funding requirement of about \$11 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB308

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1342

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 many public markets are currently managed by the Department? What is the loss incurred each year? How many public markets have their management contracted out? How does contracting-out benefit the Department?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

Currently, the Department operates a total of 79 public markets and 25 free-standing cooked food markets. In 2003-04 and 2004-05, the Department provided subsidies of \$218 million and \$210 million respectively for the operation of these markets.

The Department has since 1 March 2004 contracted out, as a pilot scheme, the management of four public markets in Kowloon City District. The arrangement has so far been found generally satisfactory and has helped reduce our recurrent expenditure on their management. We plan to conduct a comprehensive review on the pilot scheme later this year with a view to determining the way forward.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB309

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1343

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 effective measures will the Department take to minimize the loss incurred on the management of public markets?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

To help increase the occupancy rate and rental income from the public markets, the Department will continue to implement general improvement works (e.g. upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage, fire services provisions), and carry out various promotion activities so as to improve the markets' trading environment and their attraction to customers.

In addition to the above, to reduce heavy subsidies from taxpayers in market operations, the Administration plans to gradually increase the rentals payable by stallholders to the open market rental levels. The current freeze on market rental will expire by end September this year. The Administration will also consider closing down those markets with serious viability problems so as to reduce expenditure. The Department plans to consult the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on these proposals later this year.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB310

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1344

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 :

In 2005-06, the Department will review various initiatives relating to market management, such as Market Manager Scheme and the Contracting-out of Market Management in Kowloon City District. Have these two initiatives been pilot tested? What are the results? What is the ultimate objective of the Department in relation to public market management? Is it to contract out the management of all markets or to retain a certain number of markets under the management of the Department?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The Department has been closely monitoring the trial of the Market Manager Scheme and the Contracting-out of Market Management in Kowloon City District. Results of the trial schemes have been generally satisfactory so far. The objective of these trial schemes is to explore the feasibility for using more expertise from the private sector in managing/promoting our public markets. We will conduct an overall review of the effectiveness of these trial schemes later this year with a view to selecting the most effective option for managing our public markets.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB311

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1345

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 the enhancement of facilities and management of public markets, which markets will undergo improvement works in 2005-06? How much is the provision?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The Department will carry out general improvement works to 18 markets and 4 cooked food centres (CFCs) in 2005-06. The works projects are estimated to cost \$367 million. These markets and CFCs include : Aberdeen Market and CFC, Ngau Chi Wan Market and CFC, Ngau Tau Kok Market and CFC, Shek Wu Hui CFC, San Hui Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Mongkok Market, Lai Wan Market, Tin Wan Market, Yue Kwong Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre, Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market, Tai O Market, Cheung Chau Market, Shek Tong Tsui Market, Shui Wo Street Market, Haipong Road Temporary Market, and Plover Cove Road Market.

In addition to the above, the Department is studying project plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 12 markets and 2 CFCs, namely Fa Yuen Street Market and CFC, Tung Yick Market, Po On Road Market and CFC, Sheung Wan Market, Sai Kung Market, Wing Fong Street Market, North Kwai Chung Market, Tsuen Wan Market, Yeung Uk Road Market, Sha Tau Kok Market, Shau Kei Wan Market, and Choi Hung Road Market.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB312

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1346

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 were the achievements in market promotion? How much is the provision planned for this year?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

To attract more customers to the public markets, the Department in 2004-05 organized in various selected markets a number of promotion activities, including festive promotions, lucky draws, and exhibitions and carried out various improvement items, including addition of decorative items and signage. In addition to these, the Department organized customer service workshops for market tenants and published quarterly market newsletters to disseminate market and other relevant information.

We evaluated the effectiveness of the promotions by collecting feedback from participants through opinion surveys. Responses have been generally encouraging. For the Chinese New Year Festive Promotions organized in a number of markets in early 2005, 92% of the customers and about 50% of the market tenants who responded to our survey were satisfied or very satisfied with the events. 95% of responding customers and 89% of responding market tenants supported holding similar promotion activities in future. For the customer service workshops conducted in early 2005, 95% of the participants responded to our survey gave positive feedback.

In 2005-06, the Department will continue to carry out similar promotion activities. The provision required could only be worked out after the Department has firmed up the details of these activities but would all be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB313

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1347

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 :

When will the proposed alignment of the market rental adjustment mechanism be submitted to the Legislative Council?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

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, by phases, the rentals payable by stallholders to the open market rental levels. The current freeze on market rental will expire by end September this year. The Department plans to consult the Panel again later this year on the alignment proposals.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB314

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1348

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 :

On the recovery of cooked food hawker licences, will the Department continue with the voluntary surrender policy or switch to mandatory means?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

Currently, a licensed cooked food stall hawker, other than those in a public housing estate, may on a voluntary basis surrender the licence for cancellation in exchange for a one-off ex-gratia payment of \$60,000. The scheme will end on 30 November 2007. The Department has no plans at this stage to change this policy.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB315

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1349

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 reasons for the decreased requirement for making ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers surrendering their public market tenancies? Does the Administration expect the surrender rate to slow down or nil return from the remaining retailers?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The total commitment approved by Finance Committee in July 2004 for making ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers participating in the voluntary surrender scheme remains unchanged at \$236.4 million. After deducting the sums paid out in 2004-05, the unspent balance is carried forward to 2005-06, which is a smaller amount than the original approved commitment.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB316

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1451

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 indicator for the number of “blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies” is estimated to increase from 98 091 in 2004 to 115 000 in 2005. What are the reasons for the estimated increase?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The number of blood samples to be taken in 2005 is estimated to be greater than that in 2004 because importation of live poultry was temporarily suspended for more than two months in 2004 due to outbreaks of avian influenza in the Mainland.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB317

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1452

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 indicator for the number of "pest control surveys conducted" will be reduced from 5 236 in 2004 to 4 600 in 2005. What are the reasons for the estimated reduction?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Pest control surveys include both pre-planned regular surveys and those conducted in response to specific needs arising during the year. In 2004, about half of the surveys were conducted in response to high ovitrap indices recorded in various locations and reports of vector-borne diseases. Since the figure in 2004 was higher than that of an average year, the estimate for 2005 has been adjusted accordingly.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB318

Question Serial No.

1453

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 indicator for 2005 (Estimate) in respect of the "provision of courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors" is 120, being 103 (46.2%) less than the actual figure in 2004. What is the estimated expenditure for the "provision of courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors"? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

About \$0.8 million will be allocated to providing Hygiene Supervisor training in 2005-06, offering a total of 7 500 training places.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB319

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1454

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 :

In an effort to strengthen food safety surveillance of food premises in the territory, FEHD announced in February that all food premises would be required to appoint a Hygiene Manager and/or a Hygiene Supervisor. In this connection, please explain why the number of courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors will be reduced while requiring all food premises to appoint a Hygiene Manager and/or a Hygiene Supervisor.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

About 20 000 Hygiene Supervisors are required for some 20 000 licensed food premises in Hong Kong. So far, over 29 000 persons have become qualified through the Department's training courses. The Department plans to offer 7 500 training places for Hygiene Supervisors in 2005-06. There should be sufficient Hygiene Supervisors in the market to cope with the demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB320

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1455

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 estimated expenditure for the implementation of the Hygiene Manager/Supervisor Scheme in 2005-06? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

About \$0.8 million will be allocated to providing Hygiene Supervisor training in 2005-06. The manpower requirements for implementation of the Scheme will be absorbed within the existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB321

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1456

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 conversion of designated aqua privies into flushing toilets by phases in 2005-06, please provide the following information:

1. How many aqua privies are expected to be converted? What is the expenditure involved? What are the details?
2. How many aqua privies are there in Hong Kong? Does the Administration have any indicator for the conversion plan? If so, what is the indicator?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. The Department plans to convert by phases 100 aqua privies located at various popular scenic spots and tourist attractions or with heavy patronage in the New Territories into flushing toilets. Phase 1 works, covering 30 aqua privies with an estimated cost of \$26.6 million, have commenced in February 2005 and will be completed in the second half of 2006. Phase 2A works, covering 40 aqua privies with an estimated cost of \$30.1 million, would commence around end-2005 for completion in early 2007. Subject to funding approval, works for the remaining 30 aqua privies

under Phase 2B at a cost estimate of \$35.9 million may commence in end-2005 for completion by end-2007.

2. The Department at present manages 536 aqua privies. We have not set an indicator for the conversion plan. In determining whether more aqua privies should be converted into flushing toilets in future, we will need to take into account factors like technical/physical constraints, the usage rate, access to public sewerage system, and cost-effectiveness.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB322

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1457

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 measures will be adopted to improve market stall let-out rate which fell below the target?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In addition to the general improvement works (including upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provisions) provided for selected markets, the Department will continue to carry out a range of other measures in 2005-06 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;
- maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets through enhanced cleansing services provided by the Department and the enforcement of the monthly market cleansing day;
- provision of flexibility in determining and changing, for individual stall, the trade of the stall business and where feasible, the stall size;
- merging of selected vacant small stalls to become larger stalls to attract potential bidders;

- lowering, in selected markets, the upset auction prices of long-standing vacant stalls to attract potential bidders;
- adoption of a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected public markets; and
- conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>GREGORY LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene</u>
Date	<u>6 April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB323

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1458

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 the 515 posts to be deleted under Programme (2), what are their respective ranks and relevant duties?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The ranks of the 515 posts to be deleted under Programme (2) in 2005-06 include Workman I, Workman II, Artisan, Ganger, Property Attendant, Special Driver, Transport Services Officer II, Health Inspector I/II, Senior Health Inspector, Chief Health Inspector, Superintendent of Environmental Health, Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health, and Superintendent of Police. With the exception of the Superintendent of Police, who provides temporary expert support to the Centre for Health Protection, the main duties of the remaining 514 posts are related to the provision of environmental hygiene services and licensing duties.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB324

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

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

1459

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. With regard to Item 436 "ex-gratia payment to live poultry retailers surrendering their licences with endorsement to sell live poultry or public market tenancies", to how many live poultry retailers the ex-gratia payment has already been made? What is the percentage over the total number of live poultry retailers in Hong Kong?
2. The expenditure for Item 436 in 2004-05 was only 33.1% of the approved commitment. Will the Administration consider relaxing the application requirements to attract more live poultry retailers to surrender their licences?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. Up to 31 March 2005, ex-gratia payment has been made to 208 applicants, who account for about 25.6% of the total number of eligible licensees/market stall tenants as at July 2004.
2. The voluntary surrender scheme was drawn up in 2004 after taking into careful consideration all relevant factors, including the need to protect public funds, the views of the then LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the concerns of the live poultry retailers. The Administration has no plans to revise the ex-gratia payment package.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB325

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1460

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. With regard to Item 437 "re-training and one-off grants to assist affected live poultry retail workers", how many live poultry retail workers were provided training and the one-off grants? What is the percentage over the total number of live poultry retail workers in Hong Kong?
2. The expenditure for Item 437 in 2004-05 was only 12.45% of the approved commitment. Will the Administration consider relaxing the application requirements to benefit more live poultry retail workers?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. As at end March 2005, 45 workers have attended retraining courses. Among them, 43 workers who met the criteria for the one-off grant have received the grant. The Department has no record of the total number of live poultry retail workers in Hong Kong.
2. The training scheme was drawn up in 2004 after taking into careful consideration all relevant factors, including the need to protect public funds, the views of the then LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the concerns of the unions. The Administration has no plans to revise the eligibility criteria of the retraining scheme and one-off grants.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB326

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1461

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 the 93 permanent posts to be deleted under Programme (3), what are their respective ranks and relevant duties?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The ranks of the 93 posts to be deleted under Programme (3) in 2005-06 include Workman I, Workman II, Health Inspector I/II, Senior Health Inspector, Chief Health Inspector, Superintendent of Environmental Health, and Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health. Their main duties include management of public markets and controlling on-street hawking activities.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB327

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1462

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. WONG Kwok-hing

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, by phases, the rentals payable by stallholders to the open market rental levels. The current freeze on market rental will expire by end September this year. The Department plans to consult the Panel later this year on the alignment proposals.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB328

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1463

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 regards to the improvement works and promotion activities for public markets in 2005-06, please advise on:

1. the estimated expenditure and details;
2. the performance indicators, if any.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. In 2005-06, the Department will carry out general improvement works to 18 markets and 4 cooked food centres (CFCs). The works projects are estimated to cost \$367 million. The Department is also studying project plans for carrying out general improvement works in another 12 markets and 2 CFCs. These improvement works include upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage, and fire services provisions.

In 2005-06, the Department will continue to carry out promotions in various selected public markets to improve their business environment. These include adopting a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected markets, conducting promotion activities, such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions, and publishing quarterly market newsletters to attract customers, etc. The resources required can only be determined after the details of the promotions have been firmed up but will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

2. There is no performance indicator for the improvement works and promotion activities for public markets. We will evaluate their effectiveness by collecting feedback from customers and market tenants through surveys and/or discussions with Market Management Consultative Committees as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB329

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1464

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 :

Does the Administration have any plans to improve the cremation facilities? If so, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Works have been started to re-provision Diamond Hill Crematorium with six new cremators and a full range of ancillary facilities at the site of the existing crematorium at an approved project estimate of \$231.4 million. The Department also has plans to undertake similar improvement works at Wo Hop Shek Crematorium starting in 2007-08 at an estimated cost of \$249.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB330

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1465

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 Department has pledged to follow up and implement the improvement measures proposed by the Office of the Ombudsman on the management of urn graves in cemeteries. In this connection, please advise on:

1. the estimated expenditure required for the improvement of urn grave management in cemeteries and the details of the improvement plan;
2. the estimated expenditure required for the computerization of urn grave records.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. Since March 2005, the Department has engaged a security guard contractor to provide security services at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery and implemented a registration system for contractors providing services at cemeteries. The Department has also erected, at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, additional directional signs to facilitate grave sweepers and warning signs to deter illegal activities. The resources required for these improvement have been/will be absorbed within the existing allocation.
2. The Department plans to invite quotations in the near future from potential service providers to undertake the first phase of a survey to verify the records on urn graves in Wo Hop Shek Cemetery. The expenditure to be incurred for this first phase and subsequent phases of the survey will depend on the prices tendered by the successful tenderers. Resources required for these surveys and subsequent documentation work will be absorbed within the Department's existing allocation.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB331

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1466

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 the retro-fitting of air-conditioning system included in the public market improvement works and market promotion in 2005-06? If so, please advise on the estimated expenditure and details.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The general improvement works at Shek Wu Hui Cooked Food Centre and San Hui Market, to be carried out at a total estimated cost of \$181.5 million, has included retro-fitting of the air-conditioning system. Subject to consultation with stall lessees and funding approval, the Department also plans to retro-fit the air-conditioning system in Fa Yuen Street Market and Cooked Food Centre when implementing the general improvement works at an estimated total cost of \$82.4 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

6 April 2005

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

HWFB332

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

1293

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for providing support to the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong in registration of Chinese medicine practitioners and proprietary Chinese medicines?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2005-06, the provision for registration of Chinese medicine practitioners and registration of proprietary Chinese medicines is about \$2M and \$10M respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB333

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1294

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration estimates that the attendance at maternal and child health centres for “family planning service” will decrease from 248 500 in 2004 to 220 000 in 2005. How is the new indicator calculated and what is/are the reason(s) for its downward adjustment?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The estimated attendance figure for Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) for family planning service in 2005 is based on the actual attendances in 2004 and the anticipated change in attendance as a result of streamlining of procedures, which will save service users from making frequent visits to the MCHCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB334

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1295

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has set new indicators for the “number of training activities on infection control” and the “number of attendances to training activities on infection control”, with the former increased from 31 in 2004 to 70 in 2005 and the latter from 3 460 in 2004 to 8 500 in 2005. What is the estimated expenditure? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Infection control training will be organised for doctors, nurses and other staff of hospitals, clinics, elderly homes and child care centers in public and private sectors in 2005-06. It is estimated that \$8M will be spent on these activities in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB335

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) : 003

Question Serial No.

Recoverable
salaries and
allowance

1296

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The 2005 estimate for the indicator "number of civil servants working in HA managed" is 3 779, which represents a decrease of 585 against the actual number of 4 364 in 2004. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower cut?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The reduction of 585 civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) is due to retirement and other wastage. The HA will replenish the vacated positions through internal redeployment or by new recruits.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB336

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Operational
expenses

1297

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What are the ranks and scope of responsibilities of the 91 permanent posts to be deleted?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department of Health will create 25 posts and delete 116 posts. The net deletion is 91 posts which include 20 posts for general grades staff working in general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority. Other posts to be deleted are involved in statutory functions, disease prevention, health promotion, curative care and rehabilitation programme. Details of the posts to be deleted are at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Posts to be deleted in 2005-06

Rank	Number
Medical and Health Officer	12
Senior Nursing Officer	1
Registered Nurse	10
Midwife	12
Inoculator	6
Dental Officer	4
Dental Surgery Assistant	4
Pharmacist	6
Chief Dispenser	2
Radiographic Technician	1
Senior Medical Technologist	1
Medical Laboratory Technician I	1
Medical Laboratory Technician II	1
Scientific Officer (Medical)	1
Physiotherapist I	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	19
Clerical Assistant	1
Office Assistant	2
Telephone Operator	1
Typist	1
Supplies Assistant	1
Artisan	3
Property Attendant	8
Workman II	16
Total	<hr/> 116 <hr/>

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

HWFB337

Head : 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) : 003

Question Serial No.

Recoverable
salaries and
allowance

1300

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

1. What is the number of civil servants working in the Hospital Authority (HA) in 2004 as a result of the transfer of 59 general outpatient clinics to the HA in July 2003?
2. In 2005-06 estimate, the number of civil servants working in the HA managed by the Department of Health is reduced by 585 as compared with 2004. Please set out the posts of these 585 civil servants and the reason(s) for such decrease.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

With the Hospital Authority (HA) taking over the management of General Out-patient Clinics in July 2003, 805 civil servants were transferred to work in the HA.

The reduction of 585 civil servants working in the HA is due to retirement and other wastage. Details are at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

**Details of Civil Servants working in HA who have left HA
from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005**

Rank	Total
Consultant D2	1
Senior Medical & Health Officer	5
Medical & Health Officer	22
Departmental Operations Manager	6
Ward Manager	37
Senior Nursing Officer	8
Nursing Officer (Education)	2
Nursing Officer	94
Registered Nurse	40
Senior Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	1
Nursing Officer (Psychiatric)	13
Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)	9
Enrolled Nurse	50
Enrolled Nurse (Psychiatric)	27
Midwife	2
Department Manager	6
Chief Dispenser	3
Senior Dispenser	6
Dispenser	2
Electrical Technician	1
Medical Technologist	2
Medical Laboratory Technician I	1
Occupational Therapy Assistant	7
Senior Radiographer	5
Radiographer I	2
Artisan	10
Cook	11
Darkroom Technician	4
Chief Hospital Foreman	1
Senior Hospital Foreman	1
Hospital Foreman	1

Rank	Total
Foreman	3
Head Property Attendant	3
Mortuary Attendant	2
Mortuary Technician	3
Operating Theatre Assistant	13
Machinist	1
Laboratory Attendant	3
Laundry Worker	8
X-Ray Mechanic	1
Health Care Assistant	32
Gardener	1
Ganger	3
Property Attendant	7
Ward Attendant	41
Workman I	6
Workman II	48
Senior Hospital Administrator	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	28
Clerical Assistant	1
Total	585

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

HWFB338

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1328

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The attendance for cervical screening service is 100 000. What percentage does this figure represent among the local female population that should be screened? What is the basis on which the attendance of 100 000 is set?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The territory-wide Cervical Screening Programme (CSP) is organised by the Department of Health (DH) with participation of public and private medical sectors, and non-governmental organisations.

Based on the recommendations of the Cervical Screening Task Force, the CSP would target at women aged 25 to 64 and the screening interval would be once every three years, following two consecutive annual smears producing negative results. Also, the initial target of CSP is to cover 60% of the target female population. This target coverage is comparable to that achieved in many developed countries. According to the Census and Statistics Department, the total population of women aged 25 to 64 is about 2.2 million. This means about 1.3 million women aged 25 to 64 should have a smear test over a period of three years, or 440 000 women each year.

The actual number of attendances for cervical screening at DH during the 10-month period since its launch in March 2004 was 80 000. The estimated attendance of 100000 in 2005 represents about a quarter of the target population, and also has taken into account the market share potentially to be taken up by the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB339

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1329

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of primary school children participating in the School Dental Care Service is lower when compared with the previous year. Is it due to a decrease in the number of students, or other reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The decrease in number of primary school children participating in the School Dental Care Service in 2004 was mainly due to the decreasing number of primary school children.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

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

HWFB340

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (4) Curative Care

1330

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : A decrease of 1 000 is noted in the attendance at dermatology clinics when compared with the previous year. The attendances for other items are set according to their actual attendances in the previous year, then why the attendance at dermatology clinics alone is anticipated to decrease?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The attendance at dermatology clinics in 2004-05 was 251 000. The attendance for 2005-06 is only an estimate rounded off to the nearest hundred, like other indicators of this programme. We estimate that the attendance in 2005-06 to be similar to those of previous years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB341

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

1397

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the subvention granted to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) for measures against smoking, would the Administration list in detail:

- the subventions allocated to COSH in the past five years?
- the means for assessing the effectiveness of such anti-smoking measures?
- the reason(s) for the slight decrease in the number of publicity/educational activities delivered by COSH in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The subvention provided to COSH for the past five years is:

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>\$M</u>
2004-05	10.8
2003-04	9.3
2002-03	8.0
2001-02	11.7
2000-01	8.3

COSH conducts pre- and post-activity evaluation on the knowledge, attitude and practice of participants on tobacco control related activities. It also conducts public opinion surveys on tobacco control and youth smoking prevalence surveys regularly to show the level of public's support towards anti-smoking measures and to ascertain the need to conduct health education about the hazards of smoking and passive smoking.

The slightly reduced number of publicity/educational activities from 325 in 2004 to 320

in 2005 is due to a change in strategy to organise more large scale promotional campaigns.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB342

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (4) Curative Care

1401

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the 26 permanent posts to be deleted under this Programme, what are their ranks and scope of responsibilities?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The 26 posts to be deleted under Programme (4) are mainly related to direct curative care and clinic supporting service. The rank of the concerned posts are at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Posts to be deleted under Programme (4)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>
Medical and Health Officer	3
Registered Nurse	4
Dental Officer	4
Dental Surgery Assistant	1
Chief Dispenser	2
Radiographic Technician	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Supplies Assistant	1
Artisan	1
Property Attendant	4
Workman II	4
Total	<hr/> 26 <hr/>

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

HWFB343

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Health Promotion

1402

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question: Regarding the enhancement of public health promotion programmes to instil a healthy lifestyle concept in the community, would the Administration set out the programme content, the relevant implementation unit(s), the expenditure required, the staffing establishments, the target group(s) and the means for assessing the effectiveness of such programmes.

Asked by : Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department of Health (DH) will enhance its health promotion programmes to instil a healthy lifestyle concept in the community. The Central Health Education Unit (CHEU) of DH is responsible for coordinating the Department's efforts on this front. Health promotion programmes in the areas of exercise, healthy diet, anti-smoking and communicable disease prevention will be enhanced through various means like educational materials, health promotion activities, collaborative partnerships with health care providers and health promotion agencies, and social marketing. The establishment of CHEU in 2005-06 will be 33 and the provision for this service in 2005-06 is \$30.5M.

DH will assess the effectiveness of health promotion programmes through various means like questionnaires, telephone or face-to-face interviews to gauge the changes in knowledge, attitude and practice of the community on specific health issues, as well as health outcomes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

HWFB344

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1403

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision under this Programme in 2005-06 is 3.2% lower than the 2004-05 revised provision. With reduced provision, how does the Administration ensure that the quality of the services provided by the Department of Health can be maintained?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The decrease in provision in 2005-06 is mainly due to the effect of 2005 civil service pay adjustment and implementation of various saving measures such as service re-organisation, service mode re-engineering and reduction in departmental expenses. Service standards will not be affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB345

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1545

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please set out the provision allocated to the Centre for Health Protection, its major initiatives as well as the breakdown of the expenditure, manpower and establishment of such initiatives.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) was established to strengthen the public health system against communicable diseases and other public health hazards. Major initiatives are as follows:

- To strengthen the surveillance system and network for infectious diseases
- To improve the preparedness for health protection emergencies
- To respond quickly and effectively to infectious disease outbreaks
- To enhance the efficiency and quality of public health and clinical diagnostic laboratory services
- To strengthen the prevention and control of tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and sexually transmitted infections
- To reinforce the protection against non-communicable diseases and environmental health hazards
- To set up and maintain a sound mechanism for pooling and sharing the professional knowledge and expertise in combating diseases
- To introduce strategic training and research programmes to meet new demands
- To buttress dissemination of health information to the public
- To encourage and facilitate community participation in health protection

In 2005-06, government provisions (mainly Head 37 of the Department of Health) for the CHP amount to \$920M, of which \$680M and \$240M will be allocated for staffing and operating expenses respectively.

As at 31 March 2005, the breakdown of 1 662 posts in the CHP is

Medical	189
Nursing	448
Para-Medical	330
Other Professional & Technical	174
Administrative & Clerical	521

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Replv Serial No.

HWFB346

Head: 149 Government Secretariat: Health,
and Food Bureau

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

1546

Programme: (3) Health

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Concerning the provision of Chinese medicine outpatients services in the public health care sector, what is the estimated number of Chinese medicine clinics that will be subvented with public funds by 2005-06? Please list the respective subvention, number of patients seen and consultation charges imposed on patients?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

Three Chinese Medicine (CM) clinics are now in operation under the Hospital Authority (HA). The subvention for each of these clinics is \$4.3M in 2005-06.

The target annual number of consultations is about 30000 for each clinic. Patients are charged at a fee of \$120 per consultation plus two doses of medication. Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance are waived from the charges.

The Administration has committed to open at least three more CM clinics in 2005-06. Subject to negotiation between the HA and interested non-governmental organizations/charitable organizations, the new clinics are intended to be operating on a self-financing basis. HA is now working out the operation details of these new clinics.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

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

HWFB347

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1547

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The rate of new born babies attending maternal and child health centres is 95% in 2004. Does this rate include babies born in Hong Kong by mothers who are non-local residents? What is the number of new born babies not attending maternal and child health centres, and what is/are the reason(s) for their non-attendance?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Newborns attending Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) include babies of mothers who are not Hong Kong residents. About 2 800 newborns in 2004 did not attend MCHCs. These babies might have left Hong Kong after birth or attended private clinics for child health services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB348

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1548

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the expenditures for treating patients with sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and the numbers of STD patients treated in 2004-05 and 2005-06? Among such patients, how many of them are non-local residents? Please set out the major initiatives for controlling the spread of STD and their respective expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In the year 2004, there were 151 200 attendances for sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in Social Hygiene Clinics (SHCs) of which about 1 000 attendances were non-eligible persons (NEPs). A similar level of attendances is expected for the year 2005.

The following works are conducted in Department of Health (DH) to control and to prevent spread of STD:

- (a) operation of SHCs to provide counselling and clinical services to public with STD;
- (b) provision of regular check up services every two weeks for sex workers;
- (c) public education to contain the spread of STDs;
- (d) training of medical and healthcare professionals by DH to set the benchmark for all health professionals who are involved in management of STD and to maintain the good professional standard in the management of STD; and

- (e) DH has planned, developed and conducted various surveillance and survey programmes in the past years to study the prevalence and pattern of STD in the community so as to guide the direction and to focus the effort of DH to certain groups for tackling the STD/AIDS problems in the community.

The provisions for these services in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are \$66.7M and \$62.6M respectively. Detailed breakdown of the above expenditures into different activity areas is not readily available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

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

HWFB349

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1549

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the respective expenditures on cervical screening service in 2004-05 and 2005-06?
Please set out the major expenditure items.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The provision for Cervical Screening Programme in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:

	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>
	\$M	\$M
Salary	19.9	24.7
Publicity and production of educational materials	5.6	5.8
Laboratory equipment and consumables	4.5	4.5
Capital expenditure on cervical screening equipment	5.0	-
	<u>35.0</u>	<u>35.0</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

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

HWFB350

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (2) Disease Prevention

1550

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the expenditures on vaccination in 2004-05 and 2005-06? Please provide the following information for each vaccine:

- the overall expenditure
- the cost of vaccine
- the target groups for vaccination and the number of recipients

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Vaccination is part and parcel of many services in the Department of Health (DH) such as Elderly Health Services and Family Health Services, and the overall expenditure involves staff and other operating costs incurred in different divisions and resources shared by different services. Hence, the total expenditure of vaccination service alone is not separately identifiable.

The cost of vaccine, target groups and number of doses of vaccines given by the DH in 2004 are as follows :

Vaccine Type	<u>Cost per dose</u>	Main Target Groups	<u>No. of doses in 2004</u>	<u>Total Vaccine Cost</u>
BCG vaccine	\$2.3	New born babies School children	50 046	\$0.1M
Polio vaccine	\$2.1	New born babies Pre-school children School children	255 245	\$0.5M

Vaccine Type	<u>Cost per dose</u>	Main Target Groups	<u>No. of doses in 2004</u>	<u>Total Vaccine Cost</u>
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine	\$3.4	Pre-school children	139 293	\$0.5M
Diphtheria and Tetanus vaccine	\$1.7	School children	150 781	\$0.3M
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine	\$38.3	Pre-school children School children	122 604	\$4.7M
Hepatitis B vaccine	\$11.7	New born babies Pre-school children School children	112 106	\$1.3M
Influenza vaccine	\$23.1	Residents in elderly homes Inmates in disabled institutions Elderly clients of DH clinics Health care workers in DH	75 906	\$1.8M
			Total	<u>\$9.2M</u>

It is estimated that the number of doses of vaccines to be given in 2005 will be about the same.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB351

Question Serial No.

1478

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 :

As the hospital beds for people with mental handicap will be reduced from 800 as at 31 March 2005 (Revised Estimate) to 700 as at 31 March 2006 (Target & Plan). Please explain if there are any alternative measures for the affected patients? Please give details including the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The reduction of 100 beds for the mentally handicapped is from the Development Disabilities Unit (DDU) at Caritas Medical Centre (CMC). This Unit specialises in caring for children under the age of 16 with severe mental handicap. In recent years, the DDU at CMC has experienced fewer admissions mainly due to (i) a decrease in the number of children with severe mental handicap as a result of the declining birth rate and better pre-natal diagnostic services; and (ii) an increase in the provision for places in Residential Special Child Care Centres and Boarding Special Schools by the Education and Manpower Bureau, which offer an attractive option for providing care to children with severe mental handicap in a non-hospital setting. The bed reduction in 2005-06 is to reflect this declining demand for such beds over the past years.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB352

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : -

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

1485

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated that the aim of the department is to ensure the efficient management and operation of the rebus services to improve the mobility of people with disabilities. However, the estimated passenger trips for rebus scheduled routes and dial-a-ride services in 2005 will be 2% and 3% lower than the actual estimate in 2004. Please account for the reduction and whether this will result in a reduction in resources allocation.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : Patronage on rebus services was particularly high in 2004 for the following reasons-

- (a) following SARS, social activities were revived and increased in number in 2004, increasing the demand for rebus services; and
- (b) a series of efficiency measures, including re-organisation of scheduled route services and modification of the booking system for dial-a-ride services was implemented in 2004, resulting in an improvement in the efficiency of rebus services.

With the stabilisation of the number of social activities, we estimate that patronage in 2005 will not be as high as that in 2004 but there will still be about 10% increase as compared with that in 2002 (i.e. the situation before SARS). The drop in patronage has no impact on the resource allocation in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB353

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

1524

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In respect of the rebus services, please advise: -

- (a) the subvention for rebus services in the past three years?
- (b) the monthly figure waiting for rebus scheduled routes in the past 12 months?
- (c) the monthly figure waiting for rebus dial-a-ride (DAR) service in the past 12 months?
- (d) the monthly cancellation figure from the waiting list for using rebus dial-a-ride service in the past 12 months?
- (e) the monthly cancellation figure from the waiting list for rebus scheduled routes in the past 12 months?
- (f) the number of vehicles in the rebus fleet and the average age profile?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) The subvention for rebus services in the past three financial years is as follows-
2002-03 HK\$26.789 million
2003-04 HK\$26.619 million
2004-05 HK\$26.266 million

(b) The number of passengers waiting for rebus scheduled routes in 2004-

2004											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
55	50	51	38	40	39	40	42	47	46	49	40

(c) The rebus DAR service is operated on a first-come-first-served basis and may be booked in advance. There is no limitation on the advance booking period and there is

no waiting list like the scheduled routes.

- (d) As there is no waiting list for the rebus DAR service, there is no cancellation figure for the list.
- (e) The number of passengers on the waiting list having cancelled their requests for rebus scheduled route service in 2004 is as follows-

2004											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	10	5	28	3	9	6	32	8	10	2	29

According to records, the main reasons for cancelling the request are-

- (a) waiting passenger switched to use other transport modes, e.g. school bus and centre bus; and
 - (b) change of work places, training workshops, schools, hospitals and clinics.
- (f) There are 87 vehicles in the rebus fleet and the average age of the vehicles is 7 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

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

HWFB354

Head : 37 Department of Health

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Question Serial No.

Operational
expenses

1831

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The change in 2005-06 establishment is a deletion of 91 posts. Would the Administration set out in detail the establishment of the posts to be deleted before and after such deletion?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Department of Health will create 25 posts and delete 116 posts which will fall vacant through natural wastage. The net deletion is 91 posts, which include 20 posts for general grades staff working in general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority, details at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 7 April 2005

Posts to be deleted in 2005-06

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number to be deleted</u>	Establishment after net deletion
Medical and Health Officer	12	250
Senior Nursing Officer	1	20
Registered Nurse	10	647
Midwife	12	9
Inoculator	6	29
Dental Officer	4	150
Dental Surgery Assistant	4	174
Pharmacist	6	47
Chief Dispenser	2	4
Senior Medical Technologist	1	18
Medical Laboratory Technician I	1	18
Medical Laboratory Technician II	1	113
Radiographic Technician	1	4
Scientific Officer (Medical)	1	17
Physiotherapist I	2	8
Assistant Clerical Officer	19	281
Clerical Assistant	1	533
Office Assistant	2	119
Telephone Operator	1	3
Typist	1	4
Supplies Assistant	1	13
Property Attendant	8	41
Artisan	3	10
Workman II	16	565
Total	116	3 077

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 355

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1861

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Agriculture item, the estimated livestock production for 2005 is 55,000 tonnes, which is 2,000 tonnes more than last year's actual figure, but it is worth \$10 million less. What kinds of livestock are estimated to increase in 2005? Since more and more infectious livestock diseases are found, why is there an increase in production instead of a decrease? And why is there a decline in value?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The outbreak of Avian Influenza in neighbouring regions last year (2004) caused a shortage of supply in day old chicks and hence a falling production of chickens in local farms. This together with a parallel reduction in imports led to a higher than normal price for chickens in the market. In 2005, barring other factors, we anticipate that chicken production will go back to normal with a projected increase of 2,000 tonnes and a corresponding decrease in value over the atypical figures of 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB356

Question Serial No.

1209

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 : What are the reasons for the estimated expenditure for the Government sector and the subvented sector for this year being 0.1% and 1.3% lower than the revised expenditure for 2004-05 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The provision for the Government sector in 2005-06 is 0.1% lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. This is mainly due to:

- (a) the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05 (earmarked funding for their extension was approved by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005 outside the 2005-06 estimate); and
- (b) the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005;

and partly offset by the additional provision for:

- (c) enhancing support services for the needy and for tackling domestic violence and family problems;
- (d) launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged; and
- (e) implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system.

The provision for the subvented sector in 2005-06 is 1.3% lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. This is mainly due to the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings; and partly offset by the additional provision for enhancing support services for the needy and for tackling domestic violence and family problems.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB357

Question Serial No.

1210

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 paragraph 5 under the Brief Description that one of the goals for the provision of family and child welfare services is to support families which are unable to fulfill their functions. Please set out in detail how the support will be delivered, and the funding and staffing arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a continuum of preventive, supportive and specialised services to, among other purposes, support families which are unable to fulfill their functions. All the family and child welfare services under Programme (1) such as integrated family service centres, family and child protective service, family support networking teams, clinical psychological service, residential care services for children, day nurseries and day crèches for children under six, hotline service, etc, provided by both the SWD and non-governmental organisations, are geared towards this purpose. The total provision is estimated to be \$1,747.1m in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB358

Question Serial No.

1211

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 paragraph 5 under the Brief Description that one of the goals for the provision of family and child welfare services is to help families in trouble. Please set out in detail how the assistance will be delivered, and the funding and staffing arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a continuum of preventive, supportive and specialised services to, among other purposes, help families in trouble. All the family and child welfare services under Programme (1) such as integrated family service centres, family and child protective service, family support networking teams, clinical psychological service, residential care services for children, day nurseries and day crèches for children under six, hotline service, etc., which are provided by both SWD and non-governmental organisations, are geared towards this goal. The total provision is estimated to be \$1,747.1m in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB359

Question Serial No.

1212

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 re-engineering of residential child care services as stated in paragraph 6 under the Brief Description, could the Administration please explain in detail the reasons why two small group homes and 25 children's home places have to be reduced in order to achieve the goal?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The re-engineering of residential child care services aims at optimising the usage of existing resources and achieving a better matching between service demand and provision so as to meet the changing service needs. In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department worked jointly with non-governmental organisations to reduce 16 places in two small group homes and 25 places in a residential nursery, and at the same time increase 50 foster care places. Through such service re-engineering, we are able to better regulate the under-utilised residential nursery service. Besides, we can increase the provision of foster care which is a more preferred placement option for children as it enables them to grow up in a family-like environment, and achieve an overall net increase of nine residential care places to benefit more children.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB360

Question Serial No.

1213

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 paragraph 6 under the Brief Description that in 2004, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) reduced 36 day crèche (DC) places, 162 day nursery (DN) places and two occasional child care units. Would the Administration consider transferring these surplus places to the districts in need, instead of reducing them, in order to facilitate an efficient use of resources?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : SWD has all along been taking measures to match the provision of DC, DNs and occasional child care service (OCCS) with the service demand. Despite some under-utilised DCs, DNs and OCCS units are closed or have their capacity reduced, additional DN places are provided and new DNs are opened in areas with such a demand. For example, in 2004-05, one DC together with its OCCS unit in Tai Po was closed (with a reduction of 36 DC places and one OCCS unit). Another four DNs in Yuen Long, Kwun Tong and Nathan Road were also closed (with a total reduction of 412 DN places and four OCCS units), and five DNs in Wong Tai Sin, Mong Kok, Wanchai, Causeway Bay and Southern District had their capacity reduced (with a total reduction of 112 DN places). But on the other hand, three new DNs were set up in Tin Shui Wai, Eastern District and Shanghai Street each with one OCCS unit (with a total increase of 362 DN places and three OCCS units). Overall, there was a net decrease of 36 DC places, 162 DN places and two OCCS units. The situation is attributable to the decline in child population. Given that the average utilisation rates for DC and DN from 1 April 2004 to 31 January 2005 were 86.7% and 81.6% respectively and the average utilisation rate for OCCS from 1 April 2004 to 30 September 2004 was

73.5%, the current provisions are considered sufficient.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB361

Question Serial No.

1214

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 : Would the Administration please explain in detail how the Adoption Ordinance will be amended, and set out in detail the manpower and provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The amendment of the Adoption Ordinance aims at improving local adoption arrangements and giving effect to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption. Amendments to the principal legislations were completed in 2004 with the Adoption (Amendment) Ordinance gazetted on 23 July 2004. Further legislative amendments to the subsidiary legislations are being worked out to enable the Convention to be ratified in Hong Kong.

At present, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is the only authority for arranging local adoption for children who are wards of the Director of Social Welfare (DSW), whereas two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are authorised to arrange inter-country adoption for DSW wards. Upon the enactment of the Adoption (Amendment) Ordinance, SWD will continue to provide local adoption service and play the role of the Central Authority in inter-country adoption cases, whereas interested NGOs meeting the requirements will be accredited to provide local and/or inter-country adoption services on a self-financing basis. The NGO currently receiving subvention to provide inter-country adoption service will continue to receive subvention.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB362

Question Serial No.

1215

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 cost per small group home place per month as stated in paragraph 7 under the Indicators, please explain in detail the reasons why the cost per place per month for the 2005-06 estimate is lower than that for the 2004-05 revised estimate.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The reduction in the unit cost is due to the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB363

Question Serial No.

1216

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 : It is stated in paragraph 17 under the Indicators that the estimated cost per place per month of day care centres in 2005-06 is lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. Please explain why.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per place per month of day care centre for the elderly in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB364

Question Serial No.

1217

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 : It is stated in paragraph 17 under the Indicators that the estimated cost per case served per month of integrated home care services in 2005-06 is lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. Please give specific reasons for the decrease in cost.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per case per month of integrated home care services in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB365

Question Serial No.

1218

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 cost per place per month of care-and-attention homes as stated in paragraph 17 under the Indicators, please explain why the estimated cost in 2005-06 is lower than the revised estimate in 2004-05 given that the enrolment rate for the homes remains unchanged.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : As compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the reduction in the cost per place per month of care-and-attention homes in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly caused by the following:

- (1) effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005; and
- (2) efficiency savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB366

Question Serial No.

1219

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 : It is stated in paragraph 18 that the Department would “provide a full range of support services for elders and their carers in the district elderly community centres (DECCs) and neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs)”. Please give an account of the concrete measures, as well as the staffing and funding arrangements in achieving this objective.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : As a result of the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders in 2003, there are currently 40 DECCs and 114 NECs providing direct services in a holistic manner to the elders and the carers in the community through various preventive, educational, developmental, support and remedial programmes. All of them have set up carer resource corners. DECCs also play a strategic role in establishing and collaborating with strategic partners in carrying out community education, bridging service gaps, collecting and disseminating information, and providing support and training to NECs and other elderly service units as required. The estimated recurrent provision for DECC and NEC is \$299.2m in 2005-06. All centres are required to employ social workers and other relevant staff to ensure satisfactory delivery of the services in accordance with the respective Funding and Service Agreement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB367

Question Serial No.

1220

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 : It is stated in paragraph 18 that the Department would “continue to promote active and healthy ageing through various means”. Please give an account of the specific means and the funding arrangements in achieving this objective.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Social Welfare Department will continue to join hands with various stakeholders to promote the concept of Active Ageing. This will be done through the Opportunities for the Elderly Project. A recurrent funding of \$3m in 2005-06 will be deployed to provide subsidies for community organisations to implement innovative programmes to promote a sense of worthiness among elders and to instil a spirit of care for elders in the community. Besides, all subvented District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres are required to organise activities and programmes on healthy and active ageing promoting physical and psycho-social well-being of elders.

In addition, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will also work with the Elderly Commission to promote a concept change in active ageing, making use of an amount of \$6.3m including a donation of \$6m from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB368

Question Serial No.

1221

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 explain why the financial provision for the subvented sector in the 2005-06 estimate is 1.6% lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the decrease of 1.6% in financial provision for the subvented sector of services for offenders in 2005-06 estimate is mainly due to the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings; and partly offset by funding for full-year effect of the hiving off of the probation hostel service to a non-governmental organisation in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB369

Question Serial No.

1223

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 : Please explain why the financial provision for the Government sector in the 2005-06 estimate has been greatly reduced by 59.8% as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate while there is no change in the basic targets and indicators for services.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The decrease in provision for the Government sector in 2005-06 of 59.8% as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate is mainly due to:

(a) the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05;

and partly off-set by the additional funding for:

(b) enhancing support services for the needy;

(c) launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged; and

(d) implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system.

Following the Finance Committee's approval of the necessary provision for extension of the temporary posts in the meeting held on 4 March 2005, there is actually no real reduction in resources in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB370

Question Serial No.

1224

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 : It is stated in paragraph 39 of the Estimates that the Department will “increase the provision for fee waiving cases under After School Care Programme (ASCP)”. Please explain the funding arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : An additional recurrent provision of \$5m would be earmarked for fee-waiving/reduction places for ACSP from 2005-06, thereby increasing the total provision for this purpose to \$15m. The maximum number of full fee-waiving places will as a result be increased from 830 to 1 245. This enables more needy parents to be freed from child minding burden so that they may work, seek jobs or receive job-related training with a view to achieving self-reliance. The resources will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating ASCP centres according to the actual demand for such fee-waiving/reduction places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB371

Question Serial No.

1225

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 : It is stated in paragraph 39 of the estimates that the Department will “provide support to the deprived children and youth at district level to meet their developmental needs.” Please explain the concrete measures involved, and the funding and staffing arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked an additional sum of \$15m per annum for 13 District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) to provide direct assistance to support individual children and youth in vulnerable circumstances to facilitate their wholesome development and the expenses of which cannot be covered by any other existing sources of funding at the district level. The SWD will apportion the new resources among DSWOs having regard to various social indicators in their respective districts, (e.g. number of low income families, number of new arrival families, number of youth at risk and number of single-parents on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance) so that more needy districts will have a higher priority for new resources.

Having regard to the circumstances of their respective districts, DSWOs will make use of the new resources to cover the expenditure of one-off projects and/or to provide direct assistance to needy children and youth to meet their developmental needs but the expenses of which cannot be covered by existing sources of funding at the district level.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB372

Question Serial No.

1226

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 : It is stated in paragraph 39 of the estimate that the Department will “enhance outreaching support services for young night drifters (YNDs) in integrated children and youth services centres.” Please explain the concrete measures involved, the funding and staffing arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked an additional \$16m to enhance services for YNDs with details to be worked out in early 2005-06. The staffing level of individual team and the programme provision will be enhanced. The SWD will look into the district needs and profile of YNDs to ensure that more needy districts will be accorded a higher priority in the allocation of the new resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB373

Question Serial No.

1227

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 : It is stated in paragraph 39 of the estimate that the Department will “set up an additional integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) through pooling of existing resources.” Please explain how existing resources will be pooled to serve the above purpose.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : An additional ICYSC will be set up through the pooling of the resources of three existing conventional children and youth centres upon agreement reached with the non-governmental organisation concerned with a view to providing a more integrated and holistic service to young people.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB374

Question Serial No.

1228

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 : As the enrolment rate for the day nurseries (DNs) is only 83%, could the Government transfer the surplus places to districts with great demand through an effective deployment exercise?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has all along been taking measures to match the provision of DN places with the service demand. While some DN places are closed or have their capacity reduced due to under-utilisation, additional DN places are provided and new DN places are opened in areas where the demand is higher. For example, in 2004-05, while 4 DN places in Yuen Long, Kwun Tong and Nathan Road were closed (with a total reduction of 412 DN places) and 5 DN places in Wong Tai Sin, Mong Kok, Wanchai, Causeway Bay and Southern had their capacity reduced (with a total reduction of 112 DN places), 3 new DN places were set up in Tin Shui Wai, Eastern and Shanghai Street (with a total increase of 362 DN places). Overall, there was a net decrease of 162 DN places. The situation is attributable to the decline in child population.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB375

Question Serial No.

1229

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 : Regarding the establishment ceiling in 2005-06, it is planned that 44 non-directorate posts will be deleted. Will the deletion of these posts affect the service quality?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The deletion of 44 non-directorate posts in 2005-06 will not affect the service quality because it is largely due to (i) the completion of various time-limited projects; (ii) streamlining of operation after the implementation of new computer systems; and (iii) closure or hiving off of non-core departmental service units to non-governmental organisations to achieve service integration, remove service fragmentation and promote synergy.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB376

Question Serial No.

1258

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 : While it is anticipated that the service demand for children and youth centres (CYCs) in 2005-06 will be the same as that in 2004-05 and the average utilisation rate will be as high as 99%, the number of these centres in the subvented sector will be reduced to 27 in 2005-06. How the service will be affected as a result of the reduction and why is there a decrease in the number of these centres in the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The current policy is to pool the conventional CYCs to form the integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) so as to better meet the needs of young people in an integrated and holistic manner. The reduction in the number of CYCs from 30 to 27 in 2005-06 reflects the pooling of the resources of three conventional CYCs to form an ICYSC upon agreement reached with the non-governmental organisation concerned. This is echoed by a corresponding increase in the number of ICYSCs from 132 in the revised estimates of 2004-05 to 133 in 2005-06. The areas served by the three CYCs being pooled will be taken up by the ICYSCs in the adjacent neighbourhood.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB377

Question Serial No.

1259

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 that there is a net decrease of 17 posts in 2005-06. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) What is the job nature of the posts to be deleted?
- (2) What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted?
- (3) Whether the posts to be deleted are held by contract staff or permanent staff?
- (4) What are the grounds for deleting the posts?
- (5) How will the work of the posts to be deleted be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (1) The 17 posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (5) in 2005-06 are social workers rendering probation and correctional services.
 - (2) The ranks and posts to be deleted are: three Social Work Officers, one Assistant Social Work Officer and 13 Social Work Assistants.
 - (3) All the posts to be deleted under Programme (5) are in the permanent establishment of the Department.
 - (4) The posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (5) in 2005-06 are due to the continual trend of decreasing number of probation cases in the higher courts, termination of the Young Offender Assessment Panel for streamlining of assessment process, closure of the Kwun Tong Hostel by hiving off its residential services for young male probationers to an NGO and the implementation of a technical infrastructure/client information system in the Department. The purposes for implementation of these initiatives are to enhance the productivity of the Department and the cost-effectiveness of services.
 - (5) The services of the Department will be re-organised upon the implementation of the above initiatives. The need for these posts will be

greatly reduced and any residual work would be absorbed by the other posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

HWFB Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB378

Question Serial No.

1260

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 : It is stated that there is a net decrease of five posts in 2005-06. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) What is the job nature of the posts to be deleted?
- (2) What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted?
- (3) Whether the posts to be deleted are held by contract staff or permanent staff?
- (4) What are the grounds for deleting the posts?
- (5) How will the work of the posts to be deleted be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) The five posts to be deleted under Programme (4) in 2005-06 is due to the closures or hive-off of sheltered workshops and hostels to non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- (2) These posts are in the ranks of Social Work Assistant, Workshop Instructor III, Ward Attendant and Workman II.
- (3) All the posts to be deleted under Programme (4) are in the permanent establishment of the Department.
- (4) The deletion of posts in 2005-06 under Programme (4) is due to the closure or hive-off of non-core departmental service units to NGOs. The closure/hive-off is intended to facilitate service integration, remove service fragmentation and promote synergy, and achieve savings through more cost-effective provision of similar services by NGOs. Upon the

closure/hive-off, these posts under Programme (4) are no longer required and the services provided by the Department will not be affected.

- (5) With the closure/hive-off of the workshops and hostels, there is no longer a need for the posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB379

Question Serial No.

1261

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 : It is stated that there is a net decrease of four posts in 2005-06. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) What is the job nature of the posts to be deleted?
- (2) What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted?
- (3) Whether the posts to be deleted are held by contract staff or permanent staff?
- (4) What are the grounds for deleting the posts?
- (5) How will the work of the posts to be deleted be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) The four posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (2) in 2005-06 include a time-limited statistical officer post to carry out the Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households and other staff providing administrative support to the Department.
- (2) These posts are in the ranks of Statistical Officer I, Executive Officer II, Clerical Officer, and Workman II.
- (3) The posts to be deleted are in the permanent establishment of the Department.
- (4) The deletion of these posts is either due to completion of a time-limited project or implementation of departmental efficiency saving measures which include the implementation of a technical infrastructure/client information system. Upon implementation of these

initiatives, the posts are no longer required and the services provided by the Department will not be affected.

- (5) There is no need to absorb work required for a time-limited project once that project is completed. Implementation of the technical infrastructure/client information system will allow the work of the department to be re-organised so that work currently under the responsibility of deleted posts can be absorbed.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB380

Question Serial No.

1262

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 that there is a net decrease of 16 posts in 2005-06. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) What is the job nature of the posts to be deleted?
- (2) What are the ranks of the posts to be deleted?
- (3) Whether the posts to be deleted are held by contract staff or permanent staff?
- (4) What are the grounds for deleting the posts?
- (5) How will the work of the posts to be deleted be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) The 16 posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (1) in 2005-06 are posts in departmental service units which have been/will be closed or hived off to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), or are subject to implementation of a technical infrastructure and client information system. They include social workers, enrolled nurses and staff providing administrative support, etc.
- (2) The ranks and the posts to be deleted are: Assistant Social Work Officer, Senior Social Work Assistant, Social Work Assistant, Enrolled Nurse, Clerical Officer, Workman II and Motor Driver.
- (3) All the posts to be deleted under Programme (1) are in the permanent establishment of the Department.
- (4) The deletion of posts under Programme (1) in 2005-06 is mainly due to the implementation of departmental efficiency saving measures which include the implementation of a technical infrastructure and client information system, and the closure/hiving off of non-core departmental service units to NGOs. These services include part of the services of Chuk Yuen Children's Reception Centre which has been taken up by an NGO; the three Street Sleeper Outreaching

Teams which have been replaced by three NGO-operated Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers; and the hiving off of a refuge centre for women to an NGO, etc.

- (5) Implementation of a technical infrastructure and client information system will allow the work of the Department to be re-organised so that work currently under the responsibility of deleted posts can be absorbed. With the closure or hiving off of services, there is no longer a need for the posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB381

Question Serial No.

1263

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 : It is stated that there is a net decrease of one post in 2005-06. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) What is the job nature of the post to be deleted?
- (2) What is the rank of the post to be deleted?
- (3) Whether the post to be deleted is held by a contract staff member or a permanent staff member?
- (4) What are the grounds for deleting the post?
- (5) How will the work of the post to be deleted be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply:
- (1) The post earmarked for deletion under Programme (3) in 2005-06 was to take care of the daily living of the then residents of the Ho's Clansmen Association Hostel for the Elderly (HCAHE), which has already been closed.
 - (2) The post is in the rank of Ward Attendant.
 - (3) The post is in the permanent establishment of the Department.
 - (4) The deletion of the post is due to the closure of HCAHE which was a non-core departmental service unit. We closed the HCAHE to ensure more cost-effective provision of similar services by non-governmental organisations. Upon closure of the HCAHE, this post is no longer required. The deletion of the post will not affect other services provided by the Department.
 - (5) As the HCAHE was closed, there is no need for the post.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB382

Question Serial No.

1264

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 estimated financial provision for 2005-06 will increase by 4.9%. The amount concerned will be spent mainly on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) Of the estimated additional expenditure, how much will be used on each type of CSSA recipients?
- (2) Of the estimated additional expenditure, how much will be used on each type of SSA recipients?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) The estimated expenditure on CSSA for 2005-06 and the amount of increase/decrease when compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate are as follows:

<u>Nature of case</u>	Estimate	
	2005-06 \$m	Amount of increase/decrease \$m
Old age	8,108	+100
Permanent disability	983	+71
Temporary disability/Ill health	1,658	+96
Single-parent family	3,549	+353
Low earnings	1,440	+293
Unemployment	2,547	-49
Others	294	+42
Total *	18,578	+904
(* Amounts may not add up to the total due to rounding)		

- (2) The estimated expenditure on SSA for 2005-06 and the amount of increase/decrease when compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate are as follows:

<u>Nature of case</u>	Estimate	
	2005-06 \$m	Amount of increase/decrease \$m
Higher Old Age Allowance	3,148	+161
Normal Old Age Allowance	665	-15
Higher Disability Allowance	388	+19
Normal Disability Allowance	1,296	+71
Total	5,497	+237*
(* Amounts may not add up to the total due to rounding)		

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB383

Question Serial No.

1265

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 an increase of 4% in the provision for rehabilitation and medical social services in 2005-06 when compared with the revised estimate in 2004-05. Please state separately the items to be increased and the details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate for this programme, the increase of 4% in the 2005-06 estimate is mainly due to the funding for new projects in 2004-05 and 2005-06, additional funding for launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, strengthening support services for people with disabilities and other needy groups, the transfer of funds from the Integrated Kindergarten units being phased out under the Education and Manpower Bureau for provision of additional Integrated Programme places in child care centres under the Department and implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system, partly offset by the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05 (earmarked funding for their extension was approved by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005), the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB384

Question Serial No.

1266

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 (SWD) will see an increase of 4.6% in the provision for services for elders in 2005-06 when compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate. Please state separately the items to be increased and the details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate for Programme (3): Services for Elders, the increase of 4.6% in 2005-06 estimate is mainly due to funding for new projects (including the conversion of self-care hostel and home for the aged places into care-and-attention places providing continuum of care, and the provision of infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting), partly offset by the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05 (earmarked funding for their extension was approved by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005 outside the 2005-06 estimate), the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB385

Question Serial No.

1267

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 see an increase of 4.9% in the provision for social security in 2005-06 when compared with the revised estimate in 2004-05. Please state separately the items to be increased and the details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate for Programme (2) Social Security, the increase of 4.9% in 2005-06 estimate is mainly due to increases in Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and Social Security Allowance expenditure arising from the projected increase in the number of cases to be served in the year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB386

Question Serial No.

1268

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 will see a reduction of 0.6% in the provision for family and child welfare services in 2005-06 when compared with the revised estimate in 2004-05. Please state separately the items to be reduced and the details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The provision for family and child welfare services in 2005-06 is 0.6% lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate. This is mainly due to:

- (a) the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05 (earmarked funding for their extension was approved by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005 outside the 2005-06 estimate); and
- (b) the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005;

and partly offset by the additional provision for:

- (c) enhancing support services for the needy and for tackling domestic violence and family problems;
- (d) launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged; and
- (e) implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB387

Question Serial No.

1269

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 2004-05, 49 575 and 18 489 family cases were served by the Government and the subvented sector respectively, while 10 389 and 4 955 cases were served by the integrated family service centres (IFSCs) operated by the Government and the subvented sector respectively, making the total caseload about 83 408. In the 2005-06 estimate, however, the entire family services will be incorporated into the integrated family service, and the projected number of cases to be served by the Government and the subvented sector are 59 435 and 20 186 respectively, making the total number of cases to be served about 79 621 which, when compared with 2004-05, has reduced by over 3 000. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) will IFSCs be capable of serving all the cases?
- (2) will the number of IFSCs be further increased? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) The number of 59 435 and 20 186 cases estimated to be handled by IFSCs in 2005-06 in the Government and subvented sectors respectively comprise cases carried forward from the previous financial year still requiring casework service plus all new and re-activated cases requiring casework service in the current year. IFSCs operate differently from traditional family services centres (FSCs)/counselling units in that they provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services other than casework alone (e.g. family life education programmes, parent-child activities, various therapeutic/support/mutual help groups, etc.). The decrease in the number of cases when compared with the number of cases estimated to be handled by FSCs/counselling units and some newly formed IFSCs in 2004-05 is due to the vigorous caseload management exercised by social workers of FSCs/counselling units during the transformation period

and the resort to intervention methods other than casework in meeting the needs of the service recipients.

- (2) The re-engineering of IFSCs has just been completed with an overall re-distribution of resources to avoid service overlapping and duplication. 61 IFSCs have been set up to cover the whole territory. We have no plan to increase the number of IFSCs at the moment but will review the operation of IFSCs at an appropriate time.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB388

Question Serial No.

1270

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 will see a reduction of 6.9% in the provision for the service for young people in 2005-06 when compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate. Please state separately the items to be reduced and the details concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The decrease in provision for the service for young people in 2005-06 of 6.9% as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate is mainly due to:

- (a) the lapse of temporary jobs in 2004-05; and
- (b) the effect of civil service pay cut of 3% effective from 1 January 2005 and efficiency savings;

and partly off-set by the additional funding for:

- (c) enhancing support services for the needy;
- (d) launching the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged;
- (e) implementing a technical infrastructure/client information system;
- (f) the full-year effect of the new social work units for new schools started in in 2004-05; and
- (g) the transfer of funds from the Education and Manpower Bureau for the Department to take over the school social work service in the practical schools and skills opportunity schools.

Following the Finance Committee's approval of the necessary provision for

extension of the temporary posts in the meeting held on 4 March 2005, there is actually no real reduction in resources in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB389

Question Serial No.

1272

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 : It is stated that there is a net decrease of 1 post in 2005-06. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) What is the job nature of the post to be deleted?
- (2) What is the rank of the post to be deleted?
- (3) Whether the post to be deleted is held by contract staff or permanent staff?
- (4) What are the grounds for deleting the post?
- (5) How will the work of the post to be deleted be absorbed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The post earmarked for deletion is at the rank of Workman II under the permanent establishment of the Social Welfare Department. The post used to render support services to an Against Substance Abuse Scheme Team of the Department which has already been disbanded after the work has been hived off to the five Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers operated by non-governmental organisations. With the hiving off, there is no longer any need for the post.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB390

Question Serial No.

1302

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 : It is stated that the Administration will take forward the conversion of self-care hostel and home for the aged places into long term care places in 2005-06. In this connection, what are the estimated number of places and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The Social Welfare Department will launch the exercise to convert self-care hostel and home for the aged places into care-and-attention (C&A) places providing continuum of care in 2005-06. We project that, under the conversion exercise, about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care will be generated eventually. The whole conversion process may take more than five years to complete. About 1 292 places will initially be created in 2005-06.

A total of \$180m new money has been earmarked for the conversion exercise. The estimated annual provision for the 1 292 places is \$132.4m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB391

Question Serial No.

1303

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 plan for converting self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into long term care places, what are the estimated number of places and expenditure involved for implementing the plan in districts of Sha Tin, Tseung Kwan O, and Tai Po respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The conversion exercise is targeted at 75 existing residential care homes for the elderly with subvented S/C hostel and/or H/A places and will be implemented by phases. Ten of them are in Sha Tin, six in Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung, and six in Tai Po. The numbers of subvented S/C and H/A places, involved in these districts could be 1 237, 540 and 521 respectively. These places will be converted into care-and-attention (C&A) places providing continuum of care. The whole conversion process may take more than five years. The pace of conversion of individual homes will depend very much on their vacancy situation, as elders will not be relocated to make way for the conversion in order to minimise disturbance to existing residents. It is therefore not possible to tell at this stage how many C&A places providing continuum of care will be created by the 22 homes in these districts in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB392

Question Serial No.

1304

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) The Administration has planned to set up an additional integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) in 2005-06. What specific services will this centre render and what is the expenditure incurred? How many young people will be provided with such services and what is the expenditure required?
 - (2) Does the Administration have any plan to set up similar integrated children and youth services centre in Sha Tin, Tai Po and Tseung Kwan O? If so, what is the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

- Reply :
- (1) The service components of ICYSC include children and youth service centre, school social work service and outreaching social work service. An ICYSC will serve about 12 000 children and youth population aged six to 24. The recurrent provision of the ICYSC to be formed in 2005-06 is \$5.46m.
 - (2) As there is no shortfall of ICYSCs in Sha Tin, Tai Po and Tseung Kwan O according to the current planning standard, the Administration has no plan to set up additional ICYSCs in these areas.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB393

Question Serial No.

1305

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 Administration provided outreaching support services for young night drifters in 2004-05. What are the number of young people being assisted and the expenditure incurred in this regard? Please also provide information on the number of young people being assisted in Sha Tin, Tseung Kwan O and Tai Po districts, as well as the expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : According to latest available figures from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned, a total number of 11 645 young night drifters were served in 2003-04#. In 2004-05, the annual provision to the 18 Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) for providing extended overnight outreaching services for young night drifters was \$21.4m.

The requested figures are as follows:

District/Area	Number of young night drifters served in 2003-04 #	Provision in 2004-05 \$m
Sha Tin	946	2.38
Tseung Kwan O*	525	1.19
Tai Po	1 699	1.19

* The ICYSC in this area serves both Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung but the majority of the young night drifters served were from Tseung Kwan O.

Figures for 2004-05 are not available yet.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB394

Question Serial No.

1315

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 : (a) What was the total number of cases served by the family support networking teams (FSNTs) and the amount of expenditure incurred in 2004-05?

(b) What were the respective numbers of cases in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts served by FSNTs and the amount of expenditure incurred in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : (a) Instead of providing casework service, FSNTs mainly provide outreaching and networking services to vulnerable individuals/families for early identification of problems and timely referral for appropriate services. Therefore, we do not have statistics on cases served. Nevertheless, up to December 2004, the total number of vulnerable households newly and successfully contacted through outreaching attempts was 22 088 while that of vulnerable households newly and successfully referred to welfare or mainstream services was 5 090. The amount of expenditure incurred in FSNTs cannot be separately ascertained because one FSNT operated by a non-governmental organisation and all of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s FSNTs have been pooled together and transformed into integrated family service centres (IFSCs) by phases in 2004-05.

(b) As explained in (a) above, we do not have statistics on cases served or the amount of expenditure incurred in the FSNTs in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts (all operated by the SWD). However, up to December 2004, a total number of 1 388 new vulnerable households were successfully contacted through outreaching attempts while 846 households were referred to

welfare or mainstream services by the FSNT in Sha Tin district before the formation of IFSCs. On the other hand, up to February 2005, a total number of 1 374 new vulnerable households were successfully contacted through outreaching attempts while 123 households were referred to welfare or mainstream services by the FSNT in Tai Po district before the formation of IFSCs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB395

Question Serial No.

1316

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 : (a) What is the total projected number of cases to be served by the family support networking teams (FSNTs) and the amount of expenditure to be incurred in 2005-06?

(b) What are the projected numbers of cases in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts to be served by FSNTs and the amount of expenditure to be incurred in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : (a) As one FSNT operated by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and all other FSNTs of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) have been pooled together and transformed into integrated family service centres (IFSCs), only seven FSNTs operated by NGOs will remain in 2005-06. Instead of providing casework service, these FSNTs mainly provide outreaching and networking services to vulnerable individuals/families for early identification of problems and timely referral for appropriate services. Therefore, we do not have projected statistics on cases to be served by them. Nevertheless, in 2005-06, the projected number of vulnerable households newly and successfully contacted through outreaching attempts is 4 000 while that of vulnerable households newly and successfully referred to welfare or mainstream services is 1 600, whereas the total provision for these seven FSNTs operated by NGOs is estimated to be \$5.2m.

(b) There will be no more FSNT in Sha Tin district and Tai Po district as SWD has pooled together all its FSNTs and transformed them into IFSCs in

2005-06 to provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services to individuals/families in need.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB396

Question Serial No.

1317

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 :
- (a) Please provide the number of active/pending/completed cases under the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme in 2004-05. What is the expenditure incurred?
 - (b) Please provide the number of active/pending/completed cases under the SFS Scheme from Sha Tin and Tai Po districts in 2004-05. What is the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

- Reply :
- (a) As at the end of February 2005, there were 46 422 active participants in the SFS Scheme. During 2004-05, 15 731 participants have left CSSA altogether or reduced their reliance on CSSA as a result of paid employment. The provision on implementation of the SFS Scheme during 2004-05 is \$68.2m.
 - (b) As at end of February 2005, there were 2 595 and 1 530 active SFS participants in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts respectively. During 2004-05, 1 014 and 588 participants who enrolled in the SFS Scheme in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts respectively have left CSSA or reduced their reliance on CSSA as a result of paid employment. The respective estimated provision for 2004-05 is \$3.8m and \$2.2m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB397

Question Serial No.

1318

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 :
- (a) What is the projected caseload of the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
 - (b) What is the projected caseload of the SFS Scheme from Sha Tin and Tai Po districts respectively in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

- Reply :
- (a) Based on the trend for the past 12 months, the projected caseload of the SFS Scheme is around 42 000 in 2005-06. The provision earmarked for the SFS Scheme is \$61.7m.
 - (b) Based on the trend for the past 12 months, the projected caseload of the SFS Scheme in Sha Tin and Tai Po districts is around 2 300 and 1 400 respectively in 2005-06. The respective estimated provision is \$3.4m and \$2.1m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB398

Question Serial No.

1336

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 Department stated under this programme that during 2005-06, it would "continue to support the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in reviewing the social security arrangements". In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the scope of the review in detail;
- (b) the timetable of the review; and
- (c) the provision earmarked for the review in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) We aim to complete in 2005-06:

- (i) an evaluation of the intensive employment assistance projects (IEAPs) implemented since October 2003 to help employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and the 'near-CSSA' unemployed move into work; and
- (ii) a review of existing CSSA arrangements and related services for single-parent families on CSSA.

We will also review during 2005-06:

- (i) the provision of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme; and
- (ii) the weighting system of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) (i.e. the relative importance of individual items of services and goods covered by the index), having regard to the findings of the 2004-05 Household Expenditure Survey (HES) on CSSA Households, which is a 12-month

survey lasting from October 2004 to September 2005.

- (b) Initial results of the evaluation of the IEAPs and the review of existing CSSA arrangements and related services for single-parent families on CSSA are expected to be available by the middle of 2005, and those of the review of the provision of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme are expected to be available towards the end of 2005.

Initial results of the review of the weighting system of the SSAIP based on the findings of the 2004-05 HES on CSSA Households in the first three quarters will be available in late 2005, and a new series of the SSAIP based on the full-year results of the survey is expected to be available in mid-2006.

- (c) Apart from the evaluation of the IEAPs, we will make use of in-house resources to conduct the reviews mentioned above. We have commissioned a research team of The Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation of the IEAPs at a cost of \$0.55m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB399

Question Serial No.

1337

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, it is stated that the Administration will “continue to promote active and healthy ageing through various means”. In this respect, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The earmarked expenditure in 2005-06 for this initiative.
- (b) Is there any concrete plan to promote the concept of active and healthy ageing? If yes, please list out the estimated expenditure for each of the plans.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : SWD will continue to join hands with various stakeholders to promote the concept of Active Ageing through the Opportunities for the Elderly Project. A recurrent funding of \$3m in 2005-06 will be provided to community organisations to implement innovative programmes to promote a sense of worthiness among elders and to instil a spirit of care for elders in the community. Besides, all subvented District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres are required to organise activities and programmes on healthy and active ageing promoting physical and psycho-social well-being of elders.

In addition, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will also work with the Elderly Commission to promote a concept change in active ageing, making use of an amount of \$6.3m including a donation of \$6m from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB400

Question Serial No.

1338

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 Department stated under this programme that during 2005-06, it would “continue its efforts to assist employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and other socially disadvantaged groups to find work and to help them elevate themselves and become more self-reliant”. In this connection, would the Administration inform this committee of the following:

- (a) the amount of provision earmarked for such tasks in 2005-06;
- (b) the amount of expenses in proportion to the total expenditure for social security; and
- (c) whether the effectiveness of such tasks has been evaluated. If so, what effectiveness has been achieved? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon. Leong Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The Social Welfare Department has implemented the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme since June 1999 to assist unemployed CSSA recipients back to work. Under the umbrella of the SFS Scheme, we also provide some employment assistance for those in the category of “near CSSA” recipients. The provision earmarked for the SFS Scheme in 2005-06 is \$61.7m.
- (b) The proportion of the above expenditure to the total expenditure for social security is 0.25%.
- (c) Results to date suggest that the above measures are meeting our objectives

of assisting CSSA unemployed recipients to become more self-reliant. For example, in 2004-05 (up to February 2005), 15 731 unemployed CSSA recipients participating in the SFS Scheme left CSSA altogether or reduced their reliance on CSSA as a result of paid employment. 40 Intensive Employment Assistance Projects were launched in October 2003 and another 30 in October 2004. As at the end of February 2005, 2 420 “near CSSA recipients” from other socially disadvantaged groups joined these projects and are receiving tailor-made employment assistance including job matching, employment training and post employment support services actively. Out of these 2 420 near CSSA participants, 1 246 have been assisted to secure full-time employment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB401

Question Serial No.

1339

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 : It is stated that there is a net decrease of four posts in the coming year under this programme of work. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the areas/units of social security for which these posts designated;
- (b) the respective ranks and duties of these posts; and
- (c) the reason(s) for the deletion of posts whilst there is an increase of 4.9% in expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) The four posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (2) in 2005-06 are in the Research and Statistics Section which carries out a Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households, and in administration offices which provide administrative support to the Department.

(b) The ranks and duties of these posts are as follows:

Office	Rank of Posts	Responsibilities
Research and Statistics Section	Statistical Officer I Clerical Officer	To assist in the time-limited project of carrying out the Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households.
Administrative Support Service	Executive Officer II	To provide executive support to a district social welfare office.

Workman II

To carry out manual and minor clerical duties.

- (c) The deletion of the first two posts is due to completion of a time-limited project while the deletion of the second two posts is part of an overall departmental efficiency initiative to delete these posts upon the implementation of a technical infrastructure/client information system.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB402

Question Serial No.

1340

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 under this programme that 17 posts will be deleted in the coming year. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the areas of work/units for which these 17 posts are designated;
- (b) the respective ranks and duties of these posts;
- (c) the estimated amount of savings to be achieved by deleting these posts; and
- (d) whether the Administration has evaluated the impact of the deletion of these posts on service quality. If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) The 17 posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (5) in 2005-06 are in probation offices, Young Offender Assessment Panel and correctional/residential homes.

(b) The ranks and duties of the above posts are summarised below:

Office	Number and Rank of Posts	Duties
Probation Office for Higher Courts	2 Social Work Officers	To conduct social enquiries and supervise probationers as directed by the higher courts
Young Offender Assessment Panel	1 Social Work Officer and 1 Assistant Social Work Officer	To conduct assessment on the rehabilitation plan of young offenders referred by

		the courts
Correctional/ Residential Homes	13 Social Work Assistants	To provide care, supervision and guidance to the residents

- (c) It is estimated that the deletion of these 17 posts will lead to savings of about \$5.2m per annum.
- (d) The Administration has carefully examined the impact of the deletion of these posts and considered there would not be any adverse effect on the service delivery and quality. The posts earmarked for deletion under Programme (5) in 2005-06 are due to the continual trend of decreasing number of probation cases in the higher courts, termination of the Young Offender Assessment Panel for streamlining of assessment process, closure of the Kwun Tong Hostel by hiving off its residential services for young male probationers to an NGO and the implementation of a technical infrastructure/client information system in the Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB403

Question Serial No.

1393

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 "Matters Requiring Special Attention" under programme (7), it is stated that the Government will enhance outreaching support services for young night drifters (YNDs) in integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs). Would the Government explain in detail the way to enhance such services in integrated children and youth services centres in Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung districts in 2005-06 in order to solve the grave social problem of young night drifters in the districts concerned?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : In 2005-06, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked an additional \$16m to enhance services for YNDs which are part and parcel of the services provided by 18 designated ICYSCs spreading over the territory, including the Yuen Long district and Central and Western/Islands district where the Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung areas are located.

The SWD will look into the needs and profile of YNDs in each district to make sure that more needy districts would have a higher priority in the allocation of new resources and the special needs of Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung areas will be duly taken into account.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB404

Question Serial No.

1394

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention under Programme 3, it is stated that the Administration will take forward the conversion of self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into long term care (LTC) places. Under the key performance measures in respect of services for elders as set out by the Government, a total of 18 475 places in care-and-attention homes and H/As could be provided by the subvented and private sectors in 2004-05. However, the total number of places in H/As, care-and-attention homes, and LTC services in 2005-06 is estimated at 16 926, which represents a decrease of 1 549 places from 2004-05. In this respect, would the Government inform this Committee if the additional LTC services (residential) places are sufficient to meet the community demand for such services?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : International trend indicates that institutional care is more suitable for elders with long term care needs. In line with this principle, the exercise to convert self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care-and-attention (C&A) places providing continuum of care will increase the number of subvented long term care places although the total number of bed places may appear to be reduced. Specifically, we will convert 10 700 places under the conversion exercise. Ultimately, the exercise will generate about 6 200 C&A places providing continuum of care, including about 2 900 new C&A places. The unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is much higher than that of a S/C hostel place, a H/A place and a C&A place not providing continuum of care.

To meet the increasing demand for long term care services, the Government has increased the number of subsidised residential care places for the elders from 17 000 in 1997-98 to 27 000 in 2004-05. Specifically, we have enhanced the community care services to encourage and facilitate the elders to age in place. In addition to the C&A places to be created under the conversion exercise, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places for the elders in the coming years, through the provision of purpose-built premises under the premises-led programme. In this regard, the SWD is at present inviting tenders for operating two residential care homes for the elderly in purpose-built premises under the premises-led programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB405

Question Serial No.

1395

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 : Would the Administration inform this Committee the actual amount of expenditure committed to handling domestic violence in Tin Shui Wai in 2004-05, and the amount of financial provision earmarked for handling domestic violence in Tin Shui Wai in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : To prevent and tackle family violence, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services including public education launched under the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence", a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through the new Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) model, residential care placements for children, and specialised services of the Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), Refuge Centres for Women (RCWs), Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs) and Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of SWD, etc. Some of these service units are established solely to meet the needs of Tin Shui Wai (eg. three IFSCs, and an additional FCPSU to be set up in Tin Shui Wai in April 2005 to serve cases of the whole Yuen Long district, including Tin Shui Wai). Other services that are provided on a territory-wide basis (i.e. with service units not situated in Tin Shui Wai, eg. residential care placements for children, FCSC, RCWs, CPUs etc.) are also open to residents of Tin Shui Wai. As such, the provision specifically earmarked for prevention and handling of family violence in Tin Shui Wai cannot be separately ascertained.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB406

Question Serial No.

1396

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 the Matters Requiring Special Attention under Programme (1) that the Administration will strengthen support services to victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crises, including setting up an additional Family and Child Protective Services Unit (FCPSUs). Would the Government inform this Committee the estimated expenditure for these services in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims and batterers of family violence and families facing crises. These services include public education which aims at, among others, promoting awareness of the importance of early help seeking, a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through the new Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) model, residential care placements for children, specialised services of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs) of SWD, Refuge Centres for Women (RCWs), Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), etc. The total estimated recurrent provision for FCPSUs, RCWs and FCSC which are set up mainly for supporting victims and batterers, or families facing crises is about \$130m in 2005-06. The provision for other service units such as IFSCs and CPUs etc. specifically with regard to family violence and family crises cannot be separately ascertained as these units also serve users with needs not relating to family violence and family crises.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB407

Question Serial No.

1471

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 the Administration's paper to the LegCo Welfare Panel, the unit cost of the long term care places arising from conversion of Self-care Hostels and Homes for the Aged is only \$6,225, as compared to \$9,130 as stated in 2005-06 estimate. Please explain the discrepancy.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In the Administration's paper to the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services for the meeting on 14 March 2005 [LC Paper No.CB (2) 1022/2004-05 (03)], we mentioned that "the notional conversion cost per care-and-attention place providing continuum of care will be \$6,225 per month. Taking into account other site specific recurrent items such as facility maintenance costs which will also be subvented, the total amount of subvention per place will actually be far higher than \$6,225". The amount of \$6,225 takes into account personal emolument and other charges only. Including other direct unit costs such as rent and rates subsidy, premises-related special charges, allowances for infirmary care and dementia care, and the costs of administrative support from non-governmental organisations and the Social Welfare Department, the unit cost should be \$9,130 per month.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB408

Question Serial No.

1472

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 : During 2005-06, the Department will continue to select operators from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to run residential care services for the elderly through open tender. Please advise the numbers of homes and places which will be provided in 2005-06 and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to provide purpose-built premises under the premises-led programme for NGOs and the private sector to provide residential care services for elders through open tendering. At present, SWD is inviting tenders for the provision of residential care services on two sets of purpose-built premises. These two homes will produce a total of 141 subsidised residential care places providing continuum of care for frail elders. The service contracts for these two homes will be awarded in the second quarter of 2005-06 with an estimated annual provision of \$11.9m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB409

Question Serial No.

1473

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 : During 2005-06, the Department will also continue to provide integrated care facilities in the form of day care places to be incorporated into residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) through competitive bidding. Please advise the number of places which will be provided in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2005-06, a 20-place day care unit will be set up within the premises of a purpose-built RCHE contract home in Kwai Shing East Estate under the premises-led programme. The estimated recurrent provision for this unit is \$0.87m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB410

Question Serial No.

1474

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 involved in the review of the outcome of the re-engineering exercise on community support services for elders?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : We will engage a consultant to conduct a review on the effectiveness and user satisfaction of the re-engineered centre-based community support services for elders. We estimate that the consultancy study will cost about \$0.6m.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB411

Question Serial No.

1475

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 involved in developing the extensive network of carer support services by incorporating carer support into various types of care services for elders?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Carer support service is one of the essential service components in all the re-engineered community support services for elders. All District Community Elderly Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres are required to set up carer resource corners for storing video, reference materials and rehabilitative aids for demonstration or on-loan purposes, conducting self-help groups and organising activities and programmes to help carers manage stress. All contract homes are also required to provide support services to carers as part of their services. As a temporary relief for carers who are taking care of elders residing in the community, there are 50 day care centres/units for the elderly providing day respite service. All of the 136 subvented and contract homes may use their causal vacancies to provide residential respite care, in addition to the 11 designated residential respite care places in these homes.

Since carer support services are part and parcel of the services provided by community support and residential care services for elders, there is no breakdown solely on the expenditure for developing carer support services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB412

Question Serial No.

1477

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 : Please provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure related to the work against domestic violence to be incurred in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : To prevent and tackle family violence, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations provide various services including public education launched under the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence", a continuum of preventive, supportive and counselling services delivered through the new Integrated Family Service Centre model, residential care placements for children, specialised services of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs) of SWD, Refuge Centres for Women (RCWs), Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC) etc. as well as training programmes organised for professionals involved in the work on family violence. The total estimated recurrent provision for FCPSUs and RCWs which are set up mainly for tackling family violence, as well as training programmes on family violence is about \$126m in 2005-06. The provision for other service units such as IFSCs, CPUs, FCSC etc. specifically with regard to family violence cannot be separately ascertained as these units also serve users with needs not relating to family violence.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB413

Question Serial No.

1576

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) Regarding the commissioning of a research team of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation study of the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), what is the expenditure involved?
- (2) Please provide in detail the scope of the research team's evaluation study, the up-dated progress and the target completion date.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (1) Expenditure on commissioning the study is \$550,000. It is met by funding support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and the Lotteries Fund.
- (2) The details of the scope of the research team's evaluation study are as follows:
 - (i) to analyse the success factors of the IEAPs and to advise on any possible measures to improve the success rate and to advise any measures to strengthen the programme so that more unemployed persons can rejoin the workforce and achieve self-reliance;
 - (ii) to consider and advise to what extent the IEAP concept might be used and developed to offer enhanced assistance to the specific vulnerable groups who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), such as the single-parents and long-term unemployed CSSA recipients;
 - (iii) to recommend measures to help IEAP participants leave the CSSA net permanently or not to enter it at all, as well as to make long-term improvements to their potential and social development capacity; and
 - (iv) to evaluate the impact of disregarded earnings on welfare dependence or exit.

The study will be conducted through surveys, in-depth interviews and focus groups with IEAP participants, ex-participants, Community Work (CW) participants, CSSA single-parent recipients, CSSA long-term and low-earnings recipients, ex-CSSA unemployed and low-earners and other low-income people including single-parents who are not receiving CSSA, and practitioners of the Active Employment Assistance Programme, Community Work and IEAP and practitioners handling CSSA single-parent recipients.

Data collection of the evaluation study will be completed in April, and analysis of data collected will be started subsequently. It is expected that the evaluation report will be available in mid 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB414

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (1) Statutory Functions

1832

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of registration applications from healthcare professionals processed by the Department of Health is expected to increase from 2 810 in 2004 (Actual) to 3 000 in 2005 (Estimate). Would the Administration inform us of:

- the reason(s) for the increase in the number of registration applications?
- the respective numbers of registration applicants obtaining their approved qualifications locally and overseas?
- the anticipated distribution of various healthcare professionals among such registration applicants and the corresponding percentage increases?
- the respective numbers of various healthcare professionals employed by the public and private sectors?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The estimated increase in number of registration applications from healthcare professionals for 2005 is mainly due to an expected increase in the number of nursing graduates from local universities.

The breakdowns of registration applications by local and non-local qualifications and by healthcare professionals are at Annexes I and II respectively.

Health Manpower Surveys are conducted regularly to ascertain, amongst others, the employment distribution and status of healthcare professionals. Surveys on medical practitioners and dentists were conducted in 2003. In 2004, surveys were conducted on supplementary medical professionals, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and chiropractors as well. Results for the 2004 surveys, except for those in relation to the supplementary medical professionals, are still being compiled.

Surveys findings, in respect of employment in public or private sector, that are available at the moment, are set out below:

	<u>Public Sector</u>	<u>Private Sector</u>	<u>Others</u>
Medical Practitioners (2003)	54%	39%	7%
Dentists (2003)	18%	72%	10%
Supplementary Medical Professionals (including Medical Laboratory Technologists, Occupational Therapists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers) (2004)	46%	41%	13%

Manpower survey on Chinese Medicine Practitioners will be conducted for the first time in 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr P Y LAM

Post Title Director of Health

Date 6 April 2005

Breakdown of Registration Applications by Local and Non-local Qualifications

Healthcare Professionals	Year 2004 (Actual)		Year 2005 (Estimate)	
	Non-local Qualification	Local Qualification	Non-local Qualification	Local Qualification
Chinese Medicine Practitioners	87	248	90	250
Medical Practitioners	182	888	172	888
Dentists	5	72	5	65
Pharmacists	56	30	46	29
Nurses	43	580	21	801
Midwives	0	27	2	34
Supplementary Medical Professionals *	54	531	56	544
Chiropractors	11	0	6	0

* Supplementary Medical Professionals include Medical Laboratory Technologists, Occupational Therapists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers.

Annex II

Breakdown of Registration Applications by Healthcare Professionals

	Year 2004 (<u>Actual</u>)	Year 2005 (<u>Estimate</u>)	Percentage of Increase/Decrease in <u>Year</u> <u>2005</u>
Chinese Medicine Practitioners	335	340	+1.5%
Medical Practitioners	1 070	1 060	-0.9 %
Dentists	77	70	-9.1 %
Pharmacists	86	75	-12.8 %
Nurses	623	822	+31.9 %
Midwives	27	36	+33.3%
Supplementary Medical Professionals *	585	600	+2.6 %
Chiropractors	11	6	-45.5 %
Total	2 814	3 009	+6.9%

* Supplementary Medical Professionals include Medical Laboratory Technologists, Occupational Therapists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB415

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1807

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 :

How much resource will be allocated in 2005-06 for promoting environmental hygiene and health education respectively? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Department plans to spend a total of \$27.5 million on promotion of environmental hygiene and health education in 2005-06. We will launch publicity and educational programmes through various channels (such as TV/Radio, seminars, exhibitions, school talks, posters, leaflets) to disseminate public health messages across the community, with particular emphasis on target groups like students, elderly and new arrivals. We will organize major campaigns on topical themes, such as "Anti-mosquito" and "Food Safety". We will continue to make available \$1.8 million to District Councils for organizing community involvement activities/campaigns to disseminate keep clean messages.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB416

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1808

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 give details on:

1. market promotion and the expenditure involved;
2. the various initiatives relating to market management, for example, the estimated savings in manpower and resources by contracting-out the market management in Kowloon City District;
3. the deletion of 93 posts under Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

1. In 2005-06, the Department will continue to carry out promotion activities in various public markets to improve their business environment. These include adopting a proactive approach in attracting new lines of business into selected markets, conducting activities such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions, and distributing quarterly market newsletters to attract customers. The actual resources required can only be confirmed after the promotion plans have been firmed up but will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.
2. The initiatives relating to market management include the "Market Manager Scheme" and "Outsourcing the management of the four markets in Kowloon City District". The Market Manager Scheme aims to utilize personnel with relevant private-sector experience to enhance the management and promotion of selected public markets, while the Outsourcing Scheme aims to test the feasibility for and effectiveness in using a service contractor instead of civil servants to provide

overall management, cleansing services, minor repairs and maintenance to the four markets in Kowloon City District. We will conduct an overall review of these trial schemes later this year.

By outsourcing the management of the four markets in Kowloon City District, the Department has deleted 24 civil-service posts. The estimated net annual savings is about \$0.6 million, representing some 9% of the recurrent expenditure on these four markets.

3. The 93 posts to be deleted under Programme (3) in 2005-06 include 45 Health Inspector Grade Officers, 43 Workman I, and 5 Workman II.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	GREGORY LEUNG
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB417

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1821

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

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 Item 013 special improvement in environmental hygiene under Sub head 700, what are the specific work plans in 2005-06 and the respective expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

This item is related to cleansing and pest control services to be provided by 3 291 temporary workers. These services, provided largely through private contractors, include:

- cleansing and washing of public places, such as cooked food markets/bazaars/public toilets;
- undertaking minor repair works, such as limewashing, at public rear lanes;
- undertaking rodent, mosquito and other pest control work; and
- removing unauthorized bills/posters.

The estimated total expenditure for these services is \$303 million, including funds recently approved by the Finance Committee in March 2005. A breakdown of the provision is not available at this stage as most of the contracts have yet to be awarded.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB418

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1822

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 :

The establishment of FEHD will be reduced by 618 posts in 2005-06. What is the breakdown by grade and rank of the staff involved? What measures will be taken to ensure that service quality will not be affected?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A list showing the grades and ranks of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 is at Annex. The Department will seek to maintain the quality of our services to the community through various initiatives, including better staff deployment, streamlining of procedures, and outsourcing of services.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

List of the 618 posts to be deleted in 2005-06

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>
<i>Deletion of Posts</i>		
Health Inspector	Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	2
	Superintendent of Environmental Health	8
	Chief Health Inspector	28
	Senior Health Inspector	33
	Health Inspector I/II	80
Projectionist	Projectionist	1
Transport Services Officer	Transport Services Officer II	1
Special Driver	Special Driver	12
Artisan	Artisan	34
Ganger	Ganger	82
Property Attendant	Property Attendant	2
Workman I	Workman I	95
Workman II	Workman II	241
Police Inspector/ Superintendent	Superintendent of Police	1
	Total No. of Deleted Posts :	620
<i>Offset by Creation of Posts</i>		
Health Inspector	Superintendent of Environmental Health	2
	<i>No. of Net Deletion :</i>	<i>618</i>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB419

Question Serial No.

1823

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 :

Under Programme (2), why is the estimated number of inspections to food premises in 2005-06 reduced by 5.8% as compared with last year?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The frequency of inspection for low risk and medium risk food premises will be reduced resulting in a lower number of inspections in total in 2005-06 in order to better target the Department's resources at high risk food premises including those found to have operated without licences.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB420

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1824

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 :

Under Programme (2), why is the estimated number of raids against illegal slaughtering in 2005-06 reduced substantially by 23% as compared with last year?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

According to the Department's observations, illegal slaughtering activity in the territory has diminished substantially as a result of effective enforcement actions carried out over the past few years. The number of raids against such activity projected for 2005 has hence been accordingly adjusted.

Signature

Name in block letters

GREGORY LEUNG

Post Title

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB421

Question Serial No.

1583

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 provision of \$1.7471b for 2005-06, please set out the estimated provision earmarked for the integrated family service centres (IFSCs) and the 61 IFSCs which have been set up.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : In 2004-05, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) re-engineered all family services centres/counselling units of the SWD and non-governmental organisations to form 61 IFSCs by phases. The estimated total recurrent provision for IFSCs in 2005-06 is \$553.6m.

Signature	Paul TANG
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB422

Question Serial No.

1584

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 places will be reduced from 916 in 2004-05 to 836 in 2005-06. Please set out the enrolment rate for day crèches in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : There is a provision of 916 day crèche places by end of 2004-05. The average utilisation rate from 1 April 2004 to 31 January 2005 was 86.7%.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB423

Question Serial No.

1585

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 : Given that the number of family and child protection supervision cases served will increase from 8 134 in 2004-05 to 8 622 in the 2005-06 estimate, could the Administration explain why the number of supervision cases per worker will decrease from 50 in 2004-05 to 43 in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The provision of social workers for the Family and Child Protective Services Units of the Social Welfare Department is planned to increase from 105 in 2004-05 to 123 in 2005-06. Due to the increase in the provision of social workers, the average number of family and child protection supervision cases handled by each worker is estimated to be reduced despite an estimated increase in the total number of cases served in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB424

Question Serial No.

1693

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 : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06 that the Administration will review the importance of individual items of goods and services covered by the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP), having regard to the findings of the 2004-05 Household Expenditure Survey on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Households. Please state the details of the review exercise and the methodology employed. Is there any schedule?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : The set of expenditure weights (i.e. the relative importance of goods and services) covered by the SSAIP are updated with findings from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) on CSSA Households. The latest 2004-05 round of the HES on CSSA Households has been launched in October 2004 and will last till September 2005. Up-to-date information on the expenditure pattern of CSSA households so collected will be employed to update the expenditure weights.

Preliminary survey results based on the first three quarters' findings will be available in late 2005 for an initial review of the weighting system of the SSAIP. A new series of the SSAIP based on the full-year results of the survey is expected to be available in mid 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB425

Question Serial No.

1694

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 worsening of domestic violence, will the block allocation earmarked by the Administration in the 2005-06 estimate for tackling the problem be increased? What are the new plans or measures to be adopted by the Administration to tackle the problem? Please set out the details of the plans, a breakdown of the provision and the expected caseload to be served, etc.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : In 2005-06, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will enhance related services at different levels to support families and combat family violence. An additional provision of \$45m has been earmarked for such purpose. On the preventive level, the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence" will continue to be launched. On the supportive level, services through the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) will be enhanced. On the remedial level, there will be enhanced provision of services for vulnerable children and young persons including those suffering from abuse and violence as well as for victims and batterers of family violence and other families facing crises (for example, additional residential care placements for children, additional clinical psychologists of the Clinical Psychology Units and social workers of the Family and Child Protective Services Units of the SWD, enhanced support to the Refuge Centres for Women and the hotline service of the Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC), turning the time-limited service of the Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre (SCIC) into a regular service etc.). Moreover, more training programmes on family violence will be organised. Funding specifically allocated for tackling family violence cannot be separately ascertained as some of the services (eg. IFSCs, FCSC and SCIC) also handle individual and family problems of nature other than family violence. Details of the funding and implementation arrangements of these enhanced measures will be worked out with the service providers concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB426

Question Serial No.

1788

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Subhead : 700 - General Non-recurrent

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare
(3) Services for Elders
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision on P.322, it is said that there are additional provisions due to the launching of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (Partnership Fund). Please (i) explain why the Partnership Fund is on one hand included under Item 470 of Subhead 700 General non-recurrent and at the same time also shown under the above programmes which are recurrent expenses; and (ii) indicate clearly how much of the Partnership Fund is allocated to each of these programmes.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The financial provision analysed by programmes on P.322 reflects the total provision for Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2005-06 which includes both the recurrent and non-recurrent expenditure. This explains why the Partnership Fund, which is a non-recurrent item under Subhead 700, has been included in the analysis.

Out of a total of \$200m, we have tentatively earmarked an amount of \$90m for launching the Partnership Fund in 2005-06. Depending on the response of the welfare sector from which applications are now being invited, we have technically attributed the amount on a pro-rata basis to the five relevant programme areas under the SWD. This is just a simple financial presentation and would not affect the actual approved funding for applications from different service areas. The amounts attributed to the relevant programme areas are shown below:

	\$m
Family and Child Welfare	9.0
Services for Elders	39.5
Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services	27.5
Services for Offenders	0.5
Young People	<u>13.5</u>
Total	<u><u>90.0</u></u>

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 427

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1862

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Fisheries item, the estimated capture production for 2005 is the same as that for 2004. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The capture fisheries production and the number of large fishing vessels contributing to the bulk of production have remained quite stable in the past few years. We do not anticipate that there would be a significant change in the number of large fishing vessels and hence the capture fisheries production in 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB428

Question Serial No.

1791

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 recurrent expenditure (excluding social security payments) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) rises from \$9,190m (2004-05 revised estimate) to \$9,480m (2005-06 estimate). However, it will rise from \$2,570m (2004-05 revised estimate) to \$2,760m (2005-06 estimate) if the subventions for non-governmental organisations are deducted. Why does SWD have a \$190m increase in expenditure notwithstanding that its funding should be cut by more than 2%?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, the increase in operational expenses excluding subventions in 2005-06 is mainly due to:

- (a) the provision for new projects coming on stream in 2004-05 and 2005-06;
- (b) the additional provision for various initiatives including enhancing support services for young people, family and child welfare and people with disabilities;
- (c) implementation of a new technical infrastructure/client information system; and
- (d) reclassification of Grant to the Emergency Relief Fund from General Non-recurrent Expenses to Operational Expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	7 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB429

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

1789

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : We note that there will be a new provision of 5 rehabuses under the Head 170 – Social Welfare Department in 2005. At the same time, under the Programme (5) of Head 186 – Transport Department, the provision of rebus services remains the same but the total expenditure in Transport Service for People with Disabilities will be decreased by 20%. Please explain the programme details and how could the overall performance of rebus service be improved for the benefit of people with disabilities.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The reduction in total expenditure for Transport Services for People with Disabilities under Programme (5) of Head 186 in 2005-06 is mainly due to the reduced number of rehabuses that need to be replaced in 2005-06. In 2004-05, a total of ten rehabuses were replaced and in 2005-06, the number of rebus that is due for replacement will be one only, hence a smaller capital expenditure of \$5.4 million in 2005-06.

The remaining \$1.4 million reduction in provision for this Programme is due to the effect of salary adjustments in line with the civil service pay cut in 2005 and savings in departmental expenses. The reduction in provision for Programme (5) will not affect the level of rebus services.

To improve the service of rehabuses and to meet increasing demand from the disabled community, funding provision has been made under Head 170 – Social Welfare Department to procure five additional rehabuses. Subject to funding approval, the procurement process for the new rehabuses could start in 2005 and the new vehicles are expected to join the rebus fleet to improve services in 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

HWFB430

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Question Serial No.

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

1790

Head : 703 - Buildings

Subhead : 3007NB, 3023NM,
3031NM

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the progress of the following projects ? How was the provision used in 2004-05 and will be used in 2005-06 ? When are the projects expected to be completed ? Will there be any discrepancies with the completion dates scheduled when the projects were approved ?

- (a) 3007NB : Reprovisioning of Diamond Hill Crematorium;
- (b) 3023NM : General improvement to Ngau Tau Kok Market and Cooked Food Centre;
- (c) 3031NM : General improvement to Ngau Chi Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Item **Progress and Use of Provision**

- (a) 3007NB Phase I of the project commenced on site in October 2004 as scheduled, and is about 10% completed. The site formation and drainage works are in progress.

The provisions for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are for payment of the site formation and superstructure works of Phase I.

The anticipated completion dates of Phase I and Phase II works are June 2006 and April 2008 respectively which are the same as the original completion dates.

- (b) 3023NM The project commenced in December 2004 as scheduled, and is about 5% completed. The building services works and associated builder's works are in progress.

The provision for 2004-05 and 2005-06 is for the general improvement works and consultancy fees. The anticipated completion date is February 2006 which is the same as original completion date.

Item **Progress and Use of Provision**

- (c) 3031NM The project commenced in December 2004 as scheduled, and is about 5% completed. The building services works and associated builder's works are in progress.

The provision for 2004-05 and 2005-06 is for the general improvement works and consultancy fees. The anticipated completion date is February 2006 which is the same as original completion date.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB431

Question Serial No.

1704

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

What is the reason for the over-50%-increase in the general departmental expenses in 2005-06 over that of the revised estimate for 2004-05? Please itemize the reasons and the expenditure thus incurred. If the increase is related to the employment of contract staff, please set out the relevant staffing, reasons for employing contract staff and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The increase of \$25.1 million (56.8%) in the general departmental expenses in 2005-06, as compared with the 2004-05 revised estimate, is not related to the employment of contract staff. It is mainly due to the additional provision for strengthening infectious disease control and for launching the pilot Head Start Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie YAU
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB432

Question Serial No.

1716

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

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Bureau will examine whether the "Fee Assistance Scheme" would be implemented in 2005-06, what are the details? Will a consultant be commissioned and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

We carried out the first stage of consultation on the general concept of developing a Fee Assistance Scheme (FAS) for financing residential care of frail elders to allow them more choices and flexibility in using residential care services in 2003, involving the Elderly Commission, the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services (the Panel), and the District Councils. The concept received support in general but the feasibility of FAS has yet to be ascertained bearing in mind design of suitable service delivery mode and different demands and views from different stakeholders. We hope to examine in greater details the feasibility of developing the FAS before working out the implementation details in consultation with the stakeholders. Given the complexity of the issues involved, we will adopt a step-by-step approach. We aim to brief the Panel on the progress of our work later this year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie YAU

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB433

Question Serial No.

1717

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

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Item 015 of promotion of healthy ageing under Subhead 700 still has a balance of 32.6%. Will the Administration continue launching activities to encourage active and healthy ageing in 2005-06 by using the balance? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Administration will continue to work with the Elderly Commission in 2005-06 to promote active ageing making use of the balance of \$326,000 in Item 015, and a donation of \$6M from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. A Working Group has been set up under the Commission to consider creative initiatives to promote the concept. Social Welfare Department and Department of Health will also help to drive home messages on active and healthy ageing by making use of their allocated resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs. Carrie YAU

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

4 April 2005

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 434

Question Serial No.

1740

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:

Concerning the Capacity Building Mileage Programme, please provide information about the number of participants, its enrolment situation and the expenses involved since its implementation.

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, 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 and a Steering Committee has been set up under the Women's Commission to steer the overall direction of the CBMP.

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. According to the approved budget, the estimated annual expenditure for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is \$4.95 million, \$4.05 million, and \$3.43 million. Major expenditure 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 the number of classes is kept to the minimal to make it easier for women with different needs to participate. In 2004-05, 12 radio courses and three face-to-face courses were offered as planned, and a total of 3,480 participants had registered in the supplementary learning activities and face-to-face courses, which is above the estimated enrollment of 2,100 participants in the first year. In addition to these registered participants, there are many others who benefit through listening to the radio programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.4.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 435

Question Serial No.

1741

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:

Would the government explain why the revised estimate of 2004-05 is \$6.7 m less than the original estimate of 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The estimate for 2004-05 is revised from \$18 million to \$11.3 million for 2004-05 under Head 149. It is because a number of new initiatives related to safety (with emphasis on domestic violence against women), nurturing families (parenting education) and gender awareness were under planning in 2004-05, the implementation of which is expected to complete by end 2005 and the cash flow requirements will be reflected in 2005-06. To meet the requirement, a provision of \$16.3 million is made in 2005-06 to tie in with the implementation of both the on-going and new initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Health, Welfare and Food

Date 9.4.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB 436

Question Serial No.

1742

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 advise us on the following --

- (a) Which government departments will use the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" in 2005-06?
- (b) Last year, the Administration made a pledge to the Council that a more formal evaluation mechanism on gender mainstreaming would be developed in 2004-05. Please give details on the implementation of the evaluation mechanism, as well as the expenditure and the estimate for developing and implementing the mechanism.
- (c) Has the Administration used the mechanism to conduct evaluations for the government departments which have used the checklist?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

- (a) 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 a number of policy areas or programmes.

All bureaux and departments have already designated a senior officer (a directorate officer in most cases) as the "Gender Focal Point" within their respective organisations. These Gender Focal Points 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 HWFB and the Women's Commission.

To facilitate the gender mainstreaming process, gender-related training is provided to civil servants to raise their awareness and equip them with basic gender mainstreaming techniques.

In 2005-06, we shall continue to roll out the Checklist to more policy/programme areas on an incremental basis, including but not limited to the pilot "Head-Start Programme" for children aged 0-5, specialized support for young persons with early sign of mental health problem, provision of infirmary care services in a non-hospital setting and combating domestic violence.

(b) & (c) In 2005-06, plans are also at hand to form a core group of selected Gender Focal Points to devise plans or strategies to encourage bureaux/ departments for proactive application of the Checklist. We also seek to implement the evaluation mechanism, which include focus group discussions with the Gender Focal Points to gather feedback and compilation of a booklet on good practices on gender mainstreaming.

The resources incurred in development of the evaluation mechanism would be absorbed by existing resources of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Date 8.4.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB 437

Question Serial No.

1743

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 provide a breakdown by departments of the numbers of civil servants who enrolled in gender-related training in 2004-05?
2. According to the civil servants who have received the above training, in what ways is the training useful to their work?
3. Which government departments are expected to participate in the above training in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (1) Gender-related training workshops are organised to enhance civil servants' sensitivity towards gender issues and women's concerns, so as to facilitate their taking into consideration gender perspectives in their work, including policy making and providing services to the community.

In 2004-05, a total of around \$360,000 was spent on providing gender related training for civil servants. Five training workshops and a mass seminar were organised for 271 participants, a breakdown of which is as follows:

<u>Training Programmes</u>	<u>No. of staff attended</u>
(a) Workshops	
Gender Focal Points (GFP) of various bureaux and departments	53
Home Affairs Department/District Offices	8
Administrative Officers	16
Social Welfare Department	57
(b) Mass seminar of various bureaux and departments	
Total	271

A detail breakdown by bureau/department is attached.

In addition, we have also used the provision to develop a self-learning training kit on Valuing Diversity in collaboration with the Home Affairs Bureau, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Civil Servants Training and Development Institute (CSTDI) for distribution to all bureaux and departments and uploading on the Cyber Learning Center of CSTDI.

- (2) Civil servants from various grades and ranks received the above training. Feedback from participants has been positive in general. Many of them considered the programme useful in raising their awareness of gender issues in both their personal and work lives, and increasing their sensitivity towards the specific needs of clients of different genders.
- (3) In 2005-06, we will continue to provide similar training to civil servants of different bureaux and departments. The expected number is more or less the same as that in 2004-05.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: MRS CARRIE YAU

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date: 8 April 2005

Breakdown

	Bureaux/Departments	No. of Participants
1	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	6
2	Civil Service Bureau	3
3	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	5
4	Constitutional Affairs Bureau	2
5	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	2
6	Education and Manpower Bureau	7
7	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	2
8	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	3
9	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	6
10	Home Affairs Bureau	4
11	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	1
12	Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service	1
13	Legislative Council Secretariat	1
14	Security Bureau	3
15	Architectural Services Department	6
16	Audit Commission	3
17	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	6
18	Buildings Department	4
19	Civil Engineering and Development Department	4
20	Census and Statistics Department	1
21	Civil Aid Service	1
22	Correctional Services Department	7
23	Customs and Excise Department	8
24	Department of Health	9
25	Drainage Services Department	4
26	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department	2
27	Environmental Protection Department	7
28	Fire Services Department	2
29	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	9
30	Government Laboratory	1
31	Government Logistics Department	1
32	Government Property Agency	3
33	Hong Kong Observatory	1
34	Hong Kong Police Force	2

35	Home Affairs Department	10
36	Housing Department	1
37	Independent Commission Against Corruption	2
38	Immigration Department	6
39	Information Services Department	1
40	Inland Revenue Department	6
41	Intellectual Property Department	2
42	Labour Department	5
43	Lands Department	7
44	Land Registry	2
45	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	7
46	Marine Department	4
47	Office of the Telecommunications Authority	1
48	Post Office	1
49	Radio Television Hong Kong	1
50	Rating and Valuation Department	4
51	Student Financial Assistance Agency	6
52	Social Welfare Department	65
53	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	3
54	Trade and Industry Department	6
55	Transport Department	4

Total : 271

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB438

Question Serial No.

1749

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 order to facilitate the development of family medicine, how many training places will be provided in the coming year? What will be the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Hospital Authority (HA) will provide a total of around 70 training places in Family Medicine (FM) in 2005-06. This will comprise around 50 places for medical graduates to receive basic FM training and around 20 places for non-specialist residents currently in general practice to receive specialist FM training. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$40 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB439

Question Serial No.

1750

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:

- (a) Please list out the expenditure of the 3 existing public Chinese medicine outpatient clinics, their staffing and the median salary of each rank.
- (b) In the coming year, the Government will open 3 additional Chinese medicine outpatient clinics. What is the expenditure involved? What will be the staffing? How many local Chinese medicine graduates and local Chinese medicine practitioners will be employed?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

(a) The provision for recurrent expenditure of the 3 existing Chinese Medicine (CM) clinics is \$ 13.4 M in 2004-05.

The staff provision for the 3 existing clinics is as follows:

	Number of staff in CM clinic		
	Yan Chai Hospital	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	Tung Wah Hospital
CM Practitioner	3	2	3
CM trainee	2	1	6
CM Pharmacist	1	1	1
Dispenser	2	1	3
Nurse	2	-	2
Support Staff	4	2	5

The staff are employed by the respective non-governmental organizations running these clinics and their salaries do not need to follow the HA pay scale. Median salary for each rank of staff in each clinic is therefore not readily available.

The Administration has committed to increase the number of CM clinics from the current three to at least six in 2005-06. Subject to negotiation between the HA and interested non-governmental

organizations/charitable organizations, the new clinics are intended to be operating on a self-financing basis. To provide more training opportunities for local CM graduates, it will also be made a service requirement for these new clinics to employ at least five local CM graduates. The Government will provide designated provision for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Carrie YAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food</u>
Date	<u>April 2005</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB440

Question Serial No.

1752

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 public medical services, please list out the number of attendances of the elderly aged over 65 for general outpatient services, specialist outpatient services and inpatient services and their percentage over the total utilization of respective services.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Information on the utilisation of public medical services by elderly patients (aged 65 and older) are set out in the table below –

Type of Service	Number of cases by elder	Proportion of total number of cases
Inpatient discharges & deaths and day patient attendances	453 001	40.9%
Specialist outpatient attendances	1 965 612	32.5%
General outpatient attendance #	1 403 208	37.4%

Note : The above are utilisation figures for the period between January and December 2004.

Not all 75 General Outpatient Clinics are fully computerized, the figures refer to 58 clinics with computerized appointment system in place.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB441

Question Serial No.

1785

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 :

What are the unit costs (per day) of the following in-patient services in the past 10 years: general (acute & convalescent), infirmary, mentally ill, mentally handicapped.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

Information on unit costs between 2000-01 and 2004-05 are set out in the table below. The spike in unit costs (most notably for general inpatient services) observed in 2003-04 was mainly a result of the significant reduction in the volume of activities across the full range of Hospital Authority (HA) services brought on by the SARS outbreak.

	2000-01 Actual	2001-02 Actual	2002-03 Actual	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Revised Estimate	2005-06 Estimate
<u>Cost per patient day</u>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
General (acute & convalescent)	3,070	3,210	3,240	3,930	3,320	3,230
Infirmary	980	1,090	1,070	1,180	1,110	1,090
Mentally Ill	1,170	1,340	1,360	1,440	1,340	1,300
Mentally Handicapped	1,070	1,050	1,040	1,060	980	950

Similar information on unit costs for 1999-2000 and before are not readily available, because the HA

only started keeping separate cost figures for different inpatient services in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB442

Question Serial No.

1786

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 :

It is observed that the unit costs (per day) of inpatient services (general) has increased over the past 5 years in spite of various efficiency savings and cost cutting exercises. Please account for the increase.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

Unit costs (per day) of inpatient service (general) for the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05 are set out in the table below –

	2000-01 Actual	2001-02 Actual	2002-03 Actual	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Revised Estimate	2005-06 Estimate
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Cost per patient day</u>						
General (acute & convalescent)	3,070	3,210	3,240	3,930	3,320	3,230
% change		4.6%	0.9%	21.3%	- 15.5%	- 2.7%

The increase in unit costs over the years can largely be attributed to the gradual reduction in the volume of inpatient activities and the high proportion of fixed costs for the provision of such services. Over the past few years, the Hospital Authority (HA) has adopted the strategy of placing greater focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes and replacing, where appropriate, inpatient treatment. The decrease in the volume of inpatient activities is a desired result of this strategy. The spike in unit costs observed in 2003-04 was mainly a result of the drastic reduction (17.3% drop) in inpatient activities brought on by the SARS outbreak.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Carrie Yau _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food _____
Date	_____ 7 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB443

Question Serial No.

1787

Head : 149 Government Secretariat : 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 :

What was the median waiting time for first appointment at psychiatric outpatient specialist clinic in different clusters in the past 5 years? If there are different waiting lists for youth and adults, please provide the median waiting time for both lines. Please also explain if there are plans to shorten the waiting time.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The median waiting time (in weeks) for first appointment at the psychiatric specialist outpatient clinics in different clusters over the past 5 years are as follows –

Cluster	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05 (Apr 04-Feb 05)
HK East	1	2	2	4	4
HK West	3	2	3	3	5
Kln East	3	3	4	6	9
Kln Central	1	2	3	2	2
Kln West	3	3	5	5	5
NT East	5	4	5	5	5
NT West	1	3	2	5	5
Overall	3	3	4	4	5

The HA has put in place a standardised triage mechanism at all the psychiatric specialist out-patient clinics. Under this mechanism, patients' medical conditions are assessed in accordance with established criteria at the time of making the first appointment. The patient and his/her family members will be seen by an experienced psychiatric nurse. Those identified to have urgent needs will be given an early appointment. The HA is also planning to rationalise psychiatric services

amongst the different clusters to achieve a more even distribution in the provision of such services in the territory.

Generally speaking, youths and adults in similar medical conditions have similar waiting time for psychiatric services, except for the Early Assessment Service for Young Persons with Psychosis (EASY) programme which is specifically set up to serve young persons (between the age of 15 and 25) who are suffering from the early onset of psychosis. This programme provides young patients with a prompt screening and treatment service. There is no waiting time for this service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	6 April 2005

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

HWFB 444

Question Serial No.

1830

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 :

How many people are waived from the fees for accident and emergency services, outpatient services, drugs and inpatient services respectively in 2005-06? What is the respective amount of waiver?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The projected number of attendances / cases where waivers were granted and the respective amounts waived for accident & emergency service, outpatient service, drug charge for specialist outpatient clinics and inpatient service for the year 2004-05 are as follows:

Accident & Emergency Service		Outpatient Services (General Outpatient & Specialist Outpatient Clinics)		Drug charge for Specialist Outpatient Clinics		Inpatient Service	
No. of attendances	Amount waived \$M	No. of attendances	Amount waived \$M	No. of Orders	Amount waived \$M	No. of cases	Amount waived \$M
463 785	47.1	2 466 769	138.1	880 822	31.3	304 044	274.3

The information for 2005-06 is not available.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Yau

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Date

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 445

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial

No.

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

1818

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2005-06, does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have any specific plan in inspecting imported animals and plants so as to prevent the entry of red imported fire ants? What is the amount of estimated expenditure? What are the work arrangements for eliminating the existing red imported fire ants?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

AFCD has been issuing plant import licences and conduct inspections on imported plants from overseas countries under the Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance, Cap. 207. In response to the discovery of Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) in Guangdong in January 2005, AFCD has deployed additional staff at boundary crossing gateways to inspect potted plants imported from the Mainland.

In 2005-06, \$1.7 million has been earmarked for plant import inspection.

To prevent the introduction and spread of RIFA in Hong Kong, AFCD joins other government departments to publicize information and educate the public on RIFA, and to conduct surveillance and eradicate any RIFA found in premises under their management. In addition, AFCD would give technical advice on the control measures, provide RIFA identification service and record the locations of RIFA for further assessment.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 446

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial

No.

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

1819

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the plan to provide rapid molecular diagnostic tests for diseases of food animals? What is the amount of estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is working out the project details for setting up a new laboratory annex for strengthening the existing facilities and ability to provide rapid molecular diagnostic tests for animals. The range of tests for major veterinary or zoonotic diseases of birds, mammals and fish would be expanded. The capacity in performing RRT-PCR test for H5N1 avian influenza and standard PCR test for other important diseases would be improved.

The annual recurrent expenditure for conducting additional molecular diagnostic tests will be around \$0.2 million which will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 447

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial

No.

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

1850

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In connection with “strengthening the facilities and ability to provide rapid molecular diagnostic tests for diseases of food animals” under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, what is the amount of the estimated expenditure? What is the breakdown?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is studying the project details for setting up a new laboratory annex. The estimated annual recurrent expenditure for additional molecular diagnostic tests will be around \$0.2 million which will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

7 April 2005

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

HWFB 448

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1851

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In connection with the item of “implementing measures to prevent the incursions of avian influenza”, how much is required for the implementation of the relevant measures? Is this a recurrent or a one-off provision?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

For the prevention of avian influenza, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$17.7 million for 2005-06. This expenditure reflects the recurrent expenditure for avian influenza prevention which includes staff costs and other departmental expenditure items in conducting farm visits and laboratory tests.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 449

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1852

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In connection with the implementation of the amendment bill to “regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters”, when will the bill be introduced to the Legislative Council? Does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) need to make a budget or increase the provision in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

AFCD plans to introduce the Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Bill for the establishment of a new framework for regulating fishing activities in Hong Kong waters to the Legislative Council in 2004-05 legislative session. A provision of \$1.4 million has been allocated in 2005-06 for the preparation of the framework and its initial implementation subject to the successful passage of the Bill. The department does not anticipate that there is a need to increase the provision for this activity in 2005-06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 450

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1853

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The savings in financial provision for Programme (3) will be partly offset by increase in capital expenditure. Where do the savings mainly come from? What is the amount of increase in capital expenditure? What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The provision under Programme (3) for 2005-06 is \$149.3 million. It is \$3.5 million or 2.3% lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05, which was \$152.8 million. This is mainly due to savings arising from the streamlining of work of β -agonist testing in food animals and visits to farms as well as stricter control of general departmental expenses. The total savings in operating expenses amounted to \$7.2 million is partly offset by increase in capital expenditure mainly for Liquid Chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry system (LCMSMS) estimated at \$3 million. A new LCMSMS is required to replace the old one which frequently breaks down during the past 2 years. The LCMSMS is mainly deployed to provide unequivocal identification of prohibited drugs like Clenbuterol and Salbutamol in ante-mortem pig urine samples that are initially screened positive by ELISA tests. Positive results from LCMSMS are evidence in proving contravention of the Public Health (Animals & Birds)(Chemical Residues) Regulation, Cap. 139N which would lead to the destruction order of the tainted live pig consignments.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/~~SUPPLEMENTARY~~ QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB451

Question Serial No.

1567

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 : Please provide the following on a yearly basis:

- (a) The numbers of children in every form of various types of child care centres for the three academic years between 2002-03 and 2004-05, and the percentage against the total population in their respective age groups;
- (b) The projected numbers of children in every form of various types of child care centres for the three academic years between 2005-06 and 2007-08, and the percentage against the total population in their respective age groups;
- (c) The numbers of child care workers in various types of child care centres for the three academic years between 2002-03 and 2004-05, and the projected numbers of child care workers in various types of child care centres for the three academic years between 2005-06 and 2007-08; and
- (d) The numbers of child care workers currently possessing the Certificate of Early Childhood Education, and the percentage against the total number of child care workers.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : (a) As the Social Welfare Department only captures children enrolled in day crèches (DC) and day nurseries (DN) by number of age groups, i.e. DC for children aged below two and DN for children two to six,

we do not have statistics by forms. The respective enrolments in DC and DN by age groups as at end of June in 2002, 2003 and 2004 with percentage against the total population in the respective age groups are set out below:

	June 2002	June 2003	June 2004
(i) Number of children enrolled in DC (aged below two)	1 038	931	884
(ii) Population size for children aged below two	100 100	98 200	96 100
(iii) Percentage (i/ii)	1%	0.9%	0.9%
(iv) Number of children enrolled in DN (aged two to six)	26 174	24 948	24 598
(v) Population size for children aged two to six	314 400	297 600	283 000
(vi) Percentage (iv/v)	8.3%	8.4%	8.7%

- (b) As harmonisation of pre-primary services is planned to be implemented in the 2005-06 school year, and by then child care centres will be re-defined to child care services to cater for children aged below three, it will not be meaningful to make projections in the years beyond 2005-06 by using the current profiles. Future enrolment in child care centres will depend on factors such as child population and parental choice, etc.
- (c) The numbers of child care staff by 30 September 2002, 2003 and 2004 are set out below:

	2002	2003	2004
Number of serving child care centre supervisor (CCSs)	460	458	470
Number of serving child care worker (CCWs)	3 466	3 432	3 420
Number of serving trainee child care worker (TCCWs)	268	162	117
Total	4 194	4 052	4 007

Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services, which is planned to be implemented in the 2005-06 school year, all serving CCSs and CCWs will respectively be recognised as kindergarten principals and qualified kindergarten (KG) teachers, and vice versa. Under this mutual recognition arrangement, the whole pre-primary services sector will have a team of pre-primary educators that can serve both as CCSs/KG principal and CCWs/KG teacher. For TCCWs, a transitional arrangement will be put in place to allow them to complete their in-service training and to qualify as CCWs by 2007 the latest. Thereafter, the post of TCCW will become obsolete.

- (d) According to our 2002 survey findings, among the 460 CCSs at that time, 140 of them were studying or had completed the government subsidised Certificate (Early Childhood Education) [C(ECE)] course. Between the 2002-03 and 2004-05 school year, another 180 CCSs studied the Government subsidised C(ECE) course. The remaining CCSs were either approaching retirement age, planning to leave service or studying self-arranged C(ECE) course. Based on the above, excluding those studying self-arranged course, about 320 CCSs should have acquired the C(ECE) qualification. With the current number of serving CCSs stands at 470, the percentage of those that have completed C(ECE) training is about 68%. The Government has announced that starting from the 2005-06 school year, all serving CCSs should have possessed the C(ECE) qualification.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB452

Question Serial No.

1593

Head : 708 Capital Subventions and Major
Systems and Equipment

Subhead (No. & title) : 8003MJ

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

What is the progress of 8003MJ "Provision of additional lifts and associated works at Block S of United Christian Hospital"? In what areas will the provision for 2005-06 be used? What is the expected completion date for the project? Is it different from the completion date scheduled when the project was approved?

Asked by : Hon LI. Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The Hospital Authority is in the process of finalising the award of the building contract for 8003MJ. The provision for 2005-06 will be used mainly for payments to the contractor in respect of the piling works for the lift tower to be completed during the financial year. The completion date for the project remains December 2006 as scheduled when the project was approved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Carrie Yau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 453

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1856

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of livestock farm licences issued in 2005 is estimated to be 160, representing an increase of nine compared with last year. Given that the Administration is highly concerned about further outbreaks of avian influenza, why does the department anticipate an increase instead of a decrease in the number of licences to be issued?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

Licences are issued at different times and are renewed every three years. The cycle is uneven and hence the different number of licences to be issued each year. Since December 2003, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has not issued any new livestock keeping licences.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

HWFB 454

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1857

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under "Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets", the estimate for 2005-06 is significantly lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05 by 20.5%, while the revised estimate for 2004-05 is 20.3% higher than the original estimate. Why is there such a major difference in expenditure levels for this programme in two years? Will the work this year be affected by the reduced estimate?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The provision under Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets in 2005-06 is \$164.2 million. It is \$42.3 million or 20.5% lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05, which was \$206.5 million while the revised estimate for 2004-05 is \$34.9 million or 20.3% higher than the original estimate for 2004-05, which was \$171.6 million. Such a major difference in expenditure levels for this programme in two years is mainly due to the increase in cash flow requirement for the ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators affected by the outbreak of avian influenza in the region in 2004. A sum of about \$38 million has been spent on this item in the revised estimate 2004-05 which has not been included in the original estimate for 2004-05 and 2005-06. This item is of non-recurrent nature and the exclusion of which will not affect the normal services provided by the department under this programme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Reply Serial No.

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

HWFB 455

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1858

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The aim of this Programme is “to facilitate agricultural and fisheries production and improve productivity”. What is the amount of provision allocated for this purpose? How does it differ from last year’s figure?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The provision under Programme (1) for 2005-06 is \$164.2 million. It is 20.5% lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05, which was \$206.5 million. This is mainly due to the decrease in cash flow requirement for the ex-gratia payments to live poultry operators affected by the outbreak of avian influenza in the region.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

6 April 2005

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

HWFB 456

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1859

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : “The provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen” is stated in Paragraph 3 under Brief Description. What is the amount of provision this year allocated for these tasks? How does it differ from last year’s figure? What are these services?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

A provision of \$28.7 million has been allocated in 2005-06 for the tasks stated. These include the provision and maintenance of irrigation facilities, administering loan funds, monitoring of red tide, management of aquaculture environment, providing fish health programmes and other general technical assistance, organizing vocational training, and supervising related co-operative societies.

The provision is \$1.4 million or 4.65% less than that of 2004-05. This is mainly due to the effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut and a reduction in capital expenditure in irrigation works because of reduced requirement for new projects.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

7 April 2005

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

HWFB 457

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

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

1860

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (a) In connection with the management of government fresh food wholesale markets and overseeing the reprovisioning of outdated markets, which market(s) will be reprovisioned this year? How much provision will be needed? Has this amount been earmarked in this year's estimate? Or will an application for funding be made to the Legislative Council when required?
 - (b) How many fresh food wholesale markets are currently managed by the department? Although the occupancy rate is 90%, how is business? How much provision is needed to maintain this service each year?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

- (a) We plan to re-provision the Fish Marketing Organization Castle Peak Wholesale Fish Market in 2006. We shall seek the necessary funding approval from the Finance Committee when the project details are available.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages four fresh food wholesale markets. The total market throughput in 2004 amounted to 509,000 tonnes, representing 35% of the total consumption of fresh food in Hong Kong. The financial provision for maintaining services of these markets in 2004-05 is \$52.2 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

7 April 2005
