

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

**[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food]**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EFB005

Head : 154 – Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau  
 (Heads 22, 39, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49, 100)

Question Serial No.

S034

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by your bureau and departments under your bureau,

- (1) please provide the following details of the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2001-02:

Name of consultants (if available)	Contents of the studies	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (under planning/ in progress/completed)	Government's follow-up action (if available)

- (2) will there be any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2002-03? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)

Asked by : Hon. Ho Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

- (1) Details of the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2001-02 are as follows-

Name of consultants (if available)	Contents of the studies	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (under planning/in progress/completed)	Government's follow-up action (if available)
Binhai Wastewater Treatment & Disposal (Hong Kong) Consultants Ltd.	To study the feasibility of developing an offshore fishing industry for Hong Kong*  (Head 22- AFCD)	\$1.072 M	In progress	–

Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hong Kong	To collect baseline information on marine benthic communities in Hong Kong*  (Head 22- AFCD)	\$2.079 M	In progress	–
TNO Institute of Environmental Sciences, Energy Research and Process Innovation	Study on quantitative risk assessment of LPG vehicles through tunnels in Hong Kong  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$0.660 M	Study completed	Study findings will be used as reference for determining the maximum size of the fuel tank of LPG vehicles from the perspective of the risk arising from their use of tunnels in Hong Kong.
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Residential household energy consumption study in Hong Kong  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$1.200 M	Study completed	Findings will be incorporated into the Hong Kong Energy End-Use Database.
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc.	Study on the development of energy consumption indicators & benchmarks*  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$3.100 M	In progress	–
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning system in Hong Kong*  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$6.000 M	In progress	–
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited	Implementation study for a district cooling scheme at South East Kowloon Development*  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$2.900 M	In progress	–
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc	Study on the potential application of renewable energy in Hong Kong*  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$2.500 M	In progress	–
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning system at Wanchai and Causeway Bay*  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$0.200 M	In progress	–
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Study for developing a performance-based building energy code using total-energy-budget approach*  (Head 42- EMSD)	\$1.000 M	In progress	–

DET NORSKE VERITAS	Study on the feasibility of introducing LPG light vans and light goods vehicles in Hong Kong* (Head 42- EMSD)	\$1.235 M	In progress	–
KPMG Consulting Asia Limited	Review of the operation and management of wet markets* (Head 49- FEHD)	\$1.401 M	In progress	–

\* studies which will continue in 2002-03

(2) Details of the consultancy studies for which financial provision will be allocated in 2002-03 are as follows-

Name of consultants (if available)	Contents of the studies	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)
Binhai Wastewater Treatment & Disposal (Hong Kong) Consultants Ltd.	To study the feasibility of developing an offshore fishing industry for Hong Kong (Head 22 - AFCD)	\$0.536 M	In progress
Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hong Kong	To collect baseline information on marine benthic communities in Hong Kong (Head 22-AFCD)	\$1.617 M	In progress
Not yet available	To develop life-cycle energy cost assessment for building construction (Head 42- EMSD)	To be determined upon engagement of consultant.	Under planning
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc.	Study on the development of energy consumption indicators & benchmarks (Head 42- EMSD)	\$2.190 M	In progress
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning system in Hong Kong (Head 42- EMSD)	\$5.100 M	In progress
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited	Implementation study for a district cooling scheme at South East Kowloon Development (Head 42- EMSD)	\$3.300 M	In progress
Camp Dresser & Mckee International Inc	Study on the potential application of renewable energy in Hong Kong (Head 42- EMSD)	\$0.500 M	In progress
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation study for water-cooled air Conditioning system at Wanchai and Causeway Bay (Head 42- EMSD)	\$3.600 M	In progress

Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Study for developing a performance-based building energy code using total-energy-budget approach (Head 42- EMSD)	\$0.280 M	In progress
MVA Hong Kong Limited	Transport energy consumption study in Hong Kong (Head 42- EMSD)	\$1.200 M	In progress
DET NORSKE VERITAS	Study on the feasibility of introducing LPG light vans and light goods vehicles in Hong Kong (Head 42- EMSD)	\$0.065 M	In progress
KPMG Consulting Asia Limited	Review of the operation and management of wet markets (Head 49- FEHD)	\$0.601 M	In progress
ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd.	Assessing the economic impact of introducing a labelling scheme on genetically modified food in Hong Kong, particularly its impact on food supply, source of food and food prices. (Head 49- FEHD)	\$0.800 M	In progress
Not yet available	Study on meat consumption in Hong Kong (Head 49- FEHD)	\$0.400 M (Estimate)	Quotations from potential tenderers are being invited.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters       Mrs Lily Yam      

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date       April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EFB002

Question Serial No.

S037

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

It is stated in Reply Serial No. EFB103 that there are about 800 registered livestock and poultry farms in the Mainland. In this connection,

- (a) on what basis are these farms selected for inspection?
- (b) what action will FEHD take against the farms inspected with unacceptable hygiene condition?
- (c) how does FEHD guarantee the hygiene condition in the farms not inspected and the food animals they rear meet the standards stipulated in Hong Kong?
- (d) will additional resources be allocated for conducting inspections in Mainland farms and abattoirs in view of the coming cancellation of quota on imported chilled meat? If so, what are the financial and manpower resources to be allocated?
- (e) why are aquaculture farms in the Mainland not included in inspection programme?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) A random sampling approach is adopted in the selection of farms for conducting inspections.
- (b)&(c) To ensure all imported food animals fulfill our food safety and hygiene requirements, we have worked out and agreed with the Mainland authorities to follow a set of sanitary protocol which is in line with internationally accepted good husbandry practice for farms registered for exporting live food animals to Hong Kong. Regular inspections are conducted by veterinary officers stationed in the farms and cross-checked by the officials of the Mainland Inspection and Quarantine authority to ensure these farms comply with the requirements stipulated in the agreed protocol. In addition, all imported food animals are required to be accompanied by health certificates issued by the Mainland authority certifying that they are fit for human consumption

and do not contain prohibited substances.

The purpose of our Mainland farm inspection programme is to conduct random supplementary compliance checks in the farms. If in the course of the inspections, the farms were found to have areas requiring remedial action, we would draw these to the attention of the Inspection and Quarantine officials for follow-up.

(d) Farms that are registered for exporting chilled meat to Hong Kong will be covered by our Mainland farm inspection programme. As for inspections to slaughterhouses and processing plants, we will make appropriate internal redeployment to absorb the additional work arising therefrom.

(e) Aquaculture farms will be included in our Mainland farm inspection programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita LAU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EFB003

Question Serial No.

S038

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

According to Reply Serial No. EFB 106, the expenditure incurred for the removal of illegal bills and posters in 2001-02 had increased tremendously by 60% as compared with that of 2000-01, whereas the number of bills and posters removed as well as the number of prosecutions and convictions remained roughly the same. Please explain the reason for the substantial increase in expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The increase in expenditure was due to the employment of contractors to intensify and expand the efforts in removing bills/posters under the Clean Hong Kong Programme.

The removal service has been conducted more efficiently and thoroughly with noticeable improved results. More manpower has been employed to cover wider areas with the bills/posters more quickly removed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Rita LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_

4 April 2002



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

S-EFB004

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

S039

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In the light of Reply Serial No.. EFB111, the follow-up questions in respect of the work of the "Quality Assurance Section" (QAS) are :

- (a) Please list out the grades and ranks of staff that have been investigated.
- (b) With regard to para. (d) of the Reply, how many of the investigations are carried out without the prior knowledge of the concerned staff?
- (c) With regard to para. (e) of the Reply, how many complaints have been substantiated upon inspections and investigations since the inception of QAS ? Have any actions been taken against the concerned staff and what are the details?
- (d) According to para. (f) of the Reply, 13 complaints have been received against QAS from 1 October 2000 to 28 February 2002. What are the investigation results? What is the composition of the Complaints Management Section mentioned in the Reply? How does the Government ensure that the Section deals with every complaint independently?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) Since its inception on 1.10.2000 and up till 28.2.2002, the grades and ranks of staff that have been investigated by the Quality Assurance Section (QAS) are as follows —
  - (A) Field Officer
    - (1) Senior Field Officer
    - (2) Field Officer I
  - (B) Foreman
    - (1) Overseer
    - (2) Senior Foreman
    - (3) Foreman
  - (C) Ganger
  - (D) Hawker Control Officer
    - (1) Principal Hawker Control Officer
    - (2) Chief Hawker Control Officer
    - (3) Senior Hawker Control Officer

- (4) Hawker Control Officer
- (5) Assistant Hawker Control Officer

- (E) Health Inspector
  - (1) Superintendent of Environmental Health
  - (2) Chief Health Inspector
  - (3) Senior Health Inspector
  - (4) Health Inspector I / II

(F) Motor Driver

(G) Personal Secretary II

(H) Special Driver

(I) Supplies Supervisor II

(J) Transport Services Officer II

(K) Workman I

(L) Workman II

- (b) Up till 28.2.2002, the QAS has conducted 1 365 regulatory inspections. Amongst these inspections, 1 246 were conducted in open and transparent manner while the remaining 119 took place without the prior knowledge of the concerned staff.
- (c) Out of all the complaints investigated and concluded since its inception, the QAS has found 57 complaints substantiated involving 72 staff (some offenders have committed multiple misconduct). The investigation findings have been referred to the Discipline Section for follow-up actions. The Discipline Section has completed the cases of 43 staff and issued 3 advisory letters, 15 verbal warnings and 22 written warnings (including reduction of salary of 6 staff). No further action was taken against 3 staff.
- (d) The Complaints Management Section (CMS) is comprised of 1 Chief Executive Officer, 2 Senior Executive Officers, 1 Executive Officer I, 1 Personal Secretary II, 1 Clerical Officer, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant. The CMS and QAS are two independent sections monitored and supervised by two Assistant Directors. So far, no QAS staff was found to have committed any misconduct in relation to those 13 complaints against the QAS.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Mrs Rita Lau

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Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene

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4 April 2002

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

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

Reply Serial No.

S-EFB001

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What are the successful prosecution figures against licensed and unlicensed food premises in 2000 and 2001?
- (b) Of the successful prosecutions against licensed food premises in 2001, what are the most common three offences and their respective successful prosecution figure?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The number of successful prosecutions (i.e. convictions) against licensed food premises and unlicensed food premises in 2000 and 2001 are given in the table below :

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
No. of convictions against licensed food premises	3 806	2 887
No. of convictions against unlicensed food premises	5 825	3 559

(b) Of the 2 887 convicted cases against licensed food premises in 2001, the most common three contraventions with the respective number of convictions are as follows :

<u>Regulation breached</u>	<u>Nature of the offence</u>	<u>No. of convictions in 2001</u>	<u>Percentage of the total convictions in 2001</u>
Food Business Regulation (FBR) No.11	Improper storage of open food	1 057	37%
FBR No. 34C	Food business carried out at the place other than that delineated in the plan	517	18%
FBR No. 13(1)	Use of open space for storage or preparation of food, or washing or storage of utensils	451	16%

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 April 2002