

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

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Session No. : 5 File name : CAB-e1.doc**

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 001

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau
 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Question Serial No.

0118

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs
 Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Head 144)
 Chief Electoral Officer (Head163)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

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

(1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

(2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

(3) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

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

Asked by : Hon.HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

(1) Details on the consultancy studies for policy formulation and assessment for which financial provision has been allocated in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Hay Group Limited	To study and make recommendations on an appropriate remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the accountability system	\$1.66 million	Completed	Information in the consultancy study was taken into account in formulating the remuneration package for principal officials.	Not applicable
Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	Feasibility study on the development of a new computer system to enhance production of electoral registers and the delineation of Legislative Council geographical constituencies and District Council constituencies.	US\$90,000	Completed	The new system is being developed and should come into operation at the end of 2003.	Not applicable

(2) Details on the consultancy studies for policy formulation and assessment for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (under planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

(3) Details of financial provisions allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04:

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

Note : This is a consolidated reply in respect of Head 144 and Head 163.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 002

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0132

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

- Question : (a) It is promised in the Policy Agenda of 2003 that the Government will begin to make suitable preparations for the review of constitutional developments after 2007, which is not mentioned in Programme (2) Constitutional Affairs. Will the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) make suitable preparations for the review of constitutional developments after 2007? If yes, what are the details and resources provided? If no, why?
- (b) The financial provision for the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs is \$5.0 million. How does it compare with offices of other Secretaries? Will CAB consider reducing its provision for the Office as there will not be any advances in constitutional developments in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) As undertaken in the Policy Agenda Booklet published in January 2003, we will in 2003 begin to make suitable preparations for the review of constitutional developments after 2007. We have already embarked on a study within the Bureau for this purpose. The study is being handled within existing resources available to the Bureau.
- (b) As stated in (a) above, in 2003 we will begin to make suitable preparations for the review of constitutional developments after 2007 and have already embarked on a study within the Bureau for the purpose. This apart, in the coming year, the Bureau will need to deal with a number of important issues relating to constitutional development, including making arrangements for the 2003 District Councils election, considering the way forward for the review of District Councils after the 2003 election, and making preparations for the 2004 Legislative Council elections. The financial provision of \$5 million for the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs is necessary to enable the Office to provide the Secretary with appropriate support in carrying out these and other initiatives. This provision is the lowest among the offices of Secretaries.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 003

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0133

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the review of the implementation of the accountability system for principal officials, what are the details and the resources provided? Will the Government review the prevention of conflict of interests and devise a strict declaration and monitoring system?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

A 12-month report on the review of the implementation of the accountability system will be provided to the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs in July 2003. The report will cover the system on declaration of interest and avoidance of conflict of interest. The review will be conducted with existing staff resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB004

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0230

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : According to the Estimates, in 2003-04, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will consider the way forward for the review of District Councils after the 2003 election. What is the staffing requirement for this item? Will the scope of study cover the abolition of appointed seats in District Councils?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : The study on the way forward for the review of District Councils will be handled within existing resources of the Bureau. The precise scope for the study has yet to be determined.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB005

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0231

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

- Question : (a) Is consultation on the “review of constitutional development” included in the 2003-04 Estimates? If so, what is the estimated provision? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Will financial provision be allocated for the study on the introduction of a political party law? If so, what are the details and timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply

- (a): As undertaken in the Policy Agenda Booklet published in January 2003, in 2003 we will begin to make suitable preparations for the review of constitutional developments after 2007. We have already embarked on a study within the Bureau for this purpose. The study is being handled within existing resources of the Bureau. As we expect that the public consultation exercise will only begin in 2004 or 2005, no financial provision for that exercise has been allocated in the 2003-04 estimates.
- (b): No financial provision has been allocated for the study on the introduction of a political party law. As we explained to the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs in December 2002, we have decided that now is not the time to introduce a political party law to regulate the operation of political parties. We believe that political parties should be allowed sufficient room to develop so as to facilitate effectively the development of political parties in Hong Kong. Instead, we are seeking to introduce the following measures to encourage more candidates to participate in the Legislative Council (LegCo) elections in order to facilitate the development of local political parties and political organizations :
- (i) financial assistance should be provided to candidates standing in LegCo elections to help offset part of their election expenses; and
- (ii) the Electoral Affairs Commission should be invited to revisit the proposal to allow the printing of the names and emblems of

candidates' parties (or organizations) or the candidates' photographs on the ballot paper.

The first suggestion has been included in the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2003 which was introduced into the Legislative Council on 26 February 2003. The second one will be implemented by way of subsidiary legislation to be made by the Electoral Affairs Commission.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB006

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0391

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : According to the Estimates, in 2003-04, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will consider the way forward for the review of District Councils after the 2003 elections. Will there be a study on the provision of financial support to candidates who are elected or who have secured a certain percentage of valid votes in District Councils election after 2003? If yes, please give details of the support. If no, why?

Asked by : Hon. SZETO Wah

Reply : In the context of discussions at the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposal to provide financial assistance to candidates for the 2004 LegCo elections, we have undertaken to take into consideration the suggestion of extending the proposed financial assistance scheme to candidates for District Councils election after 2003 when we conduct the review of District Councils. However, the precise scope for the study has yet to be determined.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 007

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0604

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Constitutional Affairs Bureau will put in place a new computer system to enhance production of electoral registers and the delineation of Legislative Council geographical constituencies and District Council constituencies. Please advise this Council –

- (a) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure of the above arrangements;
- (b) on the expected benefits of the system on the work mentioned above;
- (c) what is the progress of the project?
- (d) will regular reviews be conducted on the project? If yes, what are the detailed arrangements? If no, why?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will put in place a new computer system to enhance the production of electoral registers and delineation of Legislative Council geographical constituencies and District Council constituencies. The estimated total non-recurrent cost for the development of the new system is \$66.42 million, comprising non-recurrent expenditure of \$62.50 million and non-recurrent staff cost of \$3.92 million. The cost required has been approved under Head 710 subhead A007ZV by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 11 January 2002. The estimated annual recurrent cost is \$5.86 million for 2003 – 04 and \$10.35 million for subsequent years which has also been approved by the Finance Committee at the meeting on 11 January 2002. The recurrent cost for 2003 – 04 has been included under Head 163 Registration and Electoral Office.

(b) The new system will bring about considerable service and efficiency improvements to the work of the REO. In particular, it will centralize and integrate functions that were previously scattered. It will also expand the capacity to handle future growth in the electorate size, automate the delineation of constituency boundaries, and enable bilingual storage and processing of electors' records.

(c) The system analysis and design stage was completed in September 2002. Site preparation, system development and data conversion are in progress. REO anticipates that the new system will come into operation towards the end of 2003.

(d) A Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been set up to monitor the progress of the project. The PSC is chaired by REO with representatives from relevant sections of REO and the contractor involved in the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 008

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0605

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

As regards co-ordination of the Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong, please advise this Council –

- (a) on the details of the work programme in 2003 - 2004;
- (b) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

Our work programme in relation to liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong includes –

- (a) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan;
- (b) liaising with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong; and
- (c) where appropriate, briefing Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

Existing resources will be deployed to implement the work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 009

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0825

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Following the implementation of the Accountability System, a new Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office with relevant estimated expenses is introduced for all policy bureaux in their budgets for the year 2003-04, with a view to ensuring the smooth operation of the office of the Bureau Directors.

- (1) With regard to the estimated expenses of the offices of the Policy Bureau Directors, please provide a detailed breakdown by (a) purpose (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions); (b) items (salaries and establishment, allowances, job-related allowances and department expenses);
- (2) Please provide a comparison between the expenditure breakdown listed in (1) and the actual expenditure required for the smooth operation of the offices of the Bureau Directors before the implementation of the Accountability System. If the amount of expenses for specific items shows an increase, please give the reasons.
- (3) Has the Administration assessed whether the estimated expenditure of the offices of the Bureau Directors is appropriate? What principles have been adopted in assessing its appropriateness?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : (1) The estimated provision for the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) is for the salaries and allowances of SCA and staff in his office. As SCA and staff in his office are engaged in a wide range of official duties, it is difficult to provide a breakdown of their estimated salaries and allowances on the basis of their various official duties. The estimated expenditure for the office of SCA in 2003-04 is as follows:

Salary of SCA	\$3,232,000
Staff in his office (including Administrative Assistant*, Personal Assistant, Chauffeur and Personal Secretary I*) -	
salaries	\$1,609,000
allowances	\$160,000
job-related allowances	\$7,000
Total	\$5,008,000

* 55% of the salaries of the Administrative Assistant and Personal Secretary I are accounted for under Programme(1) while the remaining 45% are accounted for under Programme(2).

(2) As the Office of the SCA as such did not exist before the implementation of the Accountability System, it is not possible to make a comparison of expenditure.

(3) Under the principle of making use of the minimum amount of resources to ensure the smooth operation of the office of the Bureau Director, we consider that the estimated expenditure for the office of SCA in 2003-04 is appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 010

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

0839

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards the above Programme, what are the actual and estimated expenditure on publicity of the Basic Law on radio and television in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The actual expenditure under Head 144 on the promotion of the Basic Law on television as a special project in 2001-02 and 2002-03 is \$1,072,998 and \$3,408,852 respectively.

2. The estimated expenditure under Head 144 on the promotion of the Basic Law in 2003-04 is \$1,000,000, including the provision of \$300,000 for promotion on television.

3. No expenditure was incurred under Head 144 on the promotion of the Basic Law on the radio in 2001-02 and 2002-03, and no provision has been included for this purpose in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 011

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

1012

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In the past year, how many meetings were held between the Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the relevant Mainland authorities on matters relating to the working relationship between the HKSAR Government and the CPG? Which Mainland officials are involved? What are the topics of discussion? How about the effectiveness of the respective meetings?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Chin-shek

Reply :

In 2002-2003, CAB had three working meetings with our counterparts of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO). Besides, we maintained frequent exchanges with them by correspondence or telephone. Subjects discussed include the following broad areas:

- (a) the mechanism for amending the Basic Law;
- (b) liaison between the HKSAR Government and provincial/municipal authorities; and
- (c) visits to the HKSAR by the CPG and provincial/municipal officials.

2. At the same time, CAB continues to maintain frequent contact with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR regarding HKSARG's external affairs. Such contacts take the form of written correspondence, telephone discussions and meetings. No detailed statistics have been kept on such contacts. Matters discussed include -

- (a) the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements between the HKSAR Government and foreign governments;
- (b) the implementation of the PRC's international obligations applicable to the HKSAR;
- (c) the HKSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences; and

(d) the establishment of consular missions and other consular matters.

3. CAB has maintained a cordial and constructive working relationship with the CPG through these exchanges.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 012

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

1034

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Constitutional Affairs Bureau intends to facilitate liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province in the coming year. What are the details of these plans and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

Since reunification, CAB has provided advice to other Bureaux and departments on developing and maintaining a good working relationship with the Mainland authorities, especially their Guangdong counterparts. CAB has also been responsible for providing a secretariat service to the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference.

2. In 2003-2004, we will continue to provide advice to other bureaux and departments on maintaining and developing a good working relationship with the Guangdong authorities and, where necessary, to encourage and assist bureaux and departments to establish a direct channel of communication with their Guangdong counterparts in specific areas. We will continue to provide a secretariat service to the Conference.

3. In 2003-2004, we will make use of existing staff resources to maintain liaison with Guangdong. The costs involved in establishing new direct channels of communication with Guangdong in specific areas are borne by the relevant bureaux and departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **Clement C H MAK**

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs**

Date _____ **20 March 2003**

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 014

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

1366

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : How many meetings were conducted in 2002-03 between the Bureau and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council as well as the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region? Please provide a detailed account of the dates, the topic of discussion, officers-in-charge on both sides and follow-up actions of each meeting.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

In 2002-2003, CAB had three working meetings with our counterparts of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO). Besides, we maintained frequent exchanges with them by correspondence or telephone. Subjects discussed include the following broad areas:

- (a) the mechanism for amending the Basic Law;
- (b) liaison between HKSAR Government and provincial/municipal officials; and
- (c) visits to the HKSAR by the Central People's Government (CPG) and provincial/municipal officials.

2. In 2002-2003, CAB did not have working meetings with the Liaison Office of the CPG in Hong Kong. SCA and other members in CAB met with officials from the Liaison Office on various social occasions. We did not keep a record of those social meetings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 015

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Question Serial No.

1441

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Constitutional Affairs Bureau indicates that in the coming year, it will consider the way forward for the review of District Councils after the election. Please advise this Council –

- (a) on the arrangement of the review. Will all the 18 District Councils in the territory be consulted before embarking on the above review? If yes, what are the arrangements? If no, why?
- (b) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (c) on the estimated time required for the review;
- (d) will consultant be commissioned to conduct the review? If yes, what are the reasons? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The scope of the study on the review of District Councils and other detailed arrangements have yet to be drawn up. We will consider the way forward for the review of District Councils after the 2003 election. The study will be carried out within the existing resources of the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H MAK

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

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Question Serial No.

0232

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office for the year 2003-04 are estimated to be \$204,400,000, an increase of 161.4% over last year, in the main due to the creation of additional posts for the upcoming 2003 District Councils election and preparation work for the 2004 Legislative Council elections. Please provide a list separately of the estimated expenses for the 2003 District Councils election and the 2004 Legislative Council elections, together with a detailed breakdown of these estimated expenses.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : The provision of \$204.4 million in 2003-04 includes the personal emoluments and personnel related expenses (\$54.2 million), departmental expenses (\$14.5 million) and election expenses (\$135.7 million).

A total of \$127.1 million and \$8.6 million has been included in the 2003-04 draft Estimates for the conduct of the 2003 District Councils (DCs) election and the preparation of the 2004 Legislative Council (LC) elections respectively. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows –

(A)	Provision in 2003-04 for 2003 DCs election	\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	
	- time-limited civil service posts	15.4
	- non-civil service contract staff	23.0
(2)	Publicity	18.8
(3)	Election Expenses	69.9
	(including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing and printing, etc)	
	<hr/>	
	Total	127.1

(B)	Provision in 2003-04 for 2004 LC elections	\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	
	- time-limited civil service posts	2.6
	- non-civil service contract staff	2.8
(2)	Election Expenses	3.2
	(including the costs for conducting public consultation, postage and printing, etc)	
	<hr/>	
	Total	8.6

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

CAB017

Question Serial No.

0439

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) : 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : How much provision has been allocated for the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise for the 2003 District Councils election and when will the voter registration exercise take place ?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : We have set aside an amount of \$9.4 million to meet the staff cost, printing cost, postage and other operational expenses for the conduct of the 2003 voter registration exercise.

In addition, we have included a provision of \$18.8 million for publicity arrangements relating to the voter registration exercise and the District Councils election in 2003. The details of the publicity arrangements are being worked out.

The voter registration exercise will take place from June to mid July 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

CAB018

Question Serial No.

0603

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) : 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards matters related to the voter registration exercise for the 2003 District Councils election, will the Administration inform this Council of :
(a) the specific schedules for various tasks and the details of the exercise;
(b) the specific provision and the detailed breakdown of expenditure; and
(c) the estimated increase in the number of registered electors?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) The voter registration exercise for the 2003 District Councils election will be conducted from June to mid July 2003. The provisional voter register and the final voter register will be published on or before 15 August 2003 and 25 September 2003 respectively. We are working out the details of the voter registration exercise.

(b) We have set aside an amount of \$9.4 million to meet the staff cost, printing cost, postage and other operational expenses for the conduct of the 2003 voter registration exercise.

In addition, we have included a provision of \$18.8 million for publicity arrangements relating to the voter registration exercise and the District Councils election in 2003. The details of the publicity arrangements are being worked out.

(c) Our target is to increase the number of new registered electors by about 100 000, and to update the particulars of 200 000 registered electors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB019

Question Serial No.

0614

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : With regard to the creation of four non-directorate posts in the coming year, will the Administration inform this Council of: (a) the specific job nature of the posts and the duration of the contracts; and (b) the detailed breakdown of expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) & (b) The creation of four non-directorate posts in 2003-04 is the net result of the creation and deletion of posts in 2003-04.

The establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office as at 31.3.2003 will be 142 civil service posts, which include 18 civil service time-limited posts created in 2002-03 for the preparation of the 2003 District Councils (DCs) election. We will further create 44 civil service time-limited posts in 2003-04, 17 of which will be for the conduct of the 2003 DCs election, and 27 for the preparation of the 2004 Legislative Council (LC) elections. After the DCs election, the 35 civil service time-limited posts created for this purpose (i.e. 18 created in 2002-03 and 17 created in 2003-04) will lapse towards the end of 2003-04. Separately, five permanent posts will be deleted in 2003-04. The establishment as at 31.3.2004 will then be 146 civil service posts, representing a net increase of four posts over the establishment as at 31.3.2003.

The specific job nature, duration and provision required for these time-limited posts in 2003-04 are as follows –

(A) 2003 DCs election

Item of work	Posts	Duration (months)	Provision (\$M)
1. Voter registration exercise	3	6	1.0
2. Re-allocation exercise	3	6	1.0
3. Demarcation of constituencies, and preparation of electoral guidelines	6	10	3.0
4. Overall planning and conduct of the DCs election	12	10	6.9
5. Handling election-related	4	5	0.9

complaints			
6. Administrative support services	6	10	2.2
7. Information and public relations	1	10	0.4
Total	35		15.4

(B) 2004 LC elections

Item of work	Posts	Duration (months)	Provision (\$M)
1. Voter registration exercise	3	2	0.3
2. Demarcation of constituencies, and preparation of electoral guidelines	6	2	0.6
3. Overall planning work such as preparation of subsidiary legislation and formulation of election work plan	12	2	1.2
4. Administrative support services	5	2	0.4
5. Information and public relations	1	2	0.1
Total	27		2.6

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

CAB020

Question Serial No.

1058

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is in charge of the supervision of the conduct of the 2003 Village Representative elections. Please give details of the establishment and expenditure involved and the duties of the REO in conducting the exercise.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Registration and Electoral Office will provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in the supervision of the 2003 Village Representative elections. A staff cost of \$2 million is required for nine civil service time-limited posts and six non-civil service contract staff for varying durations ranging from 2 to 5 months. They will handle election-related complaints for the 2003 Village Representative elections.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

CAB021

Question Serial No.

1314

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04 ? If so, what are the reasons ? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved ?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) employs 57 non-civil service contract staff (NCSCS) in 2002-03 for the preparation of the 2003 District Councils (DCs) election. The total expenditure involved is \$3.8 million. To assist in the conduct of the 2003 DCs election and the preparation for the 2004 Legislative Council (LC) elections, the REO will recruit additional NCSCS in 2003-04. The number will vary during the year to tie in with changing work demand, and will peak at about 340 for two months. A provision of \$25.8 million has been included in the draft Estimates to cover the total staff cost on NCSCS in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

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Question Serial No.

1440

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the preparatory work for the conduct of the 2004 Legislative Council elections under Matters Requiring Special Attention in the coming year, will the Administration inform this Council of: (a) the detailed breakdown of expenditure; and (b) the specific arrangements for the work ?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) A total of \$8.6 million has been included in the 2003-04 draft Estimates for the preparation of the 2004 Legislative Council (LC) elections. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows –

Provision in 2003-04 for 2004 LC elections		\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	
	- time-limited civil service posts	2.6
	- non-civil service contract staff	2.8
(2)	Election Expenses	3.2
	(including the costs for conducting public consultation, postage and printing, etc)	
	Total	8.6

(b) The specific tasks for the preparation of the 2004 LC elections in 2003-04 include delineation of constituencies, preparation and making of subsidiary legislation, and preparation and drawing up of electoral guidelines.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

Reply Serial No.

CAB023

Question Serial No.

1470

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The provision for the Registration and Electoral Office in 2003-04 is 161.4% higher than that for the previous year. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenses to be incurred by the various tasks.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : The breakdown of the increase in provision for 2003-04 over 2002-03 is as follows –

Item	2002-03 (Revised Estimate) (\$M)	2003-04 (Estimate) (\$M)	Increase in provision (\$M)
Personal Emoluments and Personnel Related Expenses	42.6	54.2	11.6 (+27.2%)
Departmental Expenses	10.4	14.5	4.1 (+39.4%)
Election Expenses	25.2	135.7	110.5 (+438.5%)
Total	78.2	204.4	126.2 (+161.4%)

The increase in the provision for personal emoluments and election expenses is due to the creation of civil service time-limited posts and additional expenses required for the conduct of the 2003 District Councils election and for the preparation of the 2004 Legislative Council elections. The increase in departmental expenses is mainly due to the annual recurrent cost for maintaining a new computer system to enhance production of electoral registers and the delineation of Legislative Council geographical constituencies and District Council constituencies, which is expected to come into operation in end 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 20 March 2003

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

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Session No. : 5 File name : S-CAB-e1.doc**

Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-CAB001	Oral	Young Howard	163	Electoral Services

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB001

Question Serial No.

Oral Question

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

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) : 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect of the 2003 District Councils (DC) election, the Administration to explain the justification for the 10-month duration of the six posts created in 2003-04 for demarcation of constituencies, and preparation of electoral guidelines as specified in item 3 of Table (A) of the Administration's response (CAB019), having regard to the fact that the DCs election would have concluded in 2003.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG, Howard

Reply : We require six civil service time-limited posts in 2003-04 for 10 months to reinforce the executive support to the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) for the conduct of the 2003 DCs election.

(a) For the first six months from April to September 2003

They will be responsible for the demarcation of constituencies and the preparation of electoral guidelines for the 2003 DCs election, including the conduct of public consultation on the proposed guidelines. Our target is to submit recommendations to the Chief Executive (CE) on the demarcation of constituencies on or before 27 May 2003, and to issue the finalised electoral guidelines by September 2003.

(b) For the remaining four months from October 2003 to January 2004

On completion of the tasks in (a) above, the civil service time-limited posts will be deployed to provide extensive support in handling election-related complaints and in compiling a report on the DCs election.

According to the electoral guidelines, we need to follow up on any election-related complaints received from the commencement of the nomination period up to 45 days after the polling date of the election. Based on past experience, we estimate that we will likely need to handle about 3,000 complaints in the coming election.

As for report compilation, as requested by law we need to submit to the CE a report on the election within three months of the conclusion of the election.

To carry out these two tasks within the relevant timeframe, we need to establish a team of ten, comprising the aforesaid six posts and another four posts to be created for five months in 2003-04. The latter four posts have been mentioned in table A(5) in my reply to Question Serial No. 0614.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LI Wing

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 28 March 2003