

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

**SB155**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0126

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: With the ever-increasing rentals of commercial buildings, plenty of commercial undertakings have switched to continue operation by renting industrial building units. Such operating activities have generated a high pedestrian flow, thereby exerting pressure on the existing fire service installation (FSI) in those industrial buildings. In this regard, what are the expected numbers of inspection conducted and prosecutions instituted on unlawful operation in industrial buildings and FSI not in compliance with relevant requirements? What are the corresponding numbers of inspection conducted and prosecutions instituted in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

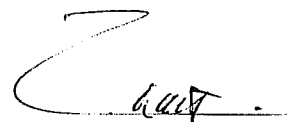
Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) estimates that it will conduct approximately 1 600 inspections to industrial buildings in 2011 (excluding follow-up inspections arising from the Territory-wide Industrial Building Survey on Fire Safety). If industrial buildings are found to be converted to commercial use during inspection, FSD will refer such cases to the departments concerned (e.g. the Lands Department and the Buildings Department) for follow up actions.

The number of inspections conducted and prosecutions on industrial buildings by FSD in the past 3 years are as follows:-

|   | 2008  | 2009  | 2010   |
|---|-------|-------|--------|
| Number of inspections on industrial buildings   | 1 721 | 1 876 | 1 513* |
| Number of cases with Fire Hazard Abatement Notice issued due to non-compliance of requirements on fire service installation (FSI) | 97    | 108   | 96     |
| Number of prosecutions related to FSI in industrial buildings   | 2     | 2     | 4      |

\* This figure does not include approximately 3 000 inspections conducted by FSD in relation to the 2010 Territory-wide Industrial Building Survey on Fire Safety.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

SB156

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

Question Serial No.

0127

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

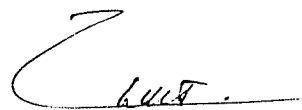
Question: What is the Administration's estimated number of inspection of fire safety in pre-1973 composite/domestic buildings in the coming year? What is the percentage of this number in the total number of inspection? And what is the number of relevant inspection in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap 572) has commenced operation on 1 July 2007, with a view to enhancing the fire safety standards of composite/domestic buildings constructed before 1987. The Fire Services Department (FSD) plans to inspect 1 150 composite buildings in collaboration with the Buildings Department (BD) in 2011. Over 80% of them were constructed before 1973.

In collaboration with BD, FSD inspected 842, 1 001 and 1 150 composite buildings in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

**SB157**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3690

Programme:                      (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer:      Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Security

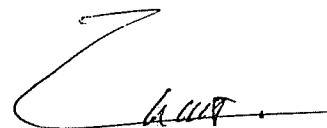
Question:      Under this Programme, the Fire Services Department will create 136 posts and fill vacancies in 2011-12. Please advise the natures, ranks, salaries and job natures of these posts.

Asked by:      Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:              Under this Programme, the Fire Services Department will create 136 posts in 2011-12, with details as follows:

|     | Rank                | No. of posts created | Annual expenditure on salary per person (based on notional annual mid-point salary) | Job nature   |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| (a) | Senior Ambulanceman | 44                   | \$290,880   | To provide paramedic ambulance service and supervise Ambulancemen in providing pre-hospital care and emergency aid, for which the creation of posts is mentioned in (b) below. |
| (b) | Ambulanceman        | 89                   | \$210,180   | To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service; and to provide pre-hospital care and emergency aid.                 |
| (c) | Ambulance Officer   | 3                    | \$446,820   | To assist in the management of ambulance depots, provide training to Ambulancemen, and take command of operations and make deployment at the scenes of incidents.              |

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

Reply Serial No.

**SB158**

Question Serial No.

**3691**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                      (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer:    Director of Fire Services

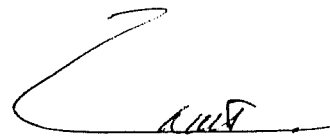
Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Security

Question:    Under this Programme, the provision under Town ambulances (block vote) for 2011-12 for the procurement of new and replacement of ambulances represents an increase of \$38,311,000 over the revised estimate for 2010-11. Please advise the number of new and replacement ambulances.

Asked by:    Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:            The Department has proposed a provision of over \$147 million for 2011-12 for the procurement of 21 additional and 25 replacement town ambulances, as well as for the payment of some of the additional and replacement town ambulances approved for procurement in the previous financial year.

Signature



Name in block letters

**LO CHUN HUNG**

Post Title

**Director of Fire Services**

Date

**17.3.2011**

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

**SB159**

Question Serial No.

**2389**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:            (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer:    Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Security

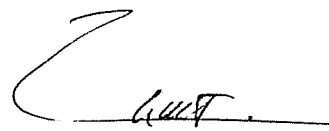
Question:    Regarding the replacement of the existing radio communications system and the procurement of fire services equipment, please list out the Fire Services Department's expenditure for 2010-11 and estimated expenditure for 2011-12.

Asked by:    Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:        The expenditure for the replacement of radio communications system and the procurement of fire services equipment are as follows:

| Item                                       | Estimated expenditure (\$) |                       |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 2010-11                    | 2011-12<br>(Estimate) |
| Replacement of radio communications system | 50,000,000                 | 98,000,000            |
| Procurement of fire services equipment     | 212,355,000                | 292,575,000           |

Signature



Name in block letters

**LO CHUN HUNG**

Post Title

**Director of Fire Services**

Date

**17.3.2011**

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

**SB160**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

**2935**

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: With regard to the increase of 208 posts in 2011-12, what are the expenditures involved by grade and post?

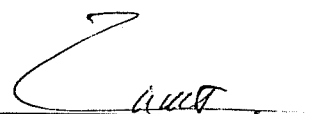
Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply: The Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 208 posts in 2011-12, details of which are as follows:

| Grade                                  | Post   | Number of post(s) to be created/deleted | Salaries* (\$)    |
|--|--|---|-------------------|
| Station Officer/<br>Divisional Officer | Divisional Officer   | 1                                       | 999,360           |
|  | Assistant Divisional Officer   | 1                                       | 832,140           |
|  | Senior Station Officer/Station Officer   | 2                                       | 1,158,960         |
| Fireman                                | Principal Fireman  | 6                                       | 2,126,160         |
|  | Senior Fireman   | 6                                       | 1,745,280         |
|  | Fireman  | 29                                      | 5,889,900         |
| Ambulance Officer                      | Ambulance Officer  | 3                                       | 1,340,460         |
| Ambulanceman                           | Senior Ambulanceman  | 44                                      | 12,798,720        |
|  | Ambulanceman   | 89                                      | 18,706,020        |
| Supplies Officer                       | Senior Supplies Officer  | 1                                       | 667,680           |
| Electrical and Mechanical Engineer     | Electrical and Mechanical Engineer /Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer | 1                                       | 550,050           |
| Executive Officer                      | Executive Officer II   | 1                                       | 352,800           |
| Liaison Officer                        | Liaison Officer II   | -2                                      | -641,640          |
| Clerical Officer                       | Assistant Clerical Officer   | 24                                      | 4,572,000         |
| Clerical Assistant                     | Clerical Assistant   | 2                                       | 297,120           |
| <b>Total :</b>                         |  | <b>208</b>                              | <b>51,395,010</b> |

\* Notional annual mid-point salary in 2011-12.

Signature



Name in block letters

**LO CHUN HUNG**

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

Reply Serial No.

SB161

Question Serial No.

2936

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

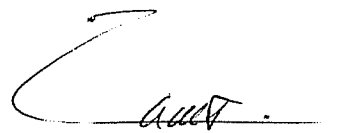
Question: Regarding the matter of "continuing to explore the feasibility of introducing a Medical Priority Dispatch System in Hong Kong", please advise the Committee on:

- (a) the current progress of the study;
- (b) whether the union(s) and patient group(s) concerned have been consulted (If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?); and
- (c) when the study will be completed.

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply: We conducted a public consultation on the proposal to introduce "Medical Priority Dispatch System" (MPDS) in 2009. The MPDS aims to prioritise response to emergency ambulance calls in accordance with the degree of urgency, such that priority emergency assistance can be provided to patients in critical or immediately life-threatening conditions. During the consultation period, we distributed the consultation documents widely and explained the proposal to key stakeholders including various elderly organisations, patient groups, other community organisations and staff unions. According to the outcome of the consultation, about 70% of the community was in support of MPDS. We reported the outcome to the Legislative Council Panel on Security (Panel) in April 2010. We will take the views and opinions of the community and the Panel into careful consideration in studying the way forward and details of the long-term plan.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

# CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB162

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1648

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: In 2011-12, the Fire Services Department will increase 208 non-directorate posts. What are the justifications for such an increase? What is the actual expenditure involved? Please also provide a breakdown for the 208 posts including their ranks and salaries, and the distribution of these posts.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: The Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 208 non-directorate posts in 2011-12, details of which are as follows:

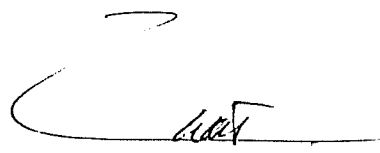
| Rank                                   | Number of post(s) to be created/ deleted | Salaries* (\$) | Reasons for creation of post(s)  |
|--|--|----------------|--|
| Senior Station Officer/Station Officer | 3  | 1,738,440      | To increase the number of fire appliances and create corresponding posts, with a view to coping with the higher fire risk as a result of population increase in Sham Tseng area. |
| Principal Fireman                      | 4  | 1,417,440      |  |
| Senior Fireman                         | 8  | 2,327,040      |  |
| Fireman                                | 29                                       | 5,889,900      |  |
| Senior Station Officer/Station Officer | 1  | 579,480        | To strengthen the management of information technology projects.   |
| Divisional Officer                     | 1  | 999,360        | To set up a dedicated Procurement Group to enhance the effectiveness of procurement work.  |
| Assistant Divisional Officer           | 1  | 832,140        |  |
| Senior Station Officer/Station Officer | 1  | 579,480        |  |
| Senior Supplies Officer                | 1  | 667,680        |  |
| Electrical and Mechanical Engineer     | 1  | 550,050        |  |
| Executive Officer II                   | 1  | 352,800        | To strengthen administrative and clerical support.   |
| Assistant Clerical Officer             | 24                                       | 4,572,000      |  |
| Clerical Assistant                     | 2  | 297,120        |  |
| Senior Station Officer/Station Officer | -3                                       | -1,738,440     | Lapse of time-limited posts in the Licensing and Certification Command.  |
| Senior Fireman                         | -2                                       | -581,760       |  |
| Principal Fireman                      | 2  | 708,720        | To strengthen the support for Fire Safety Ambassadors and Building Fire Safety Envoys and to enhance the effectiveness of community education on fire prevention.                |
| Liaison Officer II                     | -2                                       | -641,640       |  |



| Rank                                | Number of post(s) to be created/ deleted | Salaries* (\$)           | Reasons for creation of post(s)  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Senior Ambulanceman<br>Ambulanceman | 44<br>89                                 | 12,798,720<br>18,706,020 | To operate 22 additional ambulance shifts to cope with the overall increase in demand for emergency ambulance service. |
| Ambulance Officer                   | 3  | 1,340,460                | To strengthen the frontline command and management of ambulance service.   |
| <i>Total:</i>                       | <b>208</b>                               | <b>51,395,010</b>        |  |

\* Notional annual mid-point salary in 2011-12.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3179

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the Department:

- a. What is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the percentage change compared with the actual expenditure for 2010-11? What account for this percentage change in expenditure?
- b. What specific initiatives are involved in the estimates of expenditure for 2011-12? Which of them are ongoing and new initiatives respectively? What are the staff number, cost and implementation timetable of each initiative? Among the staff involved, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and employees of outsourced services respectively?
- c. Whether funds have been reserved for promoting electronic civic participation and public sector information access? If yes, what are the specific details, including the titles and particulars of the initiatives, the manpower and cost involved, and the implementation timetable? If not, what are the reasons and will consideration be given to introducing the initiatives in the future?
- d. What are the permanent establishment and the number of existing staff and vacancies of ITMU? Is manpower expected to increase in the coming year? If yes, how many additional posts will be created? What ranks will be involved? Will they be permanent posts? Will they be appointed on civil service terms? If there will be no increase in manpower, what are the reasons?
- e. Has there been any comprehensive review of the effectiveness of ITMU? If yes, what are the results and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what are the reasons and will a review be conducted in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: a. The estimated expenditure of the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the Fire Services Department (FSD) for 2011-12 is \$84.67 million, which is \$5.85 million (6.4%) less than the revised estimate of \$90.52 million for 2010-11. The higher revised estimate for 2010-11 is due to last year's one-off replacement of 680 computers by FSD.

- b. In 2011-12, FSD will implement the following initiatives under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerisation:

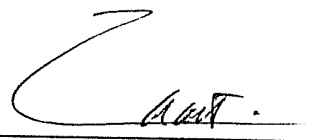
| Initiatives   | Manpower required in 2011-12 |                                  |                    | Estimated cost for 2011-12 |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|   | Civil servants*              | Non-civil service contract staff | Outsourced workers |                            |
| (i) Implementation of an Integrated Licensing, Fire Safety and Prosecution System | 4                            | 1                                | 1                  | \$26.16 million            |
| (ii) Development of a computer system to enhance procurement and asset management | 4                            | 0                                | 1                  | \$702,000                  |
| (iii) Development of a computer system to enhance ambulance service               | 3                            | 0                                | 1                  | \$770,000                  |

\* As part of the Department's permanent establishment.

Of the above, (i) is an ongoing initiative; while (ii) and (iii) will be implemented after funding has been approved by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council.

- c. Currently, FSD has been promoting electronic public engagement and access to public sector information through various channels and electronic platforms such as GovHK and FSD's website. We have not reserved additional funds specifically for this service for 2011-12.
- d. There are 13 posts in the permanent establishment of ITMU and there is no vacant post at present. In 2011-12, FSD will create 1 Senior Station Officer/Station Officer civil service permanent post in ITMU.
- e. Under our existing monitoring mechanism, we have set up the Information Technology Steering Committee to review ITMU's human resources and development plan annually, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and enhancing the level of ITMU's service.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

**SB164**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000      Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

**2506**

Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

|  | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of NCSC staff   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Particulars of NCSC posts  |         |         |         |         |
| Expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff   |         |         |         |         |
| • \$30,001 or above  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$5,000 or below   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824                             | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500                    | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Length of employment of NCSC staff   |         |         |         |         |
| • 5 years or above   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • 3 - 5 years  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • 1 - 3 years  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • less than 1 year   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully turned into civil servants                         | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of NCSC staff failing to turn into civil servants                             | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department            | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

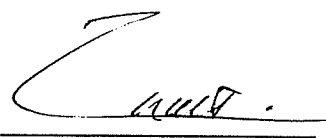
Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, the required information is as follows:

|  | 2011-12<br>[NCSC staff will be employed based on actual needs in the coming year. The required information is not available at present.] | 2010<br>[as at 31-12-2010]   | 2009<br>[as at 31-12-2009] | 2008<br>[as at 31-12-2008] |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of NCSC staff   |  | 30 (-3.2%)   | 31 (+24%)                  | 25                         |
| Particulars of NCSC positions  |  | Work relating to telecommunications and information technology, administration, clerical, community liaison, translation and project management. |                            |                            |
| Expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff  |  | About \$9,300,000 (+14.8%)   | About \$8,100,000 (+2.5%)  | About \$7,900,000          |
| Monthly salary range of NCSC staff   |  |  |                            |                            |
| • \$30,001 or above  |  | 5 (0%)   | 5 (+25%)                   | 4                          |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000  |  | 12 (+9.1%)   | 11 (+22.2%)                | 9                          |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000   |  | 13 (-13.3%)  | 15 (+25%)                  | 12                         |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000  |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500  |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| • \$5,000 or below   |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| • Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824                             |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| • Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500                    |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| Length of employment of NCSC staff   |  |  |                            |                            |
| • 5 years or above   |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| • 3 - 5 years  |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| • 1 - 3 years  |  | 27 (+12.5%)  | 24 (-4%)                   | 25                         |
| • less than 1 year   |  | 3 (-57.1%)   | 7 (-)                      | 0                          |
| Number of NCSC staff successfully turned into civil servants                         |  | [There is currently no mechanism for NCSC staff to turn into civil servants.]  |                            |                            |
| Number of NCSC staff failing to turn into civil servants                             |  | [There is currently no mechanism for NCSC staff to turn into civil servants.]  |                            |                            |
| NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department            |  | 0.31% (-0.01%)   | 0.32% (+0.06%)             | 0.26%                      |
| Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department |  | About 0.29% (+0.03%)   | About 0.26% (-0.01%)       | About 0.27%                |
| Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break  |  | 30 (-3.2%)   | 31 (+24%)                  | 25                         |
| Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break   |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |
| Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week   |  | 30 (-3.2%)   | 31 (+24%)                  | 25                         |
| Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week   |  | 0 (0%)   | 0 (0%)                     | 0                          |

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

**SB165**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title): 000    Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

**2979**

Programme:Controlling Officer:    Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau:    Secretary for SecurityQuestion:    On the engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

|   | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of outsourced service contracts  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Total amount paid to outsourced service providers   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Length of contract for each outsourced service provider   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning and information technology) |         |         |         |         |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers  |         |         |         |         |
| • \$30,001 or above   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$5,000 or below  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Length of service of outsourced workers   |         |         |         |         |
| • 5 years or longer   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • 3 - 5 years   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • 1 - 3 years   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • less than 1 year  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Outsourced workers as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Amount paid to outsourced service providers as a percentage of the total departmental staff expenditure   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers with paid meal break  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers without paid meal break   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers on five-day week  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers on six-day week   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by:    Hon. WONG Kwok-hingReply:    Details of employment of "outsourced workers" by the Fire Services Department (FSD) are set out below:

|   | 2011-12    | 2010-11<br>[As at 31-3-2011]  | 2009-10<br>[As at 31-3-2010]                         | 2008-09<br>[As at 31-3-2009]                         |
|---|------------|---|--|--|
| Number of outsourced service contracts  | See Remark | 9 (+80%)  | 5 (+25%)   | 4  |
| Total amount paid to outsourced service providers   |            | \$28,118,000<br>(+24.1%)  | \$22,659,000<br>(+14.3%)                             | \$19,830,000<br>(-)                                  |
| Length of contract for each outsourced service provider   |            | From 9 months to 36 months  |  |  |
| Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers  |            | The number of workers is determined by outsourced service providers according to the service required. FSD does not have information about the total number of workers.   |  |  |
| Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning and information technology)   |            | Security, cleaning, general service, catering and professional skills   | Security, cleaning, catering and professional skills | Security, cleaning, catering and professional skills |
| Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$30,001 or above</li> <li>\$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>\$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>\$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>\$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>\$5,000 or below</li> <li>number of workers with salary below \$5,824</li> <li>number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul> |            | Monthly salary of outsourced workers is agreed between outsourced service providers and their employees when they enter into employment contracts. FSD does not have detailed information about the monthly salary of outsourced workers. If the service contract is mainly related to the employment of non-skilled workers, the monthly salary paid by outsourced service providers to these workers cannot be lower than the average monthly salary of the relevant industries/staff set out in the latest <i>Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics</i> published by the Census and Statistics Department at the time when tenders were invited. |  |  |
| Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years or longer</li> <li>3 - 5 years</li> <li>1 - 3 years</li> <li>less than 1 year</li> </ul>   |            | The length of service of outsourced workers is not specified in the procurement contract for outsourced service. When using outsourced service, FSD mainly focuses on whether service providers can fulfill the service requirements set out in the contracts. FSD does not have the relevant information.  |  |  |
| Outsourced workers as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department   |            | It is determined by outsourced service providers according to the service required. FSD does not have information about the total number of workers.  |  |  |
| Amount paid to outsourced service providers as a percentage of the total departmental staff expenditure   |            | 0.9% (+28.6%)   | 0.7% (0%)  | 0.7%   |
| Number of workers with paid meal break<br>Number of workers without paid meal break   |            | Whether meal breaks are paid or unpaid is a matter of agreement between the outsourced service providers and their employees. FSD does not keep the relevant information.   |  |  |
| Number of workers on five-day week<br>Number of workers on six-day week   |            | The number of working days per week is agreed between the outsourced service providers and their employees when they enter into employment contracts. FSD does not keep the relevant information.   |  |  |

Remark: Figures for 2011-12 are not available as the number of "outsourced workers" varies in accordance with changing service needs.

Signature 

Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 17.3.2011

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

**SB166**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000      Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

**2980**

Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion: On the engagement of "agency workers", please provide the following information:

|  | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 | 2008-09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Contract sum paid to each employment agency  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency                                      | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Length of contract for each employment agency  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of agency workers   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Details of the positions held by agency workers  |         |         |         |         |
| Monthly salary range of agency workers   |         |         |         |         |
| • \$30,001 or above  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$16,001 - \$30,000  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$8,001 - \$16,000   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$6,501 - \$8,000  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$5,001 - \$6,500  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • \$5,000 or below   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • number of workers with salary below \$5,824  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500                                    | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Length of service of agency workers  |         |         |         |         |
| • 5 years or longer  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • 3 - 5 years  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • 1 - 3 years  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| • less than 1 year   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Agency workers as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department                  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Amount paid to employment agencies as a percentage of the total departmental staff expenditure | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers with paid meal break   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers without paid meal break  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers on five-day week   | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |
| Number of workers on six-day week  | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     | ( )     |

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

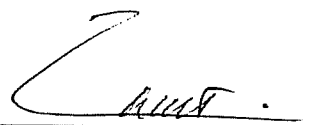
Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hingReply: Details of the Fire Services Department (FSD) engaging "agency workers" are tabulated as follows:



|  | 2011-12  | 2010-11<br>[As at 31-3-2011]  | 2009-10<br>[As at 31-3-2010]                              | 2008-09<br>[As at 31-3-2009] |
|--|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies  | See Remark   | 1 (-50%)<br>Clerical service  | 2 (+100%)<br>(i) Clerical service<br>(ii) Workman service | 1<br>Workman service         |
| Contract sum paid to employment agency   |  | \$177,000<br>(-96.8%)   | \$5,573,000<br>(+44.6%)                                   | \$3,855,000                  |
| Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency  |  | No information on commission  |   |                              |
| Length of contract for each employment agency  |  | 7 months  | (i) 12 months<br>(ii) 24 months                           | 24 months                    |
| Number of agency workers   |  | 20(-85.5%)  | 138(+138.0%)  | 58                           |
| Details of the positions held by agency workers  |  | Clerical service  | (i) Clerical service<br>(ii) Workman service              | Workman service              |
| Monthly salary range of agency workers   |  |   |   |                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,824 - \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,823 or below</li> </ul> |  | -<br>-<br>-<br>20 ( - )<br>-<br>-   | -<br>-<br>-<br>-<br>33 ( - )<br>105 (+81.0%)              | -<br>-<br>-<br>-<br>-<br>58  |
| Length of service of agency workers  |  | As the employment contract is entered into between the employment agencies and their employees, FSD does not keep the relevant information. |   |                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>  |  |   |   |                              |
| Agency workers as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department  |  | 0.2%(-85.7%)  | 1.4%<br>(+133.3%)   | 0.6%                         |
| Amount paid to employment agencies as a percentage of the total departmental staff expenditure   |  | 0.01%(-95.0%)   | 0.2%(+100%)   | 0.1%                         |
| Number of workers with paid meal break   | Whether meal breaks are paid or unpaid is matter of agreement between the employment agencies and their employees. FSD does not keep the relevant information. |   |   |                              |
| Number of workers without paid meal break  |  |   |   |                              |
| Number of workers on five-day week   |  | 20(-71.4%)  | 70 (-)  | 0                            |
| Number of workers on six-day week  |  | 0 (-100%)   | 68(+17.2%)  | 58                           |

Remark: Figures for 2011-12 are not available as the number of "agency workers" to be engaged will be determined according to changing service needs.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

SB167

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title): 603 Plant, vehicles  
and equipment

Question Serial No.

3539

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

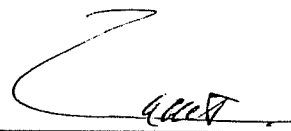
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

- Question:
- a. In respect of Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment under Capital Account, the estimate for 2011-12 is \$261,247,000. Why is it much higher than the figure of revised estimate for 2010-11 (\$100,224,000)? Of which, what is the average life span of vehicles and equipment requiring replacement? And
  - b. When will the Administration replace the old one with a new generation digital communications system? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

- Reply:
- a. The estimated expenditure for Plant, vehicles and equipment under Capital Account for 2011-12 is higher than the revised estimate for 2010-11, as the payment for some of the vehicles approved for procurement in previous financial years will be made this financial year. The average life span of the vehicles to be replaced is about 14 years.
  - b. The approved project estimate for the new generation digital communications system under Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 708 Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment is \$178 million. The system is expected to be commissioned in July this year.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

**SB168**

Question Serial No.

**0427**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                      (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer:    Director of Fire Services

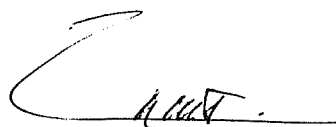
Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Security

Question:    Regarding Programme (3) Ambulance Service, the number of emergency calls has increased by approximately 4.8% from 617 265 in 2009 to 646 733 in 2010. Besides, the Administration estimates that the number of emergency calls will further increase to 677 000 in 2011. What are the reasons for the continuous increase in the number of emergency calls? Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the prevailing publicity campaigns on proper use of emergency ambulance service?

Asked by:    Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:        We assess that the continuous increase in the number of emergency ambulance calls may be partly due to the population growth and ageing population. In recent years, the Department has been proactively promoting the judicious use of emergency ambulance service through public education and publicity campaigns. The decrease of annual growth rate of emergency ambulance calls from 6.3% in 2007 to 4.8% in 2010 reflects that the Department's publicity work has positive effect.

Signature



Name in block letters

**LO CHUN HUNG**

Post Title

**Director of Fire Services**

Date

**17.3.2011**

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

**SB169**

Question Serial No.

**0428**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                      (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer:    Director of Fire Services

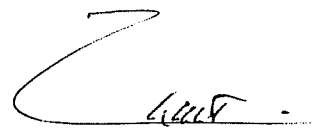
Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Security

Question:    Under Programme (3) Ambulance Service, emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage increased by 12.8% from 59 523 in 2009 to 67 166 in 2010. It is estimated that the figure will increase to 68 000 in 2011. What are the reasons for the significant increase in emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage?

Asked by:    Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:        To improve the response time for emergency ambulance service and strengthen the service coverage, the Fire Services Department (FSD) flexibly deploys the ambulance resources of different districts and moves up ambulances to other fire stations or ambulance depots as stand-bys. The increase in the relevant figure in 2010 as compared to that in 2009 was mainly due to the higher number of total emergency calls in the year. As for the estimate for 2011, FSD made the assessment mainly with reference to past figures.

Signature



Name in block letters

**LO CHUN HUNG**

Post Title

**Director of Fire Services**

Date

**17.3.2011**

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

Head: 45 Fire Services Department    Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                      (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer:    Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Security

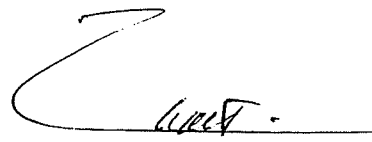
Question:    Please list out the average age of ambulances and the number of breakdowns of ambulances when attending calls in 2009 and 2010 respectively. What measures has the Administration taken to minimise the number of breakdowns of ambulances when attending calls?

Asked by:    Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:        As at end of 2010, the Fire Services Department (FSD) had about 260 ambulances providing emergency ambulance service. To address the aging problem of ambulances, we have replaced 196 ambulances in the past 2 years. The average age of ambulances has decreased from 8.4 years in the latter half of 2008 to 4.7 years in 2009 and 2.2 years in 2010.

FSD has been working with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to implement various measures to reduce the breakdown and enhance the reliability of ambulances. These include increasing the frequency of preventive maintenance of ambulances, implementing a bulk replacement programme to replace parts that are more susceptible to breakdowns, and setting up 2 quick repair workshops in Yuen Long and Shatin Ambulance Depots, etc. Since the implementation of the above improvement measures, the number of ambulance breakdown has substantially reduced. In 2010, there were 108 cases of breakdown of ambulances when attending calls, representing a significant decrease of 52% when compared with 225 cases in 2009.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

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

**SB171**

Question Serial No.

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 690 Town ambulances  
(block vote)

0430

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

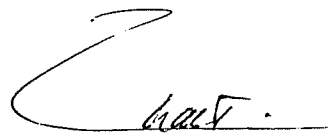
Question: Regarding Town ambulances (block vote), the approved estimate is \$170 million in 2010-11 whilst the revised estimate for the year decreases to \$109 million. What are the reasons? The estimate for 2011-12 is about \$148 million, approximately \$22 million less than the approved estimate for last year. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: Due to adjustments in the cash flow requirement for procuring additional and replacement ambulances, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has revised the estimate for Town ambulances (block vote) for 2010-11 to \$109 million. The revised estimate would not affect the number of ambulances to be procured.

The main reason for the lower estimate for 2011-12 as compared to last year's approved estimate is that FSD has already replaced 196 ambulances (approximately 75% of the entire fleet) in the past 2 years. The number of ambulances to be replaced in the coming few years will therefore decrease.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

17.3.2011

# CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

S-SB008

Question Serial No.

S084

Head: 45 Fire Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Fire Services Department (FSD) had commissioned the Efficiency Unit (EU) to submit a study report to the Security Bureau and FSD in December 2010. It is recommended in the report that FSD should establish a procurement group to coordinate all procurement projects (Please refer to Annex to Paper No. CB(2)767/10-11(04) provided by the Administration to the Legislative Council for details of the recommendations). In this regard, FSD had informed the Legislative Council that it would reorganise the staff of relevant units and establish a dedicated procurement group to coordinate all procurement projects. Would the Administration please advise on:

- (1) whether details of the plan conform with the recommendations of the EU;
- (2) the staffing and financial implications; and
- (3) the estimated implementation date of the new arrangement.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: (1) FSD has accepted EU's recommendations set out in its study report. FSD will reorganise the staff of relevant units involved in the procurement of fire services equipment and establish a dedicated procurement group to coordinate all procurement projects. Implementation details of the plan conform with the recommendations of the EU.

- (2) Five new posts will be created in the dedicated procurement group in addition to its existing establishment. Moreover, 1 Assistant Divisional Officer and 1 Senior Station Officer will be internally redeployed to the dedicated procurement group.

The financial implications for the net increase of posts in the dedicated procurement group is as follows:

| Rank                                     | Number of posts created | Salary*            |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Divisional Officer                       | 1                       | \$999,360          |
| Assistant Divisional Officer             | 1                       | \$832,140          |
| Senior Station Officer / Station Officer | 1                       | \$579,480          |
| Senior Supplies Officer                  | 1                       | \$667,680          |
| Electrical and Mechanical Engineer       | 1                       | \$550,050          |
| <b>Total:</b>                            | <b>5</b>                | <b>\$3,628,710</b> |

\* Annual salary for 2011 - 12 estimated on the basis of notional annual mid-point salary

- (3) FSD will establish the procurement group on 1 April 2011.

Signature



Name in block letters

LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title

Director of Fire Services

Date

29.3.2011