

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

SB166

Question Serial No.

3273

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:
- (a) What are the details of the procurement of fire services equipment by the Department in 2012-13? Has the Department reserved additional resources to upgrade the communication equipment used at scene of incident? What is the estimated expenditure?
 - (b) In view of the stringent physical fitness requirements for fire personnel, will the Department put more resources into the routine training to heighten the physical fitness of fire-fighters? Will the Department intensify the physical fitness assessment for serving fire-fighters? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

- Reply:
- (a) The estimated expenditure for the procurement of various types of fire appliances and major equipment by the Fire Services Department (FSD) is \$193 million in 2012-13. FSD also plans to replace a fireboat to enhance its fire fighting and rescue capabilities in coastal waters. As regards the communication equipment at scenes of incident, funding had been approved by the Finance Committee in 2009 for FSD to procure a new digital radio communication system and related communication equipment to replace the existing system in full, so as to improve the communication among FSD personnel at scenes of incident. The system has been commissioned in full since February 2012.
 - (b) FSD has earlier commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a consultancy study on its annual Physical Fitness Assessment. The study aims at reviewing the physical fitness required for FSD personnel in providing rescue services and making recommendations. FSD is now conducting internal consultation on the recommendations in the study report. In addition, the Department plans to improve the equipment at the exercise rooms of existing fire stations and ambulance depots by phases from 2012 to 2016 in order to enhance and facilitate the routine physical training of FSD personnel. The plan will involve an estimated expenditure of about \$2.5 million in 2012-13.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

SB167

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

Question Serial No.

2799

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 Department will continue to explore the long-term arrangement for provision of emergency ambulance service. Please provide details of the work, the manpower involved and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply: In the light of the comments of the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in April 2010 on the proposal to introduce the Medical Priority Dispatch System, we will continue to explore the long-term arrangement for provision of emergency ambulance service. In considering the details of the long-term arrangement, we will carefully consider the views and opinions of the public and LegCo Members. At this stage, we would focus on implementing measures to further improve our emergency ambulance service. The Fire Services Department has been providing simple post-dispatch advice to callers requesting emergency ambulance service involving bleeding, fracture or dislocation and burn since 1 May last year to help stabilise the conditions of the patients. The Department is now planning to procure a computer system to provide more precise and detailed post-dispatch advice to emergency ambulance service callers. We will consult the Panel on Security on the procurement of the computer system in due course.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

Post Title: _____

Date: _____


CHAN CHOR KAM
Director of Fire Services
29.2.2012

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

Reply Serial No.

SB168

Question Serial No.

2800

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 690 Town ambulances
(block vote)

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 2012-13 for the procurement and replacement of ambulances represents an increase of \$28,022,000 over the revised estimate for 2011-12. Please provide the number of new and replacement ambulances.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply: The Fire Services Department proposes a provision of over \$107 million for 2012-13 for the procurement of 24 additional and the replacement of 30 town ambulances, and for meeting part of the payment for the additional and replacement town ambulances approved in the previous financial year.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB169

Question Serial No.

2801

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security


Question: Under this Programme, the Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 40 posts and fill vacancies in 2012-13. Please provide information on the nature, ranks, salaries and job nature of these posts.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply: Under this Programme, the Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 40 posts in 2012-13 to cope with the demand for emergency ambulance service. Details are as follows:

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)	Job nature
Senior Ambulance Officer	1	714,720	To be deployed to the Aberdeen Ambulance Depot scheduled for commission in mid-2012
Ambulance Officer	2	948,720	
Principal Ambulanceman	5	1,881,000	
Senior Ambulanceman	-5	-1,544,100	
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	202,260	
Senior Ambulanceman	12	3,705,840	To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service
Ambulanceman	24	5,355,360	
<i>Total:</i>	40	11,263,800	

* Calculated on the basis of relevant notional annual mid-point salary values in 2011-12.

Signature: 

Name in block letters: CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: Director of Fire Services

Date: 29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title):Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Fire Services Department will create 207 posts in 2012-13. In this regard, would the Administration please provide the following information:

- a) the number of posts to be deleted and created under each Programme by division, rank and function;
- b) the establishment and strength in 2011-12 and 2012-13 (estimated figures) under each Programme by rank.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: a) The Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 207 non-directorate posts in 2012-13. Details are as follows:

Programme	Rank	Number	Job nature
Programme (1) Fire Service	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	7	To man additional fire appliances at Lam Tin Fire Station and Yau Tong Fire Station to cope with the higher fire risk as a result of the population growth in the areas of Lam Tin and Yau Tong
	Senior Fireman	7	
	Fireman	32	
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	1	To strengthen support for rescue work in emergency and major incidents and to enhance fire safety work
	Principal Fireman	1	
	Senior Fireman	2	
	Fireman	18	To receive training starting from 2012-13, with a view to be deployed to the fire station at Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay scheduled for commission in late 2013
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	8	
	Principal Fireman	4	
	Senior Fireman	11	To strengthen departmental administrative, clerical and other support
	Fireman	47	
	Chief Executive Officer	1	
	Senior Executive Officer	1	
	Executive Officer I	2	
	Official Languages Officer II	1	
	Information Officer	1	
	Senior Clerical Officer	1	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	22	
Programme (3) Ambulance Service	Senior Ambulance Officer	1	To be deployed to the Aberdeen Ambulance Depot scheduled for commission in mid-2012
	Ambulance Officer	2	
	Principal Ambulanceman	5	
	Senior Ambulanceman	-5	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1	
	Senior Ambulanceman	12	To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service
	Ambulanceman	24	
Total:		207	

b) The establishment of various grades in 2011-12 and the strength as at 1 February 2012 are set out as follows:

Grade	Programme 1		Programme 2		Programme 3		Total	
	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*
Fire stream	6 124	6 084	315	347	0	1	6 439	6 432
Ambulance stream	8	26	0	0	2 725	2 727	2 733	2 753
Civilian, technical and other grades	397	394	191	187	68	60	656	641
Total:	6 529	6 504	506	534	2 793	2 788	9 828	9 826

* Including staff members on pre-retirement leave

The estimated establishment of various grades in 2012-13 is set out as follows:

Grade	Programme 1	Programme 2	Programme 3	Total
Fire stream	6 262	315	0	6 577
Ambulance stream	8	0	2 764	2 772
Civilian, technical and other grades	426	191	69	686
Total:	6 696	506	2 833	10 035

The estimated strength of various grades for 2012-13 is not available as the number of staff members varies from time to time.

Signature: 

Name in block letters: CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: Director of Fire Services

Date: 29.2.2012

**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: While the total number of ambulance calls in 2012 is expected by the Fire Services Department to increase as compared with those in 2011 and 2010, the average calls per ambulance are expected to decrease. In this regard, would the Administration provide the following information:

- a) the numbers of serving ambulances in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (estimate) respectively;
- b) what are the reasons for the frequent emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage? Is it because the number of ambulances in certain ambulance depots cannot cope with the demand for service in their respective areas?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

- Reply:
- a) The Fire Services Department (FSD) had 262 and 277 serving ambulances in 2010 and 2011 respectively, and expects to have 302 serving ambulances in 2012.
 - b) To improve the response time for emergency ambulance service and to strengthen the service coverage, FSD flexibly deploys the ambulance resources of various districts and moves up ambulances to other fire stations or ambulance depots as standbys, so as to better utilise emergency ambulance resources.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

SB172

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

Question Serial No.

2341

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: It has been more than 5 years since the implementation of the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme by the Fire Services Department. How effective is the Scheme? What are the specific plans to continue the Scheme in the future? What were the expenditures involved in the past 2 years (2010-11 and 2011-12)?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) launched the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) Scheme on 1 November 2006. Each RRV is manned by an Ambulance Officer. The main functions of the Scheme are to provide support to frontline ambulance personnel and perform service quality assurance duties to enhance frontline management and operational efficiency. At present, FSD has a total of 3 RRVs. Since the launch of the Scheme and up to 31 January 2012, support was given to a total of 8 921 emergency calls, and 5 452 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 16 758 inspections were conducted. FSD is satisfied with the effectiveness of the Scheme and the Department will continue its implementation. The expenditure involved in each of the past 2 years (2010-11 and 2011-12) was approximately \$1.6 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB173

Question Serial No.

1866

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

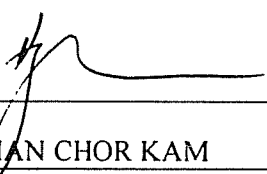
Question: Please specify the major duties of the 167 posts to be created in 2012-13. Will the additional manpower resources accelerate the reduction of conditioned working hours of Fire Services personnel from 54 hours to 48 per week, so as to be in line with those of other disciplined services staff? Please explain.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply: Under this Programme, the Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 167 posts in 2012-13. Details are as follows:

Rank	Number	Job nature
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	7	To man additional fire appliances at Lam Tin Fire Station and Yau Tong Fire Station to cope with the higher fire risk as a result of the population growth in the areas of Lam Tin and Yau Tong
Senior Fireman	7	
Fireman	32	
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	1	To strengthen support for rescue work in emergency and major incidents and to enhance fire safety work
Principal Fireman	1	
Senior Fireman	2	
Fireman	18	
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	8	To receive training starting from 2012-13, with a view to be deployed to the fire station at Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay scheduled to be commissioned in late 2013
Principal Fireman	4	
Senior Fireman	11	
Fireman	47	
Chief Executive Officer	1	To strengthen departmental administrative, clerical and other support
Senior Executive Officer	1	
Executive Officer I	2	
Official Languages Officer II	1	
Information Officer	1	
Senior Clerical Officer	1	
Assistant Clerical Officer	22	
Total:	167	

These posts are created to cope with the increasing service demand and to strengthen support for the daily operational needs of the Department. Regarding the proposal to reduce the conditioned working hours of the fire stream, the Department will continue to maintain close communication and to discuss with the staff side subject to the fulfillment of 3 pre-requisites (i.e. cost neutrality, no additional staffing requirement and maintaining the same level of service to the community) set out by the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service.

Signature: 
Name in block letters: CHAN CHOR KAM
Post Title: Director of Fire Services
Date: 29.2.2012

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

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: In view of the potential fire hazards posed by inadequate fire safety measures at hawker stalls, will the Fire Services Department increase the number of its inspections at hawker stalls and the neighbouring buildings in 2012-13 to ensure that their fire safety measures are in compliance with the regulations? Please describe in details the arrangement made by the Department in this regard.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) have conducted 108 joint inspections at 43 locations where hawker stalls are in close proximity to old composite/residential buildings since the outbreak of the No.4 alarm fire at Fa Yuen Street on 30 November 2011. Potential fire hazards were inspected, hawkers were reminded about fire safety issues and enforcement actions were taken against hawkers who contravened the regulations where appropriate. The Department has instructed fire stations in various districts to continue to conduct regular joint inspections with FEHD and to advise FEHD on fire safety measures for hawker stalls.

In view of the potential fire risks at hawker stalls, the Buildings Department (BD) will select old residential or composite buildings in close proximity to hawker stalls as target buildings for the large scale inspections against subdivided flat units in 2012. To date, BD has identified 339 old buildings mainly in Yau Tsim Mong District, Sham Shui Po, Central and Western District and Eastern District as target buildings. In tandem with the special operation of BD, FSD has been conducting inspections on these buildings since late December 2011 to abate potential fire hazards or other irregularities therein and enforcing the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, Cap. 572 to enhance the fire service installations in these buildings.

As at 9 February 2012, FSD has completed inspections on 109 buildings, 6 of which were found to have relatively serious problem of obstructing the means of escape. Other irregularities included locked exit doors on roof level and ground floor, lack of annual inspection of fire service installations, suspected illegal structures on rooftops, suspected alterations to internal layout, exposed electrical wires at staircases and changes in use. All these irregularities have been taken enforcement actions by FSD or been referred to relevant department/units for follow-up actions.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB175

Question Serial No.

2370

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): 000 Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

- Question: (a) With regard to the 207 additional non-directorate posts in 2012-13, what are the expenditures involved by grade and post?
- (b) What is the number of staff deployed by the Fire Services Department to inspect fire service installations in old buildings at present? Has the Department planned to increase the staffing in this respect in 2012-13? If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

- Reply: (a) The Fire Services Department (FSD) will have a net increase of 207 non-directorate posts in 2012-13. Details are as follows:

Grade	Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)
Fire Stream	Senior Station Officer / Station Officer	16	10,099,200
	Principal Fireman	5	1,881,000
	Senior Fireman	20	6,176,400
	Fireman	97	20,917,080
Ambulance Stream	Senior Ambulance Officer	1	714,720
	Ambulance Officer	2	948,720
	Principal Ambulanceman	5	1,881,000
	Senior Ambulanceman	7	2,161,740
	Ambulanceman	24	5,355,360
Civilian and Other Grades	Chief Executive Officer	1	1,068,900
	Senior Executive Officer	1	783,600
	Executive Officer I	2	1,131,240
	Official Languages Officer II	1	357,540
	Information Officer	1	565,620
	Senior Clerical Officer	1	429,420
	Assistant Clerical Officer	23	4,651,980
Total:		207	59,123,520

* Calculated on the basis of the relevant notional annual mid-point salary values in 2011-12.

- (b) Composite/domestic buildings completed in 1987 or before are regulated by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap 572). At present, FSD has a 176-member dedicated team responsible for inspecting these target buildings by phases and issuing fire safety directions, with a view to enhancing the fire service installations and equipment therein. The Department will take enforcement actions if obstructions to means of escape or defective fire service installations and equipment are identified during inspections.

In addition, to strengthen the follow-up on potential fire hazards or other irregularities identified during inspections, the Department has also set up the 11-member Special Enforcement Unit in October 2008 to conduct proactive inspections on old composite buildings in densely populated districts.

In 2012-13, the Department will continue to make the best use of its available resources in this respect. It will also review the manpower situation from time to time and will conduct special inspections and enforcement actions through temporary internal redeployment of staff as necessary.

Signature: 

Name in block letters: CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: Director of Fire Services

Date: 29.2.2012

**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: (a) Why are there no estimates for the implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) in 2012-13? What is the current progress of the study; and

(b) What would be the expenditure involved if the MPDS is fully implemented?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply: We reported the results of the public consultation on the proposal to introduce the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) to the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in April 2010. In exploring the way forward and details of the long-term arrangement, we will carefully consider views and opinions of the public and LegCo Members. At this stage, we would focus on implementing measures to further improve our emergency ambulance service. The Fire Services Department has been providing simple post-dispatch advice to callers requesting for emergency ambulance service involving bleeding, fracture or dislocation and burn since 1 May last year to help stabilise the conditions of the patients. The Department is now planning to procure a computer system to enable the provision of more precise and detailed post-dispatch advice to emergency ambulance service callers. We will consult the Panel on Security on the procurement of the computer system in due course.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB177

Question Serial No.

2707

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): 000 Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Fire Services Department has stated that the number of non-directorate posts would be increased by 207 to 10 017 posts as at 31 March 2013. Please inform this Committee of the job nature, ranks and salaries of these posts.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: The Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 207 non-directorate posts in 2012-13. Details are as follows:

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)	Job nature
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	7	4,418,400	To man additional fire appliances at the Lam Tin Fire Station and Yau Tong Fire Station to cope with the higher fire risk as a result of the population growth in the areas of Lam Tin and Yau Tong
Senior Fireman	7	2,161,740	
Fireman	32	6,900,480	
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	1	631,200	To strengthen support for rescue work in emergency and major incidents and to enhance fire safety work
Principal Fireman	1	376,200	
Senior Fireman	2	617,640	
Fireman	18	3,881,520	
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	8	5,049,600	To receive training starting from 2012-13, with a view to be deployed to the fire station at Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay scheduled to be commissioned in late 2013
Principal Fireman	4	1,504,800	
Senior Fireman	11	3,397,020	
Fireman	47	10,135,080	
Senior Ambulance Officer	1	714,720	To be deployed to the Aberdeen Ambulance Depot scheduled for commission in mid-2012
Ambulance Officer	2	948,720	
Principal Ambulanceman	5	1,881,000	
Senior Ambulanceman	-5	-1,544,100	
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	202,260	
Senior Ambulanceman	12	3,705,840	To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service
Ambulanceman	24	5,355,360	

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)	Job nature
Chief Executive Officer	1	1,068,900	To strengthen departmental administrative, clerical and other support
Senior Executive Officer	1	783,600	
Executive Officer I	2	1,131,240	
Official Languages Officer II	1	357,540	
Information Officer	1	565,620	
Senior Clerical Officer	1	429,420	
Assistant Clerical Officer	22	4,449,720	
Total:	207	59,123,520	

*Calculated on the basis of the relevant notional annual mid-point salary values in 2011-12.

Signature: 

Name in block letters: CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: Director of Fire Services

Date: 29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB178

Question Serial No.

0466

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): 000 Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

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

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()
Breakdown of positions held by NCSC staff			
Salary expenditure for 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 below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of NCSC staff			
• 5 years or longer	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants	()	()	()
Number of staff failing to be converted to civil servants	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff among the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of amount paid to NCSC staff among the total staff cost of the department	()	()	()
Number of staff with remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of staff without remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of staff working on five-day week	()	()	()
Number of staff working on six-day week	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2012-13	2011-12 [as at 31-12-2011]	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff		84 (-2.3%)	86
Breakdown of positions held by NCSC staff		These positions are responsible for duties relating to telecommunications and information technology, administration, clerical work, translation service, project management, clinical psychological counseling, project assistance, etc.	
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff		About \$14,100,000 (+43.9%)	About \$9,800,000
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above		10 (+100%)	5
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		10 (-16.7%)	12
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		64 (-7.2%)	69
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		0(0%)	0
• \$5,001 - \$6,500		0(0%)	0
• \$5,000 or below		0(0%)	0
• number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824		0(0%)	0
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500		0(0%)	0
Length of service of NCSC staff			
• 5 years or longer		12 (+33.3%)	9
• 3 - 5 years		2 (-60%)	5
• 1 - 3 years		10 (-16.7%)	12
• less than 1 year		60 (0%)	60
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants		[There is currently no mechanism to convert NCSC staff to civil servants.]	
Number of staff failing to be converted to civil servants		[There is currently no mechanism to convert NCSC staff to civil servants.]	
Percentage of NCSC staff among the total number of staff in the department		0.85% (-4.5%)	0.89%
Percentage of amount paid to NCSC staff among the total staff cost of the department		About 0.41% (+32.3%)	About 0.31%
Number of staff with remunerated meal break		84 (-2.3%)	86
Number of staff without remunerated meal break		0 (0%)	0
Number of staff working on five-day week		84 (-2.3%)	86
Number of staff working on six-day week		0 (0%)	0

NCSC staff will be employed based on actual needs in the coming year. The required information is not available at present.

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Signature: 

Name in block letters: CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: Director of Fire Services

Date: 29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB179

Question Serial No.

0491

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): 000 Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion: On engaging agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of contracts 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	()	()	()
Breakdown of 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 monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with monthly 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	()	()	()
Percentage of agency workers among the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies among the total staff cost of the department	()	()	()
Number of workers with remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of staff working on five-day week	()	()	()
Number of staff working on six-day week	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2012-13	2011-12 [As at 31-3-2012]	2010-11
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies	See Remark	3 (+200%)	1
Total contract sum paid to employment agencies		\$2,984,000 (+1 586%) [Estimated full-year cost]	\$177,000 [The contract took effect on 1 March 2011. The figure above was the value of the contract for one month (i.e. March 2011).]
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency		No information on commission	
Length of contract for each employment agency		5-7 months	7 months
Number of agency workers		62	20
Breakdown of positions held by agency workers		Clerical service	Clerical service
Monthly salary range of agency workers			
• \$30,001 or above		-	-
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		-	-
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		-	-
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		62 (+210%)	20
• \$5,001 - \$6,500		-	-
• \$5,000 or below		-	-
• number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824		-	-
• number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500		-	-
Length of service of agency workers		The employment contracts were entered into between the employment agencies and their employees. FSD does not keep the relevant information.	
• 5 years or longer			
• 3 - 5 years			
• 1 - 3 years			
• less than 1 year			
Percentage of agency workers among the total number of staff in the department		0.7%	0.2%
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies among the total staff cost of the department		0.09% (+800%)	0.01%
Number of workers with remunerated meal break		62 (+210%)	20
Number of workers without remunerated meal break		0 (-)	0
Number of staff working on five-day week		62 (+210%)	20
Number of staff working on six-day week		0 (-)	0

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Remark: Figures for 2012-13 are not available as the number of "agency workers" to be engaged may vary to meet changing service demands.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____ Director of Fire Services

Date: _____ 29.2.2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

SB180

Question Serial No.

2937

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): 000 Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

On engaging "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
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	()	()	()
Breakdown of positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing 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 monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with monthly 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	()	()	()
Percentage of outsourced workers among the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers among the total staff cost of the department	()	()	()
Number of workers with remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working on five-day week	()	()	()
Number of workers working on six-day week	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2012-13	2011-12 [as at 31-3-2012]	2010-11
Number of outsourced service contracts	The required information is not available because the number of outsourced service contracts and workers may vary to meet changing service demands.	13 (+44.4%)	9
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers		\$35,042,000 (33.5%) [Estimated full-year cost]	\$26,245,000
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider		12 - 36 months	9 - 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. The Fire Services Department (FSD) does not have information about the total number of these workers.	
Breakdown of positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)		Security, cleansing, general services, catering and professional/technical services.	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers		Monthly salary of outsourced workers is agreed between the service providers and their employees in the employment contracts. FSD does not have detailed information about the monthly salary of outsourced workers.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$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 monthly salary below \$5,824• number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500		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 monthly wages of relevant industries/occupation published by the Census and Statistics Department; or the statutory minimum wage with one paid rest day per week, whichever is the higher.	
Length of service of outsourced workers		The length of employment of outsourced workers is not specified in the contract in the procurement of outsourced services by Government departments. In engaging outsourced services, FSD mainly focuses on whether the service provider can fulfill the service requirements set out in the contract. FSD does not have the relevant information.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 years or longer• 3 - 5 years• 1 - 3 years• less than 1 year			
Percentage of outsourced workers among the total number of staff in the department		The number of outsourced workers is determined by the service providers according to the service required. FSD does not have information about the total number of these workers.	

	2012-13	2011-12 [as at 31-3-2012]	2010-11
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers among the total staff cost of the department		1.0% (+25%)	0.8%
Number of workers with remunerated meal break		Whether meal breaks are paid or not is agreed between the outsourced service providers and their employees. FSD does not keep the relevant information.	
Number of workers without remunerated meal break			
Number of workers working on five-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.	
Number of workers working on six-day week			


() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

Post Title: _____

Date: _____


CHAN CHOR KAM

Director of Fire Services

29.2.2012

SB223

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

Question Serial No.

3344

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Please provide details of the Department's efforts to educate the public on the proper use of ambulance service last year. Was there any improvement regarding the misuse of ambulance service by the public last year? What is the estimated expenditure on related education and publicity in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: Regarding public education on the proper use of emergency ambulance service, the Fire Services Department (FSD)'s major work in 2011 included:

- (i) engaging Television Broadcasts Limited to produce a variety show to launch the Ambulance Service Campaign in July 2011 for promoting the message of "Do Not Misuse Emergency Ambulance Service";
- (ii) collaborating with Radio Television Hong Kong in producing the TV drama series "Elite Brigade", with two episodes featuring the emergency ambulance service and educating the public not to misuse the service and to facilitate early arrival of the ambulance crew at the scene to take care of the patients;
- (iii) organising "Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service Roving Exhibitions" in collaboration with the Auxiliary Medical Services, the Hospital Authority and St. John Ambulance to advocate the message;
- (iv) continuing the "School Outreaching Scheme – Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service Publicity Programme", which included giving talks in primary and secondary schools by FSD staff to educate students on the proper use of ambulance resources;
- (v) using Bus Shelter Advertisement to promote the message of "Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service"; and
- (vi) continuing to display posters and banners around the territory to disseminate the message of "Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service".

In order to obtain a better understanding of how the emergency ambulance service was used by the public, FSD analysed in 2009 about 10 000 randomly selected cases among the emergency ambulance calls received. The analysis revealed that around 10% of these cases were not in obvious need of emergency ambulance service. In 2011, FSD conducted a similar analysis which showed that the percentage of such cases decreased to about 4.2%. Moreover, the year-on-year increase for the number of emergency ambulance calls received also dropped from 4.8% in 2010 to 0.04% in 2011. Such figures show that FSD's efforts over the recent years to educate the public on the proper use of ambulance service have started to bear fruit.

In 2012-13, FSD's estimated expenditure on emergency ambulance service-related education and publicity is approximately \$ 2 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

**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 provide last year's number of breakdowns of ambulances while attending calls. Please also detail the Department's replacement of ambulances this year. What is the average age of the fleet? What is the estimated expenditure?

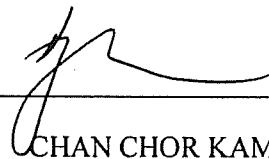
Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: In 2011, there were a total of 57 cases of breakdown of ambulances while attending calls. As at the end of 2011, the average age of the ambulance fleet was 2.4 years. In 2012-13, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will replace 30 town ambulances. The pre-tendering work for this batch of ambulances has commenced and the ambulances are expected to be delivered starting from the second quarter of 2013.

For the estimated expenditure, FSD proposes a provision of \$107 million for 2012-13 for the procurement of 24 additional and the replacement of 30 town ambulances mentioned above, and for meeting part of the payment for the additional and replacement town ambulances approved in the previous financial year.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____


CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

29.2.2012

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

S-SB005

Question Serial No.

SV011

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: The Administration is requested to provide statistics about the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued by the Fire Services Department, and the prosecution statistics of non-compliance of these notices.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply: In 2011, the Fire Services Department issued a total of 6 332 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices and there were 45 prosecutions against non-compliance of such Notices.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

CHAN CHOR KAM

Post Title: _____

Director of Fire Services

Date: _____

14.3.2012