

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)15
3**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1111

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, provision for 2007-08 is \$187.1 million (9.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07 to meet operating expenses for cleansing services. However, there will be a deletion of 51 posts. Please specify the items with increased operating expenses and the provision involved; the ranks, functions and relevant duties of the posts to be deleted; the reasons for the deletion and the impact on the related services or work.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The increase in 2007-08 estimated expenditure of \$187.1 million under Programme (2) is mainly to cater for the following –

- (a) managing and operating new facilities, such as public toilets and refuse collection points; and providing cleansing services for new development areas (\$16.1 million);
- (b) increased expenditure on managing cemeteries and crematoria such as maintenance for new cremators (\$30.7 million);
- (c) enhancing hygiene in aqua privies (\$17.4 million); and
- (d) coping with increases in utility charges, contract expenses, maintenance and training requirements (\$122.9 million).

The posts to be deleted under this programme are Workman I and Workman II vacancies involved in environmental hygiene and related services. There is no operational need to keep them. Environmental hygiene and related services will not be affected as a result of the deletion of these posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	EDDY CHAN
	Director of
Post Title	Food and Environmental Hygiene
Date	15.3.2007