

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

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)155**

Question Serial No.

1179

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services, please advise on the following:

- (1) The reasons why the revised expenditure for 2006-07 is 7.9% lower than the original estimated expenditure for 2006-07;
- (2) The number of public cleansing services contracts that have been awarded each year from 2000 to 2007, highlighting the value, the number of staff employed, the wages and the total working hours of workers of these contracts;
- (3) Details of the changes in the actual expenditure on the outsourced public cleansing services in 2005-06 and 2006-07 as well as the reasons for the changes, and details of the estimated expenditure on public cleansing services to be outsourced in 2007-08; and
- (4) The changes, if any, in the terms of the new contracts to be outsourced in 2007-08 as compared with the previous contracts, for example, any downward or upward adjustment in the number of staff, wages and total working hours. What is the estimated expenditure saved or increased as a result of such changes?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

- (1) For 2006-07 the revised estimate under this programme is lower than the original estimate by 7.9%. This is mainly due to the lower than expected expenditure under personal emoluments arising from natural wastage of officers, general departmental expenses and capital account items.

- (2) The information of public cleansing services contracts awarded in 2000-2002 is kept in manual records and will take time to compile. For 2003-2007, the requested information is as follows –

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of public cleansing contracts</u>	<u>Contract period</u>	<u>Total contract value</u> (as at 1 <sup>st</sup> December)	<u>Number of workers employed</u>	<u>Range of wages</u>	<u>Daily maximum working hours of workers</u>
2003-04	71	6 months to 5 years (majority are 2 years)	\$1,377 million	6 799	\$4,368 - \$8,028	Not more than 10 working hours daily
2004-05	68		\$1,149 million	5 680	\$4,381 - \$8,028	
2005-06	65		\$1,148 million	5 243	\$4,381 - \$8,028	
2006-07	55		\$1,172 million	4 737	\$4,442 - \$8,200	

- (3) The actual and estimated expenditure for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are \$492 million and \$495 million respectively. The difference is due to changes in service requirements and contract prices. Expenditure for 2007-08 will be subject to the tender results of contracts to be renewed and changes in service requirements.
- (4) The terms of the new contracts to be outsourced in 2007-08 will depend on the service requirements as compared with previous contracts. Wages of workers are subject to adjustments in the wages level of the relevant trade as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics. We do not anticipate major change to the overall working hours. Information on estimated expenditure or savings for 2007-08 will only be available after completion of the tendering exercise.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ EDDY CHAN \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2007 \_\_\_\_\_