

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(FE)161

Question Serial No.

2201

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 :

There will be a net deletion of 51 posts in 2007-08. In this regard, please advise on:

1. The respective ranks, terms of employment and the main duties of the posts to be deleted;
2. Whether the work involved has been outsourced to private companies. If so, whether the staff laid off will have priority in employment by contractors;
3. The reasons for the deletion of the posts concerned even though the provision for 2007-08 has been increased by \$187.1 million (9.8%). How will the additional provision be used?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

1. The net 51 posts to be deleted in 2007-08 involves the Workman I and Workman II grades. They are civil service posts for providing environmental hygiene and related services.
2. No staff are laid off as all these are vacant posts.
3. 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;
 - (b) increased expenditure on managing cemeteries and crematoria, such as maintenance for new cremators;

- (c) enhancing hygiene in aqua privies; and
- (d) coping with increases in utility charges, contract expenses, maintenance and training requirements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ EDDY CHAN

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 15.3.2007