

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

FHB(FE)117

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

2319

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the following information on procurement of services of employment agencies (EAs) by the Department from 2006-07 to 2009-10:

- (a) the number of contracts signed with the EAs;
- (b) the contract sum and duration for each EA;
- (c) the number of workers supplied by each EA and their duties;
- (d) details of the workers' salaries (including monthly salaries and daily wages) payable by each EA;
- (e) the number of EAs engaged, contracts awarded, workers employed and the total expenditure involved in each respective year, as well as the percentage of change over that of the previous year;
- (f) the number of contracts awarded to each EA, the total contract sum and the number of workers supplied in each respective year, if more than one EA were engaged for provision of workers;
- (g) the workers' salaries (maximum, median and minimum salaries) payable by each EA;
- (h) the percentage of workers supplied by the EAs as compared with the total number of staff in the Department in each respective year; and
- (i) the proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of EAs as compared with the Department's total expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.2009)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.2008)	2006-07
(a) Number of contracts with EAs :	54 (+46%)	37 (+85%)	20	Nil
(b) Contract sum :	\$13,000 to \$9.9 million	\$11,000 to \$0.7 million	\$21,000 to \$0.5 million	Not Applicable
Contract duration :	2 to 12 months	1 to 12 months	3 to 12 months	
(c) Number of workers :	188 (+151%)	75 (+168%)	28	
Duties :	research-related work and general office support	general office support	general office support	
(d) Workers' salaries payable by each EA :	Note 1			
(e) Number of EAs engaged :	12 (+20%)	10 (-17%)	12	
Number of contracts awarded :	See (a) above	See (a) above	See (a) above	
Number of workers employed :	See (c) above	See (c) above	See (c) above	
Total expenditure involved :	\$17 million (+193%)	\$5.8 million (+76%)	\$3.3 million	

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.2009)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.2008)	2006-07
(f) If more than one EA, Number of contracts awarded to each EA : Total contract sum for each EA: Number of workers supplied by each EA :	1 to 12 \$26,000 to \$10 million 1 to 99	1 to 7 \$38,000 to \$1.5 million 1 to 17	1 to 3 \$29,000 to \$0.8 million 1 to 8	Not Applicable
(g) Workers' salaries (maximum, median and minimum salaries) payable by each EA :	Note 1			
(h) Percentage of workers supplied by EAs as compared with the total number of staff in the Department (Note 2) :	1.8% (+1%)	0.7% (+0.4%)	0.3%	
(i) Proportion of expenditure on services of EAs as compared with the Department's total expenditure :	0.4% (+0.3%)	0.1% (+0%)	0.1%	

() denotes year-on-year change

The above excludes the procurement of services for supply of T-contract staff providing information technology service under a term contract centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 1 : The contracts the department enter into with employment agencies specify the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers. The department normally does not specify the wages of agency workers, except with regard to the wages of non-skilled workers*. Hence we are unable to provide the information requested.

* As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.

Note 2 : The percentage of agency workers as compared with total staff is for a specific date only and is not representative of the situation for the concerned financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2010