

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security
Session No. : 14**

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

SB101

Question Serial
No.

2312

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in Programme (1) of Head 70 that the Immigration Department adopts liberal immigration schemes to facilitate entry of talent, professionals and investors. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the contents and objectives of the liberal immigration schemes? How are they different from the existing policy? What is the amount of expenditure involved?
- (b) The Administration announced in July last year the inclusion of investment-linked assurance scheme (ILAS) products in the Permissible Investment Asset class. Will funds be earmarked for the processing and approving of ILAS products for inclusion in the Permissible Investment Asset class?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply:

- (a) To complement the policy of attracting talents, professionals and investors to settle in Hong Kong, the Immigration Department introduced respectively the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals and the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme in 2003, as well as the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme in 2006. The contents and objectives of these immigration schemes are as follows:
 - (i) The Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals aims at attracting qualified Mainland talents and professionals to work in Hong Kong in order to meet local manpower needs and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the global market. The Mainland talents and professionals must possess skills and knowledge not readily available or in shortage locally. Admitted talents and professionals must be able to contribute to the operation of the firms and sectors concerned with a view to facilitating economic development in Hong Kong.

- (ii) The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme aims at facilitating the application for entry for residence in Hong Kong by persons who make investment but will not engage in the running of business in Hong Kong, so as to attract foreign capital into Hong Kong to generate additional local economic and financial activities. The scheme includes five types of specified financial assets under the Permissible Investment Assets class, providing entrants with flexible investment choices.
- (iii) The Quality Migrant Admission Scheme is a quota-based entrant scheme. It seeks to attract highly skilled or talented persons who are fresh entrants not having the right to enter and remain in Hong Kong to settle here in order to enhance Hong Kong's economic competitiveness in the global market. Successful applicants are not required to secure an offer of local employment before their entry to Hong Kong for settlement.

The number of posts created for the above immigration schemes and the salary costs for 2011-12 are tabulated as follows:

Immigration Scheme	Posts created					Total	Salary Costs (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary) (\$million)
	Senior Immigration Officer	Immigration Officer	Chief Immigration Assistant	Assistant Clerical Officer	Clerical Assistant		
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals	2	10	2	1	2	17	6.98
Capital Investment Entrant Scheme	5	5	-	-	3	13	6.01
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme	4	9	4	-	2	19	8.36

- (b) The Government agreed to include investment-linked assurance scheme products as an Eligible Collective Investment Scheme of the specified financial assets under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme so as to provide entrants with flexible investment choices. The Department will handle the processing and approving work with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2011

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

SB102

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2492

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the numbers of visitors coming to Hong Kong on the strength of a Two Way Permit (TWP) in the past 5 years? What are their backgrounds?

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
a.	No. of TWP visitors					
b.	No. of those coming to Hong Kong for visiting relatives as "spouse" on a TWP with a "one-year multiple-entry endorsement"					
c.	No. of those coming to Hong Kong for visiting relatives as "spouse" on a TWP with an endorsement valid for one year or below					
d.	No. of those coming to Hong Kong for "taking care of their children" as a single parent on a TWP with a "one-year multiple-entry endorsement"					
e.	No. of those coming to Hong Kong for "taking care of their children" as a single parent on a TWP with an endorsement valid for more than 91 days but less than a year					
f.	No. of those coming to Hong Kong for "taking care of their children" as a single parent on a TWP with an endorsement valid for 90 days					
g.	No. of those coming to Hong Kong for "taking care of their children" as a single parent on a TWP with an endorsement valid for 89 days or below					

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

From 2006 to 2010, the numbers of visitors coming to Hong Kong on the strength of a Two Way Permit (TWP) are as follows:

	Number of visitors holding a TWP	Number of TWP visitors with an endorsement for visiting relatives	Number of TWP visitors with a “one-year multiple exit endorsement for visiting relatives” ^{Note} among those with an endorsement for visiting relatives
2006	11 536 014	1 740 120	
2007	13 259 683	1 838 703	
2008	14 612 140	1 945 928	
2009	15 675 381	1 824 803	27
2010	20 020 445	1 822 046	192 786
Total	75 103 663	9 171 600	192 813

Note: The Mainland authorities have started to issue “one-year multiple exit endorsement for visiting relatives” to eligible Mainland residents since 25 December 2009.

The Immigration Department does not have the figures requested in items (b) to (g) of the question.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB103

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2493

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Does the Administration have any plan or policy to facilitate Mainland parents of single-parent cross-boundary families to come to Hong Kong for family reunion? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

According to Article 22 of the Basic Law, people from other parts of China must apply for approval for entry into the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Mainland residents who wish to settle in Hong Kong must apply for a Permit for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao (commonly known as "One Way Permit" (OWP)) from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau of their household registration in the Mainland. For making social visits in Hong Kong, sightseeing or other purposes, Mainland residents may apply for a Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao (commonly known as "Two Way Permit" (TWP)) and an appropriate endorsement from the relevant Mainland authorities. The acceptance of application, approval and issue of OWP, TWP and exit endorsement fall outside the remit of the HKSAR Government. The HKSAR Government will continue to reflect the views of various sectors in Hong Kong to the Mainland authorities.

The Mainland authorities have started to issue "one-year multiple exit endorsement for visiting relatives" to eligible Mainland residents since 25 December 2009. This arrangement aims to further facilitate Mainland residents who are separated from their spouses to come to Hong Kong to take care of their minor children as well as those with special family difficulties, to visit relatives in Hong Kong. Upon receipt of requests for assistance, the Immigration Department will reflect the special circumstances of these cases to the Exit and Entry Administration Offices in the Mainland for their active and discretionary consideration.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB104

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3126

Programme: (4) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) In the past 5 years, how many parents of single-parent cross-boundary families were directly granted Hong Kong identity cards by the Administration in view of their special family circumstances and discretionary reasons?
- (b) In the past 5 years, how many parents of single-parent cross-boundary families were granted one way permits after their cases had been reflected and referred to the Mainland authorities by the HKSAR Government in view of their special family circumstances and discretionary reasons?
- (c) In the past 5 years, how many parents of single-parent cross-boundary families were not granted one way permits although their cases had been reflected and referred to the Mainland authorities by the HKSAR Government in view of their special family circumstances and discretionary reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the Director of Immigration exercised his discretion under the Immigration Ordinance, Cap.115, to allow 97 persons to stay in Hong Kong. Since the circumstances of each case are different, the Director, in exercising his discretion, will consider individual cases having regard to all relevant circumstances. It is therefore inappropriate to categorise the cases by making straight-forward references to the reason(s) for such applications.

According to Article 22 of the Basic Law, people from other parts of China must apply for approval for entry into the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).. Mainland residents who wish to settle in Hong Kong must apply for a Permit for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao (commonly known as "One Way Permit " (OWP)) from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau of their household registration in the Mainland. For making social visits in Hong Kong, sightseeing or other purposes, Mainland residents may apply for a Permit for Travelling

to and from Hong Kong and Macao (commonly known as “Two Way Permit (TWP)”) and an appropriate endorsement from the relevant Mainland authorities. The acceptance of application, approval and issue of OWP, TWP and exit endorsement fall outside the remit of the HKSAR Government. The HKSAR Government will continue to reflect the views of various sectors in Hong Kong to the Mainland authorities.

Upon receipt of requests for assistance, the Immigration Department will reflect the special circumstances of these cases to the Exit and Entry Administration Offices in the Mainland for their active and discretionary consideration. As the approval of OWP falls outside the remit of the HKSAR Government, the Department does not have the figures of the decisions made by the Mainland authorities on the referred cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y L PEH

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 16 March 2011

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

SB105

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1448

Programme: (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Could the Administration list the number of times the Government sent chartered flights to bring Hong Kong residents home, the amount of money involved, and the amount recovered from the passengers in the past 5 years (i.e. 2006-07 to 2010-11)?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

When the personal safety of Hong Kong residents is affected by sudden incidents outside Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government may, depending on the circumstances, arrange chartered flights (or chartered seats) to bring them back to Hong Kong, and the expenses incurred will be dealt with in accordance with the user-pay principle. In general, the Immigration Department will issue demand notes to those who are required to pay, requesting them to make payment by a specified date. If they fail to pay by that date, the Department will issue reminders to them. When there are difficulties in the recovery of arrears or the reminders are repeatedly ignored, the Department will seek legal advice from the Department of Justice based on the circumstances of individual cases to decide whether legal action would be taken for the recovery of arrears.

The HKSAR Government sent chartered flights to bring back Hong Kong residents in distress on 2 occasions in the past 5 years.

During the disturbance in Thailand in late 2008, the HKSAR Government sent a total of 4 chartered flights to bring back 211 Hong Kong residents from Pattaya, Thailand on 1 and 2 December at a cost of about HK\$1.35 million. Passengers were notified that they were required to pay HK\$1,100 each. Since the contact details provided by the passengers were not complete, the HKSAR Government could not recover the fee from 52 people.

Following the hostage-taking incident in Manila on 23 August 2010, the bodies of the 8 Hong Kong victims and the 27 surviving travellers and their relatives were flown home on 25 August on a flight chartered by the HKSAR Government. The airline which had

arranged the chartered flight indicated afterwards that it would not charge the HKSAR Government or the passengers concerned any fee.

The special flight to bring back 170 Hong Kong travellers from Luxor, Egypt on 2 February 2011, although having been requested by the HKSAR Government, was provided by a Mainland airline under the direction of the Central Government. The HKSAR Government will follow up with the Travel Industry Council directly on the expenses incurred in accordance with the user-pay principle.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB106

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0336

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of inspections of construction sites and the number of arrested illegal workers in the past 2 years. Please provide the number of planned government works involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

In 2009 and 2010, the Immigration Department conducted 10 and 24 anti-illegal worker operations on construction sites respectively, in which no planned government works were involved. In 2009, 8 illegal workers and 1 employer were arrested in these operations. In 2010, 8 illegal workers were arrested.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K CHAN

Post Title Ag. Director of Immigration

Date 15 March 2011

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

SB107

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0432

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the respective figures of expenditure on the repatriation of illegal immigrants for the last 2 financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11) as well as the estimated figure of such expenditure for 2011-12.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

The expenditure incurred from removals (including illegal immigrants, refused landing passengers, offenders who have served a sentence etc) by the Immigration Department is as follows:

2009-10 (Actual expenditure)	\$5.67 million
2010-11 (Revised estimate)	\$6.59 million
2011-12 (Estimate)	\$7.53 million

The Immigration Department does not have detailed breakdown on the expenditure on removal of illegal immigrants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB109

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1670

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Are there any cases where the repatriation of illegal immigrants is not effected as a result of their places of origin not being successfully identified? If yes, please provide the respective figures for the last two financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11). Are there any officers in the Immigration Department specifically assigned to follow up on such cases? If yes, please provide the respective figures of these officers for the last two financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11) as well as for 2011-12.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

In the last two financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11), the Immigration Department did not have any cases where the repatriation of illegal immigrants could not be effected as a result of their places of origin not being successfully identified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB110

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0826

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, it is stated that the Immigration Department will continue to provide immigration facilitation to complement the policy objective of attracting more non-local students to study in our higher educational institutions and facilitate them to stay and work in Hong Kong after graduation. Will the Administration provide details of the relevant measures and the amounts of expenditure involved respectively as compared with those of the last two years?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

To complement the policy objective of further developing Hong Kong as a regional education hub, the Immigration Department has implemented the following measures as agreed with the Education Bureau since the 2008-09 academic year:

- (a) Allowing the admission of non-local students from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan for short-term studies in Hong Kong, subject to the conditions that the programmes concerned are offered by Hong Kong higher educational institutions with degree-awarding powers (excluding their continuing and professional education arms), and that the cumulative duration of short-term studies taken up by any student should not exceed 180 days within any 12-month period;
- (b) Relaxing the employment restriction on non-local students of full-time locally-accredited programmes at degree level or above whose study period is not less than one academic year, by allowing them to take up part-time on-campus jobs for up to 20 hours per week, off-campus summer jobs and study/curriculum-related internships;
- (c) Facilitating non-local students to stay or return to work in Hong Kong after graduation. All non-local fresh graduates who have obtained a degree or higher qualification in a full-time and locally-accredited programme in Hong Kong,

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

SB111

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0089

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

215 178 applications for entry visa were received in 2010, of which 204 370 were processed. The difference is greater than that of 2009. What are the reasons for this? Besides, what is the breakdown of the applications yet to be processed? Are there enough resources to process the applications?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Entry visa applications received by the Immigration Department which are not processed by 31 December of the year will be brought forward to the next year. Most applications brought forward to the next year will be processed in the first few weeks of that year.

Although the difference between the number of entry visa applications received and processed in 2010 is greater than that of 2009, the Department is generally able to fulfil its performance pledge of completion of processing within 4 to 6 weeks upon receipt of all documents required. In fact, the number of entry visa applications received in 2010 is 17.2% more than that of 2009, and the number of applications processed during the same period registers an increase of 11.4% over that of 2009.

The applications yet to be processed include applications for entry under various immigration schemes, and those for entry to Hong Kong for employment, training, investment, study as well as for residence as dependants.

The Department will continue to handle the applications through various measures such as streamlining application procedures, application of information technology and flexible staff deployment.

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

SB112

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0090

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many non-local students have been studying in our higher educational institutions in 2010? What is the breakdown by nationality? Do these figures show a rising trend? Is the number of non-local students studying in Hong Kong expected to keep increasing? Has any assessment been made to determine whether additional manpower or resources are required to complement the policy of attracting more non-local students to study in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2009 and 2010, the figures of non-local students coming to Hong Kong to study in higher educational programmes (sub-degree or above) are as follows:

Year	No. of applications received		No. of applications approved	
	Mainland students	Non-Mainland students	Mainland students	Non-Mainland students
2009	8 765	3 994	8 650	3 859
	Total		12 509	
2010	10 308	5 146	10 129	5 049
	Total		15 178	

Note: Exchange students are included.

The Immigration Department does not maintain statistics of non-Mainland students by nationality.

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

SB114

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0092

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2010, what are the respective numbers of applications processed and entry permits issued under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals? Compared with those in the past two years (i.e. 2008 and 2009), do the figures indicate any trend of increase? If yes, has the Administration made any assessment on whether additional staff or resources are required to process these applications in 2011?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The numbers of applications processed by the Immigration Department under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2008	7 722	6 744
2009	8 055 (+4.3%)	6 514 (-3.4%)
2010	8 396 (+4.2%)	7 445 (+14.3%)

Note: Figures in brackets () indicate the percentage of increase / decrease compared with the previous year.

The figures show that the number of applications received in 2010 slightly increased when compared with the previous two years. It is expected that the situation in 2011 will be similar to that in the past. The Department will continue to streamline application procedures to reduce the processing time and redeploy staff as necessary to cope with increased workload.

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

SB115

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0093

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There was an increase in the number of arriving passengers in 2010. What was the breakdown by nationality? What were the numbers of entry and the growth rates at all control points? What are the estimated growth rates of arriving passengers, vehicles and vessels in 2011? Are additional resources and manpower required to cope with the work?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

A breakdown of the number of visitor traffic (excluding Hong Kong residents) in 2010 by nationality is tabulated as follows:

	Nationality / Region	No. of arrivals	Growth rate (compared with 2009)
1	The Mainland of China	22 466 278	27.0%
2	Japan	1 346 605	8.8%
3	U.S.A.	1 191 572	9.7%
4	South Korea	921 817	39.7%
5	Australia	656 916	8.5%
6	Singapore	631 786	20.0%
7	The Philippines	607 961	6.9%
8	Malaysia	607 210	26.5%
9	India	549 376	39.6%
10	United Kingdom	537 650	-0.3%
11	Others	6 513 160	12.3%
	Total	36 030 331	21.8%

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

SB117

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0095

Programme: (4) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the breakdown figures for birth / death / adoption and marriage registrations in 2010? Do these figures indicate a rising trend compared with those of the past few years? Has the Administration estimated the future demand for such registrations and applications? Is there a need to increase the resources to cope with the demand?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The figures for birth, death, adoption and marriage registrations from 2007 to 2010 are tabulated as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Birth Registration	70 445	78 786	82 953	88 232
Death Registration	39 963	41 530	41 034	42 705
Marriage Registration	47 433	46 994	51 082	52 618
Adoption Registration	122	119	134	111

The above figures indicate that there were increases in the registration of births, deaths and marriages in 2010, as compared with the past few years. Based on this trend, the Immigration Department anticipates that the figures for birth, death and marriage registrations will keep increasing next year. In order to maintain the service standard, the Department will continue to monitor closely the demand for such services. In addition to efficient use of resources and flexible deployment of manpower, the Department will review and streamline the working procedures regularly so as to enhance its service efficiency and to cope with the increasing workload.

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

SB118

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0096

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2010, what were the respective numbers of overstayers, illegal immigrants, illegal workers and other immigration offenders arrested? How many operations were conducted? Will additional manpower be required for conducting the above operations in 2011? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2010, the Immigration Department conducted 11 203 enforcement actions as well as joint operations with other law enforcement agencies. The number of relevant arrests is tabulated as follows:

	No. of arrests*
Overstay	4 908
Illegal entry / remaining	3 092
Unlawful employment (e.g. breach of conditions of stay)	6 518
Others	1 138
Total:	15 656

* The above figures include some arrested persons who involve in more than one unlawful activity.

In 2011, the Department will continue to take strong enforcement actions and make flexible staff redeployment as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB120

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0098

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Is there a rising trend for visitors from the Mainland seeking entry under the disguise of marriages with Hong Kong residents? In 2010, what was the manpower required for conducting investigations and enforcement actions in this area? What plan does the Administration have in stepping up the enforcement actions in 2011?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Immigration Department has set up a special task force to investigate bogus marriage cases. To allow more vigorous enforcement, the task force has increased its strength from the original 15 members to 24 since 1 February 2010. In addition, various sections under the Investigation Sub-division also work together to combat these offences. In 2009 and 2010, the Department uncovered 1 033 and 1 283 cases of bogus marriages between Mainland and Hong Kong residents. In 2011, the Department will combat bogus marriages through the following measures:

- (1) To step up immigration examination upon arrival

The Department will step up immigration examination upon arrival at all control points and strictly scrutinize doubtful visitors coming to visit their spouses in Hong Kong on the strength of "Tanqin" exit endorsements.

- (2) Anti-unlawful employment operations

Since those involved in bogus marriages mainly take up unlawful employment after their entry into Hong Kong, we will pay particular attention to Mainland residents holding "Tanqin" exit endorsements during anti-unlawful employment operations.

- (3) To step up operations against the middlemen

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

SB121

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0123

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Starting from 1 April 2011, adult Mainland children born to Hong Kong residents may apply for One Way Permit to come to Hong Kong. With the additional work and arrangements, what are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong wah

Reply:

The Central Government has decided that, starting from 1 April 2011, eligible Mainland adult children (also known as "overage children") of Hong Kong residents may apply to the Public Security Bureau (PSB) in the Mainland for One Way Permits (OWPs) to come to Hong Kong for reunion with their natural parents.

It is learned that the submission, processing and approval procedures of application from "overage children" for settlement in Hong Kong will largely follow those of existing OWP applications. Starting from 1 April this year, eligible applicants may submit OWP applications in phases at the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the PSB at the county or above level of their household registration. The PSB in the Mainland has already promulgated the detailed arrangements for application.

During the processing of applications by the PSB in the Mainland, the Immigration Department will verify the information of the applicants' Hong Kong parents in cases where verification is requested. Besides, the Department will also be responsible for the issue of identity cards and travel documents to those "overage children" allowed to come to Hong Kong upon receiving applications.

The Department will handle the work involved through internal redeployment of manpower and resources, and it will review the relevant arrangements when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB122

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0878

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In a court case (*Hong Kong Association of Falun Dafa & Others v Director of Immigration, CACV 119/2007*), the sudden revelation of the destruction of relevant information drew criticism from the Court of Appeal on the record-keeping of immigration control documents by the authorities. In its judgment, the court criticised that the Administration had failed to fulfil its duty of candour. Have improvement measures been formulated and implemented by the Administration to fulfil its duty of candour and to ensure that the court can monitor the law enforcement agencies for any abuse of power? What are the details of the improvement measures and what is the amount of expenditure involved in the implementation of such measures?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Standard Immigration Department practice is in place for the handling of files in the Immigration Department. All file records are always handled in strict compliance with the practice according to business needs. Nevertheless, taking the comments of the court into account, the Department has already further enhanced the "retention period" and procedures in handling files. In addition to record disposal schedules drawn up for different categories of file records and information, the Department is committed to striking a balance among personal data protection, enhancement of work efficiency and proper keeping of documents. To this end, all documents and information related to a decision made by the Department will be retained for 3 months at least. If a decision is subject to judicial review during that period, the records of the relevant documents and information will be specifically retained for the reference of the court.

This improvement measure on file retention practice does not incur any additional expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB125

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1973

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the number of people who were refused entry by the Immigration Department in 2010 (please provide a breakdown by nationality)? What are the criteria by which to define a bona fide visitor?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In 2010, a total of 28 564 passengers and seamen were refused entry. A breakdown by their nationalities/ places of origin is tabulated as follows:

Place	Africa	Asia Pacific (other than Mainland China)	Europe	Mainland China	North America	South America	Total
Total	1 411	7 864	194	18 831	65	199	28 564

A bona fide visitor must fulfil the normal immigration requirements, such as possession of a valid travel document and visa, his/her purpose of visit not being in doubt, having sufficient funds and no adverse record, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K CHAN

Post Title Ag. Director of Immigration

Date 15 March 2011

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

SB126

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1059

Programme: (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Over the past 3 years (2008, 2009 and 2010), how many chartered flights have been arranged to bring back Hong Kong people travelling or working overseas? Please give a breakdown of the reasons for arranging a chartered flight, the number of such flights, the date of arranging such flights, the destination country and place, the number of people flown back etc. by occasion in tabulated form.
- (b) Please give a breakdown in tabulated form the cost incurred and the amount recovered on each occasion of chartering a flight over the past 3 years.
- (c) Of the Hong Kong people flown back to Hong Kong by chartered flights over the past 3 years (2008, 2009 and 2010), what is the percentage of those refusing to pay afterwards? What is the amount of loss thus incurred? Please give the percentage by occasion.
- (d) Will the Administration take further action to recover the money from those who still refuse to pay for the chartered flight they took? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

When the personal safety of Hong Kong residents is affected by sudden incidents outside Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government may, depending on the circumstances, arrange chartered flights (or chartered seats) to bring them back to Hong Kong, and the expenses incurred will be dealt with in accordance with the user-pay principle. In general, the Immigration Department will issue demand notes to those who are required to pay, requesting them to make payment by a specified date. If they fail to pay by that date, the Department will issue reminders to them. When there are difficulties in the recovery of arrears or the reminders are repeatedly ignored, the Department will seek legal advice from the Department of Justice based on the circumstances of individual cases to decide whether legal action would be taken for the recovery of arrears.

From 2008 to 2010, the HKSAR Government sent chartered flights to bring back Hong Kong residents in distress on 2 occasions.

During the disturbance in Thailand in late 2008, the HKSAR Government sent a total of 4 chartered flights to bring back 211 Hong Kong residents from Pattaya, Thailand on 1 and 2 December at a cost of about HK\$1.35 million. Passengers were notified that they were required to pay HK\$1,100 each. Since the contact details provided by the passengers were not complete, the HKSAR Government could not recover the fee from 52 people.

Following the hostage-taking incident in Manila on 23 August 2010, the bodies of the 8 Hong Kong victims and the 27 surviving travellers and their relatives were flown home on 25 August on a flight chartered by the HKSAR Government. The airline which had arranged the chartered flight indicated afterwards that it would not charge the HKSAR Government or the passengers concerned any fee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB127

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2676

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Central Government and the HKSAR Government announced earlier that the policy on the entry of Mainland children of Hong Kong residents would be relaxed to allow the “overage children” to come to Hong Kong for settlement. Starting from April this year, the Immigration Department will accept applications for entry from these Mainland children of Hong Kong residents. How many applications does the Immigration Department expect to receive this year? Does the Immigration Department need to set up any special section or increase manpower to cope with the additional workload in order to complement the new policy? If yes, please provide the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

The Central Government has decided that, starting from 1 April 2011, eligible Mainland adult children (also known as “overage children”) of Hong Kong residents may apply to the Public Security Bureau (PSB) in the Mainland for One Way Permits (OWPs) to come to Hong Kong for reunion with their natural parents.

It is learned that the submission, processing and approval procedures of application from “overage children” for settlement in Hong Kong will largely follow those of existing OWP applications. Starting from 1 April this year, eligible applicants may submit OWP applications in phases at the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the PSB, at the county or above level of their household registration. The PSB in the Mainland has already promulgated the detailed arrangements for application.

During the processing of applications by the PSB in the Mainland, the Immigration Department will verify the information of the applicants’ Hong Kong parents in cases where verification is requested. Besides, the Department will also be responsible for the issue of identity cards and travel documents to those “overage children” allowed to come to Hong Kong upon receiving applications.

The Department will handle the work involved through internal redeployment of manpower and resources, and it will review the relevant arrangements when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB128

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3217

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the information technology management unit of the department:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the percentage change compared with the actual expenditure for 2010-11? What account for this percentage change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific projects are involved in the estimates of expenditure for 2011-12? Which of them are ongoing and new projects respectively? What are the staff number, cost and implementation timetable of each project? Among the staff involved, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced services respectively?
- (c) Whether funds have been reserved for promoting electronic civic participation and public sector information access? If yes, what are the specific details, including the titles and particulars of the initiatives, the manpower and cost involved, and the implementation timetable? If no, what are the reasons and will consideration be given to introducing the initiatives in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment and the number of existing staff and vacancies of the information technology unit? Is manpower expected to increase in the coming year? If yes, how many additional posts will be created? What ranks will be involved? Will they be permanent posts? Will they be appointed on civil service terms? If there will be no increase in manpower, what are the reasons?
- (e) Has there been any comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the information technology unit? If yes, what are the results and the specific improvement measures involved? If no, what are the reasons and will a review be conducted in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply:

- (a) The estimated expenditure of the Immigration Department for Departmental Expenses - Data Processing (including information technology management) under Subhead 000 of Head 70 for 2011-12 is about \$178 million, comparable to the revised estimated expenditure of about \$176 million for 2010-11.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 will mainly be used for the maintenance, repair and management of various computer systems to continually support the key services of the Immigration Department including immigration control, issue of personal documents, registration of births, deaths and marriages, issue of visas and entry permits, investigation and prosecution, etc.

The estimated numbers of staff of the Information Systems Branch of the Department in 2011-12 are tabulated below:

Civil servants	334
Non-civil service contract staff	18
Outsourced workers (IT staff)	66
Agency workers	13

- (c) Various electronic services have been launched by the Department since 2007, including online appointment booking, application for HKSAR Passport, etc. The Department adopts an open attitude towards the promotion of electronic civic participation and public sector information access. It will actively consider and participate if there are suitable initiatives in these areas.
- (d) In 2010-11, the Information Systems Branch of the Department has a permanent establishment of 329 posts. There are no vacancies at present. Five posts will be created in 2011-12, including a Senior Immigration Officer, an Immigration Assistant, a Systems Manager and Analyst/Programmers I and II.
- (e) In accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, the Department has set up a Steering Committee on Information Technology to conduct business review regularly to ensure the effective planning, management and use of information systems resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y L PEH

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 17 March 2011

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

SB129

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2868

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the number of people who were refused entry in 2010 by passengers, seamen, reasons and places of origin.
- (b) How many cases of appeal were lodged in respect of the above cases of refused entry and what were the results of the appeals?
- (c) Of those who were refused entry, how many were so refused entry because of "bona fides of visit in doubt"? What were the purposes of such visits furnished to the Government by these people?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

- (a) In 2010, a total of 28 564 passengers and seamen were refused entry. The reasons for refusal are broadly classified into "doubtful purpose of visit" and travel document related categories. A breakdown by the number of those passengers and seamen, their places of origin and the reasons for refusal is tabulated as follows:

Reason for refusal \ Place of origin	Africa	Asia Pacific (other than Mainland China)	Europe	Mainland China	North America	South America	Total
Doubtful purpose of visit – visitor	996	5 358	32	15 497	18	135	22 036
Doubtful purpose of visit – seamen	0	0	0	79	0	0	79
Improperly documented	248	2 374	150	2 903	46	53	5 774
Forged travel document	167	132	12	352	1	11	675
Total	1 411	7 864	194	18 831	65	199	28 564

- (b) In 2010, the Immigration Department did not receive any appeal cases lodged under section 53 of the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115, against the Director of Immigration’s decision to refuse entry.
- (c) In 2010, there were 22 115 passengers and seamen being refused entry because of “doubtful purpose of visit”. In general, these people claimed various purposes of visit, including sightseeing, business, visiting relatives, or in transit. The Immigration Department does not have a breakdown of the figure by the purposes of visit so claimed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y L PEH

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2011

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

SB131

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2899

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the expenditure involved for the Immigration Department to process torture claims under the enhanced mechanism? When compared with the last 2 financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11) (with the fast growing number of applications for judicial reviews lodged by torture claimants), how many additional officers are required by the Immigration Department in the new financial year (2011-12) for expediting the processing of torture claims? (Please provide details on the number, rank and salary of the officers handling the said mechanism)

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The Immigration Department added more posts on its establishment in the last 2 financial years for implementing the enhanced mechanism for torture claims. Details are as follows:

Rank	2009-10		2010-11	
	No. of Posts	Notional Annual Mid-point Salary(\$)	No. of Posts	Notional Annual Mid-point Salary(\$)
Chief Immigration Officer	2	1,668,960	9	7,371,540 (7,489,260)
Senior Immigration Officer	27	18,038,700	88	57,726,240 (58,650,240)
Immigration Officer	50	22,218,000	51	22,662,360 (22,787,820)
Chief Immigration Assistant	1	322,440	3	1,026,900 (1,032,660)
Senior Immigration Assistant	2	531,600	7	1,971,060 (1,981,980)
Immigration Assistant	6	1,211,760	18	3,635,280 (3,655,800)
Clerical Officer	1	303,840	1	303,840

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

SB134

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0991

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the new financial year (2011-12), how many additional staff and resources (including new hardwares) will be required by the Immigration Department to cope with the influx of visitors during major holidays of the Mainland so as to avoid massive overcrowding with Mainland visitors at various control points as it happened on a number of occasions last year (please provide details on the number of officers, types and number of hardwares etc.)?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Immigration Department (ImmD) will have an increase of 26 posts on its establishment under Programme (2) for improving the handling capacity of Shenzhen Bay Control Point to cope with the rise in passenger and vehicle throughput as well as meeting other operational needs.

To handle the increase in passenger traffic during holidays, ImmD will maintain close liaison with the tourism industry to assess and estimate the passenger traffic and deploy existing resources flexibly and efficiently so as to cope with the traffic in different periods. ImmD will also closely monitor the overall growing trend in visitor traffic and review its manpower and other resources requirement in a timely manner as required.

ImmD will also upgrade and enhance the processing capacity of computer systems at control points. From 2012 onwards, the Mainland authorities will introduce electronic Exit-Entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao (e-EEP) to Mainland residents by phases. To meet the requirements arising from such new arrangements, ImmD has secured in July 2010 funding approval from the Finance Committee for upgrading its computer systems and installing facilities for enabling Mainland visitors using e-EEP to visit Hong Kong. The system will also allow eligible frequent Mainland visitors to use the e-Channel service after enrolment.

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

SB135

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

3141

Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of ImmigrationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

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

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()	()
Details of NCSC staff posts				
Salary costs of the 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 employment of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or above	()	()	()	()
• 3 – 5 years	()	()	()	()
• 1 – 3 years	()	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully transferring to civil service	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff failing to transfer to civil service	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()	()
Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff on 5-day week	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff on 6-day week	()	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease each year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The relevant information is as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 31.12.2010)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
Number of NCSC staff		148 (-19%)	183 (-24%)	242 (-)
Details of NCSC staff posts		Including professional, technical, administrative and clerical NCSC staff positions, etc.		
Salary costs of the NCSC staff		About \$18 m (-36%)	About \$28 m (-13%)	About \$32 m (-)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	Note ¹			
• \$30,001 or above		4 (+33%)	3 (0%)	3 (-)
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		19 (-17%)	23 (-18%)	28 (-)
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		125 (-20%)	157 (-26%)	211 (-)
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500		()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below		()	()	()
• Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824		()	()	()
• Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()	
Length of employment of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or above		41 (+46%)	28 (+12%)	25 (-)
• 3 years to less than 5 years		60 (+33%)	45 (+55%)	29 (-)
• 1 years to less than 3 years		44 (-58%)	104 (-8%)	113 (-)
• less than 1 year		3 (-50%)	6 (-92%)	75 (-)
Number of NCSC staff successfully transferring to civil service	The Department does not have the relevant information. NCSC staff is not required to furnish such information to the Department.			
Number of NCSC staff failing to transfer to civil service				
Number of NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department	Note ¹	2.2 % (-19%)	2.7% (-25%)	3.6% (-)
Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department		1.0% (-17%)	1.2% (-14%)	1.4% (-)
Number of NCSC staff with meal break included in working hours		143 (-19%)	177 (-25%)	236 (-)
Number of NCSC staff with meal break not included in working hours		5 (-17%)	6 (0%)	6 (-)
Number of NCSC staff on 5-day week		87 (-)	Note ²	Note ²
Number of NCSC staff on 5.5-day week		61 (-)		
Number of NCSC staff on 6-day week		0 (-)		

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease each year

Note ¹ : The number of NCSC staff varies according to service and operational needs. The relevant figures for 2011-12, therefore, are not available at present.

Note ² : The Department does not have the relevant figures as at March 31 for 2008-09 and for 2009-10.

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

SB136

Question Serial No.

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

3142

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the employment of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts of 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	()	()	()	()
Details of the posts 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 employment of agency workers				
• 5 years or longer	()	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()	()
Percentage of the number of agency workers to the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()	()
Percentage of the sum paid to employment agencies to the total departmental staff cost	()	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers on 5-day week	()	()	()	()
Number of workers on 6-day week	()	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease each year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2011-12 ⁽¹⁾	2010-11 ⁽²⁾	2009-10	2008-09 ⁽³⁾
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	-	1 (-50%)	2 (+100%)	1
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	-	\$197,000 (-76%)	\$821,000 in total (+1,040%)	\$72,000
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	We only keep information on the contract sum but not the amount of commission paid to employment agencies.			
Length of contract for each employment agency	-	3 months	3 to 12 months	12 months
Number of agency workers	-	8 (-11%)	9 (+13%)	8
Details of the posts held by agency workers	-	Clerical	Clerical	Clerical
Monthly salary range of agency workers				
• \$30,001 or above	-	-	-	-
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	-	-	-	-
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	-	-	-	-
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	-	8 (-11%)	9 (+13%)	8
• \$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 employment of agency workers	We do not have information on the length of service of agency workers.			
• 5 years or longer				
• 3 - 5 years				
• 1 - 3 years				
• less than 1 year				
Percentage of the number of agency workers to the total number of staff in the department	-	0.12% (-8%)	0.13% (+8%)	0.12%
Percentage of the sum paid to employment agencies to the total departmental staff cost	-	0.008% (-77%)	0.035% (+1,067%)	0.003%
Number of workers with paid meal break	We do not have information on whether agency workers have paid meal break or not.			
Number of workers without paid meal break				
Number of workers on 5-day week	-	8 (-11%)	9 (+13%)	8
Number of workers on 6-day week	-	-	-	-

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease each year

Notes:

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

SB137

Head: 70 Immigration Department Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

3143

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the employment of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
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	()	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning 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 salary below \$5,824	()	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()	()
Length of employment of outsourced workers				
• 5 years or longer	()	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()	()
Percentage of the number of outsourced workers to the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()	()
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers to the total departmental staff cost	()	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers on 5-day week	()	()	()	()
Number of workers on 6-day week	()	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease each year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2011-12 ⁽²⁾	2010-11 ⁽³⁾	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts ⁽¹⁾	-	27 (-7%)	29 (+16%)	25
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	-	About \$40 m (-20%)	About \$50 m (0%)	About \$50 m
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	-	2 to 36 months	2 to 36 months	2 to 36 months
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers and details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning and information technology)	-	About 350 persons holding posts in security, cleaning, transport and delivery, and information technology, etc. (-5%)	About 370 persons holding posts in security, cleaning, transport and delivery, and information technology, etc. (+28%)	About 290 persons holding posts in security, cleaning, transport and delivery, and information technology, etc.
Monthly salary range 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 salary below \$5,824 • number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 	The monthly salary is agreed upon by the outsourced service provider and the outsourced workers when the contract of employment is signed. We do not have full information on the monthly salary range of outsourced workers. When procuring outsourced services, we have requested outsourced service providers to set the monthly salary levels of outsourced workers according to the average monthly salaries of the relevant industries as published by the Census and Statistics Department.			
Length of employment of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years or longer • 3 - 5 years • 1 - 3 years • less than 1 year 	We do not have information on the length of employment of outsourced service workers.			
Percentage of the number of outsourced workers to the total number of staff in the department	Since the number of outsourced workers and working hours vary according to operational needs, the percentage of the number of outsourced workers to the total number of staff in the department is unavailable.			
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers to the total departmental staff cost	-	2% (0%)	2% (0%)	2%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	Whether there is paid meal break or not is agreed upon by the outsourced service provider and the outsourced workers. We do not have information on whether meal breaks of outsourced service workers are paid or not.			
Number of workers on 5-day week Number of workers on 6-day week	Subject to contract requirements and operational needs.			

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease each year

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE BOON YING

Post Title Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Date 15.3.2011

