

**Replies to questions raised by Finance Committee Members in  
Examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11**

**Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>Initial Written Question</b>				
DEVB(W)112	0050	Hon. WONG Yung-kan	194	Customer Services
DEVB(W)113	0051	Hon. WONG Yung-kan	194	Customer Services
DEVB(W)114	0098	Hon. WONG Yung-kan	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)115	0358	Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)116	0585	Hon. KAM Nai-wai	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)117	0586	Hon. KAM Nai-wai	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)118	0587	Hon. KAM Nai-wai	194	Customer Services
DEVB(W)119	1472	Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	194	Customer Services
DEVB(W)120	2373	Hon. WONG Kwok-hing	194	-
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DEVB(W)122	2375	Hon. WONG Kwok-hing	194	-
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DEVB(W)124	2489	Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	194	-

**Replies to questions raised by Finance Committee Members in  
Examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11**

**Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>Initial Written Question</b>				
DEVB(W)125	2490	Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	194	-
DEVB(W)126	2517	Hon. CHAN Hak-kan	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)127	2518	Hon. CHAN Hak-kan	194	Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please list out the number of reservoir fishing licences issued in the past three years (i.e. 2007-2009), and advise the current restrictions of reservoir fishing licences.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The number of fishing licences issued in 2007, 2008 and 2009 are 3 661, 3 636 and 4 161 respectively. Fishing licences are non-transferable, valid for three years and will only be issued to persons over 13 years of age. Fishing in reservoirs is permitted during the non-spawning season from 1 September to 31 March of the ensuing year. A fishing licence is for the use of one rod and line only. Use of nets, explosives or toxic substances, boats, dinghies, rafts etc. is not allowed in reservoir fishing. The licence also stipulates restrictions on the catch in a day to no more than two for each type of fish of length over a specified minimum.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Does the Water Supplies Department have any plans to develop guided tour and fishing activities in impounding reservoirs in the coming year (i.e. 2010-11)? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department supports recreational activities in impounding reservoirs. The Department has been actively promoting fishing activities in reservoirs by:

- (a) production and distribution of promotional leaflets;
- (b) promotion through the Department's website and that of Hong Kong Tourism Board; and
- (c) inviting applications for fishing licences before every fishing season.

The Department will step up the promotion through its customer newsletter, posters and promotional messages on water bills and provide additional facilities at impounding reservoirs for angling activities. In 2010-11, the Department will spend about \$1.2m for these purposes.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please list out the details of 'Pilot scheme for sensor leakage detection of in-service pressurised water mains.' When will the scheme commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The sensor leakage detection of in-service pressurised water mains is a new technology developed overseas. A CCTV camera or an acoustic sensor will be inserted via access points into water mains of not less than 300 mm in diameter to inspect their internal conditions or detect leakage points. The camera or sensor is tethered to a cable connected to the control equipment on the ground surface, providing real time results.

The pilot scheme is to explore the practicality and effectiveness of applying the technology in Hong Kong. It is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2010 for completion in the first quarter of 2011.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please tabulate the numbers of water main leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong, the number of households affected by the leakage cases and the average time required for repairing the concerned water mains in the past year (i.e. 2009-10).

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

The number of fresh and salt water main leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong in 2009-10 (up to 3 March 2010) is tabulated below -

District	Number of water main leakage cases in 2009-10
Central & Western	847
Eastern	456
Islands	327
Kowloon City	640
Kwai Tsing	316
Kwun Tong	404
North	1 329
Sai Kung	973
Sha Tin	476
Sham Shui Po	390
Southern	448

District	Number of water main leakage cases in 2009-10
Tai Po	427
Tsuen Wan	370
Tuen Mun	586
Wan Chai	529
Wong Tai Sin	133
Yau Tsim Mong	660
Yuen Long	2 612
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 923</b>

The average time of repair of water mains in 2009-10 is about 3.2 hours. We did not retrieve the number of households in the areas affected for record purpose, noting that any water stoppages were to be resumed soonest possible.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead (No. & title):Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and DistributionControlling Officer : Director of Water SuppliesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion :

Regarding the fresh water supply in Hong Kong, please provide the following information:

- (a) In the annual fresh water supply for the past two years (i.e. 2008 and 2009), what were the percentages of Dongjiang water and the fresh water supplied from local reservoirs? What were the figures on the overflow of water from the reservoirs each year?
- (b) Regarding the raw water supply agreement signed with the Mainland, was there any occasion where the supply exceeded the demand last year (i.e. 2009)? If yes, what are the details? Is there any measure to improve the situation?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-waiReply :

- (a) The proportions of our sources of water supply are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Supply by Dongjiang water	68.3%	76.1%
Local supply	31.7%	23.9%

At the time of heavy downpours, overflow of rain-water collected at reservoirs may occur. The estimated quantities of overflow in million cubic meters (mcm) for 2008 and 2009 are as shown below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Estimated overflow from reservoirs (mcm)	92	15

- (b) The current agreement for supply of Dongjiang water allows flexibility in water supply to meet our needs. There was no occasion where the supply exceeded the demand in 2009.



Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, cursive representation of the letters 'L T M A'.

Name in block letters:

L T M A

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Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

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Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains, please advise:

- (a) the number of projects completed and the length of water mains replaced in 2009-10; and the work scheduled for 2010-11 (e.g. number of contracts and length of water mains expected to be completed) together with the estimated expenditure;
- (b) the expected completion date of the entire replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains and the total expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme of water mains is being implemented for completion in stages. In 2009-10, six contracts were completed and a total length of about 430 km of water mains was replaced/rehabilitated. In 2010-11, 11 contracts are expected to be completed, and a total length of about 400 km of water mains is expected to be replaced/rehabilitated. The estimated expenditure for the R&R work in 2010-11 is \$2.3 billion.
- (b) The entire R&R programme is planned to be completed by 2015 at a total estimated cost of \$21.8 billion in money-of-the-day prices.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

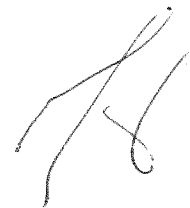
Regarding the accuracy of water meters, please advise the number of cases involving the inaccuracy of water meters in 2009-10 and the amount involved.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

Out of the 6.8 million water bills issued by the Department for 2009-10 up to end February 2010, there were 686 cases of dispute over the accuracy of the water meters, whereby the registered customers requested for meter testing. After meter testing and follow up investigation, 640 cases were found not involving inaccuracy of the water meters which required bill adjustment. There were 43 cases of inaccuracy of the water meters which required downward adjustment of the bill amounts and the total amount of adjustment was \$135,791. Investigation on the remaining three cases is still on-going.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :


Regarding the on-going meter replacement programme, please provide the details of the progress in the past 3 years (2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10), the number of meters to be replaced in future and the time schedule for enhancing the accuracy of the meters. Please also provide the expenditure and manpower deployed in the past 3 years (2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10) and the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

To enhance the accuracy of water meters, the Department has started a programme to replace 1.27 million 15-mm diameter water meters of age over 12 years from 2006-07 to 2010-11. In 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10, we replaced respectively 370 000, 250 000 and 210 000 such water meters. The respective expenditure was \$40 million, \$48 million and \$41 million. We plan to replace the remaining 210 000 meters under the programme in 2010-11 at a budget of \$45 million. About 75% of the meter replacement works was carried out by contractors and the remaining part by our direct labour. In each of the past three years, about 50 staff were deployed on the task. Similar arrangement will continue in 2010-11.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead :000 Operational expensesProgramme :Controlling Officer : Director of Water SuppliesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion :

- (a) Please provide information on the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff as follows -

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()	()
Total expenditure on salary for NCSC staff	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff who had the opportunity but failed to be appointed as civil servants	()	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff of the Department	()	()	()	()

*Figures in () denote year-on-year increase/decrease*

- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the length of employment of the NCSC staff from 2007-08 to 2010-11 as follows -

Period (years)	Numbers of staff (2010-11)	Numbers of staff (2009-10)	Numbers of staff (2008-09)	Numbers of staff (2007-08)
0.5 to 1 year	()	()	()	()
1 to 3 years	()	()	()	()
3 to 5 years	()	()	()	()
5 to 10 years	()	()	()	()
10 to 15 years	()	()	()	()

*Figures in () denote year-on-year increase/decrease*

- (c) Please advise the number of NCSC staff who would be appointed as civil servants on permanent terms in the next three years i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Asked by :

Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Information on the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the number of NCSC staff fluctuates with changing service needs and staff turnover, a projection for 2010-11 cannot be made.

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff	102 (-10%) (projection as at 31.3.2010)	113 (-50%) (as at 31.3.2009)	224 (as at 31.3.2008)
Total expenditure on salary for NCSC staff (\$ million)	23.3 (-41%)	39.3 (-24%)	51.5
Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant	34 (-68%)	106 (+2,550%)	4
Number of NCSC staff who had the opportunity but failed to be appointed as civil servants	No record	No record	No record
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff of the Department	2.4% (-8%)	2.6% (-49%)	5.1%

Figures in ( ) denote *year-on-year increase/decrease*

- (b) Breakdown of the length of employment of the NCSC staff from 2007-08 to 2009-10 is provided below. As explained in (a) above, a projection for 2010-11 cannot be made.

Period (years)	2009-10 (projection as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.2008)
0.5 to less than 1 year	29 (+107%)	14 (-22%)	18
1 to less than 3 years	10 (-50%)	20 (-72%)	72
3 to less than 5 years	23 (+5%)	22 (+16%)	19
5 to less than 10 years	38 (-33%)	57 (-50%)	115
10 to less than 15 years	2	0	0
Total number of staff	102	113	224

Figures in ( ) denote *year-on-year increase/decrease*

- (c) Civil service posts are filled through an open and competitive recruitment process. All NCSC staff would be subject to the same appointment procedures and arrangements as with all outside applicants. We are unable to predict the number of NCSC staff who would be appointed as civil servants in the next three years.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead: 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide the following information on the procurement of services of employment agencies (EAs) by the department from 2006-07 to 2009-10 in the form of a table :

- (a) the number of contracts signed with EAs;
- (b) the contract sum and duration for each EA;
- (c) the number and duties of workers supplied under each contract signed with EAs;
- (d) details of the pay of workers supplied under each contract signed with EAs, including monthly salaries and daily wages;
- (e) the percentage changes in the number of EAs, the number of contracts, the number of workers employed and the total expenditure in each year over the previous year;
- (f) if more than one EA was hired to supply workers in the year, please list the number and total value of contracts awarded to each EA, and the number of workers supplied under it;
- (g) the highest, median and lowest pay of workers supplied by each EA;
- (h) the proportion of workers supplied by EAs in the existing staff of the department in the year; and
- (i) the proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of EAs in departmental expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of procurement of employment agency services from 2006-07 to 2009-10 is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.



**(a) The number of contracts signed with EAs**

2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
12	11	8	6

**(b) Contract sums and duration of services**

Contract sum	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
Less than \$0.5 million	3	2	1	2
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	4	4	3	0
Over \$1 million	5	5	4	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

Duration of services	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
6 months or less	1	2	2	2
Over 6 months to 1 year	8	6	5	3
Over 1 year to 2 years	3	3	1	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

**(c) Number and duties of workers supplied**

Number of workers supplied	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
10 or less	6	6	5	1
11 to 20	4	2	1	4
21 to 30	1	2	2	0
31 to 50	0	0	0	1
Over 50 (part-time workers)	1	1	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

Duties of workers	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
General office support	3	2	2	2
Customer services	6	6	5	4
Publicity and Information services	2	2	1	0
Accounting services	1	1	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

**(d) Salaries of workers supplied**

Contracts entered into with EAs contained overall service fees charged by the EAs for supplying agency workers which included wages paid to them.

**(e) The numbers and corresponding percentages of change for each year in respect of the requested information are appended below:**

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
Number of EAs	5	5 (+67%)	3	3
Number of contracts	12 (9%)	11 (+38%)	8 (+33%)	6
Total number of workers supplied by EAs (including part-time workers)	165 (+12%)	147 (+50%)	98 (+17%)	84
Total contract sum (\$ million)	11.9 (+10%)	10.8 (+44%)	7.5 (+39%)	5.4

( ) are the percentage increase/decrease over the preceding year

- (f) More than one EA were hired to supply workers during the concerned periods. The numbers and total values of contracts awarded and the total number of workers supplied by each EA are as follows:

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
<i>Number of contracts awarded</i>	<i>Number of EAs</i>			
5 or less	4	4	3	3
6 to 10	1	1	0	0
<i>Total value of contracts awarded</i>	<i>Number of EAs</i>			
Less than \$1 million	2	2	0	0
\$1 million to \$2 million	1	1	1	2
\$2 million to \$3 million	1	1	1	1
Over \$3 million	1	1	1	0
<i>Total number of workers supplied</i>	<i>Number of EAs</i>			
10 or less	2	2	0	0
11 to 30	1	1	1	1
31 to 50	1	0	1	2
Over 50 (including part-time workers)	1	2	1	0

- (g) Salaries of the workers supplied by the EAs under the contracts (highest, median, lowest)

Please refer to item (d) above.

- (h) The percentage of workers (full-time) supplied by EAs against the total existing staff of the Department

2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	1.2%

**(i) The percentage of expenditure on procuring the services of EAs against the departmental operational expenditure of the Department**

2009-10 (estimate)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
0.8%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead: 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) Please provide information on the use of outsourced services (including property management, security, cleansing, telecommunication technology, statistics, etc. (excluding the outsourcing of construction works) -

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total value of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total number of employees under the outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of employees under outsourced service contract replaced by civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year increase/decrease*

- (b) Please provide a projection on the number of posts under the outsourced service contracts which can be replaced by the government employing staff on a long-term basis in the next three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13).

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The information on the use of outsourced services (including property management, security, cleansing, telecommunication technology, statistics, etc. (excluding the outsourcing of construction works) is as follows -

	2010-11 (projection)	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourced service contracts*	46 (-14.8%)	54 (+17.4%)	46 (+9.5%)	42
Total value of outsourced service contracts (\$million)	52.6 (+0.2%)	52.5 (+6.7%)	49.2 (+6.5%)	46.2
Total number of employees under the outsourced service contracts <sup>#</sup>	239 (+1.7%)	235 (+10.8%)	212	212
Number of employees under outsourced service contract replaced by civil servants	0	0	0	0

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year increase/decrease*

Notes:

- \* Sequential service contracts in the same fiscal year for the same service are counted as one service contract.
- # Only those contracts with specified number of staff to be provided are counted.

- (b) While the need for outsourced service varies from time to time and depends on the prevailing workload, we are unable to predict the number of posts under the outsourced service contracts which can be replaced by civil service posts in the next three years.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: L T MA \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 19 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead :000 Operational expensesProgramme :Controlling Officer : Director of Water SuppliesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion :

- (a) Please provide information on the employment and anticipated employment of temporary staff from 2007-08 to 2010-11 as follows -

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Numbers of temporary staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on salary for the temporary staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of temporary staff in the total number of staff of the Department	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year increase/decrease*

- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the length of employment of the temporary staff employed and planned to be employed from 2007-08 to 2010-11 as follows -

Period	Numbers of staff in 2010-11	Numbers of staff in 2009-10	Numbers of staff in 2008-09	Numbers of staff in 2007-08
Half year	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
2 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years or above	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year increase/decrease*

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hingReply :

- (a) & (b) We have not employed any temporary staff from 2007-08 to 2009-10 nor have any plan to do so in 2010-11.

Signature:

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Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010



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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide details of the consultations on policy formulation and assessment under all programmes in the following format. Using the table below, please provide information on the consultations for which funds had been allocated in 2009-10 :

Name/content of consultation	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. by means of written submissions, consultation sessions, focus groups), number of consultation exercises, name of organisations and number of people consulted/to be consulted	The Administration's follow-up actions on the consultation results and the progress made (if applicable)	For consultations already completed, have the results been released to the public? If yes, what are the channels? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

No consultation on policy formulation and assessment on the programmes under Head 194 – Water Supplies Department has been conducted in 2009-10.

Signature:

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Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide details of the consultations on policy formulation and assessment under all programmes in the following format. Have resources been earmarked for holding consultations in 2010-11? If so, please provide the following details :

Name/content of consultation	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. by means of written submissions, consultation sessions, focus groups), number of consultation exercises, name of organisations and number of people consulted/to be consulted	For consultations scheduled for completion in the 2010-11 financial year, will the results be released to the public? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

No consultation on policy formulation and assessment on the programmes under Head 194 – Water Supplies Department is planned in 2010-11 and no resources have been earmarked.

Signature:

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Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The matters requiring special attention in 2010–11 include implementing in phases the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS). Please provide the following information :

- (a) How many manufacturers, importers and relevant trade operators have joined the first phase of the WELS up to now? What is the total number of water efficient showers available in the market?
- (b) How would the recognition and acceptance of the first phase of the scheme by the public be assessed?
- (c) Which plumbing fixtures and water-consuming appliances will be included in the later phases of the scheme?
- (d) Have resources been reserved for the promotion of water conservation? If yes, what are the expenditure involved and the related manpower resources? What are the main points of the promotion?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) Up to 9 March 2010, five importers of showers have participated in the first phase of Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) on showers for bathing with 14 showers registered under the Scheme.
- (b) We will carry out customer opinion survey to assess the recognition and acceptance of the first phase of the Scheme by the public.
- (c) We will include water taps and washing machines into the next phase of the Scheme in 2010-11.

- (d) Excluding staff cost, we have allocated \$1.5 million in 2010-11 for the promotion of water conservation, including WELS. As regards the manpower resources, we will deploy a senior engineer with five supporting staff to take forward the works of all related promotional activities. The focus of the work will be on promoting WELS and water-saving tips, and arousing public awareness of the importance of water conservation.

Signature:



Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

18 March 2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)127**

Question Serial No.

2518

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide the following information concerning leakage of water mains:-

- (a) Why a leakage rate of 20% in water mains is estimated for 2010? How much water would be wasted due to leakage of water mains?
- (b) In 2008 and 2009, how much water was wasted due to leakage of water mains?
- (c) To reduce leakage of water mains, what measures will be taken to strengthen the inspection and maintenance of water mains? How much expenditure and manpower will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) The leakage rate for 2010 is estimated with respect to leakage rates in the past years and the probable improvements brought about by various measures. Water mains in Hong Kong are operating under a relatively high water pressure to maintain a reliable water supply to all customers. The leakage of water mains is considered more an operational constraint rather than a loss.
- (b) The leakage rates of water mains in 2008 and 2009 were 21.8% and 21.0% respectively.
- (c) To reduce leakage of water mains, we will press ahead with the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains. We will also step up the water mains leakage detection work. In 2010-11, \$2.3 billion will be allocated to the Department for employment of consultants and contractors to carry out the works.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, cursive-like shape.

Name in block letters:

L T MA

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

19 March 2010