

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)120

Question Serial No.

2088

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 223 Purchase of Water

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the purchase of water, the Administration estimates that the expenditure in 2011-12 is \$3,344 million. Comparing with the expenditure of \$3,182 million in 2010-11, there is an increase of more than \$100 million. What is the reason for that? Since water is precious resource, does the Administration have any plan to encourage the public to conserve water? If so, what are the details? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the purchase of water in 2011-12 is based on the annual lump sum prices set out in the current agreement for the purchase of Dongjiang water. The increase in the estimated expenditure is a reflection of the general increase in these agreed annual lump sum prices from 2009 to 2011.

We have been implementing the Total Water Management Strategy since 2008, of which promotion for conservation of precious water resources is a key element. We have focussed our efforts on school students including distributing an information kit to all primary schools, preparing a set of teaching kit for secondary schools, conducting talks and roving exhibitions at schools and organising the water conservation ambassadors selection scheme for primary students. In addition, we have organised a water conservation design competition among students of tertiary educational institutions, catering service sector and property management sector. We will also continue with our on-going water conservation publicity and public education activities, which include broadcasting announcements of public interest on television and radio, distributing leaflets and posters as well as arranging regular exhibitions, talks and seminars. Apart from the above, we have implemented a voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme to facilitate the public to select water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)121

Question Serial No.

3174

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

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 the positions held by NCSC staff				
Total expenditure on salaries for 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 service of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or above	()	()	()	()
• 3 – 5 years	()	()	()	()
• 1 – 3 years	()	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servants	()	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()	()	()	()

Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against 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 working 5 days per week	()	()	()	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below. As the need for and number of NCSC staff fluctuate with changing service needs, we are unable to provide the information for 2011-12.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of NCSC staff		
Professional	6 (-25.0%)	8 (-38.5%)	13
Technical & inspectorate	5 (0%)	5 (-68.8%)	16
General administration	78 (-11.4%)	88 (+4.8%)	84
Total:	89 (-11.9%)	101 (-10.6%)	113

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M)
17.5 (-33.2%)	26.2 (-33.3%)	39.3

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of NCSC staff		
\$30,001 or above	12 (0%)	12 (-20.0%)	15
\$16,001 to \$30,000	8 (-33.3%)	12 (-53.8%)	26

\$8,001 to \$16,000	69 (-10.4%)	77 (+10.0%)	70
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0	0	0
\$5,001 to \$6,500	0	0 (-100.0%)	2
\$5,000 or less	0	0	0
Total:	89 (-11.9%)	101 (-10.6%)	113
Less than \$5,824	0	0	0
\$5,824 to \$6,500	0	0 (-100.0%)	2
Total:	0	0 (-100.0%)	2

<u>Length of services</u>	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	<u>Number of NCSC staff</u>		
5 years or above	49 (+22.5%)	40 (-29.8%)	57
3 years to less than 5 years	9 (-60.9%)	23 (+4.5%)	22
1 year to less than 3 years	20 (+150%)	8 (-60.0%)	20
Less than 1 year	11 (-63.3%)	30 (+114.3%)	14
Total:	89 (-11.9%)	101 (-10.6%)	113

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant

2010-11 (up to 31.12.10)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09)
15 (-11.8%)	17 (-45.2%)	31

(e) Number of NCSC staff failed to be appointed as civil servant

2010-11 (up to 31.12.10)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09)
No record	No record	No record

(f) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of staff in the Department

2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
2.0%	2.2%	2.5%

(g) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2010-11 (up to 31.12.10)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09)
1.7%	1.9%	2.8%

(h) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

<u>Meal break</u>	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	<u>Number of NCSC staff</u>		
Paid meal break	66 (-10.8%)	74 (-14.0%)	86
Unpaid meal break	23 (-14.8%)	27 (0%)	27
Total:	89 (-11.9%)	101 (-10.6%)	113

(i) Number of NCSC staff against working days

<u>Working days</u>	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	<u>Number of NCSC staff</u>		
5 working days per week ^(Note)	89 (-11.9%)	101 (-10.6%)	113
6 working days per week	0	0	0
Total:	89 (-11.9%)	101 (-10.6%)	113

Note: Including staff who are rostered to work shift for 5 days or less in a week

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in items (b), (d) and (e), the figures are made based on part-year information of 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)122

Question Serial No.

3175

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()	()	()	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()	()	()	()
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	()	()	()	()
Duration of service for each employment agency	()	()	()	()
Number of agency workers	()	()	()	()
Details of the positions 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 salary below \$5,824	()	()	()	()
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()	()
Length of service of agency workers				
• 5 years or above	()	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()	()

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Moreover, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 as the need for and the number of agency workers vary over time in accordance with the changing service needs.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
12 (0%)	12 (+9.1%)	11

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

Contract sum	2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of contracts		
Less than \$0.5 million	0 (-100.0%)	1 (-50.0%)	2
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	3 (0%)	3 (-25.0%)	4
Over \$1 million	9 (+12.5%)	8 (+60.0%)	5
Total:	12 (0%)	12 (+9.1%)	11

Duration of services	2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of contracts		
6 months or less	1 (-50.0%)	2 (0%)	2
Over 6 months to 1 year	10 (+25.0%)	8 (+33.3%)	6
Over 1 year to 2 years	1 (-50.0%)	2 (-33.3%)	3
Over 2 years	0	0	0
Total:	12 (0%)	12 (+9.1%)	11

(c) Commission paid to EAs

In procuring employment agency service, government departments are required to comply with the relevant Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial Circulars and guidelines issued by the Civil Service Bureau. These regulations and guidelines do not require the departments to specify the amount or the rate of commission payable to EAs. As such, we do not have information on

the commission paid to EAs.

(d) Number of workers against their job categories

	2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
Number of workers	128 (+5.8%)	121 (-17.7%)	147

Job categories of workers ^{Note}	2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of workers		
Backend office support	32 (+6.7%)	30 (-46.4%)	56
Technical services	96 (+5.5%)	91 (0%)	91
Total:	128 (+5.8%)	121 (-17.7%)	147

Note: Agency workers are generally referred to as temporary staff and are not assigned any post titles. However, we have provided information on the workers by two broad job categories, viz. backend office support and technical services.

(e) Monthly salary range of agency workers

All our contracts made with EAs from 2008-09 to 2010-11 did not involve the supply of non-skilled workers. ^{Note} For contracts with quotations invited prior to April 2010, we specified only the service fee charged by the EAs in providing agency workers and we do not have information about the salary of the agency workers. Since April 2010, we have also specified in the contracts that the EAs must pay their agency workers wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts. For the period from April to September 2010, the minimum monthly wages specified in the contracts ranged from \$7,183 to \$7,523.

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

(f) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(g) Percentage of workers ^{Note} against the total number of staff in the Department

2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
2.6%	2.5%	2.2%

Note: For full-time workers only.

(h) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

2010-11 (up to 30.9.10)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09)
1%	1%	0.8%

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days ^{Note}

<u>Working days</u>	2010-11 (as at 30.9.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	<u>Number of workers</u>		
5 working days per week	118 (+5.4%)	112 (+8.7%)	103
6 working days per week	0	0	0
Total:	118 (+5.4%)	112 (+8.7%)	103

Note: For full-time workers only.

Figures in () denotes year-on-year changes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)123

Question Serial No.

3176

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts	()	()	()	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()	()	()	()
Duration of service 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, cleansing 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 service of outsourced workers				
(a) 5 years or above	()	()	()	()
(b) 3 - 5 years	()	()	()	()
(c) 1 - 3 years	()	()	()	()
less than 1 year	()	()	()	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()	()	()	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()	()	()	()

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

Asked by :

Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, information technology support, etc. The requested information is provided below. However, we are unable to provide information for 2011-12 since the need for outsourced services fluctuates with changing service needs of the department.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
45 (-16.7%)	54 (+17.4%)	46

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

2010-11 (up to 31.12.10) (\$M)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10) (\$M)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09) (\$M)
41.5 (-21.0%)	52.5 (+6.7%)	49.2

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

<u>Duration of service</u>	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of contracts		
6 months or less	0	0	0
Over 6 months to 1 year	12 (0%)	12 (+140%)	5
Over 1 year to 2 years	28 (-24.3%)	37 (+2.8%)	36
Over 2 years	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5
Total:	45 (-16.7%)	54 (+17.4%)	46

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers ^{Note}

2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
253 (+7.7%)	235 (+10.8%)	212

Note : Only those contracts with specified number of staff to be provided are counted.

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	Number of workers		
Customer services	0	0	0
Property management	0	0	0
Security	104 (+7.2%)	97 (+4.3%)	93
Cleansing	56 (+7.7%)	52 (+4%)	50
Information Technology	13 (+44.4%)	9 (+50%)	6
Drivers	72 (0%)	72 (+14.3%)	63
Logistics (Store support)	8 (+60%)	5 (-)	0
Total:	253 (+7.7%)	235 (+10.8%)	212

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

For service contracts on security, cleansing and logistics, the contractors are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. For 2010-11 (up to December 2010), the minimum monthly salaries specified in the contracts ranged from \$5,001 to \$8,000.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
5.6%	5.2%	4.6%

(i) Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department

2010-11 (up to 31.12.10)	2009-10 (up to 31.3.10)	2008-09 (up to 31.3.09)
4.1%	3.8%	3.5%

(j) Meal break for outsourced workers

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(k) Number of outsourced workers against working days

<u>Working days</u>	2010-11 (as at 31.12.10)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.10)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)
	<u>Number of workers</u>		
5 working days per week	125 (+9.6%)	114 (+16.3%)	98
6 working days per week	128 (+5.8%)	121 (+6.1%)	114
Total:	253 (+7.7%)	235 (+10.8%)	212

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes. For the changes in 2010-11 over 2009-10 in item (b), the figures are made based on part-year information in 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)124

Question Serial No.

3879

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) It is mentioned in paragraph 72 of the Budget Speech that “water mains in various districts will be replaced and rehabilitated”. Could the authorities please advise the progress of the replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains in the past 3 years? Is the progress of the programme as expected?
- (b) Regarding the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, what is the specific target for next year and the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) What is the authorities’ expected completion date of the entire replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains and can the replacement work be expedited in light of the aging of water mains?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) In the past three financial years (2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11), we replaced and rehabilitated about 1075 km of aged water mains throughout the territory. The progress is on schedule.
- (b) In 2011-12, a total of about 330 km of water mains is planned to be replaced or rehabilitated. The estimated expenditure under the water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme in 2011-12 is \$2.2 billion.
- (c) The replacement and rehabilitation programme was originally planned for implementation in stages over a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. Since 2005, we have redeployed more resources and compressed the works programme to advance the target completion date of the entire project by 5 years, i.e. completion by 2015.

The programme is very much fast-tracked taking note of the various constraints like the need to minimise traffic impacts, extensive roadwork coordinations and congested underground utilities. We will however keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and reschedule to bring forward the works of those aged water mains in need of earlier replacement or rehabilitation.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)125

Question Serial No.

1943

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the implementation of the meter replacement programme and improvements to the Customer Care and Billing System, please advise:

- (a) the annual progress, the expenditure and manpower involved in the above two projects respectively in the past three years;
- (b) the future work plans, the expenditure and manpower involved respectively.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-Wai

Reply :

- (a) In 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11, we replaced respectively 250 000, 210 000 and 210 000 aged water meters. The respective expenditure was \$48 million, \$41 million and \$41 million. About 80% of the meters replaced was carried out through our contractors and the remainder by our in-house staff. In each of the past three financial years, about 50 staff were deployed on the task.

In respect of the billing system, we incurred \$3.5 million, \$0.2 million, and \$1.4 million for improvement of the Customer Care and Billing System by the maintenance contractor of the billing system in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, and deploy eight staff on a part-time basis to supervise the contractor's work.

- (b) We will continue to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2011-12 with similar staff deployment and expenditure.

Further enhancement to the billing system will continue in 2011-12 with similar staff deployment. A higher estimated expenditure for the enhancement of about \$15 million is earmarked for the procurement of hardware and software upgrades.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)126

Question Serial No.

1378

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In matters requiring special attention in 2011-12, regarding the on-going meter replacement programme, please provide details including the number of old meters replaced and the number of complaints on meters received in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11); the number of meters to be replaced in 2011-12 and the time schedule. Please also provide the expenditure and manpower involved in the meter replacement programme in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11) and the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11, we replaced respectively 250 000, 210 000 and 210 000 aged water meters. The respective expenditure was \$48 million, \$41 million and \$41 million. About 80% of the meter replacement works was carried out through contractors and the remainder by our in-house staff. In each of the past three financial years, about 50 staff were deployed on the task. We will continue to replace about 210 000 aged water meters in 2011-12 with similar staff deployment. The number of disputes over the accuracy of the water meters received in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) were 519, 687 and 499 respectively. Of these cases, there were 40, 47 and 26 cases in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) respectively which required downward adjustment of the bill amounts. The remaining cases did not involve inaccuracy of the water meters requiring bill adjustment.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)127

Question Serial No.

1328

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

a. How many water main burst cases were recorded in the past three financial years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11)? How much fresh water was lost due to the bursting of water mains? What was the expenditure involved?

b. How many kilometres of water mains were replaced and rehabilitated in the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

(a) The details of water main burst cases in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) are shown in the table below -

Year	Number of water main burst cases	Estimated quantity of fresh water lost (cubic metres)	Cost (\$)
2008-09	1323	125 000	875,000
2009-10	988	97 000	679,000
2010-11 (up to end February 2011)	576	77 000	539,000

- (b) The lengths of water mains replaced and rehabilitated in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to end February 2011) are 306, 459 and 284 kilometres respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)128

Question Serial No.

1351

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- a. What is the definition of leakage of water mains? What are the causes of leakage?
- b. The leakage rate of water mains in 2009 and 2010 was 21% and 20% respectively. Is the leakage of water mains in Hong Kong serious or normal as compared with international standards or other major regions?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) Water main leakage is the seeping of water from an in-service pressurised water main. There are many factors contributing to water leakage including high operating pressure, aging, corrosion and external disturbance.
- (b) Compared with the water mains leakage rate of some major regions, for example, United Kingdom at 23.5% and United States of America at 14.7%, the water mains leakage rate of Hong Kong is considered to be at a medium level.

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)129

Question Serial No.

1352

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 700

General Non-recurrent Expenditure

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2010-11, there is a general non-recurrent expenditure of \$9,700,000 in Water Supplies Department. What is the purpose of the said expenditure? Why the provision for the item is estimated to be zero in 2011-12?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2010-11, the Water Supplies Department has carried out a pilot scheme to explore the practicality and effectiveness of applying the technology of sensor leakage detection of in-service pressurized water mains in Hong Kong. The funding requirement for the pilot scheme under Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent is \$9.7 million. There is no such funding requirement in 2011-12 upon completion of the pilot scheme in 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

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Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)130

Question Serial No.

2368

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the operation and maintenance of the fresh and salt water supply and distribution systems, does the Administration maintain detailed information on the distribution of fresh water mains in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department maintains detailed records of its fresh and salt water mains in a computerised geographic information system to facilitate operation and maintenance of the water mains.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)131

Question Serial No.

2369

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Generally speaking, in case of burst water mains, how long does it take for the Water Supplies Department on average to turn off the stopcock of the pipe concerned, to repair/replace the pipe and restore fresh water supply to the affected area?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2010-11 (up to 28 February 2011), the average time taken for turning off valves to enable repair / replacement work of a burst water main was 1.8 hours, while the average time for repairing or replacing the relevant section of the burst water main was 8.6 hours. For cases affecting fresh water supply, the average time for resuming the service of the burst water main concerned was 4.2 hours.

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Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)132

Question Serial No.

2370

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the handling of burst water mains, has the Water Supplies Department set a performance target for urgent repairs? If yes, please advise the details? If no, will the Department consider setting a performance target for urgent repairs so as to minimize the effect on the public?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department has set performance pledges relating to emergency water main burst repair work in respect of -

- (a) the time for isolation of the burst main – this refers to the time for shutting off valves to enable repair work; and
- (b) the duration of supply interruption – this refers to the time taken for resuming the service of the burst water main.

Details are as follows -

Services	Targets
Time for isolation of burst main upon receipt of report	
- for pipe diameter up to 300mm	(i) 94% within 1.5 hours (ii) 75% within 1 hour and 15 minutes
- for pipe diameter above 300mm to 600mm	(i) 94% within 2.5 hours (ii) 75% within 2 hours
Maximum duration of supply interruption due to fresh water main burst	85% within 8 hours 70% within 7 hours

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)133

Question Serial No.

2537

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Could the Administration please list out by district the number of cases of leakage of water mains, the number of people affected and the average time taken for the completion of the repairs of water mains in the 18 districts in Hong Kong in 2010-11?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The number of water main leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong in 2010-11 up to end February 2011 is tabulated below –

District	Number of water main leakage cases
Central and Western	836
Eastern	383
Islands	299
Kowloon City	571
Kwai Tsing	307
Kwun Tong	388
North	869
Sai Kung	1 053
Sha Tin	432
Sham Shui Po	360
Southern	378
Tai Po	517
Tsuen Wan	415
Tuen Mun	675
Wan Chai	510
Wong Tai Sin	168
Yau Tsim Mong	560
Yuen Long	2 615

Total	11 336
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We did not retrieve the number of households in the areas affected for record purpose, noting that any water stoppages were to be resumed the soonest possible.

The average time taken for the completion of the repair of the leaking water mains was 2.5 hours.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)134

Question Serial No.

2538

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What were the total amounts of fresh water wasted due to the leakage of water mains in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) respectively? Has the Administration set any specific targets to reduce the leakage rate of water mains?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The leakage rates for 2008, 2009 and 2010 are 21.8%, 21% and 20% respectively. The leakage rate over the past years is on a decreasing trend and a target of 15% by 2015 is set. The Department will continue enhancing its multi-pronged approach including water mains replacement and rehabilitation, pressure management and leakage detection to reduce leakage rate.

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Name in block letters

Post Title

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)135

Question Serial No.

2539

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the implementation of the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme, please advise this Committee:

- (a) To date, how many manufacturers, importers and related operators have participated in the Scheme? How many types of water efficient products are available on the market in total? Please list out the products by category.
- (b) Are there any cases of withdrawal of products from the Scheme? If yes, what are the number of cases and products concerned respectively?
- (c) What is the number of random checks made by the authorities on the products participated in the Scheme? Has the water efficiency of any product been found incompatible with its labelling? If yes, what are the number of the cases and products concerned respectively?
- (d) Please provide details on the next phase of the Scheme, including the implementation schedule, products to be included in the Scheme, the expenditure involved and promotion strategy.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) We have launched the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) for showers for bathing and taps. Up to 7 March 2011, 21 importers of showers for bathing and 5 importers of taps have participated in the Scheme with 133 showers for bathing and 34 taps registered respectively.
- (b) There has not been any cases of withdrawal of products from the WELS.
- (c) We carry out random half-yearly inspections on showers for bathing and taps registered under the WELS at retail outlets or product showrooms. So far, no

incompatibility or unauthorised use of the WELS label has been found.

- (d) We will launch the schemes on washing machines and urinals in March 2011 and early 2012 respectively, with an estimated cost of \$4.2 million. We will continue to arouse public attention to water conservation by promotion of the benefits of using different water efficient products through various means including TV and radio announcements, leaflets, posters and bus-body advertisements.

Signature

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L T MA

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Director of Water Supplies

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)136

Question Serial No.

2540

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

As indicated by the Water Supplies Department, the accuracy rate of water meters was about 94% in 2009 and 2010, which was way below 100% set by the target, what were the reasons? Apart from replacing old water meters, what specific plans do the authorities have to enhance the overall accuracy of water meters?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The “accuracy of water meters” refers to the percentage of water meters of which the accuracy of registered readings is within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption. Due to mechanical wear and tear, aged water meters become less accurate in registering the amount of water used. Replacement of aged meters is the most cost effective way to enhance their overall accuracy.

The target 100% represents the long-term goal that 100% of our water meters can attain the accuracy level within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption. With regular replacement of aged water meters over the years, 92.7% of the water meters attained this level of accuracy in 2006, improving to 94.8% in 2010. We will strive to sustain the improvement by continuing with the meter replacement programme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)137

Question Serial No.

0900

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 223 Purchase of Water

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

There is an increase of 5.1% in the recurrent estimated expenditure for the purchase of water in 2011-12 as compared with the revised estimate in 2010-11. This increase is lower than the 6.3% increase between the revised estimate for the purchase of water in 2010-11 and the actual expenditure for the purchase of water in 2009-10. What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po Paul

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the purchase of water in the financial year of 2011-12 is based on the annual lump sum prices for the calendar years of 2009, 2010 and 2011 set out in the current agreement for the purchase of Dongjiang water. There is a general increase in these annual lump sum prices from 2009 to 2011. As the current Dongjiang water supply agreement covers the period up to the end of the calendar year of 2011 only, the actual purchase price of Dongjiang water for the last quarter of 2011-12 (i.e. from 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012) will be subject to the new Dongjiang water supply agreement, which is to be negotiated and agreed between Guangdong and Hong Kong this year. For the purpose of budgeting, the purchase price for the last quarter of 2011-12 is assumed to stay at the same price level as the first three quarters of 2011-12, thereby resulting in a lower percentage of overall increase for 2011-12 when compared with the corresponding percentage for 2010-11.

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Name in block letters

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)138

Question Serial No.

3478

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000

Operational Expenses

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

What was the number of cases of burst and leakage of water mains handled by the Department respectively in 2010? What was the Department's estimated total amount of lost fresh water caused by the incidents? What was the cost involved? Will the Administration adjust the progress of the water mains replacement works and deploy suitable resources as support in light of the above situation and statistics? If yes, what are the relevant work plan, work schedule and estimated expenditure? If no adjustments will be made, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

With service reservoirs located on high altitude for supply to premises at different levels, water mains in Hong Kong are operating under a relatively high water pressure and the associated water mains leakage is more an operational constraint than a loss. In 2010, there were 671 burst incidents and 12 460 leak incidents. The fresh water leakage rate was 20% while the water lost through fresh water main bursts was about 96 000 cubic metres, which was estimated to cost \$672,000 based on the average production cost. The Water Supplies Department has been adopting a multi-pronged approach including water mains replacement and rehabilitation, pressure management and leakage control to reduce leakage. As a result, the leakage rate over the past several years is on a decreasing trend and a target of 15% is set for 2015.

The water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme was originally planned for implementation over a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. Since 2005, we have redeployed more resources to advance the completion of the programme by five years, i.e. completion by 2015. The programme is very much fast-tracked taking note of the various constraints like the need to minimise traffic impacts, extensive roadwork coordinations and congested

underground utilities. We would however keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and reschedule the work programme to bring forward the works of those aged water mains in need of earlier replacement or rehabilitation.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)139

Question Serial No.

3479

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2010, what was the total quantity of the discharge of water to the sea due to overflow from our reservoirs? What was the loss as a result of this? In view of this, in 2011-12, will the Government discuss with the mainland authorities to adjust the amount of Dongjiang water supplied to Hong Kong so as to reduce the government expenditure? If so, what are the details? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In 2010, the total quantity of reservoir overflow was about 25 million cubic metres. The overflow mainly occurred in small reservoirs during heavy rainstorms, which is quite unavoidable given their limited storage capacities. Such overflow does not involve any Dongjiang water and is really an operational constraint rather than a loss. The current Dongjiang water supply agreement already has provisions for adjusting the daily supply rate of Dongjiang water according to our need for better control of the storage level of our large reservoirs in which Dongjiang water is stored.

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Name in block letters

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)140

Question Serial No.

0006

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the bursting or apparent leaking of water pipes, could the Authorities advise this Committee: listing out by district in accordance with the demarcation of district councils the number of cases of bursting or apparent leaking of fresh water pipes and salt water pipes in the past year (i.e. 2010-11); the main cause of bursting or apparent leaking after investigations; the longest and average hours of suspension of water supply affecting the general public as a result; and the longest and average time taken by the Department's staff for attending urgent repairs upon the outbreak of the incidents?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The number of fresh and salt water main burst and leakage cases in various districts of Hong Kong in 2010-11 up to end February 2011 is tabulated below -

District	Number of water main burst and leakage cases	
	Water main bursts	Water main leakage
Central and Western	14	836
Eastern	16	383
Islands	0	299
Kowloon City	49	571
Kwai Tsing	32	307
Kwun Tong	94	388
North	9	869
Sai Kung	15	1 053
Sha Tin	60	432

District	Number of water main burst and leakage cases	
	Water main bursts	Water main leakage
Sham Shui Po	63	360
Southern	46	378
Tai Po	22	517
Tsuen Wan	6	415
Tuen Mun	27	675
Wan Chai	15	510
Wong Tai Sin	15	168
Yau Tsim Mong	73	560
Yuen Long	20	2 615
Total	576	11 336

The main causes for the water main bursts and leakage were high operating pressure, aging, corrosion and external disturbance.

For water main bursts, in 2010-11 (up to end February 2011), the average and longest time for resuming water supply in respect of fresh water main were 4.2 and 23.3 hours respectively, and those of salt water main were 10.3 and 54.1 hours respectively. For water main leakage, the average and longest time for resuming water supply in respect of the fresh water main in 2010-11 were 1.7 and 42 hours respectively, and those of salt water main were 6.3 and 69.0 hours respectively. The cases with longer time for resuming the water supply service were isolated cases involving congested ground condition with lots of pipes and trunks of the utility companies, requiring breaking of large concrete blocks, fabrication of special pipe fittings to suit site conditions, and laying of by-pass water mains.

The average and longest time taken by the staff of the Water Supplies Department for attending to urgent repairs upon receipt of report on water main burst were 0.4 hour and 2.4 hours respectively. The case with the longest time was an isolated case, where the concerned water main was located in a remote part of the territory without vehicular access.

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)141

Question Serial No.

0007

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Could the Administration advise this Committee: the number of cases received by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) from registered consumers querying the accuracy of water meters and requesting water meter tests in 2010-11; the number of bills requiring adjustments due to inaccuracy of water meter as confirmed in the follow-up investigation of the water meter and the amount involved; were the newly replaced water meters involved in the problematic water meters; did the Department investigate the causes of the inaccuracy of the water meters; if yes, what were the causes?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Out of the 6.9 million water bills issued by the WSD for 2010-11 up to end February 2011, there were 499 cases of dispute over the accuracy of water meters, wherein the registered consumers requested for meter testing. After testing and follow-up investigations, 26 cases were found involving inaccuracy of water meters which required downward adjustment of the bills amounting to \$246,608 in total. No newly replaced water meter was involved in these cases, whilst subsequent investigation revealed that the inaccuracy of the inaccurate water meters concerned was due to wear and tear.

Signature

L T MA

Name in block letters

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)142

Question Serial No.

0008

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Could the Administration advise this Committee: the proportion of the sources (i.e. locally collected rainwater and purchased Dongjiang water) of fresh water supply in Hong Kong in the past year (i.e. 2010-11); the latest cost comparison between the locally collected rainwater, Dongjiang water purchased from the Mainland and the production of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

From 1 April 2010 to 27 February 2011, the amount of rainwater collected locally and the amount of water imported from Dongjiang were 217 million cubic metres (25.3%) and 640 million cubic metres (74.7%) respectively. The proportion is therefore about 1 to 3. The unit costs of fresh water supply with source from locally collected rainwater is about \$3.6/m³ and that from Dongjiang water is \$7.5/m³. The estimated unit cost of supplying reclaimed water suitable only for non-potable use using reverse osmosis technology on secondary treated effluent with high saline content is around \$9.0/m³.

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Name in block letters

L T MA

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Director of Water Supplies

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Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)143

Question Serial No.

2582

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under this programme, the authorities have indicated that the 4th stage of the works of the replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains will commence in 2011-12. What are the details of the works concerned? What districts are included? When will the works be expected to complete? What is the expenditure involved? During the implementation of the works, how many posts and man-months of job opportunities will be created?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

The first phase of works under Stage 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme will commence construction in March 2011. The works will involve replacement and rehabilitation of about 500 kilometres (km) of aged water mains in various districts throughout the territory. We estimate that this phase of the R&R works will cost about \$6.3 billion and will create about 1 440 jobs, providing a total employment of 73 800 man-months.

The remaining phase of works under Stage 4 of the R&R programme involving replacement and rehabilitation of about 350 km of aged water mains throughout the territory is still in the design stage. Subject to the completion of the design works and the approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence this remaining phase in 2012-13 for completion by 2015.

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Name in block letters

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L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)144

Question Serial No.

2583

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under this programme, the authorities have indicated that the 2nd and 3rd stages of the construction works of the replacement and rehabilitation programme for water mains will continue in 2011-12. What are the details of the works concerned? What districts are included? When will the two stages of works be expected to complete? What is the expenditure involved respectively? How many job opportunities and man-months will be created by the two stages of works respectively ?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

Stages 2 and 3 of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme involve replacement and rehabilitation of about 750 km and 800 km of aged water mains in various districts throughout the territory, which are planned to complete by June 2011 and December 2013 respectively. We estimate that the expenditures for Stages 2 and 3 works in 2011-12 will be about \$491 million and \$1,284 million respectively. The estimated numbers of jobs created by Stages 2 and 3 works are 1 080 and 1 900 respectively, providing total employment of 48 500 man-months and 109 000 man-months respectively.

Signature

L T MA

Name in block letters

Director of Water Supplies

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)145

Question Serial No.

3746

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The authorities' expected leakage rate of water mains was 19% in 2011. What are the districts that the authorities expect to have the most serious cases of leakage? How many cubic metres of fresh water are lost due to the leakage of water mains each year and what is the value involved? What is the expenditure for urgent repairs of leaking water mains each year?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

With service reservoirs located at high altitude for water supply to premises at different levels, water mains in Hong Kong are operating under a relatively high water pressure which renders them more susceptible to leakage. Therefore, water mains leakage is considered more an operational constraint rather than a loss. The average annual expenditure for repair of water mains leakage was about \$80 million in the past three years.

As water leakage has occurred in various districts in the territory, there is no definite pattern as to where serious cases occur. We will continue our water mains replacement and rehabilitation works, pressure management and leakage control to minimise water leakage throughout the territory.

Signature

Name in block letters

.....L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Units (ITMUs) in government departments:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- (c) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMUs? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (e) Has the effectiveness of ITMUs been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by :

Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

(a) The estimated expenditure of Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of Water Supplies Department in 2011-12 is about \$23 million which is comparable with the actual expenditure in 2010-11 of \$22.9 million.

(b) The major on-going projects in 2011-12 are listed below:

Project	No. of staff required in 2011-12 (see Note below)			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M)
	Civil service Staff	Non-civil service contract staff	Staff of outsourced service provider	
Support of Business Applications and Operations	10	2	5	23
Support of IT Infrastructure and Facilities				
Support of Business Strategy and Information Management				

Note: The team of staff shown is the current set up of the ITMU involved on a shared basis to take forward the work of the Unit. Further breakdown into individual items is not available.

In addition, new projects in 2011-12 funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 – Computerisation Subhead A007GX are listed below:

Project	No. of staff required in 2011-12			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M)	Implementation Schedule
	Civil service staff	Non-civil service contract staff	Staff of outsourced service provider		
Enhancement of the Maintenance Works Management System	The implementation of these projects are outsourced to contractors and are supervised by a team of in-house staff. Further breakdown into individual items is not available because the staff are involved on a shared basis.			1.5	2012-13
Enhancement of the Laboratory Information Management System				0.4	2011-12
Enhancement of the Mobile Geographical Information System				0.3	2011-12
Enhancement of the Electronic Mark Plant Circulation				1.7	2012-13
Enhancement of the Slope Management System				0.5	2011-12

(c) To promote communication with the public through electronic means, we have been disseminating and sharing information with public through our departmental website on the internet with channels provided for enquiries. The expenditure involved has been included in our departmental expenditure.

(d) The ITMU has ten permanent civil servant posts, two NCSC and five outsourced staff. There is no vacancy in ITMU. The existing staff resource is considered adequate to deal with the workload of the unit. There is no need to increase the manpower in 2011-12.

(e) Under the existing governance mechanism, we have established the Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan of ITMU every year. We will continue to review the quality of services provided by the ITMU to assure its effectiveness and enhance the services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

18 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)147

Question Serial No.

1388

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 709 – Waterworks

Subhead :

Programme : Public Works Programme

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the latest estimates by Administration about approved projects under Head 709, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- (a) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- (b) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- (c) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

On present projection, six on-going projects in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 709 will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to accomplish the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 709 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions,

site constraints, etc., which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature

Name in block letters

L T MA

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

18 March 2011

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

According to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)145 on the leakage of water mains, the authorities have indicated that the cause of leakage is the relatively high pressure under which the water mains in Hong Kong operate. Have the authorities conducted studies to reduce leakage by controlling the pressure of water mains? Besides, have the authorities conducted studies to see if leakage of water mains can be monitored by using more advanced technology? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

Pressure management is effective in controlling leakage. We have been conducting studies and implementing works on installation of pressure reducing valves in the water distribution networks at various districts to regulate water pressure and hence reduce water leakage.

In regard to leakage detection and monitoring, we have all the time been exploring the use of advanced technology in this area. For example, the latest technology which we have tried involves putting sensors into in-service water mains for detecting leakages and assessment of pipe condition. We will keep abreast of the development of the leakage detection and monitoring technologies and conduct trials to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of newly developed technologies whenever feasible and appropriate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

L T MA

Director of Water Supplies

31 March 2011