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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2023-24

Director of Bureau : Director of Administration

Session No. : 3

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0922)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government announced the establishment of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU). In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many staff are there under the existing establishment? Will the Government consider engaging other organisations for support or expanding the establishment of the CEPU when there is a growing need for research in future?
2. Will the CEPU conduct forward-looking research on the Northern Metropolis Development as well as the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands Development and provide the Chief Executive with relevant advice?
3. Will the CEPU conduct research on the urban-rural joint development mode in various places?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) has 47 posts/positions on its current permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff will also be employed from outside the Government as necessary to provide support for research and other duties.

The CEPU comprises 3 Divisions with each undertaking policy research with different foci in addition to shouldering other duties. Under the existing establishment, besides the 8 directorate posts/positions, 18 of the 39 non-directorate civil service posts are of officer rank of various grades including the Administrative Officer, Economist, Executive Officer, Town Planner, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades which will augment the professional

support to the policy research function of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. Separately, the CEPU has also employed 1 Research Director, 3 Senior Researchers and 2 Researchers on non-civil service terms, and is conducting open recruitment exercises for 3 categories of NCSC positions (including Senior Executive Manager, Researcher and Assistant Researcher) to mainly provide administrative support for research or assist in some research studies in-house. In addition, some projects may be commissioned to outside parties in accordance with existing rules including the existing 2 public policy research funding schemes, viz. the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme. For studies requiring highly specialised expertise not widely available in the market, the CEPU may engage qualified bodies to take on these exercises.

The Chief Executive proposed during his election campaign and elaborated in his Policy Address announced in October 2022 that the CEPU would be established to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU will make contributions in 4 areas, namely advocating for and assisting in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; keeping abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, as well as analysing and suggesting areas of significance in the integration into national development; examining international relations and situations, and analysing opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and grasping the sentiments of people in Hong Kong, understanding the general direction and focus of their concerns, discovering factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assisting in decision-making directions and formulation of measures. The CEPU will provide useful information on different issues according to the tasks assigned by the Chief Executive to assist him in considering his policies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1988)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government would continue the work of the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force to tackle “long-standing, major and difficult” issues in Hong Kong. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the relevant operating expenditure and staff establishment of the Task Force since the launch of the Government Programme?
2. With the launch of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Blackspots, the Government stated that it would strengthen the work on tackling the publicised 663 hygiene and street management blackspots. In light of the views that many streets or rear lanes of poor hygiene conditions are still not publicised as blackspots, has the Government considered reviewing the number of hygiene blackspots so as to tackle them? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. The Government mentioned that it would apply new technology and automation to enhance environmental hygiene services in 2023-24. What are the details of the new technology and techniques, as well as the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. The District Matters Coordination Task Force (Task Force) launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August 2022, the targets of which are to tackle 600-odd hygiene black spots and strengthen the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous/abandoned signboards. Moreover, hygiene black spots where illegal extension of shopfront causing street obstruction are tackled and vehicles abandoned in back alleys are removed through inter-departmental joint action. In parallel, law enforcement has been stepped up and public education and publicity have been enhanced. As the relevant work is implemented by deploying resources within departments, and since the personnel responsible for the relevant work are not only responsible for a single task, there is difficulty in separately

calculating the expenditure and staffing involved in the relevant work. Some departments have used additional earmarked funds to implement the Programme. Taking the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) as an example, in 2022-23, additional funding of nearly \$300 million from the 2022-23 Budget had been used to enhance environmental hygiene services to combat the epidemic, particularly in respect of strengthening street cleansing and refuse collection services, stepping up measures on rodent control and improving the hygiene of public markets.

2. We update the list of hygiene black spots from time to time depending on the environmental hygiene situation of each district and public opinion. We updated the list of hygiene black spots in November 2022, which increased by more than 100 to over 700 black spots compared with the 600-odd black spots announced in August of the same year. In addition, we launched a dedicated webpage on the Programme in January 2023 for members of the public to report and monitor hygiene black spots online. We are sorting out public opinions and consulting departments to determine which places that have received complaints are warranted to be listed as hygiene black spots. We will suitably publish new hygiene black spots.
3. FEHD has been proactively applying technologies to enhance environmental hygiene services and the efficiency of prosecution work through the use of machines and automation. A summary of the technologies used for stepping up the clearance and collection of refuse and assisting in law enforcement operations in 2023-24 is provided below. The estimated expenditure is \$49 million.
 - (a) Internet Protocol (IP) Cameras
IP cameras have been installed at some 400 spots with illegal deposit of refuse in various districts across the territory to step up surveillance against such offence and assist in law enforcement.
 - (b) 360 Degrees Cameras
360 degrees cameras have been installed at 15 remote sites to monitor the accumulation of marine refuse washed ashore so that FEHD can adjust the frequency of clean-up actions as appropriate.
 - (c) Solar-powered Aluminium Refuse Collection Points (RCPs)
Solar-powered Aluminium RCPs are provided at 132 rural sites. They feature the use of sensor-operated contactless inlet openings and provision of ventilation and illumination equipment to prevent odour emission and enhance pest control. FEHD will progressively extend the use of these facilities to other suitable sites.
 - (d) Solar-powered Compacting Refuse Bins (CRBs) and Solar-powered Mobile Refuse Compactors (MRCs)
Solar-powered CRBs are provided at 32 rural and remote sites while solar-powered MRCs are provided at 17 sites to increase the refuse handling capacity and reduce space required for refuse storage. FEHD will progressively extend the use of these facilities to other suitable sites.

- (e) **Mini-mechanical Sweepers**
With a wide application range and high efficiency, mini-mechanical sweepers have been extended to other suitable districts after being put on trial in various districts in the New Territories, to progressively enhance the efficiency in street cleansing.

- (f) **On-board Refuse Bin Cleaners (RBCs)**
Fully-enclosed On-board RBCs equipped with hot water or disinfectants for washing and disinfection of refuse bins are being put on trial to enhance the efficiency in cleaning refuse bins.

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CSO003

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2020)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Bureau's assistance in establishing the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) led by the Financial Secretary (FS) and setting up the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises chaired by FS this year, please advise this Committee of:

1. the manpower and resources involved; and
2. the specific work plans involved, the numbers and contents of the relevant meetings held, and the respective targets set on the categories and numbers of strategic enterprises to be attracted.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The reply to the questions related to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is as follows:

1. There are currently 18 staff members in OASES. The estimated annual operational expenditure of OASES is \$12 million. In addition, a provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated to OASES for the expenditures on the remuneration of Director General and Deputy Director General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and Invest Hong Kong through deployment of existing resources.

2. Key areas of work of OASES for 2023-24 include:
 - i. reaching out to and carrying out negotiations with strategic enterprises according to the list of target enterprises;

- ii. formulating attractive special facilitation measures and providing tailor-made plans for target enterprises to facilitate the setting up of their operations in Hong Kong;
- iii. providing secretariat services and administrative support for the daily operation and routine meetings of the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises; and
- iv. launching marketing campaigns in the Mainland and overseas to enhance promotion on Hong Kong's latest policy and facilitation measures to attract enterprises to set up their operations in Hong Kong.

In addition, the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises is expected to hold meetings quarterly and the first meeting was held on 28 February 2023.

OASES is committed to attracting high potential and representative strategic enterprises. Currently, our target industries include life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. According to the 2022 Policy Address, in respect of Hong Kong's overall efforts on attracting enterprises and investment, the HKSAR Government aims to attract at least 1 130 enterprises (including strategic and other enterprises) to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025, thereby bringing in economic benefits and direct investment as well as creating other job opportunities. OASES is working closely with relevant bureaux, InvestHK and other departments to achieve this overall target.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0724)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is stated in this Programme that one of the aims of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) is to stay in tune with the local and public pulse. Matters requiring special attention in 2023-24 under this Programme include assessing public opinions for the Chief Executive's reference through various means including web-based data analytics, opinion polls, focus group discussions, as well as networking and dialogue with stakeholders. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The CEPU will resume the function of conducting opinion polls for the current-term Government. How many opinion poll projects are expected to be launched in 2023-24? What are the specific projects or what type of projects are they?
2. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. The positioning of the CEPU is an in-house research unit of the Government directly reporting to the Chief Executive. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, one of the CEPU's functions is to grasp the sentiments of people in Hong Kong, understand the general direction and focus of their concerns, and discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, to assist decision-making by senior leadership of the Government.

The CEPU will tap the pulse of society through different channels. In addition to the conventional opinion polls, the CEPU will also employ an array of other tools, such as social media and web-based big data analytics, to better understand public sentiments in the digital

age for assisting in decision-making directions and formulation of measures. We have already embarked on different internal research studies including those mentioned above.

The overall estimated expenditure of the CEPU for 2023-24 is \$134.3 million, with \$87.63 million earmarked for staff emoluments and relevant expenses, and about \$26 million for the expenditures of the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and honoraria for members of committees. The remaining estimated expenditure will be used for the daily operational expenses of the CEPU (including the provision for the research studies mentioned above). We will flexibly deploy relevant resources according to the actual operational needs.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2443)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, it is stated that “the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises will draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises”. Please advise on the following:

1. what are the additional staff establishment and relevant expenditure on emoluments involved in establishing the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises?
2. will the Bureau set annual indicators in respect of attracting enterprises? If yes, what are the details? If not, what targets will be used for assessment?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The reply to the questions related to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is as follows:

1. There are currently 18 staff members in OASES, including the additional manpower of 1 Director-General and 1 Deputy Director-General. A provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated to OASES for the expenditures on the remuneration of Director-General and Deputy Director-General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and InvestHK through deployment of existing resources.
2. According to the 2022 Policy Address, in respect of Hong Kong's overall efforts on attracting enterprises and investment, the HKSAR Government aims to attract at least 1 130 enterprises (including strategic and other enterprises) to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025, thereby bringing in economic benefits and direct investment as well as creating other job opportunities. OASES is working closely with relevant bureaux, InvestHK and other departments to achieve this overall target.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3159)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government would continue to support the work of the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force led by the Deputy Chief Secretary to eliminate environmental hygiene blackspots and tackle “long-standing, major and difficult” district-based environmental hygiene and street management issues. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

A) What are the respective expenditures on various actions taken by the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, such as eliminating hygiene blackspots across the territory, tackling shop front extensions, and handling abandoned vehicles at rear lanes?

B) Please list the programmes or projects on improving the cityscape in the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

A) The District Matters Coordination Task Force (Task Force) launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August 2022, the targets of which are to tackle 600-odd hygiene black spots and strengthen the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous/abandoned signboards. Moreover, hygiene black spots where illegal extension of shopfront causing street obstruction are tackled and vehicles abandoned in back alleys are removed through inter-departmental joint action. In parallel, law enforcement has been stepped up and public education and publicity have been enhanced. As the relevant work is implemented by deploying resources within departments, we do not have a breakdown of the relevant expenditure. Some departments have used additional earmarked funds to implement the Programme. Taking the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department as an example, in 2022-23, additional funding of nearly \$300 million from the 2022-23 Budget had been used to enhance environmental hygiene services to combat the epidemic, particularly in

respect of strengthening street cleansing and refuse collection services, stepping up measures on rodent control and improving the hygiene of public markets.

- B) In 2023, the Task Force will commence working on cityscape improvement through beautifying public space, improving street furniture and enhancing landscape architecture. The current plan covers replacement and beautification of street name plates; face lifting/beautification of highway structures; beautification of external walls and landscape improvement in housing estates; installation of feature manhole covers and beautification of gauging stations at river channels. The above work seeks to create an amiable cityscape for citizens and enhance the appeal of Hong Kong to external visitors.

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CSO007

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2472)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises will draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the progress of drawing up the list of target enterprises, the current number of target enterprises on the list and their distribution by industry. Besides, what is the number of target enterprises that have already been approached by the Bureau so far?

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises had drawn up a preliminary list of target enterprises and is proactively reaching out to these strategic enterprises. Target enterprises on the list are from industries of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, the number of strategic enterprises involved cannot be disclosed at this stage. The Government will make relevant announcement in due course.

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CSO008

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1678)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), please advise on the following:

- 1) What are the establishment, ranks, salary points in OASES and the specific qualifications or requirements for each post? As for remuneration, what is the expenditure on salaries and staff on-costs of OASES each year?
- 2) What are the expenses associated with attracting businesses and talents each year? Will documents setting out the breakdown of expenditures such as publicity, organising activities and supporting arrangements be submitted?
- 3) Are the posts in the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents set up in various Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) under the establishment of OASES or the respective Mainland Offices and ETOs?
- 4) Under which mechanism is OASES empowered to provide special facilitation measures and special arrangements for enterprises? What are the relevant monitoring and reporting mechanisms?
- 5) What are the differences in the areas of work among units such as OASES, Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises, Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents and Invest Hong Kong as far as competition for enterprises and talents is concerned? What are their leadership tiers and modes of operation? How to integrate the relevant units to achieve the best synergy and collaboration?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The reply to the questions related to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is as follows:

- 1) There are currently 18 staff members in OASES, including 1 Director-General, 1 Deputy Director-General, 1 Executive Director, 5 Vice Presidents, 5 Senior Managers, 3 Managers and 2 Personal Secretaries. Staff members of OASES comprise civil servants as well as officers appointed on non-civil service or non-civil service contract terms whose remuneration and terms of appointment are based on established mechanism of the Government. A provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated to OASES for the expenditures on the remuneration of Director General and Deputy Director General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and InvestHK through deployment of existing resources.
- 2) The estimated annual operational expenditure of OASES is \$12 million, covering operational expenses on outreaching programmes, roundtable events in the Mainland and overseas, online and offline marketing, production of promotional materials, and general administration expenses which cannot be quantified separately.
- 3) The Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents are set up under ETOs in the Mainland and overseas and their scope of duties includes providing corresponding on-site support for OASES.
- 4) OASES aims to serve as a one-stop window for attracting strategic enterprises. It would reach out to and carry out negotiations with strategic enterprises and, in consultation with relevant policy bureaux and under high-level steer of the Chief Executive and principal officials, formulate attractive special facilitation measures and tailor-made plans based on the respective needs of individual strategic enterprises to facilitate the establishment of their presence in Hong Kong.
- 5) OASES, Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises, Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents and InvestHK are major components of the new institutional setup for attracting enterprises and investment of the current-term Government. Among them, OASES and the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises are led by the Financial Secretary. OASES is tasked to adopt a new proactive, flexible and customised approach to attract high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe. The Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises, comprising representatives from relevant business sector and community leaders, would advise the Financial Secretary on the overall strategy for OASES' reference when formulating its initial work plan. Besides, the 17 Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents under ETOs in the Mainland and overseas would provide OASES with corresponding on-site support for its investment promotion work, whereas InvestHK would work closely with various bodies to refer suitable enterprises to OASES for bespoke package and one-stop facilitation services, and encourage Mainland and overseas enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1705)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Duty Lawyer Service and Legal Aid Services Council

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

- 1) How is the cost per defendant under the Duty Lawyer Scheme calculated?
- 2) Has any assessment been made on whether the cost is comparable to that of the market?
- 3) How is the cost per case under the Free Legal Advice Scheme calculated? Is there a mechanism in place to find out if members of the public can have their problems effectively resolved after seeking advice?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- 1) The Duty Lawyer Scheme (DLS) provides legal representation by qualified lawyers in private practice to eligible defendants appearing in all Magistrates' Courts and Juvenile Courts, as well as to any person who is at risk of criminal prosecution as a result of giving incriminating evidence in Coroner's inquests. The cost per defendant under the DLS is calculated by dividing the total expenditure of the DLS (mainly including duty lawyer fees as well as manpower and operational costs) by the number of defendants. In 2023, the estimated cost per defendant under the DLS is \$8,746.
- 2) Duty lawyer fees (together with criminal legal aid fees and prosecution fees for the Department of Justice to engage qualified lawyers in private practice to prosecute criminal cases on fiat) are reviewed biennially to ensure that their levels are sufficient for engaging lawyers with suitable qualifications and experience in the legal profession. In conducting the reviews, the Government takes into account the general price movement during the reference period and whether there has been difficulty in engaging the services of lawyers.

- 3) The Free Legal Advice Scheme (FLAS) aims at providing preliminary one-off legal advice and guidance to members of the public facing genuine legal problems. The cost per case under the FLAS is calculated by dividing the expenditure of the FLAS (including the travel allowance paid to volunteer lawyers and the manpower cost of the FLAS) by the number of cases handled. In 2023, the estimated cost per case under the FLAS is \$587.

The FLAS's objective is to enable members of the public facing genuine legal problems to obtain preliminary and accurate legal advice to deal with their problems. Volunteer lawyers in general will only explain to clients in a simple way their rights and obligations under the law, nature of their problems, and the channels available for resolution. Volunteer lawyers will neither embark on any full or in-depth analysis of a case, nor assess in detail the merits of a legal issue/dispute or provide a full solution. We note that service users' feedback on the FLAS is positive. According to the satisfaction survey conducted from August 2022 to February 2023, about 95% of the service users surveyed indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the service of the FLAS. Besides, between 2018 and 2022, only 1 or 2 complaints were received on average every year, which is a very small proportion of the nearly 6 000 cases handled under the FLAS each year.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3136)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the work of the Government Records Service, please advise on the following:

- 1) Regarding the “departmental records management studies/reviews” conducted only twice a year, please explain their operation and whether there is any mechanism to follow up on the implementation arrangements after the studies/reviews.
- 2) Regarding records reference and research services rendered to the public, what is the establishment for such services? Given that only several thousand visitors were recorded each year, did the Government conduct any review on whether the services could be provided in other forms?
- 3) What are the establishment and related expenditure for the services of microfilming records? Regarding the current storage area for microfilms, what are the gross area and operating expenditure? Has any consideration been given to storing the records in other computerised formats to improve the accessibility of the data?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- 1) Starting from late 2012, the Government Records Service (GRS) conducts in-depth reviews on the records management work of 2 bureaux/departments (B/Ds) each year. During the reviews, the staff of GRS will visit the selected B/Ds to review their records management documentation, conduct on-site examination of their recordkeeping systems and records management procedures, and carry out interviews and group discussions with staff concerned, thereby assessing the departmental management and frontline staff’s awareness of, commitment to and involvement in practising good records management, and evaluating their compliance with the mandatory records

management requirements and adoption of good records management practices with a view to identifying areas for improvement. Upon completion of the reviews, the Director of Administration will convey the findings and recommendations for improvement to the heads of the B/Ds concerned, who will need to submit progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations to GRS every 6 months until all improvement recommendations have been fully implemented.

Given the extensive scope, complexity and time-consuming nature of the tasks mentioned above, in-depth reviews on records management work could only be conducted for 2 B/Ds each year. Nevertheless, GRS also monitors the compliance of records management requirements by B/Ds through other measures, such as requiring all B/Ds to complete a self-assessment or Compliance Checklist annually. In addition, since 2019, GRS has been reviewing the records retention and disposal schedules of all B/Ds in batches to determine the definite disposal action of the records concerned and consolidate some of the disposal schedules, which aims to improve the records disposal procedures and facilitate the timely and effective transfer of records with archival value to GRS for permanent retention.

- 2) As at 1 March 2023, the establishment of the Search Room, which provides reference and research services to the public and their scope of work are as follows:

Scope of work	Rank	Establishment
(a) Providing research and reference services	Senior Assistant Archivist	1
	Assistant Archivist	2
(b) Implementing public education and publicity programmes	Clerical Officer	1
	Clerical Assistant	4
(c) Processing applications for reproduction and use of archival records	Workman II	1
	Total:	9
(d) Preparing finding aids		

The main users of the GRS Search Room are scholars who study the history and development of Hong Kong as well as teachers and students. The Search Room has all along been providing sufficient seats and facilities to meet the demands of the users. Besides, according to the users' survey forms collected in the past 3 years, over 80% of the respondents rated the Search Room services as very good (45.7%) or excellent (35.3%).

In addition to the reference and research services of GRS holdings available on-site, GRS has always been committed to providing these services to the public via electronic means.

For access to holdings, for example, members of the public may register for a user's account, reserve holdings and request access to GRS collections through the online catalogue "@PRO" without having to visit GRS in person. After digitisation of holdings, GRS will gradually make available digital copies of records which can be open for public inspection and endeavour to upload them to its online catalogue "@PRO" under the principle of protecting copyright and personal privacy. The online catalogue is equipped with an efficient search engine and a convenient interface that facilitate easy and quick retrieval of archival records and library items as well as viewing and downloading of a range of digital holdings. In 2022, the online catalogue "@PRO" recorded 920 000 page searches and views. GRS also regularly develops digital holdings/photo albums and online exhibitions on various topics, and uploads them to the GRS website for viewing by the public. In 2022, GRS produced a 360° virtual tour allowing the public to view the holdings displayed at the GRS Exhibition Hall online. Moreover, GRS launched the Public Records Office Facebook page ([fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice](https://www.facebook.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice)) in 2020 for sharing its holdings with the public. The online digital holdings recorded a total of 1.76 million access rate in 2022. Meanwhile, apart from organising on-site group visits to GRS and educational workshops for the public, teachers and students to introduce and promote the use of archival records for conducting research on Hong Kong's development in different areas, GRS also organises a number of online group visits and educational workshops. For example, in 2022, a total of 23 online group visits and educational workshops were organised, where 3 182 participants were introduced to the GRS services and holdings. For the convenience of those who cannot visit the Hong Kong Public Records Building to view the exhibition, GRS has set up roving exhibitions at major libraries in various districts, such as the Hong Kong Central Library and the Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library.

As for the research services, apart from sending enquiries on holdings and services by email, starting from 2022, members of the public are able to receive copies of their ordered holdings via email upon making payment of reproduction fee, thereby further facilitating electronic access to the GRS holdings for research by the public.

GRS will continue to explore different ways to provide reference and research services of holdings to the public in the future.

- 3) The Government Microfilm Centre (GMC) aims at providing customer-oriented microfilming services for B/Ds with genuine needs. GMC adopts the American National Standards Institute/Association for Information and Image Management (ANSI/AIIM) standards in its microfilming operation to ensure the durability, usability and court admissibility of the microfilm records it produces. Sections 39 and 40 of the Evidence Ordinance (Cap. 8) stipulate that microfilms of government and business

records are court admissible provided that they are produced as permanent records and the source documents are disposed of afterwards. Microfilm masters, reference copies and digitised copies can also be made for various purposes subject to the records disposal requirements of B/Ds. The digitised copies will be in Portable Document Format (PDF) file, which can be viewed in most computer environments, for easy access.

The production team at GMC are trained full-time staff whose expertise and efficiency should result in cost savings, better work quality, and assurance to security and confidentiality of the records. The establishment is as follows:

Rank	Establishment
Assistant Curator	1
Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	2
Workman II	1
Senior Photographer	1
Photographer I	2
Photographer II	1

In 2021-22, the operating expenditure of GMC was \$5 million. GMC also provides microfilm storage service for B/Ds in need. The size of the store is about 50 square metres and the related expenditure has been included in the operating expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2080)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent.

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government incurred huge anti-epidemic expenditures over the past few years. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) Please provide a breakdown of the allocation from the Anti-epidemic Fund as well as other anti-epidemic related expenditures since 2020.

(b) Please provide the proportion of the administrative expenses involved in implementing the various measures in the above anti-epidemic expenditures spent.

(c) Whether the Government has reviewed the effectiveness of the huge anti-epidemic expenditures spent? Has the Government also considered conducting an overview of the response to the epidemic this year, so as to bring the anti-epidemic efforts to a satisfactory close?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

(a) The Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

The Government launched the AEF in 2020 to enhance Hong Kong's capability in combating the epidemic on the one hand, and to provide suitable relief to businesses and individuals hard hit by the pandemic or affected by the Government's anti-epidemic and social-distancing measures on the other.

The Government secured the approval of the Legislative Council (LegCo) of injections of a total of \$250.9 billion into the AEF. As of 3 March 2023, over 230 measures were

approved under the AEF, with the total financial commitment amounting to over \$250 billion. Over \$226.8 billion of funding has been deployed, benefitting over 7 million persons and 1 million applications from enterprises/businesses, etc. Since the establishment of the AEF, the Government has submitted progress reports on the implementation progress of various AEF measures to the LegCo regularly. The progress of the individual measures is available in the reports at https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/fc/fc/papers/fc_g7aa.htm.

- (b) Among the over 230 AEF measures introduced, most measures were implemented using the existing resources of the implementation departments and units, with only a few measures involving additional administrative fees. The relevant administrative fees account for less than 1 per cent of the total expenditure of all measures. In formulating the implementation details of the AEF measures, relevant bureaux and departments would have regard to the measures' objectives, intended beneficiaries and the actual situation of industries, etc, and would ensure the funding allocated are appropriately deployed according to the criteria and details approved by the AEF Steering Committee (SC).
- (c) To continuously monitor the implementation progress of the individual AEF measures, the SC regularly invites implementation departments and units to submit progress reports. The Government also submits quarterly reports to the LegCo to report on the latest progress of the various measures. In addition, the Audit Commission conducts annual audit on the AEF. The annual financial statements of the AEF and the Report of the Director of Audit are presented for the LegCo's perusal.

The various rounds of AEF measures were introduced in the light of the latest epidemic situation at the time to provide timely support to individuals and businesses affected and in need, thereby helping them cope with the impact brought by the epidemic. The epidemic has recently come under control. All trades and industries as well as people's life are set to resume normalcy in full. The Government will continue to implement the ongoing AEF measures, and the AEF SC will continue to optimise the remaining balance of the AEF, having regard to the epidemic's development, views from various industry stakeholders and their actual business situation.

Since taking office, the current-term Government has been consolidating anti-epidemic experience. Effective response measures and initiatives have been regularised and included in guidelines, and the guidelines are constantly enhanced and updated to ensure that the Government is capable of responding to changes and new threats. To ensure that we have strong response capability, and can make quick decisions, accurately implement measures and yield results, we have (1) properly managed the risks to enhance the safety factor; (2) established an effective command, decision-making and implementation system; and (3) continuously reviewed the situation, so as to ensure that we quickly grasp the actual situation and make the best judgement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2185)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government launched the first round of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme) in 2022, aiming to help mentees broaden their horizons, reinforce their self-confidence, develop a positive outline on life, set goals for their future and strive for upward mobility. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following?

(1) What was the expenditure involved in the Programme and the number of mentees participating in the Programme, with a breakdown by education level (namely Secondary 1, Secondary 2 and Secondary 3)? Have they participated in the Child Development Fund (CDF)?

(2) How many volunteer mentors have participated in the Programme, with a breakdown by age and occupation? Have they served as mentors under the CDF?

(3) It is learnt that the Government will, as far as possible, assign mentors with qualifications or achievements in the relevant fields according to the hobbies, interests and career aspirations of mentees. In this connection, how many mentees have been matched with mentors according to their interests? If mentees are not matched with mentors according to their interests, what criteria will the Government adopt for matching of mentees and mentors?

(4) It is learnt that mentors and mentees are required to attend no less than 12 interactive sessions. On average, how many mentor-mentee interactive sessions have been completed since the launch of the Programme? Has the Government received any feedback or complaints from mentees or parents about communication difficulties or distant relationship with mentors? If yes, what are the details?

(5) It is learnt that mentees may base on their needs to apply for elective activities of basic training (namely English skills improvement, Chinese skills improvement, sports and music, social etiquette, subject selection, as well as guidance and support on physical and mental health). In respect of each selective activity, will the Government provide (i) the number of

quotas; (ii) the number of applicants; (iii) the percentage of participants in the total number of mentees?

(6) Are there any mentees opting out of the Programme of their own accord? If yes, what is the number of these mentees and what are the reasons for opting out?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- (1) The Task Force to Lift Underprivileged Students out of Intergenerational Poverty, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, launched the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), fully leveraging the synergy effects from the tripartite collaboration between the Government, the business sector and the community. The cost of the Programme is fully funded by donations of about \$140 million from various sectors of society, and no public money is involved.

In consultation with the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Social Welfare Department (SWD), our reply to the various parts of the question raised by the Member is as follows:

When the Programme was launched in October 2022, 2 800 Secondary 1 to 3 students were successfully recruited. They are eligible mentees from underprivileged families, particularly those living in subdivided units. As at the end of February 2023, the number of mentees participating in the Programme and their education level are set out in the following table:

Education level of mentees	Number of persons
Secondary 1	826
Secondary 2	899
Secondary 3	1 054
Total	2 779

Considering that the non-governmental organisations/schools running the Child Development Fund (CDF) have arranged training and matched mentors for mentees, and some have started to formulate personal development plans, those who are currently participating in the CDF will not be accorded priority for joining the Programme for better use of public funds. Mentees who have completed CDF projects may apply for the Programme if they meet its eligibility criteria. The Programme does not require mentees to provide information on whether they have participated in the CDF in the past.

- (2) As at the end of February 2023, the number of mentors participating in the Programme and their age are set out in the following table:

Age of mentors	Number of persons
21-25	148
26-40	1 438
41-55	1 051
56-64	132
65 or above	10

Total	2 779
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Mentors participating in the Programme include doctors, lawyers, accountants, teachers, directors, heads of department, bank managers and Members of the Legislative Council. Statistical data on the occupation of the mentors can only be compiled and provided after the completion of the first round of the Programme. The Programme does not require mentors to provide information on whether they have served as mentors of the CDF.

- (3) When matching mentees with mentors, we will consider mentees' career aspirations and hobbies/interests, and arrange suitable mentors according to mentees' gender, language and special needs (such as visual impairment). Statistical data on mentees being matched with mentors according to their interests can only be compiled and provided after the completion of the first round of the Programme.
- (4) Shortly after the launch of the Programme on 29 October 2022, arrangements were made in November for mentors, mentees and their parents to attend orientation activities together, and workshops were organised for mentors and parents. Mentees began to take part in different basic training and group activities in December. Mentor-mentee interactive sessions have also been gradually conducted, including mentors accompanying mentees to attend basic training and group activities. Statistical data on the average number of completed mentor-mentee interactive sessions can only be compiled and provided after the completion of the first round of the Programme. So far, the SWD has not received any feedback or complaints from mentees or parents about communication difficulties or distant relationship with mentors.
- (5) As at the end of February 2023, the category of planned basic training activities (elective) and the estimated quota are set out in the following table:

Category of activity	Estimated quota
Interest development	2 876
Information technology	8 400
Language ability	500

As for social etiquette, subject selection as well as guidance and support on physical and mental health, planning is underway. As the Programme is still in progress, statistical data on the number of applicants and the percentage of participants in the total number of mentees can only be compiled and provided after the completion of the first round of the Programme.

- (6) As at the end of February 2023, a total of 21 mentees opted out of the Programme of their own accord due to reasons including busy school schedules, clashes with school activities or extracurricular activities, and the need to attend tutorial classes on Saturdays and Sundays.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2904)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In view of the contraction of markets in Europe and America and the lag in tourism recovery, many owners of medium and small enterprises (SMEs) ask whether the Government can extend the 2022 Employment Support Scheme.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Employment Support Scheme (ESS) under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, our reply is as follows:

The various measures of the AEF including the ESS were introduced in the light of the latest epidemic situation at the time to provide timely support to individuals and businesses affected and in need, thereby helping them cope with the impact brought by the epidemic. Given that the epidemic has recently come under control and all trades and industries as well as people's life are set to resume normalcy in full, the ESS under the AEF has already completed its mission. The Government does not plan to provide further funding for the continuation of the ESS. However, the Government will continue to implement the ongoing AEF measures, and the AEF Steering Committee will continue to optimise the remaining balance of the AEF, having regard to the epidemic's development, views from various industry stakeholders and their actual business situation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO014

(Question Serial No. 2911)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief
Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Many owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) relayed that they had difficulties in applying for the 2022 Employment Support Scheme (the Scheme) as the government departments were finding faults with them. For instance, some SMEs were prosecuted for failing to make MPF contributions although they had provided the proof of the MPF concerned. Will the Government provide more details of the implementation and monitoring of the Scheme? How many cases are there in which enterprises are required to return the subsidies received as they are found ineligible for the Scheme after the subsidy disbursement?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Employment Support Scheme (ESS) under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

In March 2022, the Government announced the launch of the 2022 ESS under the AEF to provide wage subsidies to employers for 3 months (i.e. May, June and July 2022) to retain their employees, and also to employ more staff when the business revives as soon as the epidemic situation permits. Eligible self-employed persons could also apply for a one-off subsidy of \$8,000. The eligibility criteria and implementation details (including wage subsidy and calculation method as well as employers' undertaking and penalty) of the 2022 ESS were finalised after discussion at the special meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 12 April 2022.

In order to disburse wage subsidies as early as possible to assist employers, enhance the efficiency of the vetting process and streamline the application procedures, the 2022 ESS was devised by making reference to the practice of the previous 2020 ESS, under which vetting was based on employers' contribution records of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Schemes/Occupational Retirement (ORSO) Schemes and the vetting procedures were divided into 2 stages. Under this arrangement, a vast majority of employers would be covered, and furthermore, since the MPF records were reliable third-party information, this could facilitate the efficient and accurate verification of employers' employment situation and employees' wages.

The **first stage** of the vetting procedures are concerned with the assessment of applicants' eligibility and confirmation of the subsidised quota cap, which was determined by the MPF contribution records for the specified months prescribed in the 2020 ESS or the fourth quarter of 2021. For the eligible employers, the agent appointed by the Government for executing the 2022 ESS (referred below as the government-appointed agent) would calculate the monthly subsidy and disburse the subsidy by batches with reference to the headcount of employees during the subsidy period as committed by the employer (i.e. the chosen subsidised headcount not exceeding the subsidised quota cap). Participating employers should undertake to employ sufficient number of employees in fulfilling the requirements of the 2022 ESS in each subsidy month, and reflect the respective employment situation in the records of the MPF Schemes/ORSO Schemes. In each of the subsidy months, the employer was required not only to maintain the committed headcount of paid employees, but also ensure that the monthly subsidy was spent **wholly** for paying the respective wages to employees whose income should be no less than \$4,000 or \$8,000 each per month (as the case may be) to prevent the situation of "benefitting the managerial class and depriving the working class".

In the **second stage** of the vetting procedures, the actual employment situation of applicants during the subsidy period would be ascertained by making reference to the employers' contribution records of MPF Schemes/ORSO Schemes as well as the wage records of employees for the respective subsidy month punctually reported to MPF trustees. If an applicant could not fully fulfil the undertaking of employer in any month within the subsidy period, apart from returning the relevant subsidy amount per shortfall in the headcounts, that applicant would also be required to pay a penalty equivalent to 10% of the subsidy amount to be returned. The government-appointed agent might first deduct the relevant amount from the subsidies (if any) to be disbursed as far as possible.

Within the two-week application period from 29 April to 12 May 2022, the ESS Secretariat (the Secretariat) received a total of about 176 000 applications from employers (involving about 1.66 million employees), among which a total of about 170 000 employers were eligible. As at late March 2023, the Secretariat has approved a total of \$36.8 billion of wage subsidies for May to July 2022 to the eligible employers, involving a total of about 1.58 million employees. In addition, 119 000 applications were submitted by self-employed persons. The Secretariat has also approved a one-off subsidy to all eligible self-employed persons, involving 98 000 persons and a total subsidy of over \$780 million.

Under the ESS, we have put in place a proper monitoring and audit mechanism which adopts a highly transparent approach to enable monitoring by members of the public and employees concerned. The Secretariat has published on the dedicated website of the ESS (www.ess.gov.hk/en) the names of employers who have been approved the wage subsidies

for May, June and July 2022 under the ESS, the amount of wage subsidies received, and their “chosen subsidised headcount”, etc., to facilitate members of the public in reporting to the relevant authorities any suspected cases which may have abused or violated the conditions of the ESS. Upon receipt of such reports, the Secretariat and the government-appointed agent would earnestly follow up on the cases. A review panel has been set up to review the investigation reports and relevant MPF scheme records of employers for each of the reported cases, with a view to determining if the employers concerned have complied with the relevant terms and conditions as entailed with the scheme as well as informing the complainants of the results upon conclusion of the investigations.

As at late March 2023, about 30 000 employers who have been approved the wage subsidies did not fulfil the employment undertaking in the ESS (i.e. the actual number of employees within the relevant wage range in any month of the subsidy period is lower than the committed headcount). These employers are required to return the relevant subsidy amount for the unfilled headcount and pay a penalty equivalent to 10% of the subsidy amount to be returned. So far, about 70 per cent of the employers concerned have fully returned the relevant subsidy amount and paid a penalty by offsetting from the approved wage subsidies. For the remaining employers who have not fully settled the clawback and penalty, the Secretariat has issued demand notes to them, requiring them to settle the relevant amounts by the specified deadline.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0258)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has been established. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the manpower, establishment and expenditure of OASES;
2. the number of staff at directorate level and their respective ranks;
3. whether OASES has contacted strategic enterprises; if so, the number of enterprises contacted, and the number of enterprises interested in establishing their business in Hong Kong; if not, the reasons for that;
4. whether land, tax relief and financial assistance have been provided and planned to be provided to assist the strategic enterprises in establishing or expanding their business in Hong Kong; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The reply to the questions related to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is as follows:

1. There are currently 18 staff members in OASES. The Dedicated Team for Attracting Business and Talents set up in 17 Mainland Offices and overseas offices will also provide OASES with corresponding on-site support. The estimated annual operational expenditure of OASES is \$12 million. In addition, a provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated to OASES for the expenditures on the remuneration of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and InvestHK through deployment of existing resources.

2. There are a total of 3 officers at directorate rank in OASES, namely Director-General (D6-equivalent rank), Deputy Director-General (D3-equivalent rank) and Executive Director (D2-equivalent rank).

3. Ever since its establishment, OASES has been reaching out to relevant enterprises and organisations of strategic industries, which include life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Many of the enterprises which relevant bureaux and OASES have met are top-notch enterprises of the industries or companies engaging in cutting-edge technologies. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, the number of strategic enterprises involved cannot be disclosed at this stage. The Government will make relevant announcement in due course.

4. In view of the various concerns of strategic enterprises, in particular multinational corporations, the Government would formulate tailor-made plans supported by relevant policy measures to facilitate the establishment of their presence in Hong Kong. To conduct negotiations in the best interests of Hong Kong, the Government must safeguard the confidentiality of relevant process and contents and hence cannot disclose details of the policy measures involved at this stage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0447)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The consultation and co-ordination services of all the "first-stop and one-stop" projects under the former Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office ceased operation with effect from 1 July 2022. In this regard, please advise on the following:

1. in tabular form, the contents of all the valid projects received, the dates the applications for the services were received and the dates the projects were completed, starting from the provision of services in April 2018 to the cessation of operation in July 2022;
2. the number of outstanding projects at present, the contents of these projects and the bureaux/departments to which these projects will be referred; and
3. the respective staff establishment and expenditure involved in providing the services in each of the past financial years.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1-2: From April 2018 to June 2022, the former Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) received a total of 32 "first-stop and one-stop" project proposals. The role of the former PICO was mainly to assist project proponents in obtaining comments and responses from relevant bureaux and departments in respect of potential development projects as soon as possible, so that practical and feasible response plans could be formulated to expedite the overall development procedures of projects. Relevant bureaux and departments would continue to undertake the detailed assessment, checking, deliberation and vetting work. The details of the project proposals are tabulated as follows:

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
2018-2019				
1	Tin Shui Wai Public Market	To carry out studies on site selection for the new public market to be provided in Tin Shui Wai in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments.	November 2017	Completed. The project was announced in the 2018 Policy Address.
2	Tung Chung Public Market	To carry out studies on site selection for the new public market to be provided in Tung Chung in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments.	December 2017	Completed. The project was announced in the 2018 Policy Address.
3	Re-design of Yi Pei Square Playground in Tsuen Wan	To coordinate with departments and collaborate with voluntary designers to re-design the Yi Pei Square Playground in Tsuen Wan and enhance its facilities by incorporating innovative and inclusive elements.	January 2018	Upon the co-ordination by the former PICO, the conceptual design was completed and the relevant committee of the Tsuen Wan District Council was consulted. The committee had no objection to the project.
4	Re-design of 3 mini-rest gardens	To coordinate with departments and collaborate with voluntary designers to re-design 3 mini-rest gardens and upgrade the existing public space by injecting innovative design elements.	October 2017	Upon the co-ordination by the former PICO, the conceptual design was completed and the relevant committees of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and Central & Western District Council were consulted. The committees had no

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
				objection to the projects.
5	STEAM School by the Shaw Foundation	To liaise and coordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in setting up in Clearwater Bay the first school in Hong Kong with science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics as its main direction of curriculum planning, with the aim of nurturing students interested in innovation and technology.	June 2018	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Education Bureau for follow-up action.
6	“Light Be” Light Housing	To provide housing units in Sham Tseng for families in need.	January 2018	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Task Force on Transitional Housing under the former Transport and Housing Bureau for follow-up action.
7	Transitional housing project at Light Village	To provide housing units in Yuen Long for families in need.	May 2018	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Task Force on Transitional Housing under the former Transport and Housing Bureau for follow-up action.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
8	A social housing project in Kowloon	To provide housing units for families in need.	March 2018	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the former Transport and Housing Bureau for follow-up action.
2019-2020				
1	Extension of the Queensway Subway from Three Pacific Place to a new development at Anton Street/ Landale Street	To liaise with relevant departments and the MTR Corporation Limited to co-ordinate and rationalise the design of barrier-free access facilities in the development project.	April 2019	Upon the completion of a study, the former PICO referred the project to the Development Bureau for follow-up action.
2	Shing Wong Street Community Living Room	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to assist the proponent in applying for a currently idle site in Shing Wong Street, Central and Western District on short-term tenancy for community use.	September 2019	The former PICO had liaised with relevant departments and learnt that the subject site had been identified for other use. Subsequently, agreement was obtained from the URA for providing another site nearby to the proponent for short-term use. The URA would continue to follow up on the project with the proponent.
3	“Green Cadogan” Community Edu-tainment Space	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in	September 2019	The former PICO had liaised with relevant departments and learnt that construction works would be carried out at the

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		applying for an idle stall at Cadogan Street, Central and Western District on short-term tenancy for serving as a refuse recycling station.		subject site by government departments. As such, the application could not be processed and the proponent was informed of the reason.
4	Redevelopment of Sheng Kung Hui Kei Oi Primary School and Kei Oi Church	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in redeveloping their existing facilities in Cheung Sha Wan to provide more social welfare facilities.	January 2019	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Education Bureau and the Social Welfare Department for follow-up action.
5	OneSky Global Centre for Early Childhood Development	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in setting up a child care centre in Sham Shui Po, providing the community with an early childhood learning centre, parenting skills workshops, and services on community participation projects.	June 2019	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
6	Tin Shui Wai Neighbour-Wood	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to	September 2019	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		assist the proponent in applying for an abandoned fish pond farmland in Tin Shui Wai on short-term tenancy for community farming and promotion of fishermen culture.		
7	Tin Shui Wai House of Stories	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in applying for a piece of land in Tin Shui Wai Park on short-term tenancy as a community art space.	September 2019	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
8	Chuen Lung Photography Centre	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in setting up a community photography centre at the former Koon Man School in Chuen Lung Village on short-term tenancy to promote community participation in photography arts activities.	September 2019	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
9	Tai Po Life Education Centre	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in setting up Tai Po Life Education Centre in the former Shing Ming School on short-term tenancy to promote the concepts of life education and organic farming, etc.	September 2019	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
10	Hong Kong Lego Discovery Centre	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in building an indoor theme amusement park in Tsim Sha Tsui to bring a new tourist attraction to Hong Kong.	April 2019	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
2020-2021				
1	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) - Study of the Green Deck	The proponent was studying the construction of a green deck over the Toll Plaza (next to PolyU) at the entrance of the Hung Hom Cross-Harbour Tunnel to connect the podium of the MTR Hung Hom Station and the PolyU main	July 2020	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Development Bureau for follow-up action.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		campus. The former PICO was involved in liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to assist with the study.		
2	Lamma Dogs and Cats Adoption & Education Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the establishment of an animal adoption and education centre at the former Sok Kwu Wan Lo So Shing School in Lamma Island on short-term tenancy. The former PICO was involved in liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.	June 2020	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
3	Community Rest Space in Prince Edward	The proponent proposed to apply for a government site at the junction of Nullah Road and Tung Choi Street in Mong Kok on short-term tenancy for community uses. The project would set up an information kiosk for the grassroots and carers and provide a community rest	September 2020	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		space and diverse shared facilities. The former PICO was involved in liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.		
4	LIFEHAP	The proponent proposed to apply for a government site on Western Fire Services Street, the Central and Western District on short-term tenancy for community uses to promote the message of life and care in the community. The former PICO was involved in liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.	August 2020	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
5	Community Environmental Storage Space	The proponent proposed to apply for an idle stall at Cadogan Street, the Central and Western District for serving as a community environmental storage space on short-term tenancy. The former PICO was involved in liaising and co-	July 2020	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.		
6	FPV Drone Education Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the opening of a drone education centre at a government site near Sha Tau Kok Road - Ma Mei Ha and Lau Shui Heung Road in Fanling, the North District on short-term tenancy. The former PICO was involved in liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.	February 2020	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
2021-2022				
1	The development of a water sports centre at the site of the former Shek O Quarry	To liaise with relevant departments to conduct a tender exercise for the development of a water sports centre at the site of the former Shek O Quarry.	April 2021	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the former Home Affairs Bureau for follow-up action.
2	The provision of additional living space on the 4th floor of the Tsuen Wan Market for subdivided unit households	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in implementing a pilot project to provide additional	April 2021	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the former Transport and Housing Bureau and the former Food and Health Bureau for follow-up action.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		living space on tenancy on the 4th floor of the Tsuen Wan Market, including laundry room, shared area and space for cooking, for subdivided unit households in Tsuen Wan.		
3	“St. Simon’s Dale” Football Base	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in applying for the former St Simon’s Primary School in Tuen Mun on short-term tenancy as a community sports centre named “St. Simon’s Dale” Football Base for providing additional sports venue and facilities as well as promoting community sports programmes.	June 2021	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
4	The establishment of a youth multi-services centre on the 3rd floor of the Tsuen Wan Market	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in providing various youth services on tenancy on the 3rd floor of the Tsuen Wan Market,	September 2021	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the former Transport and Housing Bureau and the former Food and Health Bureau for follow-up action.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
		including the provision of a shared area as study room, co-working space, workshop, venue for career expo, etc.		
5	Revitalisation of Ngong Ping Tea Garden	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in launching a conservation and revitalisation project for Ngong Ping Tea Garden in Ngong Ping, Lantau Island, with a view to conserving wild tea trees and promoting the tea and Zen culture by organising workshops.	October 2021	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the former Home Affairs Bureau for follow-up action.
6	Proposal on the revitalisation of Lambeth Walk Garden	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Henderson Land Development in discussing the design, construction and operation of Lambeth Walk Garden.	November 2021	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for follow-up action.

	Project Title	Nature/Content of the Project	Date of receiving the application for service	Latest update of the co-ordination work
7	Aquaponic and Farming Education Centre	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist the proponent in setting up the Aquaponic and Farming Education Centre at the former Peng Chau Vegetable Farmers Guild (Choi Yuen Hong) Public School in Peng Chau to promote the popularisation of aquaponics in Hong Kong.	November 2021	The co-ordination work for the project by the former PICO was completed.
8	Redevelopment of Tung Lum Buddhist Aged Home	To liaise and co-ordinate with relevant departments to assist in the in-situ redevelopment of Tung Lum Buddhist Aged Home proposed by the proponent.	January 2022	Upon the completion of a preliminary study, the former PICO referred the project to the Social Welfare Department for follow-up action.

3. The consultation and co-ordination services of the “first-stop and one-stop” projects were provided by various professionals employed by the former PICO at the time. As they were not tasked to handle this area of work only, it was difficult to provide a breakdown for the staff establishment and expenditure pertaining to the “first-stop and one-stop” projects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2237)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000)Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

When the former Chief Executive (CE) Mrs Carrie LAM left the office, the Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) in Central was already fully occupied. Another Office was therefore set up at Pacific Place, Admiralty. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) details of the support services and other life-long benefits currently provided to Mrs Carrie LAM as the former CE and the relevant expenditure;
- 2) the respective establishments of the two Offices;
- 3) the non-recurrent expenditure of the Admiralty Office in the past year, including but not limited to the expenses involved in fitting out works and purchasing necessary office equipment and appliances;
- 4) details of the monthly recurrent expenditure of the Admiralty Office in the past year, including but not limited to rents, manpower and other operational expenses, as well as the total expenditure for the year; and
- 5) in the past year, how many events/functions were arranged by the Admiralty Office in respect of receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending or organising events and taking part in speaking engagements?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

In April 2005, the Government appointed the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Independent Commission) to consider and make recommendations on the remuneration package and post-office arrangements for the Chief Executive (CE). The Independent Commission completed the study in June 2005 and submitted a report to the Government. The recommendations in the report included the

provision of support and other life-long benefits for all former CEs. The Government accepted the recommendations of the report and presented the same to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in November 2005 and obtained its approval of the financial arrangements for implementing the recommendations. Since then, in accordance with the approval of the FC, the Government has been providing office accommodation and administrative support for all former CEs to support them in performing promotional and protocol-related functions for Hong Kong after leaving office, such as receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending functions and events, and taking part in speaking engagements. The Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) provides administrative support to former CEs including scheduling and making arrangements for functions and events, handling correspondence and enquiries, and dealing with general administrative duties. In addition, all former CEs are also entitled to protocol arrangements, security protection, as well as medical and dental care.

Currently, the support services for each former CE's office are provided by 1 Senior Personal Assistant, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Personal Chauffeur. Additionally, the offices at 28 Kennedy Road and Pacific Place, Admiralty are each provided with 1 staff member to perform daily clerical and reception duties, etc.

The Office at Pacific Place, Admiralty incurred a non-recurrent expenditure of about \$6.55 million in 2022-23 mainly for renovation works (including the procurement of furniture and equipment). The recurrent expenditure in 2022-23 was around \$6.95 million, with details as follows:

	<u>\$ million</u>
Staff remuneration and staff-related expenses:	2.04
Rent and related expenses:	4.43
Other daily operating expenses:	0.48
Total:	6.95

According to the information provided by the Office, during the period from 1 July 2022 to 31 January 2023, the former CE Mrs Carrie LAM attended 183 promotional/protocol-related functions in her capacity as the former CE in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas, and via video/recording. In line with the established practice, we do not have a breakdown of the events by category.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO018

(Question Serial No. 0686)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The indicators for specified tasks in the Policy Address include removing at least 75% of some 600 environmental hygiene blackspots identified by various departments by end-2023, and reducing the number of priority rodent blackspots at least by half by end-2023. Please list the latest situations of the environmental hygiene blackspots and priority rodent blackspots in each of the Legislative Council geographical constituencies.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The current-term Government places great emphasis on district-based environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management in order to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for citizens and boost our city's image. As such, the Chief Executive has set up the District Matters Coordination Task Force (Task Force). Led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration and supported mainly by the Environment and Ecology Bureau, the Task Force steers and co-ordinates the efforts of 18 bureaux and departments, aiming to step up the cleansing intensity in public places and handle thorny environmental hygiene and street management issues at source.

The Task Force started off its first phase of work by launching the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in mid-August 2022, with the target of tackling some 600 environmental hygiene blackspots across the territory. The performance targets set out in the 2022 Policy Address are to remove at least 75% of the some 600 environmental hygiene blackspots identified by end-2023 and to reduce the number of priority rodent blackspots at least by half also by end-2023. With the concerted efforts and active facilitation of various departments, the situation of most environmental hygiene blackspots has improved while the cleanliness of different districts in the city also enhanced. Meanwhile, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is carrying out strategic anti-rodent operations at over 100 priority rodent blackspots, while allocating more resources to improve the

situation of such rodent blackspots in a holistic and sustainable manner. The FEHD implements targeted anti-rodent measures on a large scale at the blackspots concerned. Besides placing rodenticides and traps, such measures also include sealing voids, sweeping and washing streets and back alleys, as well as removing rubbish and clutter, with a view to removing rodent harbourage and food sources and blocking their dispersal routes. The latest situation of environmental hygiene blackspots and priority rodent blackspots in each district by Legislative Council geographical constituencies is set out at **Annex 1** and **Annex 2** respectively.

As at 31 December 2022, the situation of about 99% of the environmental hygiene blackspots was improved or remained stable. The environmental hygiene blackspot where “the situation needed more attention” is located under the Canal Road flyover (i.e. Ngo Keng Kiu) in Wanchai District, which involves environmental hygiene problems caused by the Chinese folk custom of “villain beating”/joss stick and incense burning. In addition, the anti-rodent work of the FEHD has seen initial results over the same period with improvements at most of the priority rodent blackspots. The government departments concerned will continue to closely monitor the latest situation of the environmental hygiene blackspots and priority rodent blackspots and implement appropriate measures to step up the efforts in cleansing, inspection and law enforcement, with a view to achieving the performance targets set out in the Policy Address.

The Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots
Situation of hygiene blackspots^{Note}
(as at 31 December 2022)

LegCo Geographical constituencies	No. of hygiene blackspots	Situation improved		Situation remained stable		Situation needed more attention	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Hong Kong Island East	38	37	97.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%
Hong Kong Island West	132	128	97.0%	4	3.0%	0	0.0%
Kowloon East	26	23	88.5%	3	11.5%	0	0.0%
Kowloon West	52	50	96.2%	2	3.8%	0	0.0%
Kowloon Central	107	105	98.1%	2	1.9%	0	0.0%
New Territories South East	16	15	93.8%	1	6.3%	0	0.0%
New Territories North	64	34	53.1%	30	46.9%	0	0.0%
New Territories North West	53	44	83.0%	9	17.0%	0	0.0%
New Territories South West	28	27	96.4%	1	3.6%	0	0.0%
New Territories North East	147	142	96.6%	5	3.4%	0	0.0%
Total	663	605	91.3%	57	8.6%	1	0.2%

Note: Government departments will continue to closely monitor the situation of the environmental hygiene blackspots and implement measures as appropriate to step up the efforts in cleansing, inspection and law enforcement, with a view to removing at least 75% of the blackspots by end-2023.

The Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots
Situation of priority rodent blackspots^{Note}
(as at 31 December 2022)

LegCo Geographical constituencies	No. of priority rodent blackspots	Situation improved		Situation remained stable		Situation needed more attention	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Hong Kong Island East	10	10	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Hong Kong Island West	12	12	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Kowloon East	8	8	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Kowloon West	20	19	95%	1	5%	0	0%
Kowloon Central	16	15	93.8%	1	6.2%	0	0%
New Territories South East	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
New Territories North	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
New Territories North West	13	13	100%	0	0%	0	0%
New Territories South West	13	11	84.6%	2	15.4%	0	0%
New Territories North East	8	8	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	108	104	96.3%	4	3.7%	0	0%

Note: The FEHD will continue to closely monitor the situation of the priority rodent blackspots and carry out anti-rodent work as appropriate at the blackspots, with a view to reducing the number of priority rodent blackspots at least by half by end-2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2282)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under Head 79 - Invest Hong Kong, the Department will continue to provide support to the work of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises in attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe, particularly those from industries of strategic importance. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the definition of strategic enterprises; whether reference indicators such as staff size, market value and annual revenue will be adopted; whether there will be other indicators; and
2. the sectors covered by the attracted enterprises from industries of strategic importance.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-wang, Robert (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

Criteria of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) in formulating the list of strategic enterprises include whether an enterprise meets the industry's development direction in Hong Kong, its business plan, and its contributions to the local employment market and the Gross Domestic Product, etc. As OASES is required to take into account a basket of factors, it is not desirable to lay down a set of standard and across-the-board criteria. Currently, our target industries include life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2283)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under Head 79 - Invest Hong Kong, Invest Hong Kong will continue to provide support to the work of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) in attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe, particularly those from industries of strategic importance. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the plans of OASES to attract strategic enterprises from regions such as South-East Asia and the Middle East to establish presence in Hong Kong; and
2. the number of strategic enterprises to which OASES is reaching out, and among them, the number of enterprises with which matters on setting up offices in Hong Kong are being discussed?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-wang, Robert (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The reply to the questions related to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is as follows:

1. OASES will proactively reach out to strategic enterprises around the globe. To attract enterprises from South-East Asia and the Middle East, OASES will work closely with the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents under the Economic and Trade Offices in Bangkok, Jakarta, Singapore and Dubai to enhance promotion on Hong Kong's latest policy and facilitation measures on attracting enterprises and investment.
2. Ever since its establishment, OASES has been reaching out to relevant enterprises and organisations of strategic industries, which include life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new

energy technology. Many of the enterprises which relevant bureaux and OASES have met are top-notch enterprises of the industries or companies engaging in cutting-edge technologies. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, the number of strategic enterprises involved cannot be disclosed at this stage. The Government will make relevant announcement in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO021

(Question Serial No. 0024)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO – Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Question: Please provide the numbers of (i) statutory visits and (ii) non-statutory visits made by Justices of the Peace (JPs) to each institution, the number of complaints received during the visits and the follow-up status of the complaints in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

One of the important functions of JP visits to institutions is to ensure that complaints made to JPs by inmates are handled in a fair and transparent manner. The visiting JPs may either conduct investigations themselves by making personal inquiries into complaints lodged by inmates (such as seeking background information from staff of the institutions and examining relevant records and documents), or refer the complaints to the institutions concerned or other relevant parties for their follow-up actions, having regard to the nature and severity of the complaints. Upon receipt of the referrals, the parties concerned will investigate into the complaints. On completion of the investigation, the result will be reported to the JPs. JPs are at liberty to conduct any further investigation or re-visit the institution in question for follow-up as they consider necessary. Before every JP visit, the JPs Secretariat provides visiting JPs with reports on outstanding complaints made to JPs by inmates of the institutions concerned during past visits, so that the JPs may follow up those complaints or other issues during their upcoming visit. The numbers of JP visits to individual institutions and the numbers of complaints received during these visits in the past 3 years are set out at **Annex A** and **Annex B** respectively.

The majority of complaints received by JPs during visits to institutions were related to treatment, welfare, services, staff attitude and conduct, facilities and equipment, and other Government departments/organisations. All these complaint cases were followed up as appropriate. Taking the Correctional Services Department (CSD) as an example, a total of 94 complaints were received during JP visits to correctional institutions in 2021. The follow-up actions taken in respect of the complaints made to JPs are summarised in the table

below:

Category of complaints	Actions	Number of complaints in 2021
Complaints against/related to CSD (total: 90)	– No further action as directed by JPs (4 due to lack of solid information for further investigation; and 1 due to JPs being satisfied that the complaint had already been addressed and dealt with by the institution before the JP visit)	5
	– Referred to institution management for investigation or follow-up (all cases resolved by explanations given or improvement measures made, of which both the JPs and complainants concerned were duly informed; there was no further action as directed by JPs and no further request or other complaints raised by complainants)	19
	– Referred to Police for follow-up (1 complainant elucidated that the allegation was made merely due to misunderstanding and subsequently withdrew the complaint of his own accord; as for the remaining case, the Police considered that the alleged matter was not within the ambit of its investigation and thus the investigation was terminated)	2
	– Referred to the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of CSD for investigation. No further action was taken on 48 cases as the complainants declined to provide information to or lodge a complaint with CIU. JPs were duly informed of the results and gave no further directive. 16 cases investigated by CIU were concluded as unsubstantiated, curtailed, not pursuable, faultless or false. Among these 16 complaints, the complainants of 2 cases lodged appeals with the CSD Complaints Appeal Board and their appeals were dismissed.	64
Complaints against other departments/ organisations (total: 4)	– No follow-up was required due to JPs being satisfied that the complaint had already been dealt with by the institution before the JP visit	1
	– Referred to institution management for providing explanation to the complainant	1
	– Referred to other Government departments/ organisations for handling and follow-up	2
Total:		94

Numbers of JP visits to individual institutions in the past 3 years

(i) Statutory visits

I. Institutions of CSD

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Cape Collinson Correctional Institution ¹	10		
2.	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	23	24	17
3.	Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and Lai Sun Correctional Institution	21	24	18
4.	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	23	24	19
5.	Lai King Correctional Institution, Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre and Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital ²	24	24	24
6.	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	23	24	19
7.	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital ²	24	23	18
8.	Phoenix House, Pelican House and Lai Hang Rehabilitation Centre	12	12	11
9.	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	22	24	19
10.	Pik Uk Prison	23	24	19
11.	Sha Tsui Correctional Institution and Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre	23	24	19
12.	Shek Pik Prison	24	24	20
13.	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	21	24	19
14.	Stanley Prison	24	24	18
15.	Tai Lam Centre for Women, Bauhinia House and Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre	22	24	20
16.	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	24	24	20
17.	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution ³		13	24
18.	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	24	24	19
19.	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	24	24	19
		391	408	342

¹ Cape Collinson Correctional Institution was closed in early November 2020. No JP visit to this institution has been arranged since then.

² In view of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic and public health considerations, JP visits to Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital have been temporarily suspended since late January 2020.

³ Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution has been reopened for JP visits since June 2021.

II. Hospitals of the Hospital Authority (HA)⁴

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Castle Peak Hospital	1	-	-
2.	Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit of Kowloon Hospital	1	-	-
3.	Kwai Chung Hospital	1	-	-
4.	New Territories East Psychiatric Observation Unit of Tai Po Hospital	1	-	-
5.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Psychiatric Observation Unit of the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	1	-	-
Total:		5	0	0

⁴ In view of the development of COVID-19 epidemic and public health considerations, JP visits to these institutions have been temporarily suspended since late January 2020.

III. Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Detention Centre

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	ICAC Detention Centre	23	24	24

IV. Detention Centres of the Immigration Department (ImmD)

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre	21	22	15
2.	Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre	4	4	2
Total:		25	26	17

V. Institutions of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)/Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Po Leung Kuk Wing Lung Bank Golden Jubilee Sheltered Workshop and Hostel	3	4	4
2.	Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home	12	13	11
Total:		15	17	15

(ii) Non-statutory visits⁴

I. Hospitals of HA

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	-	-	-
2.	Bradbury Hospice	-	-	-
3.	Caritas Medical Centre	-	-	-
4.	Cheshire Home, Chung Hom Kok	-	-	-
5.	Cheshire Home, Shatin	-	-	-
6.	The Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital at Sandy Bay	-	-	-
7.	Grantham Hospital	-	-	-
8.	Haven of Hope Hospital	-	-	-
9.	Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	-	-	-
10.	Hong Kong Eye Hospital	-	-	-
11.	Kowloon Hospital	-	-	-
12.	Kwong Wah Hospital	-	-	-
13.	MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre	-	-	-
14.	North District Hospital	-	-	-
15.	North Lantau Hospital	-	-	-
16.	Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	-	-	-
17.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	-	-	-
18.	Pok Oi Hospital	-	-	-
19.	Prince of Wales Hospital	-	-	-
20.	Princess Margaret Hospital	-	-	-
21.	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	-	-	-
22.	Queen Mary Hospital	-	-	-
23.	Ruttonjee Hospital and Tang Shiu Kin Hospital	-	-	-
24.	Shatin Hospital	-	-	-
25.	Siu Lam Hospital	-	-	-
26.	St. John Hospital	-	-	-
27.	Tai Po Hospital	-	-	-
28.	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	-	-	-
29.	Tuen Mun Hospital	-	-	-
30.	Tung Wah Eastern Hospital	-	-	-
31.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Yiu King Hospital	-	-	-
32.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Tai Sin Hospital	-	-	-
33.	Tung Wah Hospital	-	-	-
34.	United Christian Hospital	-	-	-
35.	Wong Chuk Hang Hospital	-	-	-
36.	Yan Chai Hospital	-	-	-
Total:		0	0	0

⁴ In view of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic and public health considerations, JP visits to these institutions have been temporarily suspended since late January 2020.

II. Po Leung Kuk

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Po Leung Kuk	0	0	0

III. Institutions for drug abusers operated by NGOs under the purview of the Department of Health

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Adult Female Rehabilitation Centre	-	-	-
2.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Au Tau Youth Centre	1	-	-
3.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre	1	-	-
4.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Sister Aquinas Memorial Women's Treatment Centre	-	-	-
Total:		2	0	0

IV. Institutions of SWD/NGOs

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Caritas-Hong Kong – Caritas Jockey Club Lai King Rehabilitation Centre	-	-	-
2.	Caritas-Hong Kong – Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home	-	-	-
3.	Caritas-Hong Kong – Caritas Pelletier Hall	1	-	-
4.	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong – Home of Love – Yung Shing Hostel	-	-	-
5.	Evangelical Lutheran Church Hong Kong – Kwai Shing Hostel	1	-	-
6.	Fu Hong Society – Fu Hong Society Rehabilitation Centre	-	-	-
7.	Haven of Hope Christian Service – Haven of Hope Hang Hau Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled	1	-	-
8.	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association – Buddhist Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	1	-	-
9.	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association – Buddhist Po Ching Home for the Aged Women	1	-	-
10.	Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre – Bradbury Hostel	1	-	-

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
11.	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	-	-	-
12.	Hong Kong Society for the Blind – Jockey Club Centre for the Blind	1	-	-
13.	Hong Kong Society for the Blind – Jockey Club Tuen Mun Home for the Aged Blind	1	-	-
14.	Hong Kong Student Aid Society – Holland Hostel	1	-	-
15.	Hong Kong Student Aid Society – Island Hostel	1	-	-
16.	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association – New Life Building Long Stay Care Home	-	-	-
17.	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association – Tuen Mun Long Stay Care Home	1	-	-
18.	Po Leung Kuk – Y C Cheng Centre	-	-	-
19.	Sik Sik Yuen – Ho Yam Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	1	-	-
20.	Sisters of the Good Shepherd – Marycove Centre	1	-	-
21.	Society of Boys’ Centres – Chak Yan Centre	-	-	-
22.	Society of Boys’ Centres – Cheung Hong Hostel	1	-	-
23.	Society of Boys’ Centres – Shing Tak Centre	1	-	-
24.	Society of Boys’ Centres – Un Chau Hostel	1	-	-
25.	The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong – Jockey Club Building	1	-	-
26.	The Salvation Army – Cheung Hong Community Day Rehabilitation and Residential Service	1	-	-
27.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Ho Yuk Ching Workshop cum Hostel	1	-	-
28.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals – Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex	1	-	-
29.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals – Wing Yin Hostel	-	-	-
30.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals – Wong Cho Tong Care and Attention Home	-	-	-
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals – Wong Cho Tong Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Centre cum Hostel	-	-	-
31.	Yan Chai Hospital – Chinachem Care and Attention Home	1	-	-
Total:		21	0	0

**Numbers of complaints received during JP visits to
individual institutions in the past 3 years**

(i) Statutory visits**I. Institutions of CSD**

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	-	3	-
2.	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	7	1	2
3.	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	18	12	9
4.	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution	-	2	-
5.	Pik Uk Prison	3	-	1
6.	Shek Pik Prison	13	5	2
7.	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	3	6	-
8.	Stanley Prison	69	60	7
9.	Tai Lam Centre for Women	-	1	3
10.	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution	-	4	12
11.	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	1	-	1
Total:		114	94	37

II. Hospitals of HA

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit of Kowloon Hospital	1	-	-
2.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Psychiatric Observation Unit of the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	3	-	-
Total:		4	0	0

III. Detention Centre of ImmD

No.	Name of institution	2020	2021	2022
1.	Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre	16	14	5
Total:		16	14	5

(ii) Non-statutory visits

No complaint was received.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1016)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO-Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 include the establishment of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) under the Financial Secretary (FS)'s Office. According to the FS, OASES has already contacted quite a number of strategic enterprises since its establishment at the end of last year. It is actively following up on these cases, assisting these enterprises in establishing or developing their business in Hong Kong.

In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

OASES will draw up a list of target enterprises, formulate attractive special facilitation measures that are applicable exclusively to target enterprises, and provide the employees of these target enterprises with one-stop facilitation services. What are the major concerns of the target enterprises attracted by OASES to set up business in Hong Kong since OASES commenced operation 3 months ago? Were there any cases in which OASES failed to attract enterprises to operate in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Based on the communication of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises with the industries, enterprises may have various concerns and considerations, covering land, financing, talent acquisition, immigration facilitation and policy measures, depending on their respective company size, demands of industry, business plan, etc. To facilitate negotiations, the Government must safeguard the confidentiality of relevant process and contents and hence cannot disclose any details at this stage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0881)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

- (a) Did the Government procure any archival records on the history of Hong Kong from other places in 2022-23? If so, what are the contents of the records and the related expenditure? Please also provide the estimated expenditure for the procurement of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other places in 2023-24.
- (b) It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-24 that the Government will implement public education and publicity programme on Hong Kong's documentary heritage. What specific publicity programme will the Government launch to achieve the objective?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- (a) Since 2009, the Government Records Service (GRS) has been procuring copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other archives to enrich its holdings. So far, about 4 000 copies have been procured. In view of the considerable number of copies of archival records procured over the years, and having regard to the relevant arrangements of various archives in the Mainland and overseas, factors such as the existing holdings of GRS, the need to acquire records and the actual usage as well as the access status of relevant records kept by other archives, GRS did not procure copies of archival records in 2022-23. GRS will keep in view the new releases of archival records kept by major archives in other regions and consider the procurement of copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong on a need basis. Meanwhile, GRS is discussing with the Second Historical Archives of China on the arrangements of the procurement of copies of archival records.

In 2023-24, GRS has earmarked \$160,000 for the procurement of copies of archival records.

- (b) GRS organises exhibitions, seminars, workshops, group visits and other educational activities regularly to promote the documentary heritage of Hong Kong. Details of GRS' public education and publicity programmes scheduled for 2023-24 are set out below:
1. organise about 30 onsite or online group visits to GRS with an estimated number of more than 2 000 participants;
 2. conduct about 5 onsite or online educational workshops for teachers and students, facilitating them to use the archival records kept by GRS to conduct researches on Hong Kong's development in different areas. The estimated number of participants in each onsite workshop and each online workshop is 40 and 150 respectively;
 3. organise an annual thematic exhibition cum roving exhibitions and set up an online Reference Resources Page to help the public better understand, appreciate and utilise the local documentary heritage and archival records kept by GRS;
 4. enrich the online Educational Resources Portal to enable more people to view the archival holdings and information therein. Frequently used and popular holdings will be digitised for more convenient access; and
 5. enrich the content of the Public Records Office Facebook page (fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice) to attract more online viewers to like, follow and share the page and posts, so as to strengthen connection and interaction with the public.

- End -

CSO024

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3041)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

As mentioned in paragraph 64 of the Budget Speech, the Government has “established the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises and the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents, with the purpose of attracting representative and high potential strategic enterprises from around the globe, thereby enhancing our competitiveness and accelerating the development of industries.” It is also stated in paragraph 66 that “in his 2022 Policy Address, the Chief Executive proposed to establish the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) to optimise the use of fiscal reserves for promoting the development of the economy and industries. The HKIC enhances our ability to attract enterprises and investment, and facilitates industrial co-operation between Hong Kong and our sister cities in the Greater Bay Area. The HKIC has commenced operation and is identifying quality partners to make strategic investments in a timely manner.” In this connection, can the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the manpower and total provision earmarked for the OASES, the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises and the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents respectively;
2. when formulating policies on “competing for enterprises”, will the Government consider setting quantitative and qualitative key performance indicators in respect of attracting advanced manufacturing enterprises, and including those Hong Kong-invested enterprises located outside Hong Kong which have a leading position in specific industries on the target list?
3. will the Government consider setting up a one-stop service window and a task force for encouraging Hong Kong-invested enterprises to return to Hong Kong under the OASES so as to support the returning enterprises?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. There are currently 18 staff members in the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES). Its estimated annual operational expenditure is \$12 million and a provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated for the expenditures on the remuneration of Director-General and Deputy Director-General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and InvestHK through deployment of existing resources. The Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises (Advisory Committee) led by the Financial Secretary comprises 9 Government officials and 11 representatives from relevant business sectors and social leaders. The administrative expenses of the Advisory Committee will be absorbed by OASES, which serves as the secretariat, and are included in its estimate on the overall operational expenditure.

The HKSAR Government has also set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents (Dedicated Teams) in 12 overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs)^{Note} to proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents overseas and persuade them to invest and pursue development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, the estimated number of posts in the Dedicated Teams is 35, and the estimated expenditure is about \$100 million. In addition, InvestHK has earmarked about \$16 million to undertake overseas investment promotion work through the Dedicated Teams.

Note: The Geneva ETO, representing Hong Kong, China in the World Trade Organization and the Trade Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, is mainly responsible for handling issues relating to these organisations. The Berlin ETO is responsible for promoting Hong Kong's bilateral economic and trade relations with Switzerland. The Washington ETO is mainly responsible for liaising with the political circle in the United States (US). The New York ETO is responsible for attracting businesses and talents in the eastern US.

The HKSAR Government has set up Dedicated Teams in 5 Mainland Offices, with a total establishment of 8 posts and 20 locally engaged staff members. In 2023-24, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has earmarked about \$300 million for the Mainland Offices to enhance trade opportunities, promote the advantages of Hong Kong and undertake investment promotion work. As the work of the Dedicated Teams is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised. Besides, in 2023-24, InvestHK has earmarked about \$10.4 million to undertake investment promotion work in the Mainland through the Dedicated Teams.

The 2022 Policy Address announced the establishment of the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (the Corporation) to further optimise the use of fiscal reserves for promoting the development of industries and the economy. At the initial stage of the Corporation's operation, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) will render support on investment, logistics and operational matters. Relevant work would be absorbed by the existing manpower within the HKMA. After the Corporation has built its management team, relevant expenses will be borne by the funds managed by the Corporation.

2. In attracting strategic enterprises, the Government takes into account a basket of factors, including whether their business is in line with the direction of development of our industries, their investment quota and business plans, as well as their contributions to the local

employment market and gross domestic product. Therefore, it is difficult to use one single yardstick such as the profile of an enterprise or specific qualitative key performance indicators as a uniform standard for attracting enterprises.

3. OASES is tasked with attracting representative and high-potential strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas. OASES would provide one-stop facilitation services to all strategic enterprises meeting the above criteria to help them set up or expand their business in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1851)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO-Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), led by the Financial Secretary, came into operation at the end of last year. OASES is tasked with attracting strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas by offering them special facilitation measures and one-stop services. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. As at the end of last year, OASES had 18 staff members in Hong Kong. What is the estimated staff establishment and expenditure of OASES for the coming year? Is there any need to increase the establishment and recruit additional staff to cope with the work of attracting enterprises and investment to Hong Kong?
2. OASES has indicated that it has already formulated a preliminary first-round list for target enterprises. How many enterprises have been included in the list so far? Which industries in particular are the listed target enterprises from?
3. In formulating plans to facilitate the setting up of the operations of enterprises in Hong Kong, what kind of "packages" will OASES consider offering to attract strategic enterprises to develop their business in Hong Kong?
4. How many enterprises does OASES target to bring in in 2023-24 to develop their business in Hong Kong?
5. Apart from emerging and high value-added industries, traditional industries such as textile, garment and fashion industries also contribute significantly to the economy of Hong Kong. Will OASES list enterprises from traditional industries or trades as target enterprises?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The reply to the questions related to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is as follows:

1. The staff number of OASES is expected to remain at 18 in 2023-24. Its estimated annual operational expenditure is \$12 million. In addition, a provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated to OASES for the expenditures on the remuneration of Director-General and Deputy Director-General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and InvestHK through deployment of existing resources. OASES will conduct regular review to ensure it has sufficient manpower to deliver the Government's work on attracting enterprises and investment to Hong Kong.
2. Target enterprises on the list mainly come from industries of strategic importance, including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, the number of strategic enterprises under negotiation cannot be disclosed at this stage. The Government will make relevant announcement in due course.
3. OASES would formulate attractive special facilitation measures covering aspects such as land, tax and financing to meet the needs of individual strategic enterprises. One-stop facilitation services covering visa application and information on children's education would also be provided to employees of these target enterprises. Besides, the Government has set aside \$30 billion from the Future Fund to establish the Co-Investment Fund which could serve as one of the potential facilitation measures to attract and invest in strategic enterprises.
4. According to the 2022 Policy Address, in respect of Hong Kong's overall efforts on attracting enterprises and investment, the HKSAR Government aims to attract at least 1 130 enterprises (including strategic and other enterprises) to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025, thereby bringing in economic benefits and direct investment as well as creating other job opportunities. OASES is working closely with relevant bureaux, InvestHK and other departments to achieve this overall target.
5. The strategic industries currently targeted by OASES, such as artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing, may help modernise and add value to traditional industries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0939)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

How many additional staff members for the Chief Executive's Policy Unit have been/will be recruited, and what is the salary expenditure? How are the salary levels determined? Did/will the Government conduct any public recruitment exercises?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) has 47 posts/positions on its current permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff will also be employed from outside the Government as necessary to provide support for research and other duties. In 2023-24, the CEPU has earmarked \$87.63 million for staff emoluments and relevant expenses.

The CEPU comprises 3 Divisions with each undertaking policy research with different foci in addition to shouldering other duties. Under the existing establishment, besides the 8 directorate posts/positions, 18 of the 39 non-directorate civil service posts are of officer rank of various grades including Administrative Officer, Economist, Executive Officer, Town Planner, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades which will augment the professional support to the policy research function of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. Separately, the CEPU has also employed 1 Research Director, 3 Senior Researchers and 2 Researchers on non-civil service terms, and is conducting open recruitment exercises for 3 categories of NCSC positions (including Senior Executive Manager, Researcher and Assistant Researcher) to mainly provide administrative support for research or assist in some research studies in-house. The salary levels of NCSC posts are determined by making reference to those of the comparable civil service ranks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2815)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

There are more and more cases of using ChatGPT as a replacement to assist with information gathering, draft legal documents and prepare consultancy recommendations to save manpower. A recent example is Allen & Overy, one of the top 5 law firms in the United Kingdom.

It is learnt that Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) is recruiting assistant researchers with a monthly salary of more than \$60,000. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the establishment and estimated emoluments and operational expenditure of the CEPU?
2. What are the respective numbers of the posts already recruited, being recruited and pending for recruitment?
3. Will the Head of the CEPU take responsibility for exploring the feasibility of replacing assistant researchers and other posts with ChatGPT, with a view to minimising the manpower and expenditure on emoluments of the CEPU?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) has 47 posts/positions on its current permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff will also be employed from outside the Government as necessary to provide support for research and other duties. The overall estimated expenditure of the CEPU for 2023-24 is \$134.3 million, with \$87.63 million earmarked for staff emoluments and relevant expenses, and about \$26 million for the expenditures of the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and honoraria for members of committees. The remaining estimated expenditure will be used for the

daily operational expenses of the CEPU (including the provision for commissioning outside parties to conduct consultancy studies).

2. The CEPU comprises 3 Divisions with each undertaking policy research with different foci in addition to shouldering other duties. Under the existing establishment, besides the 8 directorate posts/positions, 18 of the 39 non-directorate civil service posts are of officer rank of various grades including Administrative Officer, Economist, Executive Officer, Town Planner, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades which will augment the professional support to the policy research function of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support.

Separately, the CEPU has also employed 1 Research Director, 3 Senior Researchers and 2 Researchers on non-civil service terms, and is conducting open recruitment exercises for 3 categories of NCSC positions (including Senior Executive Manager, Researcher and Assistant Researcher) to mainly provide administrative support for research or assist in some research studies in-house. The salary levels of NCSC posts are determined by making reference to those of the comparable civil service ranks, among which Assistant Researcher is remunerated from HK\$32,545 per month.

3. The CEPU's areas of work include conducting studies and analyses on the country's policies and developments as well as international relations and situations, grasping the sentiments of people in Hong Kong, co-ordinating the preparation of the annual Policy Address (PA) and tracking the implementation of PA initiatives, providing research and secretariat support to the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers, administering the public policy research funding schemes and maintaining exchanges with various stakeholders including academic organisations and think tanks, etc. Depending on the nature and needs of different tasks, the CEPU will employ different tools (including technological tools such as artificial intelligence) to assist its work so as to enhance efficiency.

However, given the diverse and complex nature of the CEPU's work and the need to be forward thinking in handling various works, we believe that the human resources need of the CEPU cannot be substituted by deploying technological tools such as artificial intelligence.

- End -

CSO028

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0319)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO-Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), its main duty is to attract high-potential or representative innovation and technology enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong. What is the remuneration practice in the OASES in respect of its 18 staff members, including officer grade staff, as well as the estimated annual operational expenses of OASES? How many enterprises have been approached by OASES and attracted to set up businesses in Hong Kong so far? What are the types of business involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The estimated operational expenditure of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) for 2023-24 is \$12 million. In addition, a provision of about \$5.6 million has been allocated to OASES for the expenditures on the remuneration of Director-General and Deputy Director-General for 2023-24. The expenditures on the remuneration of the remaining 16 staff members will be absorbed by the Financial Secretary's Office and InvestHK through deployment of existing resources.

Ever since its establishment, OASES has been reaching out to relevant enterprises and organisations of strategic industries, which include life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Many of the enterprises which relevant bureaux and OASES have met are top-notch enterprises of the industries or companies engaging in cutting-edge technologies. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, the number of strategic enterprises involved cannot be disclosed at this stage. The Government will make relevant announcement in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1619)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Brian LO)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that to actively align with national development strategies, the Greater Bay Area (GBA) is the best entry point for Hong Kong to integrate into the national development. Innovative and vibrant, the GBA economy has full-fledged and high-quality production chains and strong complementarity with the Hong Kong economy. By joining hands with our GBA sister cities to achieve synergy in the development of a number of major industries, Hong Kong can certainly spearhead high quality development of the entire GBA. In this connection, please advise how the Government would adjust its fiscal policy to tilt towards the active alignment with national development strategies.

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) was established on 28 December 2022 to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. As directed by the Chief Executive (CE), the CEPU will embrace strategic and global perspectives, and stay in tune with the local and public pulse, while conducting in-depth studies and analyses on Mainland policies and developments as well as international trends and reporting the outcome to the CE.

The CEPU will conduct in-depth studies and analyses on the directions, plans and policies of national development, and explore how Hong Kong should further integrate into overall national development. In his address made on 1 July 2022, President Xi pledged support to Hong Kong in its effort to seize historic opportunities brought about by national development by actively dovetailing itself with national strategies including the 14th Five-Year Plan, development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and high-quality Belt and Road co-operation, etc. We shall proactively explore how Hong Kong should further integrate into overall national development, including its role in the development of the "eight centres" and the GBA as outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan, in

order to achieve the objectives of serving the mutual interests with the Mainland and bringing tangible economic benefits to Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2910)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Litigation Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Chris YT CHONG)
Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the performance measure of payment to lawyers in respect of support services, how was “99% of payments were processed within six weeks” arrived at? Has a target timeframe for “costing” been set? It is because many lawyers complained that they have still not received their payments many months or even years after the conclusion of the cases.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The Legal Aid Department (LAD) strives to assess the fees and to make payments to assigned lawyers as soon as possible. To shorten the time required for assessing the fees payable to assigned lawyers and expedite the payment process, LAD has implemented a series of measures, such as making advance payment of interim costs to assigned lawyers upon receipt of their interim bills to LAD before the conclusion of a case.

As a measure of meeting the Department’s customer service standard performance targets, LAD has set a performance pledge for effecting advance and balance payments to lawyers, experts or other parties in a legal aid case, and maintains records on its compliance with the pledge. According to the statistics maintained by LAD, from 2020 to 2022, the assigned lawyers, experts or other parties in 99% of the legal aid cases (1) received advance payments of interim costs within 6 weeks from the receipt of bills by LAD, and (2) received balance payments within 6 weeks from the date of agreement of all costs and disbursements related to the case, or receipt of all monies due to the aided person and LAD, whichever is later.

LAD can only effect balance payments when the amount of costs is agreed by the relevant parties, and until all documents in relation to the fees payable to assigned lawyers (such as court documents and orders) are received. Therefore, if an agreement cannot be reached on the amount of costs and taxation by the court is required, LAD can only effect payments upon taxation by the court. Besides, there have been cases in which bills were not submitted to LAD in time, and as a consequence, LAD could not make early payment of the fees.

To facilitate assigned lawyers in checking the progress of costs assessment upon receipt of all related documents by LAD, LAD has set up a helpline for assigned lawyers to make direct enquiries with the responsible staff of the Department. In addition, LAD will continue to maintain communication with the two legal professional bodies and take timely follow-up actions on the assessment and payment of costs.

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