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### Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

**Director of Bureau : Director of Administration**

**Session No. : 1**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CSO001****(Question Serial No. 3129)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Bureau will continue to actively promote Hong Kong's new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas, including collaboration with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) to attract representative innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong and top-notch innovation and technology talents to bring with them their business or R&D outcomes to Hong Kong. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the total number of innovation and technology enterprises being attracted by the OASES to set up their business in Hong Kong in the past 2 years?
2. What was the expenditure on developing related supporting facilities (such as office space subsidy, network facilities upgrade, etc.)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) held a total of 3 OASES Partnership Signing Ceremonies in 2023 and 2024, successfully attracting 66 strategic enterprises: A breakdown on the number and percentage of these enterprises according to their type of industry [Note] is set out below:

	No. of enterprises	Share in percentage terms of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	22	33%
Artificial intelligence and data science	24	37%
Fintech	8	12%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	12	18%

Note: As the scope of business of certain strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

2. Since its establishment, OASES has provided enterprises with facilitation services relating to professional services, universities/research institutions, business development, financing, talent services, etc. In the aspect of professional services, we have assisted enterprises in need to connect with local professional services organisations with experience in global development and specialising in fields such as accounting, legal, consultancy, helping them develop and operate regional or global businesses with Hong Kong as their regional or global headquarters. In terms of universities/research institutions, we have maintained close liaison with local universities to match suitable research and development (R&D) resources and talents for enterprises, supporting the establishment of R&D centres. As for business development, we have actively assisted enterprises in exploring opportunities in local and overseas markets and establishing business networks. In financing, we have supported strategic enterprises in their understanding of the local financial and capital market landscape, and provided information on relevant policies and funding schemes, facilitating the setting up of Corporate Treasury Centres and listings on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, etc. For talent services, we have co-ordinated the processing of visa applications for enterprises in respect of talents arriving in Hong Kong under various schemes, including the Top Talent Pass Scheme and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme. We have also assisted enterprises in recruiting suitable R&D and professional talent. In addition, apart from assisting enterprises in familiarising themselves with local talent policies and related support measures, we will help them recruit talent so that the enterprises could attract and retain the talent they need, and sustain long-term development in Hong Kong. OASES does not have a specific budget for the expenditure on supporting facilities for attracting strategic enterprises. If necessary, OASES will recommend to the enterprises the funding schemes offered by other government or quasi-government organisations.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO002**

**(Question Serial No. 3059)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Newborn Baby Bonus Scheme (the Scheme), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of applications received since the implementation of the Scheme;
- (2) the number of applications with the bonus disbursed; and
- (3) the evaluation of the specific outcomes of the Scheme and the government expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2023 Policy Address an array of measures to promote fertility by adopting a “combination punches” approach, including a cash reward of \$20,000 to eligible parents for each baby born from 25 October 2023 (i.e. the Newborn Baby Bonus), for a period of three years. Starting from 25 October 2023, parents can submit an application for the bonus at the same time when registering the birth of their baby and applying for a birth certificate. As at 15 March 2025, a total of about 42 060 qualified applications have been received and bonus has been distributed to 41 304 applicants, at a total amount of approximately \$826 million. To implement the scheme, a small number of staff have been employed to handle the clerical work, along with an additional administrative cost of about \$800,000.

The Government has received different views since the launch of the scheme. The Government plans to review the scheme two years after launch (i.e. in the fourth quarter of 2025) and will consider opinions from various parties during the review.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO003**

**(Question Serial No. 2827)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Newborn Baby Bonus, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the details of the scheme since its implementation, including the number of newborns, the number of cases where the bonus has been collected, and the total amount disbursed; and
2. will the Government consider, upon completion of the current implementation phase, extending the scheme, further increasing the bonus amount for each baby born, and introducing other initiatives to promote fertility so as to encourage childbearing in families? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment concerned is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2023 Policy Address an array of measures to promote fertility by adopting a “combination punches” approach, including a cash reward of \$20,000 to eligible parents for each baby born from 25 October 2023 (i.e. the Newborn Baby Bonus), for a period of three years. Starting from 25 October 2023, parents can submit an application for the bonus at the same time when registering the birth of their baby and applying for a birth certificate. As at 15 March 2025, a total of about 42 060 qualified applications have been received and bonus has been distributed to 41 304 applicants, at a total amount of approximately \$826 million.

The Government has received different views since the launch of the scheme. The Government plans to review the scheme two years after launch (i.e. in the fourth quarter of 2025) and will consider opinions from various parties during the review.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO004**

**(Question Serial No. 2227)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (3) that the work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) includes continuing to enforce against shop front extensions under the steer of the Task Force on District Governance (the Task Force). In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the staff establishment of the Task Force in tackling hygiene black spots and the expenditure involved in the past year, including the number of dedicated staff, the number of working hours and the breakdown of expenditures on cleansing, inspection, etc.;
- (b) of the specific data on the tackling of hygiene black spots in each of the 18 districts in the past year:
  - (i) the number of inspections conducted and areas covered in each district;
  - (ii) the total number of hygiene black spots identified and their distribution;
  - (iii) the number of clearance operations conducted and the specific clearance details (such as refuse clearance and removal of miscellaneous articles);
  - (iv) the number of hygiene black spots delisted and their locations;
- (c) among the delisted hygiene black spots, of the number of repeated complaints received by the FEHD, with a breakdown of the relevant data by district, and the main reasons why these black spots have become problems again; and
- (d) of the relevant follow-up measures taken?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to district environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management (including shop front extensions) so as to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for the public and boost our city's image. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters



Co-ordination Task Force (now renamed as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape and put under the Task Force on District Governance (the Task Force) chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS)) launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling environmental hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different parties and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots had increased from the initial 663 to 738.

The information requested is provided as follows:

- (a) The Government's work on tackling hygiene black spots is implemented by deploying resources within departments. Since the personnel responsible for the relevant work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work. As for the thematic website of the Programme, its daily maintenance cost for 2024-25 and 2025-26 is about \$360,000 and \$260,000 respectively.

(b) and (c)

At the seventh meeting of the Task Force held in February 2025, DCS instructed various departments to critically review the situation of all 738 hygiene black spots to assess which ones are suitable for removal from the list of black spots, and continue to actively follow up on those still requiring improvement. Based on subsequent reviews by the departments, the hygiene conditions at around 94% (696) of the hygiene black spots on the list have been markedly improved and could be considered for removal from the list of black spots. However, 8% (64) of the black spots have not yet met the standard of continual improvement for two years, so they have to remain on the list of black spots for now. The thematic website of the Programme was updated in end-March 2025 to reflect the said latest situation.

The number of hygiene black spots upon review, with a breakdown by District Council district, is tabulated below:

District Council district	No. of hygiene black spots	Upon review in early February 2025	
		No. of black spots with two years of continual improvement and removed from the list	No. of black spots which have been continuously improved for less than two years
Central and Western District	66	62	1
Eastern District	24	17	3
Southern District	10	8	2
Wan Chai District	18	15	1
Kowloon City District	91	81	5
Kwun Tong District	26	23	3

District Council district	No. of hygiene black spots	Upon review in early February 2025	
		No. of black spots with two years of continual improvement and removed from the list	No. of black spots which have been continuously improved for less than two years
Sham Shui Po District	31	26	3
Wong Tai Sin District	25	22	2
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	36	17
Islands District	60	56	2
Kwai Tsing District	15	12	2
North District	62	54	8
Sai Kung District	10	10	0
Sha Tin District	22	16	4
Tai Po District	135	135	0
Tsuen Wan District	23	19	4
Tuen Mun District	31	21	4
Yuen Long District	30	19	3
Total	738	632	64
		696	

The departments concerned will continue to sustain their efforts and closely monitor the hygiene conditions of the improved spots. Prompt actions will be taken in case of any change of circumstances.

Given the large number of hygiene black spots, the Government does not consolidate and maintain detailed breakdowns on inspection, clearance and other work for the various black spots.

- (d) To tackle the problem of shopfront extension, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) have strengthened co-operation in various districts by adopting a new mode of joint enforcement operations progressively across the city since October 2022. The Police will require relevant parties to remove any obstructing articles within a specified time period as empowered under the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), otherwise the FEHD will assist in removing such items. Apart from stepping up prosecution against offenders, the new enforcement mode also enables the removal and seizure of goods and other articles in public places, imposing greater costs on non-compliant shop operators. Carrying a much greater deterrent effect in curbing the bad habit of traders occupying public places for long periods of time for depositing goods and miscellaneous articles, the implementation of the new mode of joint enforcement operations has brought significant improvement to the problem of shopfront extensions across districts. Furthermore, starting from October 2023, the level of fixed penalty against shopfront extensions has been substantially raised from \$1,500 to \$6,000 to further enhance the deterrent effect.

The imposition of the enhanced penalty has brought about significant improvement as shopfront extensions have visibly subsided in districts.

Having conducted a comprehensive review on the existing statutory powers and penalties of environmental hygiene-related legislation, the Government is now proposing amendments to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and other relevant legislations to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness and deterrence in handling various environmental hygiene issues. This includes the introduction of a new provision empowering the FEHD to handle shopfront extensions on its own. Upon the amendments, the FEHD may issue fixed penalty notices or institute prosecution in accordance with the new provisions and other legislation having regard to actual circumstances. If a shop refuses to remove the obstructing articles within a specified time period, the FEHD may remove such items to enhance the enforcement efficiency in handling shopfront extensions.

The Task Force and various departments will keep a close watch over the latest situation of hygiene black spots and take appropriate measures to step up efforts in cleansing, inspections and law enforcement so as to enhance the environmental hygiene and cityscape of Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO005**

**(Question Serial No. 0834)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The utilisation of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) has been reviewed recently. Taking into account the expenditure requirements, the AEF has a remaining balance of about \$15 billion, which will be brought back to the Government's accounts next month. This sum has been reflected in the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the annual expenditure of the AEF incurred in stepping up anti-epidemic efforts (such as provision of funding for the Hospital Authority and procurement of anti-epidemic supplies) in the past 5 years? What were the specific items involved? What was the approximate expenditure for each item?
2. What was the total expenditure of the AEF incurred in the support measures for the enterprises and merchants (such as subsidies and rental concessions) in the past 5 years? What was the expenditure in this regard, broken down by year? What was the estimated manpower involved in implementing these measures each year?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

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 consolidated reply and the information sought are provided below:

The Government launched the AEF in 2020 to enhance Hong Kong's capability in combating the COVID-19 epidemic 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. Approvals of the Legislative Council (LegCo) were secured to inject a total of \$250.9 billion into the AEF to support altogether 232 anti-epidemic measures, all of which

were completed by 1 April 2024.

In response to the rapid development and volatile situation of the epidemic at that time, the AEF launched multiple rounds of anti-epidemic measures from 2020-21 to 2023-24 to enhance the anti-epidemic capability, including providing additional resources to the Hospital Authority to combat the epidemic, procuring personal protective equipment, constructing/operating the community isolation/quarantine facilities, enhancing testing capacity, supporting home quarantine, conducting sewage testing, etc. Besides, other timely, targeted and temporary support measures were launched to directly benefit individuals, employees and enterprises/businesses of all types to help them tide over difficult times. These measures helped alleviate the financial burden of enterprises and the public, maintain business resilience and stabilise the economy for various trades and industries to speed up recovery after the epidemic.

With the epidemic coming to an end and the economy returning to normalcy, to optimise and consolidate the use of the Government's financial resources, the Financial Secretary announced in the 2025-26 Budget that \$15 billion of the balance in the AEF would be brought back to the Government's accounts which has already been reflected in the revised estimate for 2024-25. The \$15 billion balance was brought back to the Government's General Revenue Account in mid-March 2025.

The Audit Commission conducts annual audit on the AEF. The annual financial statements of the AEF together with the Report of the Director of Audit have been tabled in the LegCo for perusal. The financial position of the AEF for each year is as follows:

	<b>Financial Position of the AEF (\$ million)</b>				
	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
<b>Balance at beginning of year</b>	-	18,331.76	34,515.15	22,917.55	18,320.84
<b>Government injection</b>	162,300.00	33,600.00	55,000.00	-	-
<b>Other income [Note]</b>	152.32	65.68	80.53	719.39	Pending audit review
<b>Total expenditure</b>	(144,120.57)	(17,482.28)	(66,678.13)	(5,316.10)	
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	18,331.76	34,515.15	22,917.55	18,320.84	
<b>Expenditure of each item</b>	For details, please refer to the financial statements for the respective year				

Note: Other income includes interest income.

Since most measures were implemented using existing resources of implementing departments, the Government has not maintained statistical data on the specific manpower resources requirements involved in implementing various measures of the AEF. Only a few measures involved additional administrative costs, which accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total financial commitment of all measures.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO006**

**(Question Serial No. 2373)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government implemented the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in mid-August 2022. Will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the numbers of hygiene black spots in various districts since the implementation of the Programme (set out by year);
2. of the effectiveness of the Programme in tackling hygiene black spots, and whether the relevant key performance indicator set by the Government has been met;
3. of the manpower, the numbers of staff of cleansing contractors, and the respective expenditures involved in the past 3 years; and
4. of the numbers of members of the public prosecuted each year since the increase of the relevant fixed penalty in October 2023, how the situation compares with that prior to the increase, and of the impact of the increase on reducing hygiene black spots?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to district environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management so as to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for the public and boost our city's image. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters Coordination Task Force (now renamed as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape and put under the Task Force on District Governance (The Task Force) chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS)), launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different parties and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots had increased from the initial 663 to 738.

The information requested is provided as follows:

1. At the seventh meeting of the Task Force held in February 2025, DCS instructed various departments to critically review the situation of 738 hygiene black spots in order to assess which ones are suitable for removal from the list of black spots, and continue to actively follow up on those still requiring improvement. Based on subsequent reviews by the departments, the hygiene conditions at around 94% (696) of the hygiene black spots on the list have been markedly improved and could be considered for removal from the list of black spots. However, 8% (64) of the black spots have not yet met the standard of continual improvement for two years, so they have to remain on the list of black spots. The thematic website of the Programme was updated in end-March 2025 to reflect the said latest situation.

The numbers of hygiene black spots upon review, with a breakdown by District Council district, is tabulated below:

District Council district	No. of hygiene black spots	Upon review in early February 2025	
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Wan Chai District	18	15	1
Kowloon City District	91	81	5
Kwun Tong District	26	23	3
Sham Shui Po District	31	26	3
Wong Tai Sin District	25	22	2
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	36	17
Islands District	60	56	2
Kwai Tsing District	15	12	2
North District	62	54	8
Sai Kung District	10	10	0
Sha Tin District	22	16	4
Tai Po District	135	135	0
Tsuen Wan District	23	19	4
Tuen Mun District	31	21	4
Yuen Long District	30	19	3
Total	738	632	64
		696	

2. With the co-ordination of the District Matters Coordination Task Force(now renamed as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape) and the efforts of various departments, the hygiene conditions of over 90% of the 738 black spots substantially improved as at early 2024, meeting the target of removing at least 75% of the hygiene black spots by end-2023 as per the key performance indicator for the Programme by the Chief Executive in his 2022 Policy Address.
3. The Government's work on tackling hygiene black spots is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the relevant work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work.
4. The amended Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) came into effect on 22 October 2023. During the whole year from the commencement of the Ordinance to 21 October 2024, the total number of fixed penalty tickets for the relevant offences issued was 35 333, a decrease of over 40% as compared to 60 209 tickets issued over the same period in the previous year before the Ordinance was amended. This reflects that raising the fixed penalty level and enhancing law enforcement by the Government have quite substantial deterrent effect, supporting the Government in improving the condition of hygiene black spots.

The Task Force and various departments will keep a close watch over the latest situation of hygiene black spots and take appropriate measures to step up efforts in cleansing, inspections and law enforcement so as to enhance the environmental hygiene and cityscape of Hong Kong.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1548)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is noted that the revised estimate for 2024-25 is 9.2% lower than the original estimate and the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 will be adjusted upwards. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the establishment and actual manpower of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) in 2024-25 respectively? Please list out by post title.
2. What were the specific details of the work of the CEPU in gathering and assessing public opinions, etc. in 2024-25?
3. According to the Government's reply to my written question last year, professionals and researchers of the CEPU need to travel to other regions for site visits and attending various conferences or seminars to exchange views with different experts from time to time. What were the numbers of visits and exchanges conducted by the CEPU and the administrative expenses incurred in 2024-25?
4. What are the reasons for the revised estimate for 2024-25 to stay lower than the original estimate?
5. What is the work plan of the CEPU (including whether it will plan ahead and make early preparations for the National 15th Five-Year Plan) for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The Chief Executive Policy Unit (CEPU) has 47 posts/positions on its permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service (NCS) positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Among the 39 non-directorate civil service posts, 18 are of officer rank of various grades (including the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Statistician and Statistical Officer grades), who are responsible for the major duties of the CEPU. The remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. Currently, there are 7 vacancies on permanent establishment. Besides, as at 31 March 2025, the CEPU has employed 15 NCS staff remunerated at non-directorate equivalent level to

provide support for research and other duties. The number of relevant posts is set out below:

Table 1

Post	Number	Pay point
<b>Permanent directorate establishment</b>		
D8-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 post	1	Directorate Pay Scale (DPS) Point 8
D4-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 post	1	DPS Point 4
D3-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade B post	2	DPS Point 3
D2/DL2-equivalent NCS position/ Administrative Officer Staff Grade C/ Principal Economist/Government Engineer/ Deputy Principal Government Counsel/ Government Town Planner post	4	DPS Point 2/ Directorate (Legal) Pay Scale Point 2
<b>Permanent non-directorate civil service establishment</b>		
Senior Administrative Officer/ Senior Statistician/ Senior Economist/ Senior Town Planner/ Chief Executive Officer	10	Master Pay Scale (MPS) Point 45 to 49
Senior Executive Officer/ Executive Officer I/ Statistical Officer I	8	MPS Point 22 to 44
Clerical and secretarial grade and other supporting staff	21	MPS Point 1 to 33
<b>Total permanent establishment</b>	<b>47</b>	

Table 2

NCS position	Number	Pay point of comparable civil service ranks
Research Director / Senior Researcher/ Senior Executive Manager	8	MPS Point 34 to 49
Researcher/ Project Manager (Statistical Analysis)/ Project Manager (Public Opinion)/ Assistant Project Manager (Public Opinion)/ Assistant Researcher	7	MPS Point 15 to 33
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	

- To meet the needs of relevant public policy researches, the CEPU will engage external organisations to carry out opinion polls as and when necessary to collect the views and opinions of the public on different policy issues as well as matters of public interest (such as governance and livelihood issues). In 2024-25, the CEPU conducted 17 opinion polls in total. The findings of the surveys conducted by the CEPU are mainly

for internal deliberation and reference by the Chief Executive and the Government. As they serve as a basis for information and analysis in policy formulation and development, it is hence not appropriate to disclose them so as to avoid any undue misinterpretations and speculations. Apart from conducting traditional opinion polls, the CEPU will also deploy other tools such as social media and Internet big data analytics to better understand public sentiments in the digital age, so as to assist in making decisions on policy directions and formulating measures.

3. To carry out the work of the CEPU, professionals and researchers of the CEPU will travel to other regions from time to time as necessary for site visits and attending conferences or seminars to exchange views with different experts. This aims to enrich the CEPU's understanding of the national development strategies and the global development trends, and to enhance its knowledge and grasp of various topics. As at end-March 2025, 20 such visits and exchanges have been conducted by the CEPU, involving a total expenditure of about \$300,000.
4. The revised estimate for 2024-25 is lower than the original estimate. This is mainly because some of the vacancies remain unfilled and the actual amount of grants approved under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) is lower than the original estimate.
5. Since its establishment in December 2022, the CEPU has been striving 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 mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following 4 areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the public sentiment in Hong Kong, understand the general direction and focus of the public's concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in working out policy directions and formulating policy measures.

The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address as well as tracking the implementation of the Policy Address initiatives. Other areas of work undertaken by the CEPU include providing research and secretariat support to the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers, administering the PPRFS and the SPPRFS, as well as maintaining exchanges and close co-operation with various stakeholders (including members of the CEPU Expert Group, academic organisations and think tanks from universities and the community).

Regarding the administration of the PPRFS and the SPPRFS, 6 strategic themes have been identified for the SPPRFS 2025-26. They are (i) Development Opportunities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; (ii) New Quality Productive Forces; (iii) Integrated Development of Education, Technology and Talents; (iv) International Financial, Shipping and Trade Centre; (v) Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism; and (vi) Elderly and Healthcare Services. Under each

strategic theme, there are a number of specified research areas which address the policy priorities of the Government while aligning with the overall direction for national development. The CEPU has also updated the indicative research areas under the PPRFS to better address Hong Kong's current and long-term development needs as well as the needs on various social issues.

The CEPU will develop closer networks with the policy research community, encouraging experts and scholars from think tanks (including think tanks from universities and civil society think tanks) to apply their expertise in respective research areas to conduct evidence-based research on key public policy issues. It will also facilitate knowledge transfer of research findings for reference by relevant bureaux.

Looking ahead, as an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU will continue its endeavour to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and directly report its research outcomes to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation, as well as assisting him in co-ordinating and drafting the 2025 Policy Address. In the process, the CEPU will continue to keep an open mind to maintain communication with various stakeholders in the community as well as Mainland and international organisations, so as to listen to and tap into a wide spectrum of views.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO008**

**(Question Serial No. 3296)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the efforts to tackle hygiene black spots, please advise on:

- a) the initial and revised number of hygiene black spots to be tackled in each of the 18 districts each year since the launch of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, as well as the effectiveness; and
- b) the manpower and expenditure required for tackling hygiene black spots in each of the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to district environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management (including shopfront extension) so as to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for the public and boost our city's image. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters Coordination Task Force (now renamed as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape and put under the Task Force on District Governance (the Task Force) chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS)), launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different bodies and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots has increased from the initial 663 to 738.

The information requested is provided as follows:

- a) At the seventh meeting of the Task Force held in February 2025, DCS instructed various departments to critically review the situation of 738 hygiene black spots in order to assess which ones are suitable for removal from the black spot list, and continue to actively follow

up on those still requiring improvement. Based on subsequent reviews by the departments, the hygiene conditions at about 94% (696) of the hygiene black spots on the list markedly improved and could be considered for removal from the list of black spots. However, 8% (64) of the black spots have not yet met the standard of continual improvement for two years, so they have to remain on the list of black spots. The thematic website of the Programme was updated in end-March 2025 to reflect on the said latest situation.

The numbers of hygiene black spots upon review, with a breakdown by District Council district, is tabulated below:

District Council district	No. of hygiene black spots	Upon review in early February 2025	
		No. of black spots with two years of continual improvement and removed from the list	No. of black spots which have been continuously improved for less than two years
Central and Western District	66	62	1
Eastern District	24	17	3
Southern District	10	8	2
Wan Chai District	18	15	1
Kowloon City District	91	81	5
Kwun Tong District	26	23	3
Sham Shui Po District	31	26	3
Wong Tai Sin District	25	22	2
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	36	17
Islands District	60	56	2
Kwai Tsing District	15	12	2
North District	62	54	8
Sai Kung District	10	10	0
Sha Tin District	22	16	4
Tai Po District	135	135	0
Tsuen Wan District	23	19	4
Tuen Mun District	31	21	4
Yuen Long District	30	19	3
Total	738	632	64
		696	

- b) The Government's work on tackling hygiene black spots is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work for 18 districts. As for the thematic website

of the Programme, its daily maintenance cost for 2024-25 and 2025-26 is about \$360,000 and \$260,000 respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO009**

**(Question Serial No. 1445)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will draw up a list of target enterprises for attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe, particularly those from industries of strategic importance, to establish or expand their operations in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the operating expenditure and staff establishment of the OASES as at February 2025; and
2. whether the estimated expenditure and manpower deployment of the OSASES for the next 2 years will be adjusted in light of the changes in economic situation and market conditions since its establishment?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. As at February 2025, the total operating expenditure of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) is about \$24 million, including \$15 million on staff remuneration for 19 staff (inclusive of 3 non-civil service directorate officers).
2. The OASES will timely review its manpower deployment and estimated expenditure taking into account the actual circumstances including changes in economic and market conditions. In 2025-26, the OASES has re-deployed resources within the approved funding and set up an Industry Ecosystem Development team to formulate and provide comprehensive aftercare support services for strategic enterprises establishing business in Hong Kong.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO010**

**(Question Serial No. 1133)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government announced in the 2022 Policy Address the establishment of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) to attract high potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe. Since its establishment, OASES has attracted 66 strategic enterprises, 80% of which have established or planned to establish their global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government provide this Committee with the following information:

1. a list of these 66 strategic enterprises showing their place of origin and type of industry;
2. the estimated job opportunities to be brought by these strategic enterprises; and
3. whether OASES has devised a mechanism to provide aftercare support for enterprises that have already been attracted to Hong Kong in order to retain them?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. So far 66 strategic enterprises have been attracted to Hong Kong through the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES). A majority of them have officially become OASES partners and their names have been announced earlier on public occasions. The remaining enterprises would like to keep a low profile due to commercial reasons or other considerations and we respect their preference.

The breakdowns of these 66 strategic enterprises according their type of industry [Note] and declared place of origin, with their respective percentage share, are set out below:

(i) Type of industry

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	33%
Artificial intelligence and data science	37%
Financial technology	12%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	18%

(ii) Declared place of origin

	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Mainland	82%
Europe and North America	18%

[Note] Given that the scope of business of some strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

2. The 60-plus enterprises so attracted are expected to bring in a total investment of over \$42 billion to Hong Kong and create about 17 000 jobs in the next few years.
3. OASES has set up an Industry Ecosystem Development team to help enterprises meet their different business needs. On professional services, we will help match enterprises in need with local services providers in accounting, legal, consultancy and other professions with global development experience, so as to facilitate the enterprises to develop and operate their regional or global businesses with Hong Kong as their regional or global headquarters. As regards university research institutes, we will maintain close liaison with local universities to link enterprises up with suitable research and development (R&D) resources and talent, and to help set up R&D centres. On business development, we will actively assist enterprises in exploring local and overseas markets and build business networks. On financing, we will help strategic enterprises understand the overall picture of our financial and capital markets, and provide them with information on relevant policies and funding schemes, with a view to helping them set up corporate treasury centres and go public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Regarding support services for talent, we will co-ordinate the handling of visa applications from different kinds of talent employed by the enterprises for coming to Hong Kong under various schemes, including the Top Talent Pass Scheme and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme. Meanwhile, we will help enterprises recruit suitable R&D and talented professionals. We will also help enterprises gain an understanding of our talent policies and relevant support measures on recruitment, so that enterprises can attract and retain the talent they need, thus being able to pursue long-term development in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO011**

**(Question Serial No. 2922)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

As stated in paragraph 28 of the Budget Speech, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has, since its establishment, attracted 66 strategic enterprises, 80 per cent of which have established or planned to establish their global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- 1) whether key performance indicators (KPIs) for aspects of performance such as the number of enterprises brought in and the amount of direct investment the enterprises can bring in have been set for the years from 2025/26 to 2027/28; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons for that; and how work effectiveness can be analysed;
- 2) on attracting enterprises from the Mainland, how it discusses with the Mainland authorities the streamlining of approval process for Mainland enterprises to “go global” and set up headquarters or dual headquarters in Hong Kong, so as to facilitate more Mainland enterprises to develop their businesses in Hong Kong and “venture overseas”; and
- 3) of the preferential policies (e.g. tax, land costs, talent and intellectual property) that OASES plans to offer to strategic enterprises coming to Hong Kong to step up its efforts in attracting businesses and investment.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- 1) According to the 2024 Policy Address, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will reach out to no fewer than 350 strategic enterprises in 2025 to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. It will also continue to work closely with the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, Invest Hong Kong and other relevant bureaux and departments to attract high-potential and

representative innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises to set up their businesses in Hong Kong. Members of the OASES will monitor the landing progress and economic impact of OASES enterprises.

- 2) About 80% of the strategic enterprises brought in successfully by OASES are from the Mainland. OASES will find out the Mainland enterprises' concerns regarding setting up business in Hong Kong and report them timely to the Financial Secretary and other relevant bureaux, departments or organisations for appropriate follow-up actions, thereby facilitating the development of Mainland enterprises in Hong Kong.
- 3) One of the major tasks of OASES in attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe is to formulate targeted and attractive special facilitation measures and provide these enterprises with suitable facilitation services. For example, it will brief these enterprises on the policies of the Hong Kong Government, including Hong Kong's simple and transparent tax regime with low tax burden, preferential tax policies under specific conditions, government subsidy schemes and the status of land available for development.

In recent years, the Government has been actively promoting various government support and incentives related to I&T industry, covering I&T infrastructure, research and development, talent, funding, etc. Having regard to the specific needs of the strategic enterprises, OASES will, in coordination with the relevant bureaux and departments, provide policy support and subsidies as appropriate. It will also assist in the talent's visa application, provide information about their children's education and connect with I&T parks, universities and research institutions, business associations and industry organisations as well as professional services.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO012**

**(Question Serial No. 2954)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government launched the three-year Newborn Baby Bonus Scheme (the Scheme) on 25 October 2023 to encourage childbirth. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the numbers of applications received, approved and rejected each year since the implementation of the Scheme, the average processing time for each application received, the major reasons for applications being rejected, as well as the total amount of the bonus involved in the applications approved; and
- (2) whether the Government has received any enquiries or complaints on the implementation of the Scheme. If yes, what are the numbers or nature of the enquiries or complaints?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The Government announced in the 2023 Policy Address a cash reward of \$20,000 to eligible parents for each baby born from 25 October 2023 (i.e. the Newborn Baby Bonus), for a period of three years. Starting from 25 October 2023, parents can submit an application for the bonus at the same time when registering the birth of their baby and applying for a birth certificate. As at 15 March 2025, a total of about 42 060 qualified applications have been received and bonus has been distributed to 41 304 applicants, at a total amount of approximately \$826 million.

If the bank information provided by an eligible applicant is correct, the bonus will be credited to the local sole-name bank account of the payee in about two to three weeks' time in general.

If the disbursement fails due to incorrect information provided, the applicant will be notified by SMS and be requested to promptly provide the correct information, therefore the processing time for such cases will be extended. The application forms for the bonus are distributed by the Immigration Department to persons who meet the eligibility criteria, hence there are no rejected application.

Since the launch of the Newborn Baby Bonus Scheme, the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration's Office has received about 1 700 enquiries in total via telephone calls or emails. The public mainly enquired about how to deal with practical operational issues encountered during the application process, such as not having submitted the bonus application together with birth registration for the newborn; handling of online bonus application interrupted by network service abnormalities; eligibility for application; and the timing of disbursement of bonus. Responses to these general enquiries and the relevant information are available in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the dedicated Newborn Baby Bonus Scheme website.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO013**

**(Question Serial No. 1035)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

According to the Budget, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has attracted 66 strategic enterprises to Hong Kong since its establishment. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- a) the number of staff and the salary expenses for staff of OASES in 2024;
- b) the number of enterprises that OASES plans to attract to Hong Kong in 2025, the total investment to be made and the total employment opportunities to be created by these enterprises in Hong Kong in the future; and
- c) the number of enterprises that have requested facilitation services like visa application, provision of information on children's education for overseas talent from OASES each year since its establishment? If there have been such requests, please give the details such as the number of cases, the nationality of the talent and the nature of the enterprises.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- a) Currently, there are a total of 19 staff, including 3 non-civil service directorate officers in the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES). The staff remuneration for 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025) is about \$15 million.
- b) So far a total of 3 partnership signing ceremonies have been held by OASES. It is expected that the 60-plus strategic enterprises so attracted are expected to bring in a total investment of over \$42 billion to Hong Kong and create about 17 000 jobs in the next few years. OASES will announce a new batch of more than 10 strategic enterprises in April. Together with those previously attracted, they will invest a total of about \$50 billion in Hong Kong and create more than 20 000 jobs over the coming few years. In 2025, OASES will reach out to no less than 350 strategic enterprises to negotiate for establishing their foothold or expanding their operations in Hong Kong, and to fast-track their development in the city.

- c) Since its inception, OASES has been offering support services to enterprises in various aspects, including professional services, expertise service from university research institutes, business development, financing and support services for talent. On professional services, we will help match enterprises in need with local services providers in accounting, legal, consultancy and other professions with global development experience, so as to facilitate the enterprises to develop and operate their regional or global businesses with Hong Kong as their regional or global headquarters. As regards university research institutes, we will maintain close liaison with local universities to link enterprises up with suitable research and development (R&D) resources and talent, and to help set up R&D centres. On business development, we will actively assist enterprises in exploring local and overseas markets and building business networks. On financing, we will help strategic enterprises understand the overall picture of our financial and capital markets, and provide them with information on relevant policies and funding schemes, with a view to helping them set up corporate treasury centres and go public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Regarding support services for talent, we will co-ordinate the handling of visa applications from different kinds of talent employed by the enterprises for coming to Hong Kong under various schemes, including the Top Talent Pass Scheme and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme. Meanwhile, we will help enterprises recruit suitable R&D and talented professionals. We will also help enterprises gain an understanding of our talent policies and relevant support measures on recruitment, so that enterprises can attract and retain the talent they need, thus being able to pursue long-term development in Hong Kong.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO014**

**(Question Serial No. 1841)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

As far as the strategic enterprises attracted by the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises are concerned, are there any plans to support them in establishing their global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong? If so, please state the work involved; if not, please state the reasons. It is also mentioned that many of these strategic enterprises are innovation and technology enterprises with a market valuation of over \$10 billion. What incentives does the Government offer to encourage these enterprises to pursue long-term development in Hong Kong? Are there specific supporting policies?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Regarding the strategic enterprises attracted by the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), about 80% of them have planned to establish their global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong. The OASES has been rendering corresponding support for them to facilitate the establishment of global or regional headquarters. We have set up an Industry Ecosystem Development team has been set up to cater for enterprises' different business needs. On provision of professional services, we assist enterprises in need of professional services such as accounting, law and consultancy services to liaise with local firms which are specialised in related services and have global development experience, thereby facilitating enterprises to develop and operate their regional and global businesses using Hong Kong as their regional or global headquarters. On universities' research institutes, we maintain close ties with local universities so as to match enterprises with suitable research and development (R&D) resources and talents for establishing R&D centres in Hong Kong. On business development, we have actively assisted enterprises in tapping local and overseas market opportunities and building business networks. With regard to financing, support has been given to help strategic enterprises understand the local financial and capital markets, obtain information on relevant policies and funding schemes, establish corporate treasury centres, and arrange for listing on the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited etc. On talent

services, we co-ordinate the processing of various visa applications from enterprises for talent admission, including those under the Top Talent Pass Scheme and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme. At the same time, we also provide assistance for enterprises to recruit suitable R&D and professional talents, as well as understand the talent policies and related support measures in Hong Kong. Our assistance in recruitment will enable enterprises to attract and retain the talents required for long-term development in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO015**

**(Question Serial No. 1842)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Question:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises will announce a new batch of more than 10 strategic enterprises next month. Together with those previously announced, they will invest a total of about \$50 billion in Hong Kong and create more than 20 000 jobs over the next few years. What industries does the corresponding investment mainly focus on and is the investment in line with the direction of Hong Kong's long-term economic development? How will the Government ensure the sustainability of investment made by the attracted enterprises and monitor the development of these enterprises to ensure that they can achieve the expected investment and employment targets?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has been proactively reaching out to and attracting global high-potential and representative strategic enterprises, particularly those from industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong, including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. In addition, it is proposed in the 2025-26 Budget that more cultural and creative enterprises integrating innovation and technology (I&T) into their work will be strategically attracted to Hong Kong, so as to foster the vibrant development of the local creative industry chain.

The OASES deploys dedicated staff to engage with the strategic enterprises and regularly monitor their development in Hong Kong. Through close communication, gain an in-depth understanding of their development plans for the initial years and assist them in taking forward critical tasks, including establishing headquarters, research and development (R&D) centres, treasury centres and innovation industry bases, as well as expanding their domestic

and international businesses, with a view to tying in with Hong Kong's long-term strategies for promoting I&T development.

The OASES has also established a monitoring mechanism to regularly review the development progress of the enterprises. Through regular meetings, we understand their progress in investment, R&D activities and job creation in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, we provide targeted support in a timely manner having regard to their needs at different stages of development, assisting them in using Hong Kong as a base. We also offer support services in such areas as talent, capital and R&D to facilitate their growth in businesses overseas or in China. We believe that the successful development of these enterprises, which leverage the advantages under "One Country, Two Systems", as well as the Government's preferential policies, talent attraction strategies, industrial synergy and infrastructural support, will create more quality employment opportunities in Hong Kong, and enable the enterprises to achieve their long-term development goals for investing in the city.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO016**

**(Question Serial No. 0786)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Office of Former Chief Executives (the Office) provides administrative support for former Chief Executives (CEs) to perform promotional, protocol-related and other activities in relation to their former official role. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the recurrent expenditures (with breakdowns) and non-recurrent expenditures of the Office at 28 Kennedy Road, Central in each of the past 2 years? What are the estimated recurrent expenditures (with breakdowns) and non-recurrent expenditures of the Office for this year?
2. What were the recurrent expenditures (with breakdowns) and non-recurrent expenditures of the Office at Pacific Place, Admiralty in each of the past 2 years?
3. It is learnt that the Office of the former CE Mrs Carrie LAM will be relocated to the former Immigration Tower, Wan Chai this year. What are the estimated expenditures and breakdowns (including relocation and renovation costs, etc.) concerned? What are the estimated recurrent expenditures (with breakdowns) and non-recurrent expenditures of the Office at the former Immigration Tower, Wan Chai for this year?
4. For how many years does the Government expect the Office in Wan Chai to remain in service? In the long run, is there any plan to identify an office for permanent use by the fourth former CE in order to minimise the additional expenditures incurred in office relocation and renovation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
5. What were the numbers of promotional/protocol-related activities attended by each former CE in his/her capacity as a former CE in each of the past 2 years?

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

Reply:

The actual expenditure of the Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) at 28 Kennedy Road in 2023-24 was about \$11.04 million, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 was about \$10.82 million. The estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is about \$11.53 million, representing an increase of

\$710,000 over the revised estimate for 2024-25, mainly due to the payment of contract gratuities for that year.

The 2023-24 actual expenditure of the Office at Pacific Place in Admiralty was \$8.86 million, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 was about \$9.42 million, representing an increase of \$560,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023-24, mainly due to the payment of contract gratuities for that year as well. The Government plans to relocate the Office to 23/F, Immigration Tower in Wan Chai for continuous operation. The renovation works, which is carried out by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), is in progress and the estimated renovation cost is around \$2.8 million. The estimated expenditure of the Office for 2025-26 is about \$3.63 million, representing a decrease of \$5.79 million over the revised estimate for 2024-25, mainly due to savings on rent and related expenses after the relocation. The service period of the Office at the Immigration Tower in Wan Chai will depend on actual circumstances, including the Wan Chai North Redevelopment project, and will align with the project implementation timetable. The Government will continue to provide appropriate office accommodation and administrative support to all former Chief Executives (CEs) according to the recommendations set out in the Report of the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, so as to facilitate their performance of promotional and protocol-related functions for Hong Kong.

As for non-recurrent expenditures, given that the Office at 28 Kennedy Road, Central is a government property rated as Grade 1 historic building, the ArchSD carries out maintenance having regard to its actual needs, as in the case of other similar properties. The expenditure for maintenance works is funded under Subhead 000 of Head 25 (ArchSD), while refurbishment and improvement works are funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. The relevant expenditures in 2023-24 and 2024-25 were about \$240,000 and \$500,000 respectively.

According to the information provided by the Office, the 4 former CE's attended more than 3 300 promotional/protocol-related functions in his/her capacity as the former CE in the past 2 years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO017**

**(Question Serial No. 3038)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Under this Programme, the Chief Executive's Policy Unit states that it will continue to conduct policy research about Hong Kong's domestic challenges to keep up with the global and Mainland development trends with a view to providing informed advices to the Chief Executive. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the specific issues involved in "Hong Kong's domestic challenges" for the new financial year; and
2. the timetable and expenditure for the research of each issue.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

As the Chief Executive has emphasised time and again, the current-term Government has always maintained an innovative mindset to embrace reform and changes while abandoning old paths and pursuing innovation. Examples include amending legislation, devising and optimising administrative measures, streamlining procedures and being result-oriented. In the face of increased geopolitical complexity and volatility, escalated trade protectionism held by some economies, and continued turmoil in the external environment, the Chief Executive has stated that we must reform further and break new ground by thinking outside the box to seek breakthroughs in various areas. We must also bear in mind that time waits for no one. There is an urgency to fully capitalise the advantages under "One Country, Two Systems", leverage our role in connecting with both the Mainland and the world, and proactively collaborate with cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for promoting the integrated development of the GBA, so that we can better integrate into the overall national development while tapping into emerging markets. In addition, the Government will expedite the development of the Northern Metropolis and the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, and formulate specific work plans on key projects

for implementation as soon as possible, such as bolstering maritime and port development, consolidating and enhancing our status as an international financial centre, and further reinforcing our status as a trade centre, demonstrating the Government's determination to reform, innovate and break new ground, and leading all sectors of the community in moving forward and scaling new heights with the Government.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and directly reports its research outcomes to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation. The CEPU will also assist the Chief Executive in co-ordinating and drafting the 2025 Policy Address. Given that in-house research work is part of CEPU's regular duties, we do not keep separate statistical data on the manpower and expenditure involved in individual in-house research projects.

Separately, the CEPU administers the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS), which aim to encourage tertiary institutions and public policy research think tanks to conduct evidence-based public policy research in Hong Kong, with a view to facilitating public policy discussion and knowledge transfer of research findings, as well as nurturing the talents required. For the SPPRFS 2025-26, 6 strategic themes have been identified. They are: (i) Development Opportunities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; (ii) New Quality Productive Forces; (iii) Integrated Development of Education, Technology and Talents; (iv) International Financial, Shipping and Trade Centre; (v) Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism; and (vi) Elderly and Healthcare Services. Under each strategic theme, there are a number of specified research areas which address the policy priorities of the Government while aligning with the overall direction for national development. The SPPRFS 2025-26 is now open for application. The funding cap for each approved research project is \$5 million. Meanwhile, the CEPU has also updated the indicative research areas under the PPRFS to align with Hong Kong's current and long-term development and meet the needs for research on various social issues. Applications for the PPRFS are accepted throughout the year. Each project will normally be granted \$1 million or below.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO018**

**(Question Serial No. 1129)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the work indicators of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit,

- (1) the number of proposals received in 2024 was 154, representing a significant increase of 44 compared with 2023. Please provide the following information about these new proposals: (a) sources, (b) areas covered, (c) number of proposed items accepted, (d) areas of application, and (e) whether the Government has paid any remuneration for these proposals.
- (2) For the 170 proposals expected to be received by the Policy Unit in 2025, (a) will they be put forward at the invitation of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit or submitted by some designated organisations, and (b) will the Chief Executive's Policy Unit propose the topics?
- (3) For the 26 projects expected to be funded by the Policy Unit in 2025, what are the amount of funding and the funded institutions or organisations, and what are the projects about? What is their funding period in general? What are the vetting and approving procedures? Of these 26 projects, are there any ongoing projects that will continue from 2024-25 to the coming year? Are the funded projects and the completed ones related?
- (4) The estimate for 2025-26 is increased by \$12.1 million or 9.9%. According to the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, this is mainly for filling vacancies, conducting more researches and funding more projects. What are the number and details of the vacancies to be filled, and the number of skeleton staff in the Chief Executive's Policy Unit upon filling the vacancies? Are they primarily local staff? Are there any incoming professionals? If so, what are the number of such professionals and their positions?

- (5) How many advisory bodies or committees are established under the Chief Executive's Policy Unit? If there is none, are there any plans to establish such bodies or committees in 2025-26?
- (6) Given the pressing need for effective measures to revitalise our economy at present, is the Policy Unit conducting any large-scale consultations or studies on Hong Kong's way forward?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (1) to (3) The Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) aim to facilitate public policy discussion and knowledge transfer of research findings, as well as nurturing the talents required. The research projects under the PPRFS normally last for 6 to 12 months, while those under the SPPRFS may last for 1 to 5 years as the SPPRFS focuses on longer-term public policy research on strategic themes and research areas identified by the Government. Applications for the PPRFS are accepted throughout the year, while those for the SPPRFS are invited once a year in general. Eligible tertiary institutions and public policy research think tanks may submit proposals on the strategic themes and specified research areas identified by the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) to align with the Government's research needs and policy priorities. The 2 schemes will provide funding to cover the expenses required for conducting the research projects and falling within the approved scope.

As for the vetting and approving procedures, assessment for the 2 schemes will be conducted by an Assessment Panel comprising experienced academics and professional experts. The Assessment Panel will make recommendations to the Government after the assessment. It will also take into account the comments of external academics and professional experts as well as relevant bureaux/departments.

In 2024-25, a total of 154 proposals were received under the 2 schemes. 22 research projects were approved after assessment by the Assessment Panel and they are currently in progress.

For 2025-26, we expect to receive 170 proposals under the 2 schemes. For budgeting purpose, we expect to grant funding to 26 research projects..

- (4) As mentioned in the reply above, we have earmarked provision for funding 26 research projects under the 2 research funding schemes. Regarding manpower, the CEPU has 47 posts/positions on its permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service (NCS) positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Among the 39 non-directorate civil service posts, 18 are of officer rank of various grades including the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Statistician and Statistical Officer grades, who are responsible for the key duties of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. There are 7

vacancies on the permanent establishment at the moment. Separately, as at 31 March 2025, we have employed 15 NCS staff remunerated at non-directorate equivalent level to provide support for research and other duties. The CEPU is currently undergoing recruitment of Assistant Researchers, and expects to hire 2 to 3 staff. According to the Government's appointment policy, all government staff must be permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, except for cases justified by specific reasons. At present, 1 staff employed by the CEPU is a non-permanent resident.

- (5) The CEPU provides research and secretariat support to the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers, which is a high-level advisory body to advise the Chief Executive on the strategic development of Hong Kong with a view to leveraging opportunities presented by national and global developments. The Council of Advisers is chaired by the Chief Executive and consists of 32 non-official members at present.

The CEPU Expert Group is another advisory body, which comprises members from different backgrounds, including the business, financial and professional sectors, think tanks and the academia, to provide professional views and new ideas to the CEPU on various topics. Currently, the Expert Group has a total of 59 members.

- (6) Since its establishment in December 2022, the CEPU has aimed at enhancing the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive, the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the public sentiment in Hong Kong, understand the general direction and focus of the public's concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating policy measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and directly reports its research outcomes to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO019**

**(Question Serial No. 1718)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. Please provide the number of users of the Public Records Office (PRO) Search Room in 2024;
2. The actual number of visitors to the PRO in 2024 was 7 288, and the estimated number of visitors in 2025 has been revised down to 6 200. Please explain the downward adjustment in the estimated number of visitors;
3. The PRO has earmarked \$100,000 in 2024-25 for the procurement of archival records from other places. Please provide the details of the records procured;
4. Please inform the Committee whether the Government has earmarked any provision for the procurement of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other places in 2025-26;
5. What are the specific publicity activities to be organised by the Government in 2025-26 to strengthen public education and publicity on Hong Kong's documentary heritage?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. In 2024, the number of users of the Public Records Office (PRO) Search Room was 7 288.
2. The Government Records Service (GRS) makes reference to various factors, including data from past years, when estimating the number of visitors in future. As the actual number of visitors exceeded 7 000 for the first time in 2024, the GRS has upward adjusted the estimated number of visitors in 2025 from 5 300 (last year's estimate) to 6 200.
3. Over the years, the GRS has been procuring copies of archival records relating to the past of Hong Kong from archival institutions in various regions (including overseas and the Mainland) to enrich its holdings. In 2024-25, the GRS procured copies of 177 archival records including files, photographs and maps concerning transport development, social welfare, education, etc., from The National Archives of the United Kingdom.

4. To enrich its holdings, the GRS has earmarked \$70,000 in 2025-26 for the procurement of copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong from the archival institutions of other places.
5. The GRS organises exhibitions, seminars, workshops, group visits and other educational activities regularly to promote the documentary heritage of Hong Kong. Details of the GRS' public education and publicity programmes scheduled for 2025-26 are set out below:
  - (a) organise onsite or online group visits to the GRS with an estimated number of more than 2 000 participants;
  - (b) conduct onsite or online educational talks or workshops for teachers and students, facilitating them to use the archival records kept by the GRS to conduct researches on Hong Kong's development in different areas;
  - (c) co-organise academic seminars and workshops relating to Hong Kong's archival records with local universities;
  - (d) organise an annual thematic exhibition cum roving exhibitions and set up an online Resources Page to help the public better understand, appreciate and utilise the local documentary heritage and archival records kept by the GRS;
  - (e) continue to 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
  - (f) continue to enrich the content of the PRO Facebook page ([fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice](https://fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice)), so as to strengthen connection and interaction with the public.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO020**

**(Question Serial No. 0941)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government officially launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) on 14 August 2022. Government departments strengthen their work on tackling some 700 hygiene and street management black spots throughout the city in order to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for the public and boost our city's image. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Will the Government set out the details of all expenditures incurred under the Programme since its implementation, including equipment procurement, administrative expenses and expenditures for outsourced services?
2. In 2023, the Government raised the penalty levels against littering and shop front extensions from \$1,500 to \$3,000 and \$6,000 respectively. Will the Government set out the total number of fixed penalty notices issued against littering and shop front extensions and the total revenue from the penalties since the penalty level adjustment?
3. How many hygiene black spots in total have been removed from the list of such spots since the launch of the Programme?
4. There are views relaying that many places of poor hygiene conditions are not included in the list of hygiene black spots. Will the Government elaborate on the criteria for including places in the list?
5. There are views that the implementation of the Programme does not have a positive effect on private premises with poor hygiene conditions. Will the Government elaborate on its efforts in managing hygiene black spots on private premises?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to district environmental issues and is committed to improving environmental hygiene and street management (including shopfront extensions), so as to safeguard public health, build a liveable environment for the public and boost our city's image. Following its establishment in July 2022, the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force ( now renamed as the Working Group on Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape and put under the Task Force on District Governance (the Task Force) chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS)) launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots (the Programme) in August of the same year. The Programme focuses on tackling environmental hygiene black spots across the city and strengthening the cleansing of about 4 000 public places and the clearance of dangerous or abandoned signboards. In view of the feedback from different parties and members of the public, the number of listed hygiene black spots had increased from the initial 663 to 738.

The information requested is provided as follows:

1. The Government's work on tackling hygiene black spots is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the relevant work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work. As for the thematic website of the Programme, its daily maintenance cost for 2024-25 and 2025-26 is about \$360,000 and \$260,000 respectively.
2. The amended Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) came into effect on 22 October 2023. From the commencement of the amended Ordinance to 31 January 2025, the Government issued 40 028 and 1 710 fixed penalty notices against littering and shop front extensions respectively, involving penalties of approximately \$130 million.
3. At the seventh meeting of the Task Force held in February 2025, DCS instructed various departments to critically review the situation of all 738 hygiene black spots to assess which ones are suitable for removal from the list of black spots, and continue to actively follow up on those still requiring improvement. Based on subsequent reviews by the departments, the hygiene conditions at around 94% (696) of the hygiene black spots on the list have been markedly improved and could be considered for removal from the list of black spots. However, 8% (64) of the black spots have not yet met the standard of continual improvement for two years, so they have to remain on the list of black spots for now. The thematic website of the Programme was updated in end-March 2025 to reflect the said latest situation.

The number of hygiene black spots upon review, with a breakdown by District Council district, is tabulated below:

District Council district	No. of hygiene black spots	Upon review in early February 2025	
		No. of black spots with two years of continual improvement and removed from the list	No. of black spots which have been continuously improved for less than two years
Central and Western District	66	62	1
Eastern District	24	17	3
Southern District	10	8	2
Wan Chai District	18	15	1
Kowloon City District	91	81	5
Kwun Tong District	26	23	3
Sham Shui Po District	31	26	3
Wong Tai Sin District	25	22	2
Yau Tsim Mong District	59	36	17
Islands District	60	56	2
Kwai Tsing District	15	12	2
North District	62	54	8
Sai Kung District	10	10	0
Sha Tin District	22	16	4
Tai Po District	135	135	0
Tsuen Wan District	23	19	4
Tuen Mun District	31	21	4
Yuen Long District	30	19	3
Total	738	632	64
		696	

- Hygiene black spots are places with persisting and recurring environmental hygiene issues. To provide an additional channel for the public to report environmental hygiene issues on the district level, in January 2023, the Government launched a thematic website of the Programme where citizens can provide feedback on listed black spots or suggest new black spots for consideration by departments. As at mid-March 2025, the thematic website accumulated about 34 700 hits and collected about 2 420 public comments in total. Generally speaking, the environmental hygiene problems found in the majority of the newly reported spots have been reviewed and considered by departments concerned as short-term and non-continuous. With the departments' cleansing efforts, follow-up actions and enhanced inspections, these problems have been effectively resolved with no sign of recurrence. Members of the public can also report environmental hygiene issues in districts to the Government through other channels, such as email and the 1823 hotline.



5. Owners and occupiers are responsible for maintaining the good hygiene of their private premises. For hygiene problem that occurs in private premises and causes nuisance to others or the general public, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will provide health education to the occupiers or owners concerned, or order them to rectify the situation according to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). If they fail to comply, FEHD will carry out prosecution and other follow-up actions. In case of appalling hygiene conditions, FEHD would consider conducting one-off operation to improve the hygiene situation as soon as possible, and subsequently recover the expenses incurred from the person(s) concerned.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO021**

**(Question Serial No. 0983)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Under the programme, during 2025-26, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), established under the Financial Secretary's Office, will continue to 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; formulate attractive special facilitation measures that are applicable exclusively to target enterprises, and provide them with tailor-made plans to facilitate the setting up of their operations in Hong Kong; provide the employees of these target enterprises with one-stop facilitation services; and monitor the landing progress and economic impact of OASES enterprises. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The estimate for Programme (3) in 2025-26 is \$769.4 million, an increase of 3.3% over the revised estimate for the previous year. What are the reasons for the increase in the estimated expenditure and the main purposes of the expenditure?
2. The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 have been updated from that of the previous year to include OASES' plan to "monitor the landing progress and economic impact of OASES enterprises". What is the estimated expenditure and staffing establishment relating to the relevant initiative?
3. How many Mainland small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were successfully attracted by OASES in 2024-25? What industries were primarily involved?
4. What is the target number of Mainland SMEs in the list of target enterprises for 2025-26? What industries are involved? Have the authorities considered drawing up a timetable for attracting enterprises having regard to different stages of development of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditure under Programme (3) in 2025-26 is about 3.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in expenditures for filling of vacancies and hire of services.

2. All team members of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) will monitor the landing progress and economic impact of OASES enterprises. In addition to the 3 directorate officers in the organisational structure, there are 3 other officers dedicated to the relevant work. Regarding the estimated expenditure on the work, apart from the payroll costs of the officers mentioned above, all other relevant expenditures are included in the daily operational expenses. The total estimated expenditure for OASES in 2025-26 is about \$58.51 million. The OASES deploys existing resources to implement the relevant work. As the expenditure involved has been subsumed under OASES's operating expenses, a breakdown of the expenditure is not available.
3. The OASES held 2 OASES Partnership Signing Ceremonies in 2024-25 (for the second and third batches of enterprises in March 2024 and November 2024 respectively), successfully attracting over 40 strategic enterprises. These enterprises are mainly engaged in the fields such as artificial intelligence and data science, life and health technology, advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, and financial technology. Together with over 20 enterprises from the first batch in November 2023, the signing ceremonies of the 3 batches brought in a total of 66 strategic enterprises. Many of these enterprises are with a valuation of over \$10 billion, and nearly half of them are leading enterprises in the industries. Among them, 80% of the enterprises have established or plan to establish their global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong. By establishing or expanding their operations in Hong Kong, these strategic enterprises will attract upstream, midstream and downstream partners of their respective industry chains to Hong Kong. Many of them are the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from the Mainland. Together, they will jointly promote the vibrant development of our innovation and technology ecosystem. Apart from the leading enterprises in the industry, OASES is also concerned about SMEs engaging in cutting-edge technologies. The OASES attracted a total of 2 SMEs from the Mainland in 2024-25, which are from the life and health technology and advanced manufacturing industries respectively.
4. The OASES and Invest Hong Kong are tasked with different responsibilities. The OASES focuses on strategic enterprises mainly from the fields of artificial intelligence and data science, life and health technology, advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, and financial technology, etc., to explore the possibility of them to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong and help these strategic enterprises expedite their development in Hong Kong. The OASES plans to reach out to over 350 potential strategic enterprises in 2025. It is expected that about 10% of these enterprises are medium enterprises with cutting-edge technologies and strong development potential. Meanwhile, to foster the vibrant development of the local creative industry chain, OASES will strategically attract to Hong Kong more cultural and creative enterprises that integrate innovation and technology into their work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO022**

**(Question Serial No. 2027)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Office of Former Chief Executives (the Office) provides administrative support for former Chief Executives to perform promotional, protocol-related and other activities in relation to their former official role. The activities include receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending public and social events, and taking part in speaking engagements. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures involved for the Office in each of the past 3 financial years?
- (b) The Office at Pacific Place, Admiralty will be relocated to the Immigration Tower in Wan Chai. What are the expenses relating to relocation and renovation? What is the estimated annual operating expenditure after the relocation?
- (c) For how many years is the Office at the Immigration Tower, Wan Chai expected to remain in service?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The actual expenditures of the Office of Former Chief Executives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Office) in 2022-23 and 2023-24 were about \$17.85 million and \$19.9 million respectively, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 was about \$20.24 million.

The Government plans to relocate the Office at Pacific Place in Admiralty to 23/F, Immigration Tower in Wan Chai for continuous operation. The renovation works, which is carried out by the Architectural Services Department, is in progress and the estimated renovation cost is around \$2.8 million. The estimated expenditure of the Office for 2025-26 is about \$3.63 million, representing a decrease of \$5.79 million over the revised estimate for 2024-25, mainly due to savings on rent and related expenses after the relocation. The service period of the Office at the Immigration Tower in Wan Chai will depend on actual

circumstances, including the Wan Chai North Redevelopment project, and will align with the project implementation timetable. The Government will continue to provide appropriate office accommodation and administrative support to all former Chief Executives according to the recommendations set out in the Report of the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, so as to facilitate their performance of promotional and protocol-related functions for Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO023**

**(Question Serial No. 1952)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In response to public comments that the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) may be overstaffed and its staff overpaid (with researchers' monthly salary being as high as \$60,000), I raised a question in the last financial year on whether the CEPU could reduce its manpower by using ChatGPT. However, my recommendation has not been adopted. The development of artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing rapidly. The recently released DeepSeek has achieved remarkable results without charging a single cent. In this connection, will the Director inform this Committee of:

1. the establishment and estimated expenditure of the CEPU for the 2024-25 financial year as well as the rate of change when compared to the budget for the new financial year;
2. the emoluments for each post within the establishment and the rate of change when compared to the previous financial year in detail;
3. how the CEPU will reduce its spending in accordance with the Financial Secretary's directive to require government departments to achieve a 2% savings in expenditure; and
4. whether the CEPU will use AI to replace part of its establishment in the new financial year; if so, the estimated reduction in manpower and expenditure; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- 1-2. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) has 47 posts/positions on its permanent establishment, including 8 directorate civil service posts/non-civil service (NCS) positions and 39 non-directorate civil service posts. Among the 39 non-directorate civil service posts, 18 are of officer rank of various grades including the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Statistician and Statistical Officer Grades, who are responsible for the key duties of the CEPU, while the remaining 21 posts are mainly of clerical and secretarial grades to provide general administrative support. There are 7 vacancies on the permanent establishment at the moment. Separately, as at 31 March

2025, we have employed 15 NCS staff on contract terms to provide support for research and other duties. The CEPU is currently undergoing recruitment of Assistant Researchers, and expects to hire 2 to 3 staff.

The revised estimate for the expenditures on staff emoluments and relevant expenses in 2024-25 was about \$72 million. In 2025-26, we have earmarked \$82 million for relevant expenses.

3. In line with the Government's reduction of expenditure, the CEPU will further review our resource allocation and work priorities, and perform our various duties in a more cost-effective manner through consolidating internal resources, streamlining procedures and leveraging technology.
4. 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 members of the CEPU Expert Group, academic organisations and think tanks, etc. As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and directly reports its research outcomes to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation.

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, enabling us to handle more research and other duties of greater complexity and enhance efficiency. This will help achieve the governance vision of the Chief Executive on "chasing back time and results" amidst a complex and volatile international situation with Hong Kong progressing towards the new stage from stability to prosperity.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO024**

**(Question Serial No. 1954)**

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please advise this Committee on the following related to the new financial year:

1. Regarding the report that the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) aims to maintain an annual research provision of \$30 million to provide funding for the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS), is there any increase or decrease in the estimated research provision concerned for the new financial year?
2. How many research projects does the CEPU expect to complete in the new financial year? Please list the titles of all the projects.
3. Have any key performance indicators been formulated for CEPU's research work and expenditure? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) aim to encourage tertiary institutions and public policy research think tanks to conduct evidence-based public policy research in Hong Kong, with a view to facilitating public policy discussion and knowledge transfer of research findings, as well as nurturing the talents required. The estimated provision for the two funding schemes in 2025-26 is \$26 million, which is similar to the original estimates in the past 2 years.
- 2-3. Since its establishment in December 2022, the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) has aimed at enhancing the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. In accordance with the Chief Executive's directive,



the CEPU mainly assists the Government in policymaking in the following four areas, viz. to advocate for and assist in the formulation of long-term and strategic policies from a forward-thinking perspective; to keep abreast of national development, including directions, plans and policies, analyse and suggest areas of significance in the integration into national development; to examine international relations and situations, and analyse opportunities and risks, so that the Government can seize opportunities and prevent risks at the same time; and to grasp the public sentiment in Hong Kong, understand the general direction and focus of the public's concerns, discover factors that are conducive to social harmony and stability, and assist the Government in planning decision-making directions and formulating policy measures. The CEPU is also responsible for co-ordinating and drafting the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

As an in-house research unit for the Chief Executive, the CEPU endeavours to provide the Chief Executive with multifaceted perspectives and basis for research, and directly reports its research outcomes to the Chief Executive to assist him in policy deliberation. Apart from conducting research in-house, we also commission external consultants to carry out studies and opinion polls as and when necessary.

An in-house research unit directly reporting to the Chief Executive, the CEPU strives to meet the Chief Executive's expectations in the four areas mentioned above, with a view to strengthening the research efforts of the Government. The accomplishments of the CEPU has also been indirectly reflected in such areas as the co-ordination of the Policy Address. We have an established mechanism in place to assess and oversee the division of labour, responsibilities and performance of individual staff within the CEPU, so as to ensure that the CEPU has performed its intended functions and that the public funds are properly used.

Under the PPRFS and SPPRFS as mentioned in the reply to part (1) of the question, a total of 22 new projects have been granted funding in 2024-25. Together with the 25 research projects previously approved which are still ongoing or being processed, it is anticipated that 29 research projects will be completed in 2025-26. Brief descriptions of the said projects and those granted funding in the past, as well as research reports of the completed projects are available on the CEPU's website ([www.cephu.gov.hk/en/PRFS/research\\_report.html](http://www.cephu.gov.hk/en/PRFS/research_report.html)).

Assessments for the two research funding schemes are conducted by an Assessment Panel which comprises experienced academics and professional experts. Research quality and the relevance of the proposal to the public policy and needs of Hong Kong are the principal assessment criteria. To facilitate the Assessment Panel in project assessment, the CEPU has drawn up specific guidelines on the application, change, progress, estimated expenditure, research reports and dissemination of findings for each project. Nevertheless, we do not set any key performance indicators for the overall approval of research projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO025**

**(Question Serial No. 2690)**

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

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

Programme: (1) Chief Executive's Policy Unit

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please list the specific details of each research project funded by the Chief Executive's Policy Unit under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25, including the project title, the specific details of the research, the team members of the project, the operation cost of the project and the amount of funding, the progress of the project, the nature of the project (i.e. one-off or on-going) and the research results adopted for incorporation into the Policy Address, the Budget or other policies implemented by the Government.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, funding was granted to 39 and 4 research projects under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme respectively. Research quality and the relevance of the proposal to the public policy and needs of Hong Kong are the principal criteria of assessment. Details of the funded projects (including year of funding, project number and title, name of Principal Investigator, name of institution, duration, funding amount, research theme(s) concerned, as well as project status) are available on the website of Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) ([www.cepu.gov.hk/en/PRFS/research\\_report.html](http://www.cepu.gov.hk/en/PRFS/research_report.html)).

Policy development and formulation involves various aspects of work, including policy research, communication with stakeholders and balancing of their interests, and in respect of complex issues the process can be lengthy. The reports of the funded research projects, after completion, will be passed to related bureaux/departments for reference in policy formulation and review. Policy research is part of the work for policymaking. The bureaux/departments concerned need to consider a variety of factors before deciding whether to adopt the recommendations in a particular research report. Therefore, the CEPU does not have information in this aspect.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO026**

**(Question Serial No. 2974)**

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

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

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that since its establishment, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises has attracted 66 strategic enterprises, 80 per cent of which have established or planned to establish their global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number and proportion of the above-mentioned 66 strategic enterprises by industry, such as financial services, biomedicine, artificial intelligence, etc.;
2. the number and proportion of the above-mentioned 66 strategic enterprises by place of origin, including those from the Mainland and various overseas countries (e.g. the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, etc.);
3. when attracting strategic enterprises to Hong Kong, whether the Government will take into account the businesses the enterprises engage in or their places of origin (Mainland, overseas, etc.) to accord different priorities or adopt different investment promotion strategies; and
4. whether the Government has a specific mechanism in place to assess the actual contribution of these enterprises to Hong Kong's economy and innovation and technology ecosystem; if so, what are the relevant indicators and timetable for the assessment; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. So far, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has successfully attracted 66 strategic enterprises to establish their presence in Hong Kong. A breakdown on the number and percentage of these enterprises according to their type of industry [Note] is set out below:

	No. of strategic enterprises	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Life and health technology	22	33%
Artificial intelligence and data science	24	37%
Financial technology	8	12%
Advanced manufacturing and new energy technology	12	18%

[Note] Given that the scope of business of certain strategic enterprises may be cross-industry, the type of industry set out in the above breakdown is determined on the basis of the enterprises' core business in Hong Kong.

2. A breakdown on the number and percentage the 66 strategic enterprises successfully attracted through OASES according to their declared place of origin is set out below:

	No. of strategic enterprises	Percentage of strategic enterprises
Mainland	54	82%
Europe and North America	12	18%

3. In attracting enterprises to Hong Kong, OASES will determine the priority and facilitation strategies by taking into account a number of factors, including the type of industry of the enterprise, its place of origin, its scale and its social benefits. In terms of industries, priority will be given to those that are in line with the direction of development of industries in Hong Kong (e.g. artificial intelligence and data science, life and health technology, advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, and financial technology.). Based on various indicators of social benefits such as the investment amount, the number of jobs to be created in Hong Kong, the level of technological advancement and the potential of technology transfer, OASES will accord different priorities or adopt different investment promotion strategies for enterprises.
4. OASES has established a monitoring mechanism, including annual reviews, to regularly review the development progress of the strategic enterprises. Regular meetings and site visits are conducted to understand the enterprises' progress in investment, research and development (R&D) and job creation, so as to comprehensively assess the effectiveness of their development and the impetus they have created for the upgrading of local industries. OASES has allocated dedicated manpower to follow up on the case of each strategic enterprise to keep track of their continuous development in Hong Kong. Close

communication is maintained in order to gain an in-depth understanding of the enterprises' development plans in the first few years and assist them in taking forward key tasks, including setting up headquarters and R&D centres, as well as expanding domestic and overseas business. At the same time, we will provide timely and targeted support for enterprises according to their needs at different stages of development, so as to help them better integrate into Hong Kong. Support on all fronts including talent, capital and R&D is rendered to help enterprises establish a strong foothold in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO027**

**(Question Serial No. 3163)**

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

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

Programme: (1) Processing of Legal Aid Applications

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Chris YT CHONG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the use of mediation in legally-aided cases, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Legal Aid Department will monitor the use of mediation in legally-aided cases. In this regard, what were the changes in the proportion of cases where applicants opted for mediation in the past 5 years; and whether there are any specific statistics on the effectiveness of mediation in reducing litigation costs and increasing case handling efficiency;
2. Please provide information on the grant of legal aid to the disadvantaged groups (e.g. low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities) in the past 5 years, including the number of applications, the approval rate, the amount of legal aid granted and the case outcome.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. With the implementation of the Civil Justice Reform in 2009, mediation has become an integral part of civil proceedings. The Legal Aid Department (LAD) always supports the use of mediation by legally-aided persons to resolve disputes and will cover the reasonable costs they incurred in mediation in all types of civil proceedings for which legal aid is granted. In the past 5 years, the proportion of legally-aided persons opting for mediation has been largely stable, and the number of legal aid cases with approval to incur expenses for mediation as a percentage of all civil legal aid cases is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of legal aid cases with approval to incur expenses for mediation (such cases as a percentage of all civil legal aid cases in the respective year in brackets)</b>
2020	837 (17.6%)
2021	910 (18.5%)
2022	716 (18.3%)
2023	620 (15.4%)
2024	656 (16.3%)

As regards the effectiveness of mediation, taking the civil legal aid cases with approval to incur expenses for mediation in 2024 as an example, for cases with disputes resolved by mediation, the legal costs were about 50% lower while the case handling time from the issue of legal aid certificate to the conclusion of legal proceedings (i.e. settled or adjudicated) was shortened by about 29% on average as compared with cases that were not resolved by mediation and had to go to court. Whereas it is acknowledged that apart from whether or not mediation is used to resolve disputes, the legal costs and handling time of each case also depend on individual factors such as the type and complexity of the case, the other party's approach in handling the case and the legal proceedings involved, LAD notes that mediation is overall a convenient and cost-effective way to resolve disputes in civil legal aid cases.

2. LAD does not have information on whether legal aid applicants are persons with disabilities. In the past 5 years, the number of legal aid applications from Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and persons aged 60 or above, the number and percentage of legal aid certificates granted to them, the amount of legal aid involved and the success rate of relevant civil cases concluded are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>CSSA recipients</b>				
	<b>Number of legal aid applications</b>	<b>Number of legal aid certificates granted</b>	<b>Percentage of applications with legal aid certificates granted</b>	<b>Amount of legal aid involved in cases with legal aid certificates granted (\$million)</b>	<b>Success rate of civil legal aid cases concluded</b>
2020	1 667	722	43%	42.0	81%
2021	1 913	843	44%	31.7	78%
2022	1 288	589	46%	18.1	82%
2023	1 409	620	44%	9.4	74%
2024	1 281	640	50%	2.0	77%

Note: The legal proceedings in some cases (especially those with legal aid granted in recent years) are still ongoing and the amount of legal aid involved in cases with legal aid certificates granted may be subject to adjustment.

Year	Persons aged 60 or above				
	Number of legal aid applications	Number of legal aid certificates granted	Percentage of applications with legal aid certificates granted	Amount of legal aid involved in cases with legal aid certificates granted (\$million)	Success rate of civil legal aid cases concluded
2020	2 239	849	38%	86.2	85%
2021	2 390	929	39%	78.2	85%
2022	2 086	788	38%	40.3	83%
2023	2 218	936	42%	30.2	83%
2024	2 417	966	40%	7.3	81%

Note: The legal proceedings in some cases (especially those with legal aid granted in recent years) are still ongoing and the amount of legal aid involved in cases with legal aid certificates granted may be subject to adjustment.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO028**

**(Question Serial No. 3986)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Government introduced earlier on a Newborn Baby Bonus scheme which aims to encourage childbearing in local families. However, many families of new migrant talents such as top talents, quality migrants and professional talents have also contributed to the long-term development of Hong Kong although they have yet to fulfil the requirement of residing in Hong Kong for 7 years for obtaining their permanent identity cards. Would the Government consider including these migrant families in the Newborn Baby Bonus scheme by granting HK\$20,000 to each family with a newborn baby, so as to reflect the Government's support for all admitted talents and to further enhance Hong Kong's birth rate?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The new non-recurrent commitment is under Subhead 700 of Head 141 instead of Head 142.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2023 Policy Address an array of measures to promote fertility by adopting a “combination punches” approach, including a cash reward of \$20,000 to eligible parents for each baby born from 25 October 2023 (i.e. Newborn Baby Bonus), for a period of three years. Starting from 25 October 2023, parents can submit an application for the bonus at the same time when registering the birth of their baby and applying for a birth certificate. As at 15 March 2025, a total of about 42 060 qualified applications have been received and bonus has been distributed to 41 304 applicants, at a total amount of approximately \$826 million.

The Government has received different views since the launch of the scheme, including expanding the target group. The Government plans to review the scheme two years after launch (i.e. in the fourth quarter of 2025) and will consider opinions from various parties during the review.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO029**

**(Question Serial No. 3924)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

On promoting the “Belt and Road (B&R)” Initiative and exploring the Middle East market, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide the current manpower, establishments, salary expenditures by rank and total salary expenditures of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES);
2. Please tabulate the numbers of visits made in each of the past 5 years and the estimated numbers of visits to be made in 2025-26 by OASES to each of the B&R countries, with the destinations and visit programmes, the sizes of the delegations, the lists of institutions met and the relevant expenditures (including details of expenditures on air tickets, hotels, etc.); and
3. Please provide the list of strategic enterprises successfully attracted to Hong Kong in the past 5 years, with their market capitalisation and country or region of origin.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. At present, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) has 19 staff members, with the annual salary expenditures as follows:

The OASES received approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council at end-February 2024 to create 3 time-limited non-civil service (NCS) directorate positions, supported by 25 non-directorate contract staff.

At present, the OASES has a total of 19 staff members, including 3 directorate NCS officers and 16 contract staff employed under non-civil service contract terms and post-retirement service contracts. For 2024-25, as at end-February, the salary expenditure was approximately \$15 million.

2. The OASES has been proactively reaching out to and attracting global high-potential and representative enterprises, particularly those from industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong, including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. At present, these industries are led by Mainland China (Mainland), various countries in Europe and the United States (US).

After commencing operation in December 2022, the OASES conducted visits to 3 Belt-and-Road countries—Singapore, Malaysia and New Zealand—in March 2023 and March 2025, meeting with government officials, business chambers and relevant companies and institutions. The related expenditures amounted to approximately HK\$65,000.

3. As at 8 April 2025, the OASES has successfully attracted 84 strategic enterprises. Due to commercial confidentiality or at the request of the enterprises, certain company information cannot be provided. The names of the other 79 strategic enterprises, their respective countries/regions and market capitalisation (market cap) are tabulated as follows:

	<b>Name of strategic enterprises (see note 1)</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Market cap (HK\$) (as at 16:00, 10 March 2025) (see note 2)</b>
1	Advanced Micro Integrations	US	(See note 3)
2	AICT	Mainland	\$3.09 billion (see note 4)
3	Ant Digital Technology	Mainland	\$613.47 billion (see note 4)
4	AstraZeneca	United Kingdom	\$1,874.18 billion NASDAQ Stock Market (NASDAQ): AZN
5	Baidu Apollo International	Mainland	\$259.27 billion Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited (HKEX): 9888
6	Baidu Cloud	Mainland	\$259.27 billion HKEX: 9888
7	Beijing Yunji Technology	Mainland	\$4.98 billion (see note 4)
8	BioMap	Mainland	\$44 billion (see note 4)
9	Biren Technology	US	\$9.32 billion (see note 4)
10	Black Sesame Technology	Mainland	\$17.1 billion (see note 4)
11	b-ONE	Mainland	\$14.62 billion HKEX: 2533
12	BioMap	US	\$1.8 billion (see note 4)
13	BrainAurora Medical Technology	Mainland	\$8.28 billion HKEX: 6681

	<b>Name of strategic enterprises (see note 1)</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Market cap (HK\$) (as at 16:00, 10 March 2025) (see note 2)</b>
14	CertiK	US	\$15.6 billion (see note 4)
15	China Merchants Research Institute of Advanced Technology	Mainland	\$1,210 billion HKEX: 3968
16	China Mobile (Hong Kong) Innovation Research Institute	Mainland	\$1,836.6 billion HKEX: 0941
17	China Resources Research Institute of Science and Technology	Mainland	\$181 billion HKEX:1109
18	China State Construction	Mainland	\$67.29 billion HKEX: 3311
19	China Year	Mainland	\$450 million (see note 4)
20	Chongqing Haifu Medical Technology	Mainland	(See note 3)
21	Digital Domain	US	\$3.87 billion HKEX: 0547
22	Dmall	Mainland	\$10.99 billion HKEX: 2586
23	E3A Healthcare	Singapore	(See note 3)
24	EDIRNA Inc.	US	(See note 2)
25	Enlight Medical	US	(See note 3)
26	EXIO Group Ltd	Mainland	\$1.56 billion (see note 4)
27	Finloop	Mainland	\$100 million (see note 4)
28	Forevercheer Holding	Mainland	\$3 billion (see note 4)
29	Gotion	Mainland	\$39.89 billion Shenzhen Stock Exchange (SZSE): 002074
30	Guofuhee	Mainland	\$14.36 billion HKEX: 2582
31	HighTide Therapeutics	Mainland	\$597 million HKEX: 2511
32	HollySys	Mainland	\$15.6 billion (see note 4)
33	Horizon Robotics	Mainland	\$100.64 billion HKEX: 9660

	<b>Name of strategic enterprises (see note 1)</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Market cap (HK\$) (as at 16:00, 10 March 2025) (see note 2)</b>
34	Hozon New Energy Automobile	Mainland	\$47.8 billion (see note 4)
35	Huawei	Mainland	(See note 3)
36	Hundsun Ayers	Mainland	\$52.57 billion SZSE: 600570
37	IceKredit	Mainland	\$1.79 billion (see note 4)
38	Iflytek	Mainland	\$125.36 billion SZSE: 002230
39	Innorna	Mainland	\$930 million (see note 4)
40	Inspur	Mainland	\$5.12 billion Shanghai Stock Exchange: 600756
41	Integrity Tech	Mainland	\$3 billion SZSE: 688244
42	JD	Mainland	\$516.19 billion HKEX: 9618
43	Joyoung	Mainland	\$8.05 billion SZSE: 002242
44	Kingsware	Mainland	\$3.39 billion (see note 4)
45	KN Group	Mainland	It has not publicly disclosed its financing information, but the market estimates it to be a unicorn enterprise. (see note 3)
46	KUN International Digital Technology	Mainland	\$620-980 million (see note 4)
47	Lenovo	Mainland	\$144.1 billion HKEX: 0992
48	Li Auto	Mainland	\$236.7 billion HKEX: 2015
49	MassPhoton	Mainland	\$850 million (see note 4)
50	Meituan	Mainland	\$1,060 billion HKEX: 3690
51	MetaX	Mainland	\$10 billion (see note 4)
52	MGI Tech R&D Hong Kong	Mainland	\$17.8 billion SZSE: 688114
53	New Horizon Health	Mainland	\$6.36 billion (see note 4)
54	Newlink Technology	Mainland	\$25.27 billion (see note 4)

	<b>Name of strategic enterprises (see note 1)</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Market cap (HK\$) (as at 16:00, 10 March 2025) (see note 2)</b>
55	Nuance Pharma	Mainland	(See note 3)
56	PayCargo	US	\$15.6 billion (see note 4)
57	Pharmaron	Mainland	\$49.05 billion HKEX: 3759
58	Prophesee	France	\$900 million (see note 4)
59	Pudu Robotics	Mainland	\$8.3 billion (see note 4)
60	Qi Anxin	Mainland	\$18.36 billion SZSE: 688561
61	Qifu Technology	Mainland	\$40.84 billion HKEX: 3660
62	RNAimmune	US	It completed a HK\$78 million seed round of financing in 2021. (see note 4)
63	Shanghai Pharmaceuticals	Mainland	It has not publicly disclosed its financing information, but the market estimates it to be a unicorn enterprise. (see note 3)
64	Shokz	Mainland	\$68.74 billion HKEX: 2607
65	Sincere	Mainland	\$19.04 billion HKEX: 2096
66	Sirnaomics	US	\$330 million HKEX: 2257
67	SUTPC Digital Technology	Mainland	\$21.77 billion SZSE: 301091
68	TCRCure Hong Kong	Mainland	It secured more than \$300 million in financing in 2022. (see note 4)
69	Teddylab	Mainland	\$450 million (see note 4)
70	Tigermed	Mainland	\$53.05 billion HKEX: 3347
71	Time Medical	US	(See note 3)
72	UBTECH Robotics	Mainland	\$39.8 billion HKEX: 9880
73	UISEE	Mainland	\$7.8 billion (see note 4)
74	WeBank	Mainland	\$42.9 billion (see note 4)

	<b>Name of strategic enterprises (see note 1)</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Market cap (HK\$) (as at 16:00, 10 March 2025) (see note 2)</b>
75	Westwell	Mainland	\$7.6 billion (see note 4)
76	Xellera Therapeutics	US	(See note 3)
77	XunLei	Mainland	\$2.23 billion NASDAQ: XNET
78	Yeahka	Mainland	\$3.9 billion HKEX: 9923
79	Yuanhua Technology	Mainland	(See note 3)

Note:

1. The enterprises are listed in alphabetical order based on their English names.
2. The market cap of the enterprises has been converted into HK\$ based on the following exchange rates: HK\$7.80 = US\$1; HK\$1.07 = RMB 1.
3. The enterprise is a non-listed company, and due to commercial confidentiality considerations, it is unable to provide market cap data. The market cap data is also not displayed on public platforms.
4. The enterprise is a non-listed company and its real-time market cap data is not publicly available. The market cap data presented has been sourced from various platforms and may have a time lag, meaning it may not reflect the current actual market cap of the enterprise. The data is for reference only.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSO030**

**(Question Serial No. 3992)**

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 (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

According to government statistics, there are already more than 100 000 electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong, about 8 times of that 5 years ago. It is expected that by 2030, fast chargers installed with subsidies will be able to support 160 000 additional EVs. Please inform this Committee of the following:

Has the Government attracted Mainland and international EV enterprises to invest or set up research and development centres in Hong Kong? If no, does the Government have plans to support the development of the local EV industry and its industry chain?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Government has always welcomed and strived to attract Mainland and international electric vehicle (EV) enterprises and enterprises related to the EV industry chain to invest or set up research and development (R&D) centres in Hong Kong. The strategic enterprises in advanced manufacturing and new energy technology are one of the major targets of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), and the field of advanced manufacturing and new energy technology includes new energy vehicles and enterprises related to the new energy vehicle industry chain.

Since its establishment, OASES has proactively reached out to relevant target enterprises and successfully attracted new energy vehicle enterprises and enterprises related to the new energy vehicle industry chain to set up businesses in Hong Kong. The enterprises which have already established their presence in Hong Kong invest in a wide range of areas, some even collaborate with local universities and R&D institutes in areas including R&D in car battery materials and quick charging technology, recycling and reuse of lithium batteries for vehicles, application of artificial intelligence and big data software for vehicles, application of autonomous driving, and final assembly lines of vehicles.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CSO031****(Question Serial No. 3906)**Head: (94) Legal Aid DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Chris YT CHONG)Director of Bureau: Director of AdministrationQuestion:

Regarding the legal costs incurred in judicial cases involving the Government, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What were the amounts of legal aid costs expended by the Legal Aid Department and duty lawyer fees in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

In the past 5 financial years, the legal aid costs incurred by the Legal Aid Department for cases involving the Government are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Civil legal aid costs<sup>1</sup> (\$ million)</b>	<b>Criminal legal aid costs<sup>2</sup> (\$ million)</b>
2019-20	107.9	327.3
2020-21	85.1	249.8
2021-22	71.3	335.3
2022-23	89.6	381.6
2023-24	64.7	386.7

Note (1): Including legal proceedings initiated by or against the Government

Note (2): Including criminal cases prosecuted by the Government

As regards the Duty Lawyer Scheme which serves to complement the legal aid services, the legal costs incurred for the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) for cases involving the Government in the past 5 financial years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Legal costs for the DLS<sup>3</sup> (\$ million)</b>
2019-20	67.1
2020-21	76.3
2021-22	81.2
2022-23	82.0
2023-24	84.5

Note (3): Including criminal cases prosecuted by the Government and death inquests applied for by the Government

- End -