

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)036

Question Serial No.

0156

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that the work in handling smoky vehicles will reduce by about 10% in 2004 as compared to 2003 (based on the relevant indicator(s)). Will there be any corresponding re-deployment of staff resources? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : We regularly review the workload of the different areas of the department and adjust the deployment of our resources as appropriate, having regard to changing priorities and workload demand. In December 2003 a new Air Pollution (Emission Reduction Devices for Vehicles) Regulation came into effect. Since then staff resources equivalent to 0.5 inspectorate and 0.5 clerical staff under the smoky vehicle programme have been re-deployed to assist with some of the work arising from this new regulation. This work involves conducting on-road inspections of emission reduction devices as well as associated legislative enforcement and follow up work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 25 March 2004