

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)060

Question Serial No.

0403

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

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The provision under Programme 7 for 2004-05 is \$5.8M lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04, amounting to 14%, mainly due to the effect of reduced operating expenses and non-recurrent expenditure, but with only one post deleted. Please provide details of the expenditure cut and its impact on services and performance indicators concerned.

Asked by : Hon. WU king-cheong, Henry

Reply : The reduction of \$5.8 million is mainly due to the effect of the 2004-05 civil service pay cut (\$0.6 million), deletion of one Chief Environmental Protection Inspector post as a result of the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme (\$0.4 million), reduced operating expenses on community relations activities (\$2.0 million), and a reduced requirement for non-recurrent expenditure on projects which have been completed or are nearly completed (\$2.2 million).

The reduction in spending on community relations activities will entail a reduction in the frequency of some outreaching activities, but this will be compensated by providing more technical advice for schools and community groups to organize their own environmental activities. We will also strengthen our lending service of environmental education materials and enhance the dissemination of updated environmental information through the internet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004