

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)042

Question Serial No.

0459

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

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : With regard to the number of prosecutions for illegal deposit of waste offences, there is a considerable difference between the actual figure of 87 in 2002 and the estimated figure of 25 in 2004-05, please give the main reason for the decrease. What is the establishment solely involved in the inspection and prosecution of illegal deposit of waste? Is there any decrease in manpower as compared with that in 2002?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The number of prosecutions for flytipping in 2004 is an estimated figure based on the actual figure in 2003. The decrease in 2003 is due to the fact that continual anti-flytipping surveillance and ambushes at blackspots in the past years have significantly deterred the illegal act and eliminated some of the blackspots. The Fixed Penalty system launched in 2002 also contributed partly to this reduction.

EPD pollution control staff are organized on a geographical basis to carry out multi-functional enforcement. As such, our control staff are constantly on the lookout for illegal dumping activities while going about other field duties. This arrangement is necessary as we need to catch the flytippers on the spot before we could initiate prosecution action. It is therefore not possible to quote a precise staff resource allocation to this function but there has not been any reduction in enforcement efforts in flytipping control as compared to 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 24 March 2004