

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)047

Question Serial No.

0467

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

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : How does the annual maximum handling capacity compare with the actual quantity of waste handled in the refuse transfer stations for 2003-04? At present, are the charges for handling wastes sent to refuse handling stations calculated on cost recovery principle? Does the Government need to provide any subsidies? If yes, what is the rate of subsidies in percentage?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The total design capacity of the refuse transfer stations is about 3.6 million tonnes a year. In 2003, the total quantity of waste handled in the refuse transfer stations was about 2.1 million tonnes.

In the early stages of refuse transfer development in Hong Kong, the refuse transfer stations only handled waste delivered by refuse collection vehicles of the former municipal councils. With the development of more refuse transfer stations, some refuse transfer stations have been opened to receive waste delivered by private waste collectors since 1998. The refuse transfer station charge rates are set to recover the full additional cost for providing waste transfer service to these private waste collectors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004