

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)058

Question Serial No.

1011

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

Department

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The aim of this Programme is to "pre-empt environmental problems associated with projects, plans, policies and strategies by assessing their environmental implications and ensuring that effective preventive and mitigatory measures are implemented where potential problems are identified."

Does the scope of work of the Environmental Protection Department include the review of existing policies / strategies / regulations / guidelines etc. adopted by the Government and various departments to see if there are any underlying adverse implications or constraints on the environment, and the provision of solutions? If yes, please provide details of the review, the amount of provision set aside for this purpose and the staff resources required in 2004-05? If no, please give the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is not charged with the responsibility of independently reviewing or auditing existing government policies / strategies / regulations / guidelines, etc. The department does, however, have a role to play in advising on the potential environmental implications of proposed new policies, strategic plans, regulations, etc. when they are being formulated. The staff establishment in the EPD directly involved in strategic environmental assessment studies comprises 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer and 2 Environmental Protection Officers. The corresponding expenditure including both staff costs and operating expenses for the Financial Year 2004-05 is about \$ 2.02 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004