

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

Reply Serial No.

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1391

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 : Provision for fees for operation of waste facilities in 2004-05 is \$1,237,970,000, representing an increase of 8.9% over the revised estimate for 2003-04. Would the Administration provide:

- 1) a breakdown of the financial provision for this Subhead;
- 2) the quantity of wastes handled by individual waste facilities in the past two years and their estimated quantity in 2004-05 as well as their respective percentages of the annual handling capacity of individual wastes facilities;
- 3) Since the estimated quantity of wastes to be handled by strategic landfills and refuse transfer stations in 2004 will not have significant increase as compared to 2003, please explain why there is an increase of 8.9% in the estimated expenditure for fees for operation of waste facilities in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : **For 1) and 2)**

The estimated expenditure for the operation of the waste facilities in 2004-05 and the quantities of wastes handled in the past two years and the coming financial year 2004-05 are as follows:

	Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	Refuse Transfer Stations	Landfills	Livestock waste composting service	Contingency	Total
1. Breakdown of 2004-05 financial provision for the Subhead on Fees for Operation of Waste Facilities (\$M)	345	375	430	14	74	1,238
2(a) Quantity of wastes handled (tonnage) :						
2002	52,400	2,128,397	7,722,647	7,744		
2003	42,800	2,102,523	6,481,394	7,425		
2004 (Plan)	48,000	2,100,000	6,500,000	8,000		
2(b) % of annual handling capacity of individual waste facilities :						
2002	52.4%	59%	N/A*	106%		
2003	42.8%	58%	N/A*	102%		
2004 (Plan)	48%	58%	N/A*	N/A		

* There is no design annual throughput capacity for landfills and therefore no comparison figure could be provided.

For 3)

Apart from the projected increase in waste intake due to an expected improved economy in 2004-05, the estimated increase of 8.9% in the expenditure for the operation of waste facilities is also attributable to the inclusion of a contingency having regard to the many uncertainties in the estimation of waste quantities.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Director of Environmental Protection

25 March 2004