

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

AUD004

Question Serial No.

3188

Head: 24 - Audit Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Audit

Director of Bureau:

Question:

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the information technology management unit (ITMU) of the department:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the percentage change compared with the actual expenditure for 2010-11? What account for this percentage change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific initiatives are involved in the estimates of expenditure for 2011-12? Which of them are ongoing and new initiatives respectively? What are the staff number, cost and implementation timetable of each initiative? Among the staff involved, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced services respectively?
- (c) Whether funds have been reserved for promoting electronic civic participation and public sector information access? If yes, what are the specific details, including the titles and particulars of the initiatives, the manpower and cost involved, and the implementation timetable? If not, what are the reasons and will consideration be given to introducing the initiatives in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment and the number of existing staff and vacancies of the ITMU? Is manpower expected to increase in the coming year? If yes, how many additional posts will be created? What ranks will be involved? Will they be permanent posts? Will they be appointed on civil service terms? If there will be no increase in manpower, what are the reasons?
- (e) Has there been any comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the ITMU? If yes, what are the results and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what are the reasons and will a review be conducted in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure of the ITMU will be about \$2.88 million in 2011-12. This represents a 24.7% increase when compared to the revised expenditure of \$2.31 million in 2010-11. The increase is mainly due to the procurement of additional information technology (IT) related equipment and services for enhancement of work efficiency.
- (b) In 2011-12, the provision of \$2.88 million for ITMU, apart from meeting the staff cost, will mainly be used for the procurement of new computer and IT equipment to replace malfunctioned/obsolete ones and for the acquisition of IT software, accessories and support services. The procurement is an on-going work as we regularly assess the performance of our IT infrastructure and the need to make good use of IT in supporting the work of the Audit Commission. The procurement work and routine IT support service are undertaken by four civil servants and an IT student trainee.
- (c) With the more popular use of smartphones by the community, we will study the feasibility of launching a mobile phone version of the Director of Audit's reports to enable members of the public to use their smartphones to read the reports. If the initiative is proven to be technically feasible, we will engage an external contractor to implement the project at an estimate of \$0.1 million in 2011-12.
- (d) The establishment of our ITMU comprises four civil service posts and all the posts are filled. Besides, an IT student trainee is also engaged. The current establishment is considered appropriate having regard to the scale and complexity of IT support requirement in the Audit Commission. We will regularly review the workload of the ITMU to ensure that there are proper and sufficient IT support.
- (e) We have set up a Departmental IT Steering Committee to review the manpower and development of the ITMU. Besides, the ITMU prepares an annual IT plan to facilitate the planning and monitoring of the implementation of IT projects. The IT plan takes stock of the implementation progress of IT projects and identifies opportunities for greater and more efficient use of IT in the Audit Commission. So far, the ITMU has been operating smoothly and our IT projects have been implemented effectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters BENJAMIN TANG

Post Title Director of Audit

Date 15.3.2011