

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)052****(Question Serial No. 1087)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Of the Highways Department (HyD)'s estimated expenditure on capital projects under design and construction for 2014, the estimated figure for the part undertaken by consultants is \$17,463 million, way above the \$532 million for the part undertaken by in-house staff. In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee of the reasons and the breakdown of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The HyD employs consultants to meet fluctuating demand for staff resources and to provide expertise not available in the HyD, normally to design and supervise the construction of large scale and/or multi-disciplinary public works projects, such as the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link. Where resources and expertise are available in the HyD, the design assignment as well as the supervision of construction of projects, normally of small or medium scale, will be carried out by in-house staff. Therefore, the expenditure on capital projects undertaken by consultants is higher than those undertaken by in-house staff.

Description of projects	Estimated Expenditure for projects under design and construction in 2014 (\$ million)	
	by in-house staff	by consultants
Category A projects	44	16,632
Category D projects	488	831
Total:	532	17,463