

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FSTB(Tsy)049

Question Serial No.

1200

Head: 76 Inland Revenue Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

How many taxpayers have filed tax returns through electronic means in 2007-08? Can the introduction of electronic services reduce assessment cost for the Administration? If yes, how much assessment cost will be saved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The main objective of Inland Revenue Department (IRD) in initiating electronic filing is to enhance the quality of its services by facilitating the public to lodge tax returns 24 hours a day anywhere anytime. It also enables IRD to automate the capturing of information and to enhance the accuracy of information updated by taxpayers. In 2007-08 (up to 29 February 2008), the number of tax returns lodged electronically is around 142 700 (or 6.3% of the total number of individual tax returns and property tax returns received), representing a growth of 32 000 cases (or 29%) over the same period of the previous year.

IRD has re-deployed resources to enhance and promote its electronic services by launching an electronic service eTax by phases from 2008 to early 2009. Depending on the public's take-up rate for this service, IRD aims to achieve a saving of 20 posts in 3-5 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs LAU MAK YEE MING, ALICE

Post Title Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Date 20 March 2008