

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

FSTB(Tsy)053

Question Serial No.

2714

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

Programme: (1) Assessing Functions

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

According to the Estimates from 2003-04 to 2008-09, in respect of the collection of profits tax, salaries tax, property tax and personal assessment, if the provision per assessment is calculated by dividing the provision for the relevant item that year by the number of posts handling such item that year, the figures for 2007-08 are all higher than those for 2006-07 and the figures for 2008-09 are likewise all higher than those for 2007-08 (Revised Estimates). What are the reasons? Please explain how the "provision per assessment" is calculated in the Estimates.

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The provision per assessment for 2008-09 is higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08 mainly due to filling of vacant posts and salary increments for staff in 2008-09. The provision for 2007-08 is higher than the expenditure for 2006-07 mainly due to the civil service pay rise in 2007-08, filling of vacant posts, salary increments for staff and increased requirement for general departmental expenses.

The provision per assessment is computed by dividing the total departmental direct and related expenses (mainly comprised of staff emoluments and departmental expenses) attributable to each indicator by the number of assessments made.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs LAU MAK YEE MING, ALICE

Post Title Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Date 20 March 2008