

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

FSTB(Tsy)056

Question Serial No.

2391

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

Programme: (3) Investigation and Field Audit

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

Although investigation work is very important for safeguarding tax revenue, the Administration has not mentioned anything about increase in manpower under this programme. Has the Administration considered allocating more resources to this area, including employment of more professionals to cope with the need? If yes, what are the expenditures involved and details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has been allocating appropriate resources for carrying out its duties, according to service needs and departmental priorities. Although the Field Audit and Investigation Unit of IRD will not increase its manpower in 2008-09, IRD will continue to undertake various on-going measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Unit and enable the Unit to put its available resources into the best possible uses. For example, staff training is strengthened to improve IRD officers' professional knowledge and investigation technique. IRD has also made use of information technology to perform risk management, whereby tax evasion and avoidance cases can be identified and combated more effectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs LAU MAK YEE MING, ALICE

Post Title Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Date 20 March 2008