

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FSTB(Tsy)027

(Question Serial No. 0879)

Head: (76) Inland Revenue Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Assessing Functions , (2) Collection
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue (WONG Kuen Fai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

What are the specific plans and relevant expenditure for the Government to promote the use of e-government services in the next three years? Has the Government planned to allow taxpayers to pay taxes and government fees through electronic payment and even mobile payment, hence facilitating the use and promotion of e-services? If yes, what are the details, schedules and expenditure of such plans? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

IRD organises promotional activities annually to encourage taxpayers to make use of its e-services. The relevant promotional activities include seminar, poster, publicity leaflet, newspaper advertisement, electronic media advertisement, "GovHK Notifications" messages issued through smartphones, Internet publicity, promotional messages as well as e-mails to civil servants and other organisations to promote eTAX services. The estimated expenditure for the promotional activities in 2017-18 is about \$400,000.

At present, taxpayers can pay tax, business registration fee, stamp duty or purchase tax reserve certificates by electronic means including telephone, Internet or bank Automatic Teller Machine (ATM). Taxpayers can also use their mobile devices to make payment via phone or online payment services. Payments by electronic means have been well received by taxpayers and the utilisation rate is relatively stable. In the financial year 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017), there were around 1 730 000 electronic payments for "earnings and profits tax", representing 56% of the total tax payments. In the light of the technology development, with effect from 7 December 2015, IRD accepts e-Cheque for payment. In the financial year 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017), there were 1 341 e-Cheque payment transactions.