

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FSTB(Tsy)035

(Question Serial No. 1924)

Head: (76) Inland Revenue Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Assessing Functions

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue (Benjamin CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD)'s establishment ceiling of non-directorate posts will be reduced from 2 896 to 2 837 in this financial year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- 1) the breakdown of the posts deleted by grade and rank; and
- 2) the specific measures taken and additional expenditure incurred (if any) to ensure that the performance pledges for processing returns, notices of objection and stamping applications will not be affected?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Cho-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- 1) The IRD will delete 59 non-directorate posts in 2026-27 to cope with the streamlining of civil service establishment. The relevant posts include 46 Clerical Assistants, 3 Typists, 1 Office Assistant, 7 Data Processors and 2 Motor Drivers.

- 2) The IRD has all along strengthened the use of technology to enhance the work efficiency. It enhanced the eTAX system with the new Individual Tax Portal, Business Tax Portal and Tax Representative Portal, and launched a dedicated mobile application “eTAX” for Individual Tax Portal users in July 2025, which provide taxpayers with a more convenient, reliable and secure electronic platform and encourage wider use of the IRD’s electronic services (including electronic filing of tax returns and e-Stamping). The electronic filing of tax returns has pre-filling of data, automatic system validation and instant error suggestion functions which can reduce the number of objections arising from taxpayers’ errors or omissions during data input as well as the time spent on processing paper documents by the IRD.

The IRD will continue to enhance its work efficiency by deploying internal resources, streamlining procedures and leveraging technology, striving to achieve the performance pledge targets for processing tax returns, notices of objection and stamping applications.

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