

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

Reply Serial No.

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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:

The Inland Revenue Department originally estimated the number of business registration applications and renewals in 2012-13 at 1 070 000, which was slightly lower than those of the previous year. Please provide reasons leading to such estimate. With the waiver now proposed for this year, how many business registration certificates are expected to be issued?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The number of business registration applications and renewals in the 2011-12 financial year was on the high side as the Government had waived the business registration fees for 24 months from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2011. Considering that the waiver had expired on 1 August 2011, it was originally estimated that the number of business registration certificates to be issued in the 2012-13 financial year would be slightly reduced to 1 070 000.

Since the 2012-13 Budget has proposed to waive business registration fees for the 2012-13 financial year, it is estimated that the number of business registration applications and renewals will increase during the year. The relevant figure will be reflected in the Controlling Officer's Report for the 2013-14 financial year.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHU Yam-yuen

Post Title: Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Date: 29.2.2012