

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)046

(Question Serial No. 0132)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr LEE Wai-on)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

While the laboratory facilities of the Government Laboratory are currently scattered in different locations, it has been providing a wide range of professional analytical, forensic and advisory services. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the locations of the different existing laboratory facilities, its major equipment and relevant major laboratory work; and
- (2) the establishment and strength of the various ranks of the Government Laboratory in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1) The locations, main equipment and relevant work of the testing facilities under the Government Laboratory (GL) are listed as follows:

Location of Main Testing Facilities	Major Testing Work	Main Equipment
Ho Man Tin Government Offices	Testing related to food contaminants, environmental monitoring, forensic toxicology, illicit drugs, forensic scientific evidence, and DNA	Various chromatographic, spectroscopic, and mass spectrometric instruments; as well as specific instruments and data analysis systems for the designated testing areas
Lai Chi Kok Government Offices	Testing related to pharmaceuticals, chemical safety, forensic document examination, and parentage testing	
Public Health Laboratory Centre, Shek Kip Mei	Testing related to Chinese medicines	
Hong Kong Science Park, Sha Tin	Technical support for the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards project	

Public Works Central Laboratory Building, Kowloon Bay	Testing related to dutiable commodities, consumer goods, toys, and children's products	
King's Park Meteorological Station, Ho Man Tin	Technical support for the Hong Kong Observatory's Environmental Radiation Monitoring Programme	
Food Safety Laboratory, Pok Fu Lam	Testing related to pesticide and veterinary drug residues in food	
Laboratory in Cheung Sha Wan	Testing related to food complaints, food additives, composition and labeling, consumer goods authenticity and trade descriptions	

(2) The information on the establishment and strength of the various ranks of the GL in each of the past 3 years is as follows:

Rank	2020-21 (As at 31 March 2021)		2021-22 (As at 31 March 2022)		2022-23 (As at 31 March 2023)	
	Establishment*	Strength *	Establishment*	Strength *	Establishment*	Strength*
Government Chemist	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Government Chemist	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chief Chemist	4	4	6	4	4	3
Senior Chemist	27	26	27	26	27	27
Chemist	116	115	118	113	118	114
Laboratory Specialist Services Officer	6	6	6	6	6	6
Science Laboratory Technologist	27	25	28	26	29	29
Science Laboratory Technician I	99	94	100	90	101	96
Science Laboratory Technician II	161	160	164	172	166	155
Laboratory Attendant	17	16	18	16	18	14
Workman II	5	5	5	5	5	5
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1

Rank	2020-21 (As at 31 March 2021)		2021-22 (As at 31 March 2022)		2022-23 (As at 31 March 2023)	
	Establishment*	Strength *	Establishment*	Strength *	Establishment*	Strength*
Executive Officer I	3	3	3	2	3	2
Executive Officer II	0	0	0	1	0	1
Personal Secretary I	1	1	1	1	1	0
Personal Secretary II	0	0	0	0	0	1
Clerical Officer	4	3	4	4	4	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	6	7	6	6	6	7
Clerical Assistant	15	13	15	12	15	12
Office Assistant	1	0	1	0	1	0
Supplies Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supplies Supervisor I	1	0	1	0	1	1
Supplies Supervisor II	2	3	2	3	2	2
Supplies Assistant	1	1	1	1	1	1
Motor Driver	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Librarian	1	0	1	0	1	0
Total	503	488	513	494	515	484

* Figures include permanent and supernumerary posts, but exclude those supernumerary posts normally used to accommodate officers on pre-retirement or pre-resignation leave.

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