

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

Head : 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide the following information on the procurement of services of employment agencies (EAs) by the Department from 2006-07 to 2009-10 in the form of a table:

- (a) the number of contracts signed with EAs;
- (b) the contract sum and duration for each EAs;
- (c) the number and duties of workers supplied under each contract signed with EAs;
- (d) details of the pay of workers supplied under each contract signed with EAs, including monthly salaries and daily wages;
- (e) the percentage changes in the number of EAs, the number of contracts, the number of workers employed and the total expenditure in each year over the previous year;
- (f) if more than one EA was hired to supply workers in the year, please list the number and total value of contracts awarded to each EA, and the number of workers supplied under it;
- (g) the highest, median and lowest pay of workers supplied by each EA;
- (h) the proportion of workers supplied by EAs in the existing staff of the Department in the year; and
- (i) the proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of EAs in departmental expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply

The information in respect of procurement of employment agency services from 2006-07 to 2009-10 is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

(a) The number of contracts signed with EAs

2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
3	16	15	10

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

Contract sum	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
Less than \$0.5 million	3	15	15	10
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	0	1	0	0
Over \$1 million	0	0	0	0
Total:	3	16	15	10

Duration of services	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
6 months or less	2	4	3	2
Over 6 months to 1 year	1	11	11	7
Over 1 year to 2 years	0	1	1	1
Total:	3	16	15	10

(c) Number and duties of workers supplied

Number of workers supplied	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
5 or less	3	15	15	10
6 to 10	0	1	0	0
11 to 15	0	0	0	0
Total:	3	16	15	10

Duties of workers	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
	Number of contracts			
backend office support	3	9	8	5
technical support	0	7	7	5
Total:	3	16	15	10

(d) Salaries of workers supplied

The contracts we entered into with employment agencies specified only the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers. We do not specify the wages of agency workers as the workers we required in the contracts are not non-skilled workers. ^{Note} Hence we are unable to provide the information requested.

Note : As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers also.

(e) The numbers and corresponding percentages of change for each year in respect of the requested information are appended below:

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
Number of EAs	3 (-63%)	8 (+33%)	6 (+20%)	5
Number of contracts	3 (-81%)	16 (+7%)	15 (+50%)	10
Total number of workers supplied by EAs	3 (-89%)	27 (+42%)	19 (+36%)	14
Total contract sum (\$ million)	0.2 (-94%)	3.3 (+57%)	2.1 (+31%)	1.6

() are the percentage increase/decrease over the preceding year

(f) More than one EA were hired to supply workers during the concerned periods. The numbers and total values of contracts awarded and the total number of workers supplied by each EA are as follows:

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
<i>Number of contracts awarded</i>	<i>Number of EAs</i>			
5 or less	3	8	6	5
6 to 10	0	0	0	0
Over 10	0	0	0	0
<i>Total value of contracts awarded</i>	<i>Number of EAs</i>			
Less than \$1 million	3	7	6	5
\$1 million to \$2 million	0	1	0	0
Over \$2 million	0	0	0	0

	2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
Total number of workers supplied	Number of EAs			
10 or less	3	8	6	5
11 to 20	0	0	0	0
21 to 30	0	0	0	0
Over 30	0	0	0	0

(g) Salaries of the workers supplied by the EAs under the contracts (highest, median, lowest)

Please refer to item (d) above.

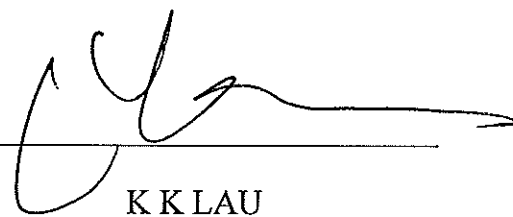
(h) The percentage of workers supplied by EAs against the total existing staff of the Department

2009-10 (as at 30.9.09)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.09)	2007-08 (as at 31.3.08)	2006-07 (as at 31.3.07)
0.2%	1.5%	1.1%	0.8%

(i) The percentage of expenditure on procuring the services of EAs against the departmental expenditure of the Department

2009-10 (estimate)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
0.01%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%

Signature



Name in block letters

K K LAU

Post Title

Director of Drainage Services

Date

19 March 2010