

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

SB194

Head: 166 – Government Flying Service Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0257

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In Hong Kong, there are times during the year, especially in the spring season, when the operation of the Government Flying Service is affected as a result of foggy weather and poor visibility. Please provide the figures on the Government Flying Service's failure to respond to call-outs for rescue operation due to dense fog in 2007 and 2008. Will such situation be improved through the enhancement of flying systems? If yes, will the Government consider increasing the relevant provision in the 2009-10 financial year?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

The Government Flying Service (GFS) has maintained figures for failure to provide emergency response service owing to inclement weather, but they are not further broken down by different inclement weather conditions. In 2007 and 2008, the GFS failed to provide emergency response service owing to inclement weather on 127 and 113 occasions respectively.

As far as we know, there is no reliable equipment which can ensure safe operation of helicopters under Hong Kong's foggy and mountainous conditions. We will continue to keep a watch on the availability of such equipment in the market.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2009

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

SB195

Head: 166 – Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0265

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please advise officers of which rank or above can request the Government Flying Service (GFS) to provide transport service. Do such type of service calls require approval of the officers' supervisors? If yes, what are the factors or considerations for approval? Please provide the number of such requests served by the GFS in 2007 and 2008.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

The Administration has drawn up regulations and guidelines in relation to bureaux/departments' requests for provision of transport service from the GFS. According to the regulations and guidelines, officers who require transport service from the GFS to meet service and operational needs should seek approval from the designated authorizing officers of their respective bureaux/departments, who should be directorate officers.

In general, requests for service from the GFS are made by bureaux/departments when the work has to be carried out at a remote location and there are no other efficient means of transport available, or the task to be performed involves aerial work, etc. In 2007, the GFS provided transport service for clients within the Government on 939 occasions, among which 893 were for carrying personnel and 46 for transporting materials. In 2008, the GFS provided transport service for clients within the Government on 826 occasions, among which 771 were for carrying personnel and 55 for transporting materials.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2009

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

SB196

Head: 166 — Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2330

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many search and rescue operations both over land and sea were conducted in 2007 and 2008? Please list out the figures of each year by type. Has any target been set in respect of the time from arrival on-scene to transferring the casualty to hospital? What was the average time for the past year (i.e. 2008)? Were there any factors that had caused delays?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

There were 343 (including 36 offshore search and rescue operations and 307 inshore search and rescue operations) and 326 (including 34 offshore search and rescue operations and 292 inshore search and rescue operations) in 2007 and 2008 respectively. As each operation is subject to the effect of various external factors (such as weather, terrain environment and rescue methods), the extent of which varies, the Government Flying Service has not set any target in respect of the time from arrival on-scene to transferring the casualty to hospital. Nor have we collected any relevant data.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title _____

Controller, Government Flying Service

Date _____

18.3.2009

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

SB197

Question Serial No.

2331

Head: 166 – Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the plan to strengthen the capability of the Government Flying Service in 2009-10?
Has the Administration increased the estimates of expenditure for the plan?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

In 2009-10, the Government Flying Service will spend more resources on staff training in order to enhance the skills and knowledge of the crew. In addition to the training provided to cadet pilots for obtaining the necessary pilot licences, we will also provide special training for serving pilots to support the enforcement operations of other departments and reinforcement training on aeronautical theories for aircrewman officers to enhance their professional knowledge. The estimated expenditure on staff training will increase by about \$3.6 million in 2009-10.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2009

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

SB198

Head: 166 – Government Flying Service Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational
Expenses

Question Serial No.

0340

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2009-10, the Government Flying Service requires an additional provision for filling of vacancies in 2008-09. In this connection, the Administration is requested to provide the following information:

- a. Please list the number of staff required to fill the vacancies and the total expenditure thus expended in 2008-09 by rank, function and department; and
- b. Please set out the establishment of the Government Flying Service by rank in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- a. The Government Flying Service (GFS) filled a total of 14 civil service vacancies in 2008-09, the details are as follows:

Rank	No. of Vacancies	Functions
Cadet Pilot	6	Provide and support flying services, including flying aircraft, operating communication equipment and other devices, conducting search and rescue operations, as well as aircraft examination and maintenance.
Air Crewman Officer III	4	
Aircraft Technician	1	
Personal Secretary II	1	Provide general administrative and support services.
Supplies Assistant	1	
Supplies Attendant	1	
Total	14	

In 2009-10, the GFS has to meet the full-year salary payment for those vacancies filled in the previous year. An additional provision of about \$3.11 million has been earmarked in the estimated expenditure for 2009-10 for this purpose.

b. The establishment of the GFS by rank in 2008-09 is as follows:

Rank	Establishment
Controller, Government Flying Service	1
Chief Pilot	2
Senior Pilot	8
Pilot I	16
Pilot II	13
Cadet Pilot	4
Senior Air Crewman Officer	1
Air Crewman Officer I	4
Air Crewman Officer II	6
Air Crewman Officer III	16
Chief Aircraft Engineer	1
Senior Aircraft Engineer	4
Aircraft Engineer	20
Chief Aircraft Technician	2
Senior Aircraft Technician	21
Aircraft Technician	47
Chief Executive Officer	1
Senior Executive Officer	1
Executive Officer I	1
Senior Clerical Officer	2
Clerical Officer	5
Assistant Clerical Officer	8
Clerical Assistant	6
Personal Secretary I	1
Personal Secretary II	4
Senior Supplies Officer	1
Assistant Supplies Officer	1
Senior Supplies Supervisor	1
Supplies Supervisor I	3
Supplies Supervisor II	5
Supplies Assistant	3
Supplies Attendant	1
Office Assistant	2
Motor Driver	3
Workman I	1
Workman II	7
Total	223

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 19.3.2009

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

SB199

Head: 166 – Government Flying Service Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

2476

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Administration indicated in the Details of Expenditure by Subhead that the expenditure on fuel and lubricating oil would increase by nearly \$5.5 million in the coming year. In view of the plunge in international oil prices, would the Administration advise how much fuel was and will be consumed by helicopters and fixed-wing aircrafts in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, as well as the unit prices at which the Administration purchased the fuel?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

The fuel consumed by helicopters and fixed-wing aircrafts in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the prices are as follows:

	2006-07 (Actual)	2007-08 (Actual)	2008-09 (Estimate)	2009-10 (Estimate)
Fuel consumed (litre)	2 701 000	2 448 001	2 116 036	2 716 000
Average price (per litre)	\$5.2	\$4.9	\$6.9	\$6.8*

* Fuel prices were highly volatile in 2007 and 2008, with the price per litre ranged from the lowest \$3.8 (February 2007) to the highest \$8.6 (August 2008). Since it is impossible to have an accurate forecast of the trend movements of fuel prices, we have taken the average fuel price between January and November 2008 (i.e. about \$6.8 per litre) in the calculation of the expenditure on fuel for 2009-10 when preparing the estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2009