

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

SB174

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

Question Serial No.

0107

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Expenditure is to rise from \$251.9 million in 2009-10 to \$553.5 million in 2010-11, mainly due to the need to replace two fixed-wing aircraft and associated mission equipment. According to the paper (FCR(2009-10)24) of the Finance Committee, invitations to tender would be issued in December 2009 for award in December 2010. Please advise whether preparations are on schedule; whether both the aircraft and all equipment have been included under a single lump-sum contract and if not, how many separate invitations have been issued; and the projected schedule during 2010 for disbursement of funds under the contract or contracts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-po, David

Reply :

The tender preparation for the fixed-wing aircraft and associated mission equipment is now in the final stage. We currently aim at inviting tenders by the end of March 2010. We anticipate that the aircraft fitted with associated mission equipment would come into operation on the target commission date (i.e. March 2013).

We plan to include both the new aircraft and equipment in a single contract. As the contract has not been awarded, the exact amount of funds required in 2010 is not yet known.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2010

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

SB175

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

Question Serial No.

2539

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in the Brief Description of the Programme that the Government Flying Service will carry such persons as the Secretary for Security may authorise as passengers. In this connection, please advise:

- a. On what grounds and under what circumstances these passengers may use the flying service provided by the Government;
- b. Based on what criteria and considerations the Secretary for Security will approve passengers to use government flying service; and
- c. The number of people who were approved by the Secretary for Security to use government flying service last year (i.e. 2009-10) and the number of flying hours involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- a. Passengers using government flying service are mainly staff working in the HKSARG or persons in connection with the provision of public service, such as project staff of the Planning Department responsible for planning major infrastructure projects, cartographic staff of the Lands Department, and staff of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department responsible for repairing various communications and navigation installations in remote hill tops and mountains.
- b. When approving passengers to use government flying service, the Secretary for Security will take into consideration factors like whether the tasks relate to the work of the HKSARG or public service, whether aerial operations are involved, efficiency of using other modes of transport and whether the emergency rescue service of the GFS will be affected.

- c. In 2009, a total of 8 926 persons were approved by the Secretary for Security to use government flying service and 1 061 flying hours were involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2010

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

SB176

Question Serial No.

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

2797

Programme: Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- a. On the task of assisting in fire fighting, although the flying hours of the Government Flying Service (GFS) for fire fighting dropped in 2009 compared with last year, the “call-outs responded to (%)” is less than that in 2008. The target regarding on-scene time for call-outs for water bombing within 40 minutes was also not met. What are the reasons?
- b. As major hill fires and fires still happen occasionally in Hong Kong in recent years, GFS’s assistance in fire fighting is required. How many helicopters does the GFS possess at present for fire fighting service? Does the Administration have any plan to increase the number of such aircraft in future to enhance GFS’s ability in fire fighting?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- a. On the task of assisting in fire fighting, the aircraft’s on-scene time for each call-out is affected by various factors, including the weather, the location of hill fire, the time required for changing the equipment on aircraft, the choices of flight paths available to aircraft fitted with underslung equipment and manpower arrangements, etc. They are not directly related to the total flying hours of the year.
- b. At present, the GFS has three helicopters which can be deployed for fire fighting service. We will review the aircraft fleet, manpower and equipment from time to time, and make suitable adjustments as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN

Post Title Controller, Government Flying Service

Date 18.3.2010