

**LegCo Panel on Public Service
Follow-up to Meeting on 18 February 2002**

(I) Containing the Size of the Civil Service

Required information

Members requested for the following information in respect of other countries, such as the United Kingdom and Singapore:

- i) Population
- ii) Gross Domestic Product
- iii) Civil service establishment
- iv) Civil service emoluments and the percentage of civil service emoluments in government expenditure.

The Administration's response

Comparison of civil service statistics

It is important to note that comparison on the size of Civil Service across different countries is difficult because the modalities of service delivery differ among governments. For example, in Singapore, many of the executive functions are carried out by public service officers in statutory boards who are not civil servants. In the case of Singapore, we understand that the size of the Singapore Civil Service stood at around 120,000 in early 1990s but has been reduced to some 61,000 by 31 December 2001 after the setting up of various statutory boards. As an illustration, public services which are provided by statutory boards in Singapore (i.e. staffed by public service officers) but government departments in Hong Kong (staffed by civil servants) are –

Service	Statutory Board in Singapore (no. of staff)	Government Department in Hong Kong (no. of staff as at 1.1.2002)
• Development and management of public housing	Housing Development Board [建屋發展局] (8,200)	Housing Department (10,500)
• Civil service training	Civil Service College [民事服務學院] (180)	Civil Service Training and Development Institute (140)

Service	Statutory Board in Singapore (no. of staff)	Government Department in Hong Kong (no. of staff as at 1.1.2002)
• Assessment and collection of taxes	Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore [國內稅務局] (1,730)	Inland Revenue Department (3,260)
• Management of marine traffic	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore [新加坡海事及港務管理局] (570)	Marine Department (1,540)
• Management of land traffic	Land Transport Authority [陸路交通管理局] (3,600)	Transport Department (1,290)

Information on population, Gross Domestic Product, civil service strength and emoluments of Singapore in 1999 and 2000 is at *Annex*. Information currently available to us on the United Kingdom is rather piecemeal and does not form a sufficient basis for comparison.

**Population, Gross Domestic Product, Civil Service Strength and
Emoluments of Singapore**

	1999	2000
Mid-year population ⁽¹⁾	3,950,000	4,020,000
Gross Domestic Product ⁽²⁾ (US\$) ⁽⁴⁾	S\$1420 billion (US\$850 billion)	S\$1590 billion (US\$919 billion)
Civil service strength ⁽³⁾	66,400	63,300
Civil service emoluments (billion) and percentage in terms of government expenditure (US\$) ⁽⁴⁾	S\$28.7 billion (US\$17.2 billion) (11.5%)	S\$32.8 billion (US\$18.9 billion) (11.7%)

Notes

- (1) Mid-year population refers to the position as at 30 June of the year.
- (2) Figures on Gross Domestic Product are on current market prices.
- (3) Figures refer to monthly rated civil servants as at 31 December of the year.
- (4) Exchange rates with US dollars reflect the rates as at 31 December of the year.

