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Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-23

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Session No. : 17

Consolidated e-file name : DEVB(W)-1-e1.docx

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)001

(Question Serial No. 0148)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (LAU Chun-kit)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (3) that the Works Branch will continue to promote the principles of “Right Tree, Right Place” and vegetation diversity with a view to developing a healthier and more resilient urban forest upstream and minimising tree risks downstream. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) It is estimated that about 6 million of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants will be planted in 2022. Will the Government decide the species to be planted by district so as to highlight the characteristics of each district through the plant species under the principle of “Right Place”? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- 2) The estimated expenditure on greening works in 2022 is \$340 million. Please provide a breakdown of it.
- 3) It is estimated that QR-coded tree labels will be installed on about 200 000 trees along footways this year. Please list out the scope to be involved and the content of the labels. What specific publicity programme will be launched by the Government to introduce the tree labels to the public?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- 1) In order to uplift the overall living environment, the Government has been promoting the principle of “Right Tree, Right Place” and formulating the Greening Master Plans for various districts in the territory through active planting, enhancing opportunities of quality greening, as well as carrying out theme planting in various districts. At the planning and design stages of public works projects, works departments will take into account the local characteristics, such as planting space and microclimate, with due regard to the design objectives, to consider the characteristics and adaptability of the plant species in the landscape and planting design for the projects. In addition, they will make reference to the theme plant list in the local Greening Master Plan, so that the plants can grow healthily and perform their functions and add character to the district.

- 2) The \$340 million is the overall estimated expenditure for greening works to be carried out by 11 major departments in 2022, involving various types of work including planting and establishment of trees and plants, ground preparation, soil improvement, installation of tree support systems, construction of associated planters and landscaping works, installation of irrigation facilities and ancillary works. We do not have a breakdown of the expenditure on the various types of greening works.

- 3) The scheme for tree labels with Quick Response (QR)-codes covers all 18 districts of Hong Kong, involving a total of 200 000 trees at locations with high pedestrian and vehicular traffic, including those along footpaths, in public housing estates and parks. Each label is printed with QR-code and basic tree information, including the Chinese and English names, botanical name and serial number. Public can access the website of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS) of the Development Bureau (<https://www.greening.gov.hk/tc/community-outreach/qrcode-tree-labels/index.html>) by scanning the QR-code with a mobile phone to acquire knowledge of common trees in Hong Kong, such as information on tree species, whether the species are native or exotic, tree traits, plant anecdotes, etc. Public can also connect to 1823 by scanning the QR-code with a mobile phone to report problematic trees for tree management departments to follow up on the issue and take appropriate maintenance and risk mitigation measures.

The GLTMS has been organising various promotional and educational activities on tree care for the public and industry on a regular basis, including school talks, workshops, seminars, roving exhibitions, as well as disseminating information on tree care and introducing tree labels with QR-codes to the public in the media.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)002

(Question Serial No. 0166)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (5) Project Strategy and Governance

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In recent years, there have been cost overruns in a number of government infrastructure projects, including Route T11 connecting the urban areas and Tuen Mun, and the Shatin Bypass. The Government states that there have been serious delays and escalating costs due to factors such as judicial reviews, local objections, and the need to re-design. In addition, two large development projects, namely the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy and Lantau Tomorrow, will be rolled out within the current-term Government, involving a number of infrastructure projects. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Which infrastructure projects have had cost overruns and delays respectively over the past 5 years? What are the respective amounts of cost overruns and details of delays for each of these projects?
- (2) How can cost management be achieved? Are there any plans for that purpose? If yes, what are the details?
- (3) How can the above factors be addressed to prevent serious delays in infrastructure projects?
- (4) Will the Government establish a special mechanism to monitor cost management of the two large projects, namely the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy and Lantau Tomorrow?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Government has been taking forward capital works projects to improve people's living environment, promote economic development and enhance Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness. Although there were some large-scale infrastructure projects experienced delays or required additional funding in recent years, we have maintained the good performance of estimation and management of the Capital Works Programme (CWP) as a whole. In the past 10 years, the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council approved a total of about 560 Category A projects with a total approved amount of about \$1,060 billion. Among these approved projects and mainly due to unforeseen circumstances, 25 applied to the FC for a total of about \$68 billion additional funding. In

other words, there were about 5% projects required additional funding and their corresponding additional funding amounted to about 6.4% of the total approved funding.

On the other hand, there is a total of 550 Category A projects with their final accounts settled in the past 10 years. Although some of these projects required additional funding owing to individual circumstances, on the whole, the total final expenditure of these projects are still lower than their total original Approved Project Estimates (APE).

As for the project delay, they were mostly due to unforeseen circumstances, which include delays in obtaining funding approvals and inclement weather conditions.

Our consolidated reply to Hon CHAN Ka-pui, Judy's question is as follows:

(1) In the past 5 financial years, a total of 6 projects applied to FC for increase in APE. Details are tabulated below:

Financial year	Title of works project	Original APE	Approved increase
2017-18	South Island Line (East) - essential public infrastructure works	\$927 million	\$286.2 million
2017-18	Shatin to Central Link -construction of railway works-advance works	\$6.2549 billion	\$847.7 million
2018-19	District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development	\$3.9057 billion	\$1.0398 billion
2020-21	Shatin to Central Link -construction of railway works-remaining works	\$65.4333 billion	\$8.6968 billion
2020-21	Shatin to Central Link -construction of non-railway works - remaining works	\$5.9831 billion	\$1.367 billion
2020-21	Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge - funding support for Main Bridge	\$9.0465 billion	\$1.5147 billion

In the past 5 financial years, a total of about 90 major Category A projects were completed. Among these projects, about 70 have experienced delays. The main reasons for delay are delays in the process of application for funding approval, inclement weather or other factors. These projects experienced delay of about 3 quarters on average.

(2) and (3)

According to the information from the Transport and Housing Bureau on the 2 quoted projects, the Government commenced an investigation study on Route 11 (Section between Yuen Long and North Lantau) in September 2021. It is expected that the study can be completed within the approved estimate. As there is yet project injection for the Shatin Bypass project, there is no further information at this stage.

In general, as major capital works projects often draw public attention, we will consult the public at the preliminary study stage to collect views from different stakeholders aiming at reaching consensus for smooth implementation of the projects. Relevant policy bureaux and works departments will then refine the project proposals as far as practicable taking into consideration views collected from different parties. Notwithstanding this, the public may still raise objections or even apply for judicial review in accordance with statutory procedures during the implementation of some projects and the Government will handle the cases under relevant procedures and mechanisms. If such procedures resulted in project delay or increase in cost, we will strive to review and optimise the design and construction works to minimise the delays and costs involved if the situation allowed.

At the design stage of the project, we will adhere to the principles of “fitness for purpose” and “no frills” to capitalise on all opportunities for cost saving, and step up control on project estimate and expenditure to minimise the risk of cost overrun and project delay. During the construction stage, works departments will monitor the project delivery through regular high-level meetings so as to have a grasp of the latest progress in a timely manner, foresee challenges or potential problems of the project, and, where necessary, formulate corresponding measures as soon as possible.

(4) The Government will monitor public works projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund effectively in accordance with the current mechanism and the above principles. Some of the associated works in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy have commenced in phases and many of them are at the planning and study stage. For Lantau Tomorrow Vision, as the project is still at the stage of preliminary study, detailed information is not available. Following the development of these projects, we will strive to do our best in cost management.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)003

(Question Serial No. 0244)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that \$1 billion will be allocated to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) for supporting manpower training, which includes increasing the training places and the amount of allowance for trades facing labour shortage to attract new entrants and job changers to the industry, and increasing the training places for upgrading semi-skilled construction workers to skilled workers and the amount of allowance. The Government will also step up its efforts to promote the professional image and career prospects of the construction industry in order to attract more young people to join the industry. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) With the \$1 billion funding, how many job changers are expected to be trained into semi-skilled workers (i.e. intermediate tradesmen)? What are the number of training places and the amount of allowance of the training programmes?
- (2) What kind of specific allowance and assistance will be provided to help in-service and newly trained intermediate tradesmen upskill and become skilled workers (tradesmen)? With this capital injection, what is the estimated number of tradesmen that can be trained?
- (3) Based on what factors of consideration did the Government decide to allocate \$1 billion to the CIC? How will the Government determine the effectiveness of the \$1 billion funding? If there is an overwhelming market response, will the Government consider a further injection of capital?
- (4) In 2022-23, will the Government allocate additional funding to facilitate upward mobility of young practitioners in the industry, and promote the professional image and social status of industry practitioners so as to retain talent? If yes, what are the specific measures and publicity programmes? What are the related expenditure and staffing involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The proposed funding of \$1 billion will be used to enhance the manpower development initiatives of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to increase the number of training places and the amount of allowance, with a view to assisting the construction industry in

attracting and training more new blood, and providing incentives for in-service workers to upskill, thus helping the industry retain workers.

- (1) The funding is expected to support the training of about 20 000 new entrants and job changers to become semi-skilled workers in the coming 6 years.

Through the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), the CIC provides full-time short-term training programmes for job changers to become semi-skilled workers in the construction industry. We propose to increase the existing ECMTS training quota to about 4 000 places per year and increase the monthly training allowance for trainees from \$7,650 to around \$10,000. In addition, we propose to introduce a new on-the-job skill consolidation subsidy of \$2,500 per month for a maximum of 9 months to employers, if they employ the ECMTS graduates at a monthly wage of no less than \$15,000 during the subsidised period, and provide systematic on-the-job work environment and adaptation arrangements to assist new entrants, particularly job changers, adapt quickly to the working environment and remain in the construction industry, as well as to boost wage competitiveness and attract more job changers to enrol on the ECMTS.

- (2) For semi-skilled workers newly graduated from training programmes of the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC), they can join the CIC's Approved Technical Talents Training Programme (CIC-ATP) to be upskilled to become skilled workers through two-year on-the-job training. There are 2 options under the CIC-ATP, trainees can choose to receive on-the-job training only (i.e. the existing non-diploma option) or to enrol on the new diploma option to be introduced by the CIC (i.e. to receive on-the-job training alongside with part-time study to pursue continuing learning).

Depending on the option and trade a trainee is in, CIC-ATP trainee will receive a subsidy ranging from \$20,000 to \$24,000 upon completion of the first year training, and another \$30,000 upon completion of the second year training. A monthly training subsidy, from \$3,500 to \$6,000, will be provided to the contractor during the on-the-job training period offered to the trainee, if the contractor provides the trainee a monthly wage of no less than \$14,000 to \$26,500 (depending on trades).

As for in-service semi-skilled workers, they can enrol on Skilled Enhancement Courses (SEC) organised by the CIC in collaboration with the industry/other training organisations, to upskill and become skilled workers through short-term training. We propose to increase the subsidy for trainees from \$8,000 to \$16,000 upon completion of the course and attaining the skilled worker status, so as to encourage more effectively in-service semi-skilled workers to upskill and become skilled workers.

The above measures are expected to train about 6 800 semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers over the coming 6 years.

- (3) In view of the rising manpower demand in the construction sector as pointed out by the industry, the Government has proposed to allocate \$1 billion funding to increase the number of training places and the amount of allowance of the CIC, training about 20 000 new entrants and job changers to become semi-skilled workers, and around 6 800 semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers.

The CIC regularly updates its manpower forecast, and maintains close communication with the industry to understand the latest manpower requirements of the sector. The Development Bureau and the CIC will monitor the enrolment of the training programmes supported by the proposed funding, as well as the progress and effectiveness of various measures in the course of implementation, and will allocate training places to different measures flexibly and extend the range of trades covered according to market demand, in order to meet the manpower demand of the industry.

- (4) The Government has been continuously investing in infrastructural development, so as to improve people's quality of life and support economic development. There will be continued strong manpower demand in the construction sector, and practitioners will benefit from the booming industry.

The aim of the above-mentioned proposed allocation of \$1 billion is to increase the number of training places and the amount of allowance through supporting the CIC's manpower training, so that the industry can better attract and retain talent; and enhance practitioners' progression pathways and upward mobility by upskilling in-service semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers. In addition, the proposed funding will also support the CIC in stepping up its efforts to promote the professionalism and career prospects of the industry to attract more young people to join the construction sector.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)004

(Question Serial No. 0219)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 26(e) of the Budget Speech, it is mentioned that there will be a further injection of \$12 billion into the Anti-epidemic Fund for the construction of various anti-epidemic related facilities. Please provide the following information in a table:

1. details of the projects;
2. locations involved in each project;
3. a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in each project.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

Since early 2022, we have been severely affected by the fifth wave of the epidemic and the situation is very severe at the moment. In order to deal with the huge demand for isolation and treatment, we need to urgently boost the capacity of isolation, treatment and related facilities. Therefore, the Government has proposed a \$12 billion increase in the commitment for the Anti-epidemic Fund, and will seek approval of the Legislative Council in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022. The proposed commitment is to meet the expenditure of the isolation, treatment and related facilities. In light of the urgent situation, the proposed commitment of \$12 billion is a preliminary estimate, and a breakdown of the details is yet to be consolidated. For the required manpower resources, they are deployed from Government's existing internal resources.

We are planning for and taking forward the construction of isolation, treatment and related facilities at full speed to ensure their completion within the shortest time. Upon their completion, it is estimated that about 50 000 isolation or treatment beds will be available. The project locations and commissioning dates are listed in the table below:

Project location	Commissioning date
1. Tsing Yi Town Lot No. 200	Commissioned on 1 March
2. Former site of the Boxes in San Tin	Commissioned on 9 March
3. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing	Commissioned on 12 March
4. Adjacent to Ma Sik Road, Fanling	Commissioned on 13 March
5. Hung Shui Kiu near Kai Pak Ling Road	Commissioned on 17 March
6. Tam Mei, Yuen Long	Commissioned on 24 March
7. Penny's Bay	Will commission in phases by May
8. Former runway area of Kai Tak	Will commission in phases by May
9. Lok Ma Chau Loop *	Will commission in phases by April

* Construction of the project at Lok Ma Chau Loop will be carried out by contractors directly engaged by the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0078)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (5) Project Strategy and Governance

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23, it is mentioned that the Government will continue to steer and support the wider use of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) in the industry. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the details and estimated expenditures of the projects awarded by the Government that have adopted the MiC method in the past 3 years;
2. the details of the projects, including the number of projects and estimated expenditure, to be awarded by the Government in the coming year, that are expected to adopt the MiC method; and
3. the estimated expenditure, progress against objectives or project strategies for supporting the wider use of the MiC in the industry by the Government in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The construction industry in Hong Kong has been facing challenges, including manpower shortage, declining productivity, high construction cost, etc. Since the 2017 Policy Address, the Government has been actively promoting the adoption of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) in building projects with a view to enhancing the industry's productivity and cost effectiveness. Furthermore, the Government has been leading by example, piloting MiC in public projects such as schools, dormitories and hospitals, with a view to leading the industry in this regard. Pilot projects adopting MiC, including the InnoCell in Hong Kong Science Park in Tai Po and the Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok in Tseung Kwan O, have been consecutively completed.

A number of public and non-governmental organisations, including the Hong Kong Housing Authority, Hong Kong Housing Society, Urban Renewal Authority, Hospital Authority, etc., have also started to adopt MiC. At present, MiC has been or will be adopted in the construction works of over 70 projects in both private and public sectors.

Our consolidated reply to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Among the projects awarded by the Government through the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and other government departments in the past 3 years, MiC has been adopted for the following projects:

	Project title	Estimated project cost
1.	Chinese Medicine Hospital in Tseung Kwan O	about \$8.6 billion
2.	Multi-welfare Services Complex in Area 29 of Kwu Tung North New Development Area	about \$2 billion
3.	A primary school at Area 9, Tai Po	about \$400 million
4.	A primary school in Tsuen Wan West Station (TW7) Development, Tsuen Wan	about \$400 million
5.	A primary school at Site KT2c, Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong	about \$400 million
6.	A primary school at Au Pui Wan Street, Fo Tan, Sha Tin	about \$400 million
7.	Skylight Market, Tin Shui Wai	about \$30 million

Note: Quarantine camp projects are not included.

2. Among the projects to be awarded by the Government through the ArchSD in the coming year (2022-23), MiC will be adopted for the following projects:

	Project title	Estimated project cost
1.	Kwun Tong Composite Development Project	about \$4.5 billion
2.	Redevelopment of Western Police Married Quarters site	about \$2 billion
3.	Expansion of the Legislative Council Complex	about \$1.2 billion
4.	Two special schools at Renfrew Road, Kowloon Tong	about \$800 million
5.	Fire station-cum-ambulance depot with departmental quarters and facilities in Area 72, Tseung Kwan O	about \$700 million
6.	A primary school and a kindergarten at Site E-1, Development of Anderson Road Quarry Site, Sai Kung	about \$500 million
7.	A primary school at Lin Cheung Road, Sham Shui Po	about \$500 million
8.	A primary school at Site 1B-4, Kai Tak Development	about \$400 million
9.	A primary school at Luk Lau Avenue, Wong Tai Sin	about \$400 million
10.	A primary school at Site KT2a, Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong	about \$400 million

3. The Government has been actively promoting and encouraging the adoption of MiC in the construction industry. Apart from setting example by piloting MiC in public

projects, we have also introduced various measures to encourage the industry to adopt MiC.

In 2018, the Government allocated \$1 billion for setting up the Construction innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) to support and encourage the adoption of MiC by the construction industry. In this year's Budget, we have proposed to inject another \$1.2 billion for the CITF's ongoing operation to encourage wider adoption of this construction technology by the industry. We have also proposed to increase the concession of floor area from the current 6% to 10%, provide corresponding site coverage concession, and support applications for exceeding building height limits due to the adoption of MiC. Through the wider adoption of MiC, we aim to shorten construction time, address the problem of manpower shortage in the construction industry, and reduce the environmental impacts brought by construction works.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)006

(Question Serial No. 0266)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 161 of the Budget Speech that in order to enhance the capability of the low-lying areas to withstand threats, the Government plans to earmark funding in the next 5 years to take forward improvement projects and management measures for 26 low-lying or windy residential areas that are prone to high risks. In addition, the Administration will seek funding approval of \$8.4 billion for carrying out drainage improvement works to enhance the flood control capability.

- (a) Please list out the 26 areas that are prone to high risks, the content of the projects, the number of beneficiaries, implementation schedule, details of expenditure of the funding earmarked and the staffing, and set out the site selection criteria, work objectives for this financial year, and how the works progress will be monitored and the project effectiveness be assessed.
- (b) Please list out the specific content of the works projects of \$8.4 billion, including site selection, details of the works projects, implementation schedule, breakdown of expenditure and the staffing, and set out the site selection criteria, work objectives for this financial year, and how the works progress will be monitored and the project effectiveness be assessed.
- (c) Will the Government consult local organisations including rural committees about the site selection for the above works and project content? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) engaged consultants who completed the “Study of Coastal Hazards under Climate Change and Extreme Weather and Formulation of Improvement Measures – Feasibility Study” (“the Study”) in end 2021. The Study comprehensively reviewed the situation of the coastal low-lying or windy locations, and investigated storm surges and waves in order to assess the impacts of extreme weather and climate change on these locations.

The Study adopted risk management approach to assess the likelihood of coastal hazards and the severity of consequences; and made reference to the records of coastal damage posed by super typhoon attacks in the past. It identified 26 coastal low-lying or windy residential areas more vulnerable to higher potential risks for implementation of improvement works and management measures to safeguard public safety. The locations of the 26 residential areas recommended for improvement measures are tabulated below:

	Location	Region
1.	Heng Fa Chuen	Hong Kong Island
2.	Shek O Village	
3.	Pak Kan, Stanley	
4.	South Horizons	
5.	Kennedy Town, Sai Ying Pun and Sheung Wan	Kowloon
6.	Lei Yue Mun (Ma Wan Tsuen, Sam Ka Tsuen)	
7.	Sha Tau Kok Town (Chung Ying Street, Kong Ha)	New Territories East
8.	Tai Po Market (near Lam Tsuen River)	
9.	Sam Mun Tsai New Village, Tai Po	
10.	To Tau Wan Village, Ma On Shan	
11.	Sai Kung Town Centre and Tui Min Hoi	
12.	Nam Wai/Heung Chung, Sai Kung	
13.	Tseung Kwan O South (Tseung Kwan O Waterfront Park)	
14.	Yuen Long North West low-lying coastal areas (Sha Kiu Tsuen, Fu Tso Tsuen, Lau Fau Shan, Hang Hau Tsuen, Sheung Pak Nai, Ha Pak Nai)	New Territories West
15.	Yuen Long Central low-lying areas (Tai Tseng Wai, Chung Hau Yu Man San Tsuen, Shan Pui Village, Wang Chau, Yuen Long Town Centre)	
16.	Luen On San Tsuen, Tai Lam	
17.	Kar Wo Lei, Tuen Mun	
18.	Sham Tseng San Tsuen	
19.	Tung Chung Bay (Ma Wan Chung Village, Sha Tsui Tau, Sha Lo Wan)	
20.	Tai O	
21.	Shap Long and Cheung Sha Lower Village, Lantau Island	
22.	Peng Chau West areas (Nam Wan San Tsuen)	
23.	Cheung Chau West areas	
24.	Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island	
25.	Kat O West low-lying areas (Kat O Fisherman Village)	
26.	Ma Po Tsuen and Chung Hau, Mui Wo	

The above improvement works will comprise various preventive and adaptive options, including constructing or raising wave walls along the coastline; installing flood barriers at suitable places behind the coastline to cut off water pathway towards inland; and/or installing demountable flood barriers at building frontages. Management measures will involve formulation of action plans on early alert system and emergency preparedness.

We plan to take forward the design work (including project cost estimation) and construction of the improvement works as well as management measures at the above locations in a timely and orderly manner over the next 5 years. Aside from monitoring closely the progress of the improvement works and management measures, we will keep track of the climate change situation for carrying out timely review of the measures for coping with coastal risks.

In terms of manpower, the relevant works departments will deploy their existing professional and technical staff to take forward the above improvement works and management measures.

- (b) Since 2008, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has been conducting studies in phases to formulate and review the Drainage Master Plans for the major areas in Hong Kong and to carry out improvement works for the stormwater drainage systems in various districts, enhancing their flood control capacity to cope with climate change. The Government plans to apply for funding of about \$8.4 billion for 6 proposed stormwater drainage improvement works projects in the current financial year. The proposed projects are tabulated below:

	Names of proposed projects
1.	Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (Town Centre Section)
2.	Drainage Improvement Works at Yuen Long – Stage 2
3.	Yuen Long Barrage Scheme
4.	Drainage Improvement in Southern Hong Kong Island – Package 2 (Remaining Works)
5.	Drainage Improvement Works in Tsim Sha Tsui
6.	Drainage Improvement Works in Kwun Tong – Phase 1

The above improvement works consist of various flood control measures, including the construction of drainage channels and pipes, barrages, underground stormwater storage tanks, dry weather flow interception systems and the associated works including pumping stations, electrical and mechanical facilities as well as landscaping, etc. Subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council, we expect to commence the above improvement works in phases in the third quarter of this year at the earliest.

In terms of manpower, the relevant works departments will deploy their existing professional and technical staff to take forward the above improvement works.

- (c) Regarding the above 6 proposed stormwater drainage improvement works projects, we have consulted local bodies, including the relevant District Councils, area committees,

district working groups, etc. Members had no objection to the proposed works projects.

As regards the improvement works and management measures for the above 26 residential areas, we will timely consult the stakeholders, including the relevant District Councils, Rural Committees and local residents, etc. as appropriate, so that the works and measures can better meet the locals' needs and expectations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0095)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Project Strategy and Governance

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-2023, the Government states that it will “continue to steer and support the wider use of Modular Integrated Construction”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the breakdowns of the locations, scales, expected completion dates and other construction details of projects adopting Modular Integrated Construction by private developers.

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The construction industry has been facing severe challenges, including manpower shortage declining productivity, high construction cost, etc. Since 2017, the Government has been actively promoting the adoption of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) with a view to enhancing the industry’s productivity, safety and sustainability. The Government has been leading by example by piloting a number of public projects, including the Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok in Tseung Kwan O and InnoCell in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park in Tai Po.

Not only leading by example in piloting MiC public projects, the Government will continue to provide various facilitation measures and introduce more measures to encourage the industry to adopt MiC.

At present, the MiC has been adopted in the construction works of over 70 projects in both private and public sectors. The current MiC residential developments by private developers and non-governmental organisations, are as follows:

Project location	Project descriptions and scale	Construction technologies/ details	Anticipated completion date
Tai Kok Tsui	A 27-storey residential development by Urban Renewal Authority	Concrete type MiC	2023

Wong Chuk Hang	Two 20-storey student hostel blocks by The University of Hong Kong	Steel type MiC	2023
Ma On Shan	Three student hostel blocks ranging from 12 to 17 storeys by City University of Hong Kong	Steel type MiC	2023
Shatin	A 10-storey residential development by Hong Kong Housing Society	Steel type MiC	2023
Jordan	A 29-storey youth hostel development by The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Concrete type MiC	2024
Sham Shui Po	A 28-storey residential development by Chinachem Group	Concrete type MiC	2024
Hung Shui Kiu	A 27-storey residential development by Hong Kong Housing Society	Concrete type MiC	2024
Pok Fu Lam	Two 19-storey student hostel blocks and two 20-storey staff quarters by The University of Hong Kong	Steel type MiC	2024
Mong Kok	A 22-storey youth hostel development by The Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	Steel type MiC	2025
Sheung Wan	A 21-storey youth hostel development by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Concrete type MiC	2025
Shatin	A 3-storey facilities building with sports residence by Hong Kong Sports Institute	Steel type MiC	2025

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)008

(Question Serial No. 0096)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As mentioned in the Budget Speech Paragraph 138, the Financial Secretary has stated that the Government will “allocate \$1 billion to the Construction Industry Council for supporting manpower training, which includes increasing the training places and the amount of allowance for trades facing labour shortage to attract new entrants and job changers to the industry, and increasing the training places for upgrading semi-skilled construction workers to skilled workers and the amount of allowance”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- a. the number of training places to be provided for new entrants/job changers and in-service construction workers under this policy initiative;
- b. the breakdown of trades in respect of these training places; and
- c. the amount of allowance to be provided for each new entrant/job changer and in-service construction worker under this policy initiative.

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- a. The \$1 billion funding is proposed to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to increase the number of training places and the amount of allowance of its existing training programmes with a view to attracting and training more new blood to join the construction industry and upskilling and retaining in-service workers. The funding will support the provision of a total of about 20 000 training places for new entrants/job changers to become semi-skilled workers, and about 6 800 training places for semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers, over a period of 6 years.
- b. CIC regularly updates its manpower forecast and maintains close communication with the industry to understand the latest manpower requirements of the sector. CIC is currently undertaking the latest updating exercise and results are expected to be available by the third quarter of 2022. The number of training places to be offered for different trades will be determined with regard to the manpower forecast results and the prevailing industry demand.

c. Our proposal is to increase the level of allowances/subsidies for attracting new blood to and retaining trainees in the construction industry and provide incentives for in-service personnel to upskill as follows –

i) Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS)

ECMTS is a full-time short-term training programme for job changers from other industries to become semi-skilled workers. We propose to increase the ECMTS training quota, offering a total of 20 000 training places in the next 5 years. We also propose to increase the monthly training allowance for an ECMTS trainee from \$7,650 to around \$10,000, and introduce a new on-the-job skill consolidation subsidy of \$2,500 per month for a maximum of 9 months to the employers for providing systemic arrangement to assist these new entrants to adapt to the working environment of the construction industry, if they employ ECMTS graduates at a monthly wage of no less than \$15,000 during the subsidised period.

ii) CIC's Approved Technical Talents Training Programme (CIC-ATP)

CIC-ATP is a two-year on-the-job apprenticeship training scheme for semi-skilled workers newly graduated from CIC's full-time training programmes to be upskilled to skilled workers. There are two options of the CIC-ATP – one is the existing non-diploma option providing on-the-job training only and the other is a proposed new diploma option providing on-the-job training alongside with part-time diploma study. We propose to increase the annual quota of the existing CIC-ATP non-diploma option and to support the CIC to offer the new CIC-ATP diploma option, both for five cohorts, which will give a combined total of 2 000 additional training places over the six-year period.

Depending on which of the two options and the trade a trainee is in, CIC-ATP trainee will be provided with a year-end subsidy ranging from \$20,000 to \$24,000 upon passing the interim assessment for the first year and another year-end subsidy of \$30,000 upon the satisfactory completion of the programme in the second year. A monthly training subsidy, from \$3,500 to \$6,000, will also be provided to the employer during the on-the-job training period offered to the trainee, if the employer provides the trainee a monthly wage of no less than \$14,000 to \$26,500 (depending on trades).

iii) Skilled Enhancement Courses (SEC)

SEC is a part-time programme organised by the CIC in collaboration with the industry/training organisations to upskill experienced in-service semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers. We propose to increase the annual training quota of SEC, offering a total of 4 800 training places over the six-year period. We also propose to raise the completion allowance of \$8,000 to each SEC trainee upon passing the trade test and successful registration as a skilled worker to about \$16,000 to provide further incentives for semi-skilled workers to upskill themselves and attain the skilled workers status.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)009

(Question Serial No. 0448)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (5) Project Strategy and Governance

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 152 of the Budget Speech, it is mentioned that the Government will further encourage the adoption of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) Method to shorten construction time, address the problem of manpower shortage in the construction industry and reduce the environmental impacts brought by construction works. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. It is mentioned in the speech that, to encourage the adoption of the MiC method, the concession of floor area will increase to 10% and corresponding site coverage concessions as well as building height limit concessions will be provided. Will these concessions apply to public housing projects? What is the number of works and residential projects that is expected to benefit from these incentives?
2. As early as 2018, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) already suggested the construction of prefabrication yards in Hong Kong to lower transportation cost and maintain employment for the local construction workers. In 2019, the Chief Executive also pointed out that Hong Kong would need to construct production factories to produce local building modules. What is the progress in building the prefabrication yards? When will these yards be completed? Will the Government produce prefabricated concrete parts locally as soon as possible to dovetail with the promotion of the MiC method? What is the estimated expenditure for the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The construction industry in Hong Kong has been facing challenges, including manpower shortage, declining productivity, high construction cost, etc. Since the 2017 Policy Address, the Government has been actively promoting the adoption of the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) in building projects with a view to enhancing the industry's productivity and cost effectiveness. Furthermore, the Government has been leading by example, piloting MiC in public projects such as schools, dormitories and hospitals, with a view to leading the industry in this regard. Pilot projects adopting MiC, including the InnoCell in Hong Kong Science Park in Tai Po and the Disciplined Services Quarters for

the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok in Tseung Kwan O, have been consecutively completed.

MiC helps substantially shorten construction time, address the problem of manpower shortage in the construction industry and reduce the environmental impacts brought by construction works. A number of public and non-governmental organisations, including the Hong Kong Housing Authority, Hong Kong Housing Society, Urban Renewal Authority, Hospital Authority, etc. have also started to adopt MiC. At present, MiC has been or will be adopted in the construction works of over 70 projects in both private and public sectors.

Our reply to Hon LUK Chung-hung's question is as follows:

1. To further promote the adoption of MiC, we propose to provide further facilitation measures including the increase of the concession for MiC floor area from 6% to 10%. Appropriate concessions on 2 development parameters, namely site coverage and building height restriction, will be provided. These concessions will apply to both public and private housing developments. With the implementation of the above facilitation measures, we believe that it will attract more projects to adopt MiC actively and expedite housing supply.
2. Currently, the MiC modules used in Hong Kong are mainly manufactured in factories in the Mainland and Malaysia. With the rising popularity of MiC, market demand for production of MiC modules is getting increasingly high. We note that some industry stakeholders and investors are actively considering setting up local factories for the production of MiC modules. We are open in supporting the industry, and will continue to communicate with the industry and foster sustainable development of the local construction industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)010

(Question Serial No. 0900)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 26 of the Budget Speech, it is mentioned that in the new financial year, the Government will allocate an additional \$47.5 billion for the anti-epidemic work, of which \$22 billion will be used to enhance testing services, procure rapid antigen test kits and provide support for the Hospital Authority; \$6 billion will be used for procuring vaccines; \$7 billion will be used to procure anti-epidemic items and services; \$500 million will be used to enhance environmental hygiene services; and \$12 billion will be injected into the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF). It is mentioned in paragraph 27 that \$20 billion will be earmarked for other potential anti-epidemic needs. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the current expenditure on the construction of community isolation and treatment facilities (commonly known as “mobile field hospitals”)?
- (b) Out of the \$12 billion to be injected into the AEF, what is the estimated expenditure on the construction of anti-epidemic facilities, such as community isolation and treatment facilities or temporary hospitals? Please provide a breakdown.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Since early 2022, we have been severely affected by the fifth wave of the epidemic and the situation is very severe at the moment. In order to deal with the huge demand for isolation and treatment, we need to urgently boost the capacity of isolation, treatment and related facilities. Therefore, the Government has proposed a \$12 billion increase in the commitment for the Anti-epidemic Fund, and will seek approval of the Legislative Council in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022. The proposed commitment is to meet the expenditure of the isolation, treatment and related facilities. In light of the urgent situation, the proposed commitment of \$12 billion is a preliminary estimate, and a breakdown of the details is yet to be consolidated.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)011

(Question Serial No. 0379)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

With regard to promoting the adoption of innovation and technology in the construction industry, the Government has proposed to inject another \$1.2 billion into the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) for its ongoing operation and implementation of enhancement measures launched recently, including expanding the funding scope and increasing the funding ceiling. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) What is the effectiveness of the CITF since its establishment in 2018? Please list out the number of applications submitted (number of applicants), number of approved projects (number of beneficiaries), and important achievements.
- (2) What indicators has the Government based on to work out the estimated amount of \$1.2 billion that needs to be further injected into the CITF?
- (3) What are the numbers of enterprises and personnel estimated to benefit from the enhancement measures? What are the expected results?
- (4) Through what mechanism does the Government review the achievements of technology adoption projects as well as manpower development and training projects funded by the CITF? How can the effectiveness of the mechanism be ensured?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

In 2018, we were allocated \$1 billion to set up the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) to boost the capacities of enterprises and industry practitioners to adopt new technologies. The CITF aims at supporting the construction industry in technology adoption (e.g. Building Information Modelling (BIM), Modular Integration Construction (MiC), prefabricated steel rebar products, advanced construction technologies, etc.) and manpower development, with a view to promoting productivity, uplifting built quality, improving site safety and enhancing environmental performance. Target beneficiaries include contractors, subcontractors, consultants and other players in the construction process.

- (1) As at late February 2022, the CITF has received a total of 3 205 applications (Note: of which 462 have been withdrawn by applicants), of which 2 344 have been approved at

a total funding grant of around \$600 million, subsidising a total of 859 enterprises in adopting various types of technologies in local construction projects and about 13 000 technology training places.

As shown in the mid-term review of the CITF, 80% of the respondents considered the CITF useful in promoting innovation in the industry. Since the launch of the CITF, there has been a significant increase in the number of construction projects adopting BIM, MiC and various advanced construction technologies. In addition, studies have shown that the adoption of MiC can reduce construction time by 30% to 50% and can increase site productivity by 1 to 4 time(s). This indicates that active adoption of technologies is conducive to upgrading and transforming the traditional industries including the construction industry, and boosting their competitiveness.

- (2) Based on the current number of applications, it is expected that the \$1 billion CITF will be depleted in February 2023. With reference to the usage of the fund, we propose a further injection of \$1.2 billion to continue its operation and provide resources for the additional funding applications arising from the enhancement measures recently introduced by the CITF, with a view to supporting the industry and its practitioners to further adopt innovative construction technologies.
- (3) Having considered feedback from the industry, we introduced a series of enhancement measures on 1 January 2022 to address the needs of the sector. The \$1.2 billion injection for the CITF's ongoing operation and the implementation of enhancement measures is expected to benefit about 1 300 construction enterprises and to subsidise about 18 000 technology training places. With the implementation of the enhancement measures, the funding ceilings and scope of support have been increased for a number of technology areas. It is envisaged that the measures will facilitate the wider use of key construction technologies in the industry, including BIM, MiC, and other innovative technologies such as automation and robotics, safety-related technologies, digitalisation, and the Common Data Environment Platform.
- (4) The Steering Committee on the CITF has been set up under the Development Bureau to formulate and oversee the implementation and operation framework of the fund. Administrative support is provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC). While endeavouring to streamline and expedite the application process, the CIC requires applicants to make use of the equipment and/or software acquired under the CITF in their construction projects and submit reports to the CIC, or to provide proof that the relevant manpower training funded by the CITF has been completed. The CIC can then verify whether the requirements for application approval are met, and make an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the fund. In addition, the CIC will conduct site inspections from time to time to ensure that the equipment approved by the fund is used in the works projects, supporting the adoption of innovation and technologies in the industry.

The Steering Committee on the CITF is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), and its membership comprises industry stakeholders and government officers. The Steering Committee convenes meetings regularly to monitor and review the management of the fund, as well as its effectiveness, including the analysis of the progress made by various stakeholders in the adoption of innovative technologies through the CITF, the industry's recognition of and suggestions made to

the fund regarding its promotion of innovation in the industry, and the innovative construction technologies introduced by the industry through the CITF. Based on the assessment criteria of applications, response of the industry and related adjustment suggestions, the Steering Committee regularly adjusts the mode of operation of the CITF as necessary to better meet the needs of the industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)012

(Question Serial No. 0918)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 127 of the Budget Speech that the Government will implement measures for enriching our local talent pool, which include providing training to talent, and enhancing the skills, knowledge and creativity of our talent. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please list the related expenditure and the amount for providing training to talent in the construction industry as mentioned in the Budget.
- (2) Has the Government compiled figures on the total amount of expenditure for implementing measures to enrich the construction industry's talent pool and enhance workers' skills in the past 5 years? If yes, please list the related items and expenditure. If no, is there any plan to compile such figures?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuen-shan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- (1) The Government has proposed to allocate \$1 billion to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) for enhancing its manpower development initiatives to increase the number of training places and the amount of allowance, with a view to assisting the construction industry in attracting and training more new blood, and providing incentives for in-service workers to upskill, thus helping the industry retain workers. The funding is expected to support the training of about 20 000 new entrants and job changers to become semi-skilled workers, and about 6 800 semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers. The proposed funding will also support the CIC in stepping up its effort to promote the professionalism and career prospects of the industry to attract more young people to join the construction sector.

Furthermore, the Government will set aside \$30 million for extending the training of the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders, established in 2019, to stakeholders outside the Government, including project-related personnel of major public organisations as well as those working for consultants and contractors engaged in public works projects, with a view to enhancing the overall performance of works projects, and jointly taking forward our long-term major development plans.

- (2) The Government's measures to enrich the construction industry's talent pool include upskilling in-service workers, attracting and training new entrants to the industry, supporting organisations in the industry to organise and subsidise industry practitioners to participate in technology-related training programmes, and taking forward the training offered by the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders, etc. The expenditure^{Note 1} over the past 5 years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2021-22) is about \$188 million in total (Note 1: Actual expenditure for 2017-18 to 2020-21 and estimated expenditure as at to date for 2021-22).

Apart from the above government expenditure, the CIC has also used its resources to provide manpower training for the construction industry, and the relevant total expenditure is about \$2.3 billion in the past 5 years (i.e. 2017 to 2021^{Note 2}) (Note 2: The CIC adopts the calendar year as the financial year).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)013****(Question Serial No. 0843)**

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (5) Project Strategy and Governance

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- 1) Please provide the public works expenditure in the past 5 years and the estimated public works expenditure in the coming 5 years.
- 2) Please provide the expenditure for approved/planned public works projects to be carried out in the Northern Metropolis in the coming 5 years.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Government has been investing in capital works projects to improve people's living quality, enhance Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness and promote our economic development. In response to the impact of the epidemic on the economy, the Government will also take infrastructure investment as a major counter-cyclic measure for stimulating the economy.

Our reply to the question raised by Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary is as follows:

- (1) The capital works expenditures over the past 5 financial years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure
2017-18	\$83.839 billion
2018-19	\$78.655 billion
2019-20	\$65.413 billion
2020-21	\$70.045 billion
2021-22*	\$75.624 billion

* The figure of 2021-22 is the Revised Estimates

In the coming years, with the successive commencement of various major projects, including the first ten-year Hospital Development Plan, New Development Area (NDA) projects in the New Territories, railway network expansion projects and so on,

the estimated capital works expenditure for 2022-23 is about \$84.06 billion, and will increase to about \$100 billion level over the following 4 financial years.

- (2) In the 2021 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (the Development Strategy), proposing to develop the northern part of Hong Kong into a metropolitan area ideal for people to live, work and travel, and to create more land resources for residential use and the development of industries. The Development Strategy gives a detailed account of the planning background, general principles, objectives and action agenda of the Northern Metropolis. According to the Development Strategy, key items of the Northern Metropolis include constructing the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu-Qianhai) and expanding the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA; making of Hong Kong's Silicon Valley - San Tin Technopole; exploring Northern Link Eastward Extension and expanding the Kwu Tung North NDA; developing the Lo Wu/Man Kam To Comprehensive Development Node; and creating outdoor eco-recreation/tourism space with high landscape value.

Some of the associated works in the Northern Metropolis have already commenced in phases, including NDA projects such as Kwu Tung North/Fanling North and Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen. The total Approved Project Estimate for these NDA projects, as approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, is about \$20 billion. As majority of the Northern Metropolis is still under preliminary planning and has not yet come to the inception stage, information on the project expenditure is not yet available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)014

(Question Serial No. 0848)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that there will be a further injection of \$12 billion into the Anti-epidemic Fund for the construction of various anti-epidemic related facilities. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the expenditure of various projects in table form?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

Since early 2022, we have been severely affected by the fifth wave of the epidemic and the situation is very severe at the moment. In order to deal with the huge demand for isolation and treatment, we need to urgently boost the capacity of isolation, treatment and related facilities. Therefore, the Government has proposed a \$12 billion increase in the commitment for the Anti-epidemic Fund, and will seek approval of the Legislative Council in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022. The proposed commitment is to meet the expenditure of the isolation, treatment and related facilities. In light of the urgent situation, the proposed commitment of \$12 billion is a preliminary estimate, and a breakdown of the details is yet to be consolidated.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0101)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (Winnie HO Wing-yin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23, the Government states that it will “provide advice on a safe and healthy working environment for building works through promoting site safety, and promote awareness of safety and health of staff, contractors, consultants and stakeholders through maintaining ISO 45001:2018 certification”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the amount of resources and the staff establishment involved in realizing this policy initiative;
- (b) the detailed plan the Government has formulated for the aforementioned promotion; and
- (c) the latest progress and target of the Government in promoting safe and healthy working environment, and the specific measures and guidelines that the Government has implemented/provided in this regard.

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (a) Project officers and resident site staff in charge of works contracts are responsible for supervising and monitoring the implementation of occupational safety and health measures on construction sites. Moreover, Departmental Safety and Environmental Advisory Unit of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) provides advice on the site safety performance of the department's contractors and promotes awareness of occupational safety and health. As the above-mentioned works and other associated activities constitute an integral part of the department's overall project management duties, a breakdown of the resources involved is not available.
- (b)&(c) In 2021, as part of the department's efforts to promote occupational safety and health, ArchSD conducted routine and surprise site safety inspections and independent site safety audits, provided safety training and on-site safety briefings, and organised and participated in safety promotional schemes such as the Site

Safety Model Worker Award Scheme and the Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme. Besides promoting awareness of occupational safety and health amongst its staff, contractors, consultants and other stakeholders in the construction industry through the aforesaid measures, ArchSD is fostering wider adoption of innovative construction method and technology, including the Modular Integrated Construction method, prefabricated steel reinforcing bar products, virtual reality, robots, smart site safety devices, etc. in works contracts to enhance site safety performance and improve site working environment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0280)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (Winnie HO Wing-yin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The revised estimate of financial provision for the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) under Programmes (1), (2) and (3) for 2021-22 is \$2.56 billion, and the estimate of provision for 2022-23 is \$2.55 billion. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the number and value of works or projects approved by the ArchSD (including those commissioned by other departments or statutory bodies) in 2021-22 and the preceding 2 years by the following categories: a. works or projects designed and supervised by the ArchSD; and b. works or consultancy services outsourced by the ArchSD.
2. state in table form which works or projects outsourced are under design-and-build (D&B) contracts, and list out the number and value of those awarded to Band 1, Band 2 or other firms respectively.
3. the number and value of works or consultancy services expected to be outsourced to non-Band 1 nor Band 2 firms in 2022-23, and among which, the number of those under D&B contracts.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.:29)

Reply:

1. From 2019-20 to 2021-22, the major contracts awarded on capital works projects and consultancy services by the ArchSD are tabulated below:

Table 1

2019-20 to 2021-22	Number of projects ^{Note 1}	Project value (\$ billion) ^{Note 2}
(a) Works projects designed and supervised by the ArchSD	10	6.9

2019-20 to 2021-22	Number of projects ^{Note 1}	Project value (\$ billion) ^{Note 2}
(b) Works projects outsourced		
(i) "D&B" works projects	9	39.4
(ii) "First design then build" projects	33	15.5
(iii) Outsourced consultancy services	34	22.6

Note 1: The figures on the number of projects in Table 1(a), (b)(i) and (b)(ii) represent the number of projects with construction contracts awarded to contractors, and the figure in (b)(iii) represents the number of projects with consultancy contracts awarded to consultancy firms.

Note 2: Project value represents the sum of estimates for the projects.

2. The works projects carried out under the D&B approach as mentioned above in Table 1(b)(i) are tabulated below:

Table 2

	Project name
1.	Immigration Headquarters in Tseung Kwan O
2.	Redevelopment of Kwai Chung Hospital, phases 2 and 3
3.	Community health centre cum social welfare facilities at Pak Wo Road, North District
4.	Joint-user Government Office Building in Area 67, Tseung Kwan O
5.	Hospital Authority Supporting Services Centre
6.	Drainage Services Department Office Building at Cheung Sha Wan Sewage Pumping Station
7.	The development of Chinese Medicine Hospital in Tseung Kwan O
8.	The establishment of Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute in Tseung Kwan O
9.	Chai Wan Government Complex and Vehicle Depot

Figures on the number and value of works projects undertaken by Band 1, Band 2 and other architectural consultants under the D&B approach from 2019-20 to 2021-22 are tabulated below:

Table 3

	Number of "D&B" works projects	Value of "D&B" works projects (\$ billion) ^{Note 5}
Works projects undertaken by Band 1 architectural consultants ^{Note 3}	8	32.6

	Number of “D&B” works projects	Value of “D&B” works projects (\$ billion) ^{Note 5}
Works projects undertaken by Band 2 architectural consultants ^{Note 3}	0	0
Works projects undertaken by other architectural consultants ^{Note 4}	1	6.8

Note 3: Included in the List of Band 1 and Band 2 Architectural Consultants of the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board (AACSB).

Note 4: Consultancy firms of different scales, as employed by contractors, are eligible to undertake D&B projects subject to fulfilment of certain criteria and professional credentials under the contracts, which do not require them to be included in the List of Consultants of AACSB.

Note 5: Same as Note 2 to Table 1. Project value represents the sum of estimates for the projects.

3. To facilitate the participation of more small and medium-sized enterprises in public works projects, architectural consultants included in the List of Band 3 Architectural Consultants of the Association of Architectural Practices Ltd. and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects may be engaged, either directly by the ArchSD, or by contractors and consultancy firms as requested by the ArchSD, to undertake part of the project design work. Figures on the number and value of works projects expected to be undertaken by Band 3 architectural consultants in 2022-23 are tabulated below:

Table 4

2022-23 (estimate) Works projects undertaken by Band 3 architectural consultants	Number of projects	Project value (\$ billion) ^{Note 6,7}
(a) “D&B” works projects	8	21.7
(b) “First design then build” projects	4	1.9

Note 6: Same as Note 2 to Table 1. Project value represents the sum of estimates for the projects.

Note 7: The estimated project costs are to be confirmed since some of the projects are still in the design stage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)017

(Question Serial No. 0120)

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not specified
Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (LAI Cheuk-ho)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the management of Hong Kong's marine fill resources and mud disposal facilities, please advise on the following:

- (a) the annual sediment disposal volume for the past three years (2019-20 to 2021-22), as well as the names of the major sediment disposal projects (please list separately for uncontaminated and contaminated sediment);
- (b) the details of the various locations for disposal of contaminated and uncontaminated sediment (including (i) the remaining capacity, (ii) the environmental monitoring results, and (iii) an overview of the operation) (to be tabulated);
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to provide more locations for disposal of contaminated and uncontaminated sediment;
- (d) whether the Government has estimated the annual sediment disposal volume in the coming three years, as well as the names of the major sediment disposal projects (please list separately for uncontaminated and contaminated sediment).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

Through the Marine Fill Committee, the Civil Engineering and Development Department oversees the operation of marine disposal facilities for disposal of contaminated and uncontaminated sediment, and formulates strategies to ensure the provision of adequate marine disposal capacity.

- (a) The annual sediment disposal volume and the major sediment disposal projects in the past three years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Sediment disposal volume (contaminated sediment)	Sediment disposal volume (uncontaminated sediment)	Major sediment disposal project
2019	About 0.41 million m ³	About 0.43 million m ³	Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link and general maintenance dredging works for navigation channels
2020	About 0.65 million m ³	About 2.77 million m ³	Lamma Power Station Navigation Channel Improvement and general maintenance dredging works for navigation channels
2021	About 0.46 million m ³	About 0.56 million m ³	Hong Kong Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal and general maintenance dredging works for navigation channels

(b) The relevant details of the existing contaminated sediment and uncontaminated sediment disposal facilities are set out in the table below:

Facility	Location	Remaining capacity	Environmental monitoring result	Current operation status
For disposal of contaminated sediment	To the east of Sha Chau	About 2.8 million m ³	The regular environmental monitoring result indicated that the facility had no unacceptable impact on the nearby environment.	Based on the current forecast, the facility may operate until 2027.
For disposal of uncontaminated sediment	To the south of Cheung Chau, to the east of Ninepin Group, to the east of Tung Lung Chau and to the south of Tsing Yi	About 45 million m ³ in total	The regular environmental monitoring result indicated that the facilities had no unacceptable impact on the nearby environment.	Based on the current forecast, the facilities may operate beyond 2032.

(c) Based on the capacity, we anticipate that the existing contaminated sediment disposal facility located to the east of Sha Chau may operate until 2027. We are currently studying the provision of a new disposal facility in the waters to the west of Lamma Island, in a bid to continue to provide a facility for contaminated sediment disposal upon the exhaustion of the capacity of the only existing disposal facility.

(d) Based on the current information, we anticipate that the annual sediment disposal volume will average about 0.55 million m³ for contaminated sediment and about 0.6 million m³ for uncontaminated sediment in the coming three years (from 2022 to 2024). The major sediment disposal projects will include various navigation channel improvement works and other dredging works.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)018

(Question Serial No. 0124)

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not specified
Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (LAI Cheuk-ho)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In respect of the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, please advise:

- (a) It is understood that the project will involve reclamation of more than 1 000 hectares, including the reclamation for Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands. Has the Government assessed the impacts of the development on the fisheries industry, including capture fisheries and aquaculture?
- (b) As the project involves a lot of fish farms and may also cause severe marine pollution, thereby dealing significant impacts to the fisheries industry, how will the Government assist the trade to upgrade and transform, including, inter alia, assisting the industry to take advantage of the national development opportunities?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) One of the key initiatives under the Lantau Tomorrow Vision is the reclamation for the formation of artificial islands in the Central Waters. We commenced the relevant study in June 2021, which included assessments of the environmental impacts, covering those on fisheries resources, due to the artificial islands in the Central Waters and their related infrastructures. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) issued the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Briefs pursuant to the EIA Ordinance in December 2021. We are conducting the EIA in accordance with the relevant requirements. The EIA will include the collection of information on fisheries resources, estimation and assessment of the possible impacts on fisheries industry, recommendations of cost-effective and feasible mitigation measures, and the proposal of appropriate monitoring plans.

To collect information on fisheries resources in the Central Waters for the fisheries impact assessment, we have already commenced a 12-month fisheries survey with a view to collecting adequate and accurate baseline information. The survey covers the waters around the proposed artificial islands and the alignment of relevant transport infrastructures, as well as the southern waters of Cheung Chau and Lamma Island. We will also consult stakeholders of the fisheries industry in a timely manner, and collect their views on the fisheries impact assessment and the proposed measures.

As for assisting the fisheries industry to upgrade and transform, and take advantage of national development opportunities, the Food and Health Bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department have all along been attaching importance to the sustainable development of the local fisheries industry. They have provided technical and financial support and training to the industry, including making use of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to proactively assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode, and to fund projects and research that enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry (such as developing deep water mariculture, recreational fishing and offshore fishing, etc.). In addition, the Government will continue to explore exchange and collaboration opportunities with the Mainland authorities on the development of the Hong Kong fisheries industry in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. This includes coordinating participation in trade exhibitions and co-organising exchange activities for the trade so as to help bridge and connect enterprises and authorities related to the fisheries industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)019

(Question Serial No. 0155)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified
Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (LO Kwok-wah)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The water supply network in Hong Kong comprises water mains with a total length of more than 8 000 kilometres, most of which are laid underground. Water main leaks and bursts occur from time to time owing to the aging of mains. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) What were the numbers of leakage cases, the leakage rates and the estimated quantities of fresh water wasted in government water mains and private water mains in the past 3 years?
- (2) What were the expenditures on the maintenance of government water mains in the past 3 years?
- (3) The Water Supplies Department has implemented the Water Intelligent Network (WIN) since 2014, setting up a total of 2 400 District Metering Areas in the public water mains network over the territory to monitor the degree of water loss in water mains. What are the expenditure and the works progress so far since the launch of the WIN?
- (4) What are the works progress and expenditure of the installation of master meters in public and private housing estates by the Government for monitoring water loss in communal mains?
- (5) If water main leakage occurs in three-nil buildings, are there any existing support measures provided by the Government to the property owners concerned to assist them in coordinating, raising money and engaging suitable companies for maintenance?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(1) The respective numbers of leakage cases of government fresh water mains in 2019, 2020 and 2021 were 5 653, 6 114 and 6 153. The Water Supplies Department (WSD) does not have the relevant figures in respect of private water main leakage cases. The leakage rates of

government and private fresh water mains are about 15% and 9% of the total fresh water consumption respectively.

(2) The expenditures on water main improvement works carried out by the WSD in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 were about \$610 million, \$860 million and \$1.15 billion respectively. The expenditure on water main repair works was about \$100 million each year.

(3) The WSD is now progressively establishing the WIN in the fresh water distribution network over the territory, with a target of about 2 400 District Metering Areas (DMAs). As at the end of 2021, about 1 550 DMAs have been established. It is expected that the establishment of the entire WIN will be completed in 2024. The expenditure on the implementation of the WIN is about \$320 million thus far.

(4) The WSD is progressively installing master meters for about 550 public housing estates and large private housing estates for monitoring water loss in water mains of their communal service. The installation is anticipated to be completed in 2023. As at the end of 2021, the WSD has already installed master meters for about 280 housing estates, involving an expenditure of about \$55 million.

(5) It is the property owners' primary responsibility to properly repair and maintain water mains in buildings. The government joins forces with the Urban Renewal Authority to put forward the "Integrated Building Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme" which provides one-stop assistance to buildings in need, including three-nil buildings, for coordination of building repair works. Apart from the provision of financial assistance, the scheme also provides practical information and technical support to property owners regarding the coordination of building repair works, such as engaging qualified registered contractors to carry out building repair works, aiming to help owners fulfil their responsibility of repairing and maintaining water mains in buildings properly. Moreover, the social service team of the WSD provides suitable support and assistance concerning water main leakage to three-nil buildings in need, including contacting owners, conducting home visits and providing technical advice, in order to help buildings apply for the aforesaid scheme and coordinate relevant repair works.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)020

(Question Serial No. 0380)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified
Programme: (3) Customer Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (LO Kwok-wah)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the Programme "Customer Services", please advise on:

1. the number of cases reported on overcharging for water in sub-divided units in the past 5 years; of these, the number of cases with follow-up investigations conducted and referred to relevant law enforcement departments, and the number of cases in which charges were made;
2. the total number of enquiries and requests for assistance regarding overcharging for water in sub-divided units received via the 24-hour Customer Services Hotline in the past 2 years, and whether the Department has strengthened enforcement actions with a view to preventing overcharging for water by landlords upon the commencement of the Waterworks (Waterworks Regulations) (Amendment) Bill 2021;
3. whether the Department had installed separate water meters for sub-divided unit tenants in the past 2 years, and ways to encourage installation of compliant water meters in sub-divided units in the future;
4. given that the tenancy control of sub-divided units has taken effect in 2022, whether the Department will conduct joint investigations together with the law enforcement department responsible for enforcing the relevant ordinance after receiving reports on overcharging for water from sub-divided unit tenants in the future, so as to stamp out overcharging for water; if yes, what the details of the cooperation are; if no, whether the affected sub-divided unit tenants concerned are required to report to both parties.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The Water Supplies Department (WSD) had received a total of 56 reports of suspected overcharging for water in sub-divided units in the past 5 years (from 2017 to 2021) and had followed up on and investigated each case. 1 case had been prosecuted while 2 cases are under investigation thus far. As for the remaining cases, there was not sufficient evidence for the WSD to institute prosecutions.

2. From March 2021 onwards, a shortcut key has been added in the WSD's 24-hour Customer Services Hotline to facilitate enquiries related to overcharging for water in sub-divided units. Since then and up until end of February this year, the WSD has received about 1 500 related enquiries in total. The WSD has not kept a breakdown of the figures on the enquiries involving overcharging for water in sub-divided units prior to March 2021.

The WSD has all along been very concerned about whether there is overcharging for water. Apart from following up on reports or complaint cases, proactive surprise inspections to sub-divided units are also conducted so as to enhance the deterrent effect on overcharging for water. Besides, in order to let landlords and tenants understand the requirements and relevant criminal liabilities of the Waterworks (Waterworks Regulations) (Amendment) Bill 2021, the WSD has stepped up publicity on points to note for landlords when charging tenants water tariffs and ways to apply for separate water meters through a series of publicity and promotional activities including making arrangements to meet sub-divided unit concern groups and estate agency organisations, producing leaflets and posters and distributing them to occupants, as well as disseminating relevant information on the Department's website, etc.

3. To facilitate application for the installation of separate WSD's water meters for sub-divided flats, the WSD launched a Pilot Scheme for Installation of Separate Water Meters for Sub-divided Flats (Premises with Sub-divided Units) ("the Pilot Scheme") in June 2021 with streamlined procedures and requirements for the sub-divided flats having separate plumbing systems. Since the launch of the Pilot Scheme and up until end of February this year, the WSD has received 14 applications for installation of separate water meters for sub-divided flats. The WSD has not kept a breakdown of the figures on the installation of separate water meters for sub-divided flats prior to the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. In an effort to further promote the aforesaid Pilot Scheme, we have set up a hotline and a dedicated webpage, and are producing publicity leaflets, posters and banners to encourage landlords or managers of sub-divided flats to join the Scheme.

4. The Waterworks (Waterworks Regulations) (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 are two separate ordinances. The WSD and the Rating and Valuation Department will individually consider each case and take relevant follow-up actions in accordance with the statutes and provisions of the respective ordinances under their purview. As such, complainants may report to both departments separately via hotlines, by email or in person and provide relevant information. Upon becoming aware of the situation, the departments will take follow-up actions and conduct investigations in accordance with the respective ordinances under their purview. The two departments will, according to the complaint cases and with the consent of the complainants, share contact information of the complainants to facilitate follow-up actions on the cases concerned.

- End -